THE wire

The Royal Signals Magazine

January 1989

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The Wire

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

NEW YEAR HONOURS

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

CB

Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE

CBE

Brig M. R. Topple ADC

MBE

Maj D. L. Smith TD Royal Signals (TA)
Capt E. Carter TD Women's Royal Army Corps (TA)
Capt D. Henry Royal Signals (TA)
Capt M. Nicol Royal Signals
Capt P. A. Pratley Royal Signals

BEM

Staff Sergeant C. A. Bell
Staff Sergeant W. J. Bogie
Staff Sergeant J. Mileham (TA)
Staff Sergeant D. W. Scott
Staff Sergeant B. G. Tanner
Sergeant P. F. Smyth (TA)
Sergeant J. W. Wells
Corporal J. N. Chapman

We also congratulate **Lt Col (Retd) J. B. Booth**, County Emergency Planning Officer, Buckinghamshire County Council, on the award of the MBE (Civil List).

Congratulations also to **Mr Anthony T. Bastable**, manager, Families Shop, Blandford Camp on the award of BEM.

An article by **Maj Gen D. R. Horsfield OBE** on the visit to Pakistan in 1988 by members of the Indian Signals Association appears as an insert between pages 48 and 49.

OUR COVER PICTURES

For the impressive photographs forming the front and back covers of this issue we are indebited to Col R. D. K. Thompson, Commander 4 Sig Gp, who won the Army Photographer of the Year Competition 1988. The photographs at pages 4 and 5 were also taken by Col Thompson and they too show officers and soldiers of the Corps at work.
Congratulations to Mrs Aureole Thompson on winning the Competition for the Best photograph submitted by a dependant.

HONG KONG MEMORIES

Report by Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB MBE Signal Officer-in-Chief

When I visited Hong Kong last October, one of my key appointments was to attend a reunion evening organised by past and present members of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps. It was a particular pleasure to meet again so many whose service to Royal Signals stretched back to the early 1950s. The photographs tell the story and I am sure that they will bring back memories to those who have served in Hong Kong, particularly in the 1950s and 1960s. The Corps owes a particular debt of gratitude to those men who wore (and still wear) our cap badge and have given us such loyal service over very many years. Most of them have served in those trades which relate to the line business: the trade titles have changed over the years but the area of expertise (mainly but not exclusively underground) remains the same. It was a great delight, for me personally to see again some of the Hong Kong soldiers and civilians with whom I began my service in the Corps well over 30 years ago, and we had a very nostalgic evening. It was good to see the traditions being well maintained by the present generation under **WO2 Lau Ping Wah** who played a large part in organising the occasion. And it was a particular pleasure to see **Mr Lee Yiu Tong**, who is the civilian supervisor in 247 Gurkha Sig Sqn on Hong Kong Island. I can remember him joining as a very young cable jointer's mate in 1956. 'Chico' was the term we used then: like 'makee learnee' it is not used much nowadays. But we old hands can be excused for remembering. I count it a particular honour to wear the tie of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps Old Comrades.

A group photograph of all the old comrades together
On the front row (L to R) Mr Chin Ten Loy (ex WO2), Mr Liu Pak Hung (ex WO2), SOinC Mr Chu Fook Hung (ex WO2), Mr Ho Valiant (ex Cpl) and Mr Ng (ex SSgt)
Amongst those standing are: Mr Leung Tong, Mr Fung Ying Kee BEM, Mr Lo Chai See and WO2 Lau Ping Wah

Mr Lo Chai See and Mr Ho Valiant examing old photographs (mid 1950s vintage) with the SOinC
All three served together well over 30 years ago

Mr Chin Ten Loy (ex WO2, now a successful businessman) in conversation (about fishing?) with Lt Col Hamish Adams, Comd Queen's Gurkha Sigs

SOinC talks over old times with Mr Lui Pak Hung (ex WO2) and Mr Leung Tong (an ex Driver who was for some years a Regimental Policeman in Murray Barracks in the days of Hong Kong Sig Regt)
Mr Lui Pak Hung claims that the SOinC arranged for him to be promoted Lance Corporal in 1956 . . .

SOinC and Mr Chu Fook Hung, with Mr Ho Valiant and Mrs Alexander in the background. Mr Chu Fook Hung, who ended his service as a WO2, was a Corporal Detachment Commander in C Tp 40 Inf Div Sigs in Hong Kong in 1955 (when the SOinC was OC H Troop). He subsequently served in both Kowloon Line Tp (as a Sergeant) and New Territories Sig Tp (as a Staff Sergeant) with the SOinC

Mrs Christine Alexander, Mrs Kate Adams and Mrs Memory Stather with wives of HKMSC members

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE OF THE REGIMENTAL COLONEL

SOLDIER CANDIDATES FOR YOUNG ENTRY COMMISSIONS

The Corps is justly proud of the quality of Royal Signals soldiers, and each year a number of excellent soldiers and junior NCO's are considered as candidates for young entry commissions. For example, in 1987/88, 32 candidates were identified, 15 achieved entry to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, of whom 11 were commissioned into Royal Signals and the remainder joined other Regiments and Corps.

The route to a commission in the Corps is not difficult for those likely to be suitable. The first, and critical step, is to gain a unit recommendation; thereafter events follow the sequence of pre-Regular Commissions Board (RCB) briefing, potential officer training for some, attendance at RCB, and for those who succeed, training at Sandhurst.

While there are educational and medical requirements to be met, a most important factor is age. Ideally, a potential officer should be no more than 22 years old, since for a commission in Royal Signals, a non-graduate has to start training at Sandhurst before his 25th birthday. The Corps will sponsor candidates who would report to the Academy aged 25 or over, but they will be destined for other Corps.

For details on the commissioning process, please refer to the SOinC's Policy Directive No 23 (Edition 5). Any soldier who considers he has officer potential should not hesitate to request an interview with his OC to discuss the matter.

SOLDIER RECRUITING STATISTICS 1988-89

Although the 1988-89 recruiting year still has a few months to run the final figures can be forecast with some accuracy. Most recruits who will join the Corps in the next three months are already in the process of being attested. The raw statistics are:

	Target	Achieved	%
Adults and Young Soldiers	616	463	76%
Junior Signalmen	300	300	100%
Apprentices	383	363	95%
Totals	1,477	1,300	88%

It will be a struggle to maintain these figures in 1989/90, but there must be no doubt in anyone's mind of the need to fill every vacancy—each one not filled is a man missing in a unit.

KAPE 89

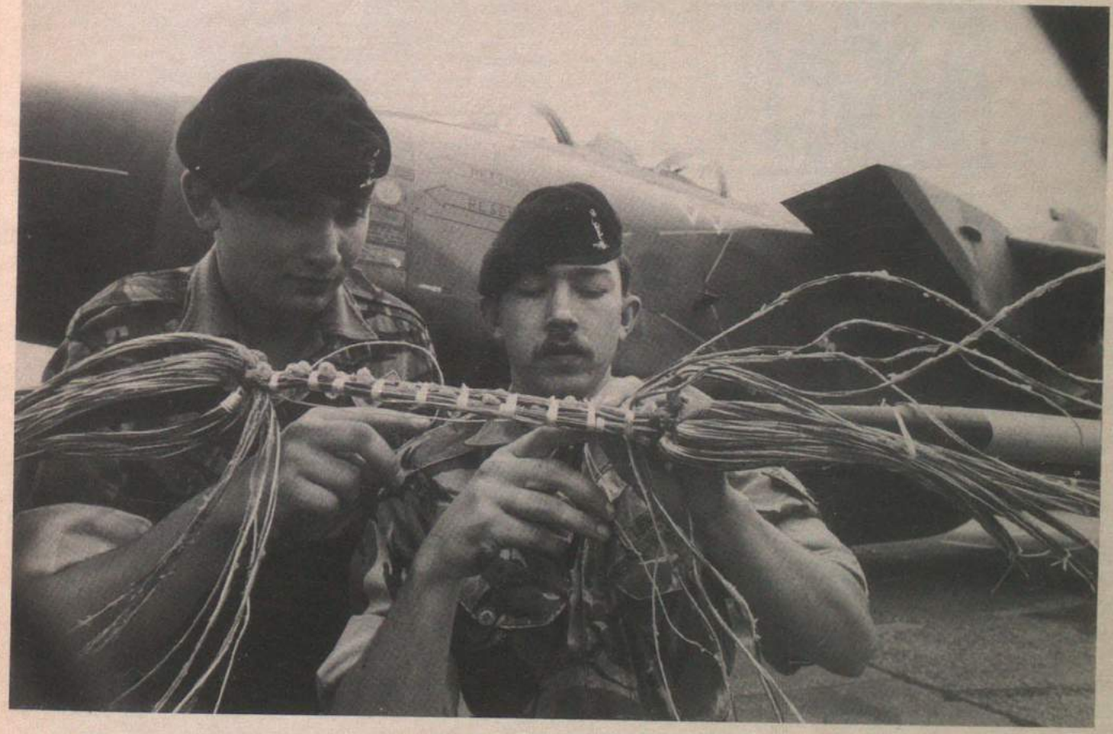
Since the last issue of *The Wire* there have been two additions to the KAPE Tour Calendar and two changes of tour dates. The amended list is below:

2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt	1-14 May	NEDist (Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Durham, N Yorkshire)
3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt	17-31 May	SEDist (All counties)
4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt	31 Jul-6 Aug	Scotland
14 Sig Regt	3-20 Oct	SWDist (Devon, Somerset and Cornwall)
21 Sig Regt	2-16 May	NWDist (Cheshire and Manchester)
19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn	25 Sep-8 Oct	EDist (Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk)

ARMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

We are sure everyone would wish to congratulate **Col R. D. K. Thompson OBE** on his magnificent achievement in becoming the 'Army Photographer of the Year' for 1988, with a portfolio of six photographs. He was also highly commended in the best colour photo class and his wife **Aureole** took the prize for the best photograph submitted by a dependent.

These photographs are however only a small part of the comprehensive selection of studies taken over the past year, which are now available to the Regimental Colonel's Office. We have been short of good quality photographs for recruiting and public relations for some time, and **Col Thompson**'s photographs will at a stroke update and enhance our range. The cover picture of this *Wire* is one of the winning portfolio, and below and opposite is a selection of **Col Thompson**'s work.



THE CORPS CAROL SERVICE

An evening Service of Lessons and Carols was held in the Corps London Church, St Stephen with St John, Westminster on Tuesday 20 December 1988 starting at 1800 hrs. Some 170 members of the Corps, serving and retired attended, together with their families. It was good to see the children and some of the younger members of the Corps in the congregation.

Maj John Chambers, from the Signal Officer-in-Chief's Directorate, was the organist and Master of the Choristers. He raised a Choir, 24 strong, from the Corps, both Regular and Territorial, families and friends. Some had previously sung together at Welbeck College, at least 23 years ago. Others, were together at RMCS Shrivenham a mere 17 years ago (including our one Royal Naval representative) and yet others from Staff College days. A party of ten travelled from Blandford, where they had been rehearsed by **Lt Col Keith Powell. Capt Mary Rogers** of 37 Sig Regt (V) came from Bristol to sing. The Service started with **Daniel Chambers** singing the treble solo verse of 'Once in Royal David's City'. The Choir sang 'Glad Tidings' by **Caleb Simper, Gerran Davies** singing the baritone solo, 'Infant Holy', arranged by **Sir David Willcox** and 'The Shepherd's Farewell' from 'L'Enfance du Christ' by **Hector Berlioz**.

Lessons were read by **Pte Sandra Rowley**—238(London) Sig Sqn, **Lt Michael White**—39 Sig Regt (V), **Maj Stephen Foakes**—71 Sig Regt, **Lt Col Lionel French**—CO 31 Sig Regt (V), The Signal Officer-in-Chief and the Master of Signals.

The evening was rounded off with traditional light refreshments in the nearby Parish Hall provided by a civilian caterer sometimes used by 31 Sig Regt (V) helped by members of 238 (London) Sig Sqn based in Chelsea Barracks.

All in all the inaugural Carol Service in the Corps London Church was a resounding success thanks to the support given by many members of the Corps family. The Carol Service will become a regular event in the Corps Calander and it is to be held again in 1989 on Tuesday 19 December at 1800 hrs.

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)

CALLING ALL RYA DAY SKIPPERS AND YACHTMASTERS OFFSHORE

210 (24 Airmob Bde) Sig Sqn will be running Ex Diving Gryphon from 8 May to 2 June 1989. The exercise will involve sailing a Contessa 32 from Gosport to the Scilly Isles and back in six legs. RYA day skippers are required to act as mates on legs 1-3 and 5 and 6. An RYA Yachtmaster Offshore is required to skipper the vessel on leg four. Anyone interested in taking part in this exercise should contact **Capt Adam Hearn** at the address below. There will be no charge for taking part in the exercise.

Leg 1 8May-13 May Gosport—Dartmouth
Leg 2 13-17 May Dartmouth—Plymouth
Leg 3 17-20 May Plymouth—Penzance
Leg 4 20-24 May Penzance—Scilly Isles—Penzance
Leg 5 24-28 May Penzance-Dartmouth
Leg 6 28 May-1 June Dartmouth—Gosport

Capt A. P. Hearn
210 (24 Airmob Bde) Sig Sqn
Gaza Barracks
Catterick Garrison
North Yorkshire
DL9 4AU

Telephone: Catterick Military ext 2816

RUGBY

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are due to **Sgt 'Chalkie' Atkins** of 30 Sig Regt for representing the Corps as a member of the Combined Services and British Police Tour Party to New Zealand in 1988. This followed his appearance in both Service matches and subsequent selection matches. He found it a most rewarding experience and came back with a clear understanding that the depth of organisation and commitment of players at all levels are what have led to the All Black success. Sadly, **Sgt Atkins** is injured this season and so will not be available to represent the Combined Services against the touring Australians.

WHEREVER DUTY CALLS

by Lt R. C. A. Pool

It was a nervous moment while we waited as part of the convoy queuing to cross the border into China. Our three marshal vehicles were packed and ready for a long range penetration exercise, which would see us eventually posing for photographs in the heart of The People's Republic of China in Tianmen Square, Beijing (Peking) after we had completed 10 days of arduous driving. When it came to our turn to be 'processed' we were dismayed by the simple request coming from a green uniformed armed border guard. He informed us that we were to: 'Take an interpreter' with us! With a skill Paul Daniels would have admired, we made room for this extra passenger and his kit, and he became our shadow for the rest of the journey. (In 10 days he interpreted remarkably little, and we learned that he actually spoke three languages—Chinese, English and Russian. He disappeared in Beijing without a word of farewell.)

Complete with extra passenger, spirits were high as we raced north to set up our first task. We were one of six marshal teams running the Hong Kong to Beijing Rally 1987. Our team consisted of eight Royal Hong Kong Police Force officers, both Hong Kong Chinese and English, and I was attached to this team as their communication adviser.

Our aim was to establish special selectives at sites between Hong Kong and Beijing. Each marshal team had a number of selectives to establish and, as the competitors passed north through these special timed sections of the route, so the selective was closed. It was then time for the marshals to pack up frantically and race north, to leap-frog the competitors who had moved on to their next selective. These moves pushed men and equipment to their limits. We were travelling in new vans which, by the end of the trip, were almost unusable. The rally is organised by the Hong Kong AA and every year they give away all the vehicles used by the marshals to the Chinese people. However, 10 days of the rockiest, dustiest, and most dangerous roads east of the M25, had reduced the vans, and most of their occupants, to useless wrecks. The competitors' racing cars fared little better. By the closing stages only one third of the competitors remained, and the race was all set for a climax early on 17 September, set against a stunning back-drop. Our team was fortunate enough to be given this final 'Great Wall' stage of the rally to cover. Created mainly for the press and publicity pictures, this particular stage, under the main gate of the Great Wall, had a flying finish. The region is very hilly and communication, using civilian 'off the shelf' equipment, occasionally proved unreliable. However, on this important final stage, the main probelm was not terrestrial. The real problem was that the Chinese Army had decided to transmit its vital news on all six channels available to us for relaying split-second timings! The result was near chaos. By the time the last of the competitors had shattered the silence of this chilly early morning in northern China, we had computed the results; **Bjorn Waldegard** had beaten our own favourite, **Stig Blomquist**, to win the 1987 555 Rally.

From the finish line, there was a procession of 200 vehicles—rally cars, support vehicles and marshal teams, which drove for 30 miles into the vast square normally associated with Chinese military hardware parades. We were set for the final awards presentation. In awesome surroundings there were the usual scenes of revelry, which amazed the crowds who had flocked to witness the spectacle. To recover from the journey (and the celebrations), we were given two days in the Beijing Holiday Inn before being flown back to Hong

Back up teams parade in Tianmen Square in the heart of Peking

Kong. It was a chance for the competitors and back-up teams to meet socially, to catch up on 10 days lost sleep, and to scrub away the penetrating dust which stayed with us throughout the trip.

The whole experience was the highlight of my tour with the Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt here in Hong Kong. The Regiment gives great assistance to this event; **RQMS Mullender** running the stores selection and preparation for the entire marshal staff, **WO2 (FofS) Leach** providing the communication expertise, together with the overall co-ordinator, **WO1 (YofS) P. Tapsell**. The Regiment also provided a complete marshal team in conjunction with the Gurkha Transport Regiment, and looks forward to continuing its association with the HKAA.

The chance to go on the rally came just after I had completed my nine week Gurkhali language course, and it truly was an experience of a lifetime. After this I returned to my troop, which is responsible primarily for Internal Security communications in the Kowloon region of Hong Kong, for just long enough to re-locate my desk and in-tray. Therein lay a new challenge.

Ex Jungle Trooper 1/88. Aim: To train 65 men from the Regiment and the Gurkha Transport Regt to operate effectively at section level in a jungle environment.

Since leaving Sandhurst in April 1986 this was my first real opportunity to organise and run my own exercise, and what a start! I realised that the logistics and planning would occupy my every waking hour until we deployed, so I quickly slipped in some leave to visit Singapore to meet a friend in the New Zealand Infantry, and then tour Malaysia by train. My leave completed, I was now absorbed in the details of air lifting 65 men, their equipment, radios and weapons down to Brunei.

Brunei has some of the best jungle training areas in the world, and the co-ordinatoring body for all the training undertaken there is the Training Team Brunei (TTB). One of the staff is **Capt I. W. R. Seraph** who holds one of our Regiment's most isolated officer posts. **Ian** was a vital link between Hong Kong and Brunei during the planning stages of the exericse. Having utilised the considerable talents of TTB during my brief recce, a comprehensive training programme was drawn up. We deployed to Brunei from Hong Kong on 20 January 1988 and, after an initial period of familiarisation training and acclimatisation, the exercise started to venture into 'The Big J'. With small incursions at first, the confidence of the party grew, especially after everyone had survived a night sleeping (or, trying to, at least) unprotected on the jungle floor. (The Regiment is still low on stocks of mosquito repellent as a result of that one night.) Having spent a month in Brunei attached to the Coldstream Guards prior to my Troop Commanders Course, I knew very well that the slightest noise at night, 'on the deck' tends to concentrate the mind wonderfully! In fact it was not until the fourth and final week of the exercise that anyone was seriously affected by the miscellaneous, 'creepies'.

Clearly signallers and drivers are not experts in infantry tactics, so as well as learning about the jungle there was also a degree of basic infantry revision for the exercise party. **Sgt 'High Morale' Steve Carr**, as the only British soldier on the ground, ensured that his section, whatever the difficulty, be it the heat, the swamps, the jungle, scorpions, snakes, ants—the list, apparently was endless—tackled every task with great 'josh'—Gurkhali for enthusiasm.

My right-hand man throughout was **Lt (QGO) Narain Rai** whose help, advice, and wealth of experience proved invaluable. **Narain Saheb** instigated a special meal, following a nasty encounter with a hornets nest which hospitalised two unlucky soldiers. I think revenge was the motive when the next day a patrol was sent out. Mission: To capture the enemy position. This was achieved and the position was brought to base camp in a large three ply plastic bag, complete with enemy occupants, who were expertly cooked into a culinary delight—hornet chutney! Although we had enjoyed eating monkey and deer during the exercise, the Iban tribesman had not taught us this one!

The climax of Ex Jungle Trooper was a 10-day deployment into the field during which the lessons of the previous two weeks were put into practice. This coincided with a visit from our CO, **Lt Col H. M. Adams MBE**, prior to assuming command of the Regiment from **Lt Col J. E. Neeve. Lt Col Adams** has accumulated considerable knowledge of the jungle during his many tours of duty with the Regiment; he was able to pass some of this on to us during his stay in the field.

The final exercise completed, five days of kit cleaning, preparation, and packing, together with sunbathing and some visits were available before we returned to Hong Kong. We held an end-exercise barbecue which lasted until the early hours. This was especially welcome after five hours trek from the nearest vehicle track. There was however, one surprise left.

As I showed **Lt Col Adams** into his room the night before his departure, we found that an uninvited guest had gained prior access. Black, sinister, and armed, it took four men to finally secure the safety of the CO's room. The offender, I am sad to say, passed away this week having been smuggled back as a captive into the Officers' Mess in Hong Kong. Fortunately Samson, an 8" Scorpion, is now preserved for ever and framed for posterity!

The experience gained during this four week exercise provided a learning curve which resembled the North face of the Eiger—going up! Visiting the Sutlan's palace, and the capital city of Bandar Seri

Begawan, was as fascinating as the Forbidden Palace in Beijing had been just four months before. I felt a little like the lead in a recruiting film! I returned from Ex Jungle Trooper in Brunei, looking forward to some stability in Hong Kong, and I am happy now to be working with my troop once again, My leave in the Philippines last week is now only a relaxing memory, so as the heat and humidity rises here in Hong Kong it is on with the air-conditioner (sorry RQ!) and an assault on the in-tray.

What is this? Good grief! 'Staff, get 34 men together, we're off to Korea. No, I am not joking.' Ten weeks ceremonial drill and Guard Duties with Americans, Thais and Filipinos, as part of the UN Honour Guard Company in Seoul. Hmm, sounds interesting. Hang on, didn't *The Wire* and the British Army Review have an article on this?

Now, where did I leave my sword?

From your roving reporter of no fixed abode.

WHEREVER DUTY CALLS (PART TWO)

'Staff, get 34 men together we're off to Korea.'

'Sahib?'

'It says, "11 weeks of ceremonial drill and guard duties with American, Thai and Philippino soldiers as part of the United Nations Honour Guard Company in Seoul".'

Now, was the Regiment giving me a hint? It was only two months since I returned from five weeks of jungle training in Brunei (my third visit there) and not so long since I'd been sent to Peking on the 1987 Hong Kong—Beijing Rally. Regardless of Regimental intentions, the Queen's Gurkha Signals Honour Guard selection process and training quickly began in earnest.

I was determined no-one in Korea would regard the new signallers as in any way inferior to the infantry platoons which had gone before us, and so training was rigorous and intensive. With the temperature in Hong Kong rising to 32 (for those of you used to imperial standards, that's HOT!), we were readily able to acclimatise to the temperatures we were likely to encounter on parade in Korea.

Having selected the best 34 'drill wallahs' I found that each of our four Squadrons, as well as every trade, was represented. The overall standard of English was excellent, which was to prove beneficial as friendships were formed with the American and Korean soldiers, and a mutual understanding and respect quickly developed.

Our barracks was located in Itaewon, a district which has grown by feeding off the spending power of several thousand GI's located in the UN/US Forces Korea HQ, Yongsan Camp.

Once enveloped in the US administered Honour Guard Company, whose modest motto is, 'Better than the best, Sir', we were the subject of close scrutiny. Our preparation proved to have been time well spent and we were quickly able to adapt to the US Army drill and to the standards expected whilst on guard. One of our secondary roles after providing the UN platoon for ceremonial drill was to guard the Commander US Forces Korea (CUSFK)/Commander in Chief UN Command (CINCUNC)/Commander 8th US Army (CEUSA) who in fact was just one person; **Maj Gen Louis C. Menetrey**.

Our first parade was soon upon us: the 8th US Army band led the Company on to the parade field, the US platoon led our platoon, (which to signify the 'United Nations', had four Philippino and four Thai soldiers following) then came the colours (UN, US and Korean Flags), and the Republic of Korea (ROK) Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Platoons. It was a fairly impressive multi-national Honour Guard, with five variations of dress and three variations of drill movements. This first parade was a great success, demonstrating that a Signal unit could be professional in every aspect of soldiering—quite a revelation to the US Army hierarchy! In the previous three months there had been three such parades, however, our platoon eventually completed 19—the most hectic period ever for the Honour Guard.

With so many ceremonies the Company became a very high profile unit. We were featured twice in a Korea-wide magazine, the first article concentrating on our platoon in particular, and the second on a visit to the Company lines by the US Secretary of State for Defence, **Mr Frank Carlucci**. It seemed every American in Korea knew about the Queens Gurkha Signals platoon from Hong Kong, and the inquiries intensified after a further lengthly article on the Gurkhas was published in the US Army equivalent of 'Soldier' magazine. Incidentally, **Brian Barron** and a team from the BBC filmed our 4 July parade. This has yet to be broadcast.

Whilst our drill was unquestionably of a very high standard, such excellence requires long hours of rehearsal and preparation. This however was all forgotten when, on our last day in Korea, we were awarded the 'Commanders Cup'. This was an impressive trophy presented for 'Ceremonial Excellence'—each parade has been marked by independent observers guided by a strict set of rules. The rest of the Company who stay in the Honour Guard for a full year acknowledged the effort and expertise of our platoon during a Company farewell party and the presentation of the Cup ensured we finished our tour in Korea on a high note.

Despite the heavy commitments the platoon was able to enjoy several visits, including a day spent with 72 Armor Bn, 2 Inf Div. An extensive inspection of the Battalion, motto; 'If you ain't Cav, you ain't, proved fascinating and was a high point for many of the men who had not seen operational tanks before. The day really brought home how different life can be outside Hong Kong, and the chance to use the M1 Abrahams and its field firing simulator was a unique opportunity for many.

A study day for the platoon took place at the Gloucester Valley/Imjin River battle site—a very moving historical monument, the site today is occupied by South Korean artillery.

With dialogue between North and South Korea increasing as the Olympics drew nearer, our platoon was responsible for a number of ceremonial guards in the building where these talks were held. It was a simple room in a hut bisected by the Military Demarcation Line (MDL)—which acts as today's border between North and South. Our first chance to stand face to face with North Korean soldiers was eagerly accepted, and after a tense morning it was decided that the North Koreans had all been issued with shoes three sizes too small—this being the only explanation for the fearsome looks on their faces! The US Infantry units on the border have their mottos which they shout at every passing military vehicle; 'Stand Alone, sir' sounded a little pre-emptive, and 'In front of them all, sir' was cruelly mutated to 'In spite of them all, soldier,' a response which was accepted with good-humour. It was surprising how very different the US Army is in so many ways.

Lt R. C. A. Pool leading his composite platoon of Queen's Gurkha Signals, Phillipine Army and Royal Thai Army soldiers through a right wheel on to the parade ground

A number of non-military visits were possible: the most popular being a trip to the Olympics Games Complex, and another to a preserved Korean Folk Village which in many ways reminded the Gurkhas of life in Nepal.

Quite a few visitors came from Hong Kong to see the platoon at work. These included the Brigade Commander, **Brig V. J. Beauchamp**, his Chief of Staff and our own CO, **Lt Col H. M. Adams MBE**. The visit of **Col Hamish** proved to be another highlight of our tour. It's a long time since the Americans have seen a British CO dancing the night away in Itaewon until 0400 hrs! (Nonsense!). Apparently we were waiting for the floor show (which was actually well worth waiting for), and yes, sir, I'm still looking for the negatives!

It was with some regret that we assembled to return by VC10—I had completed my handover/takeover with the incoming platoon commander. We will all have our own special memories of our tour, but whatever they may be, the reputation of the Regiment and the Brigade of Gurkhas was greatly enhanced through the hard work undertaken before and during our time in Korea.

Following a warm welcome back to the Regiment in Hong Kong I am now looking forward to my leave, to India, Burma and Thailand. Nay, thoughts I had of returning to my troop were soon dismissed and the feeling that the Regiment is trying to tell me something has returned. My packed lunches are wrapped in maps, my room in the Mess has been made a sub-let and now I'm to go to Nepal. Three weeks duty trek is the official line, but I have a sneaking suspicion there may be an ulterior motive! Somehow I feel my next posting to 7 Sig Regt in Herford will be somewhat different from my nomadic tour with the Regiment.

THE GREAT ESCAPE

On 18 November two ladies from the School Regiment Orderly Room, accompanied by a friend from 640 Signal Troop, took part in a mass jail break organised by the Ringwood Round Table in aid of the BBC Children In Need appeal. The aim of the exercise was to get as far away from Ringwood as possible within 12 hours whilst relieving the public of their cash in the form of donations.

Our intrepid trio made their escape in a 'getaway' car provided by **Brian Carpenter** of the Royal Signals Museum. Having made their way to Portsmouth, they proceeded to 'hijack' the Viking Venturer ferry to Le Havre courtesy of P & O Ferries. The unsuspecting passengers were then invited to pay their own ransom.

On arriving in Le Havre the girls caused quite a stir among the French populace who viewed their prison uniforms with a mixture of disbelief and amused smiles at the antics of these unusual 'mad dog' English women. Undeterred our girls re-hijacked the ferry back to England, collecting a few more 'ransoms' on the way.

Stephanie Marchant, Carol Jackson and **Carole Marchant** are to be congratulated on their escapade which raised over £700 for this worthy cause. Rumour has it that **Stephanie Marchant** in her post as School Regiment Movements Clerk is looking for somewhere more exotic to escape to next year. British Airways be warned!

A P&O Ferry employee cheerfully pays her ransom

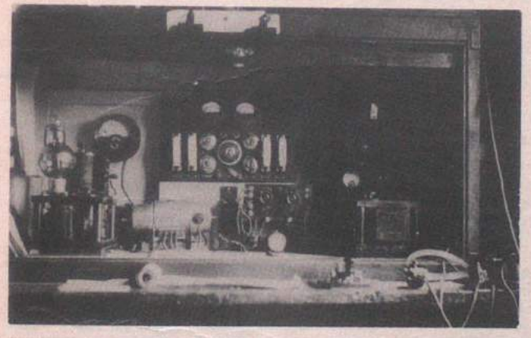
SIGNALLING YESTERYEAR

Following our front cover and article reporting the Royal Signals participation at the BBC Radio Show we have received the following photographs from **Archie Livemore** (ex **Sgt H. P. Livemore**).

One shows the wireless sets in use in India between 1925-31 including the 120w set, which was in extensive use on permanent stations and also carried in the Crossely 15 or 30 cwt vans.

The smaller picture shows the 'C' set, known as the 'Pack' set, transported by mule and operated over hills, mountains and very rough passes.

Do you recognise yourself in the third photo?



REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GAMES CLUB
SUMMER SEASON 1988

This Summer the Corps has continued to show great strength in its sporting activities with some extremely creditable results at both Major and Minor Unit level. Some quite exceptional results are credited to individuals within our Corps.

The most notable team success has again been in Athletics with 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt's retention of its position as Champion Army Team. Comms and Sy Gp proved the most successful minor unit. In canoeing, 16 Sig Regt and 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt have again excelled at both UKLF and Army level. AA Coll Harrogate complemented that success at Junior level. Also at Army Junior level AA Coll Harrogate swept the board in the Archery Championships. The Berlin Sig Regt has again performed extremely well in becoming BAOR Minor Units Swimming Champions and third in the Army Championships. In shooting, 37 Sig Regt(V) gained the North Irish Militia Trophy (for Non Infantry Units) in the TA SAM at Bisley. The Queen's Gurkha Signals were selected to represent the Army in the Canadian Army Rifle Meeting in Ottawa following their Championship win in RASAM. 14 Sig Regt won the Major Units BAOR Orienteering Championship. The School of Signals capitalised on success in the Winter by winning the Army six-a-side football competition. In a sport which does not feature often in the Corps reports, 4 Armd Div and Sig Regt performed with great credit in the tug-of-war at the Braemar Highland Games as did 16 Sig Regt in winning the RCZ Tug-of-War Championships.

This season has produced a number of individual successes of which **Cpl Callender**'s fine achievement in representing Great Britain at the Seoul Olympics is outstanding. **SSgt Killen** continued to represent NI and Combined Services in Athletics. A number of sportsmen continue to represent the Corps at Army and Inter-Service level most notable of whom were **Lt Standen** who came second in the Service Pistol Championships and **LCpl Ledger** who became Army Individual Champion for 100m breaststroke.

It is encouraging to note that many Teams are continuing to receive new and young sportsmen; a sign which bodes well for the future. The Blue Helmets' Parachute Team, though not heavily involved in competitions this year, has settled well in its new home in Catterick and the fourfold increase in Display participation has done much to publicise our Corps.

ATHLETICS

The Corps has continued to maintain the high standards set last year, and the quality of the Corps athletes is the best for more than a decade. 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt and 21 Regt demonstrated their strength as major units in the UK & BAOR Competitions and Comms and Sy Gp proved to be the most successful minor unit. 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt retained the Army Inter-Unit Team Championship. In that same Championship 21 Sig Regt came a creditable fourth and is increasing in strength and potential.

Cpl Callender reached a new pinnacle of success in International prominence by being included as the last leg of the GB 4 × 100m relay team in the Seoul Olympics. **SSgt Killen** also continued to represent NI and Combined Services in 110m hurdles, pole vault and decathlon.

2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt had more athletes in the Army Squad than any other unit.

CRICKET

Corps cricket has seen a very successful season as part of the new Army Merit League. Strengths featured strong penetrative bowling and for the most part excellent batting. Fielding had also gained in strength throughout the season. Of particular note was **Cpl Simon Gibbs** who, as far as can be ascertained, made the highest score of 153 for the Corps since 1939. **Capt David Luckett** took 47 wickets and our Army Player **Cpl Don Bascombe** as well as achieving another century maintained his usual all-round high standard. It is sad to note that this was his last season for the Corps. **Sgt Dean Richardson** produced some fine wicket keeping and **Cpl 'Tiny' Phillips**, gained good wickets. **Sgt Geoff Watts'** leg spin increased in effectiveness throughout the season and it was encouraging to note the participation of **ATs Johns** and **Wilson** at this standard.

In the new Army Merit Table the team won three matches, drew one and lost three. Winning Matches were against:-

REME	won by 23 runs
RAC	won by 119 runs
RA	won by 155 runs (**Cpl Gibbs** 153)

Other wins were:-

RMAS	won by 7 wkts
GOC 2 Div XI	won by 82 runs
RMCS	won by 134 runs

SWIMMING AND WATER POLO

Again this season there was only one Corps swimming fixture in 1988. This was held at Catterick as part of the Royal Signals v RAF Support Command Signals Sports Competition. The Corps was very narrowly beaten by 40 pts to 39 in an excellent competition. **AT Williams** deserved his win in 100m breaststroke and **Sig Edmonds** in the 100m backstroke.

In the same Competition, the Royal Signals swimmers redressed the balance in the water polo match with a win (9 pts to 4).

TENNIS

The Corps played in the Army Lawn Tennis League and endured the frustration of losing a number of matches by very narrow margins having had to field a weaker team because of major exercise commitments. **Sig Danworth** again had a good Army Championship and Army Season. It is of note also that two of our WRAC DTg—**WPtes Baughan** and **Hawtree** represented the WRAC this year and **WPte Baughan** is congratulated on her selection to represent the Combined Services next year. The Corps team won five matches and lost eight.

PARACHUTING

The Blue Helmets' team is now firmly placed in Catterick under the administration of the Royal Signals Demonstration Team. This year there was an increase of participation in shows (10 last year—42 this year). No competitions are reported as these take place in October/November. It should be noted that the future holds promise for the team in that some 50 students have been trained this year thus providing a larger base from which to draw the team.

MOTORCYCLING

The team has had a good year in terms of individual effort but changes in team membership and service commitments have weakened the team standing. Nevertheless the Best Team and Best Club awards were won at the Army National Championships. Notable results were:

Events entered	**Awards**		
Summer Season	Gold	Silver	Bronze
18	13	7	8
Winter Season	4	3	

CANOEING

Notable results of individual and unit participation were:

UKLF Slalom Championships—Llandyssul

Junior Unit Team	Winner	AA Coll Harrogate
Senior Team	Runners Up	2 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Senior K1	Runner Up	**SSgt K. Truby**
Junior K1	Runner Up	**J. L. Boniface**

Army Slalom Championships—Hildesheim

Unit Team	Winner	AA Coll Harrogate
Unit Team	Runners Up	16 Sig Regt
Senior K1	Runner Up	**SSgt K. Truby**
Senior K1	Third	**LCpl A. Dobson**

Army Sprint and Marathon Racing Championship—Monmouth

Junior Unit Team Sprints	Winner	AA Coll Harrogate
Marathon Senior A K2	Winners	**Capt Jackson/LCpl Lloyd**
Marathon Senior B K2	Winners	**LCpl Dobson/Spr Ball**

Inter-Service Marathon Championships—Newark

K2	Winners	**Capt Jackson/Dvr Pritchard**

The following represented the Army at Inter-Service Level during the season: **Capt S. Jackson, SSgt K. Truby, LCpls C. Lloyd** and **A. Dobson**.

The following competed at Army level: **AT LCpl Broders, JL Boniface** and **Sig Lewis-Walker**.

GLIDING

Maj Harkins represented the Corps in the UK Inter-Service Gliding competition but a poor summer kept many of the gliding fraternity on the ground.

It is encouraging to note that a number of junior ranks have been attracted into both gliding and hang gliding. Army, RAF and Civilian Clubs are co-operating in notifying the Secretary of all Royal Signals pilots passing their courses.

LCpl Preston (244 Sig Sqn (AS)) was awarded a Malcolm Club Scholarship to train as a solo pilot.

GOLF

This season the Corps team was relatively inexperienced but still produced some good results in a largely uneventful year. The team were runners-up in the Royal Irish Rangers Bowl Competition and also produced the following other notable results:

Inter-Corps Fixtures

Played	Won	Lost	Halved
12	6	3	3

(Wins were against RAPC, RE, RCT, RAF Support Comd Sigs, RA and Ironsides.)

The Corps Meeting at Catterick in the Autumn was abandoned on the second day.

SHOOTING

37 Sig Regt(V) consolidated on the strength and success built up last year by winning The North Irish Militia Trophy (Non Signals Units) at the TA SAM Bisley this year. Queen's Gurkha Signals won the Series B (Iron Sight) Championship at RASAM and were also selected to represent the British Army in the Canadian Army Rifle Meeting on Ex Sharpshooter (Ottawa). Notable results were:

Machine Gun Trophy — 1st Pair—**Capt Lilbdr Grg** and **Sgt Krishna Grg**

Also gained second and third pair in a clean sweep.

Sniper Trophy — 1st—**Sgt Krishna Grg**

International Para Cup Match—Winners

The team won four individual medals and a total of 26 Gold Bars. The Corps Target Rifle Team won the Gueterbock Cup against a field of 18 teams in UK.

The Corps SAM enjoyed an increase in entries to a record 143 which was reflected in increased Corps entries in RASAM (five Major, six Minor, two TA Regts).

Other results were:

Three Corps shots in the Army 100

Sig Yamkumar	14th
Sgt Krishan	18th
Capt Lilbahadur	76th
Sgt Whittaker	4th, Association Cup
Sig Turner	1st, (3 Class) Whittaker Trophy
Sgt Krishna	Winner, SMG Championship I & II
Lt I. G. Standen	2nd, Service Pistol Championships (by one point!) (NRA Silver Jewel)
Capt Body	3rd, Sniper Match
Capt Peck	4 NRA Medals—Service Weapon—Sitting, Standing, Secretary of State, Kinnavil
Sgt Carver	NRA Medal—Service Weapon—Stephens
Cpl Ireland	NRA Medal—Service Weapon—Bisley Bullet
WO2 (YofS) Hayward	Member of UK Team which won the RAF Quadrangular Match Sennelager

Two members of the Corps Team were selected to represent the Army at the NRA Target Rifle Meeting:

Capt J. Body	NRA Medal Winner
WO2 (YofS) Hayward	NRA Medal Winner
Reserve Cpl Alden	NRA Medal Winner

OTHER SUCCESSES

TUG-OF-WAR

4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt has achieved considerable success in this discipline. Having come in the top four in preliminary rounds at the Royal Tournament, the team achieved third place with the prize presented by the Secretary of State for Defence. They were runners-up in the Braemar Highland Gathering which was attended by Her Majesty the Queen and members of the Royal Family. Such a high placing has not been achieved before by the Corps.

16 Sig Regt won the RCZ Tug-of-War Championships in 560kg, 640kg and 680kg weights.

ORIENTEERING

14 Sig Regt won the Major Units BAOR Orienteering Championships and 211 Sig Sqn won the Minor Units Section.

FOOTBALL

The School of Signals won the Army Six-a-Side Football competition and gained the Thorpe Trophy for the most goals scored.

ARCHERY

AA Coll Harrogate Junior Archery continued to build on previous success taking the first three team places in the Army Junior Championships (Melville Silver Cup) and second and third team place in the Army Junior Championships (Key Trophy (Novices)).

Results for individuals are as follows:

Army Junior Champion	**JLdr LCpl I. L. Overal**
Runner Up	**AT LCpl M. C. Heathcote**
Army Junior Novice Runner Up	**AT A. J. Clark**
Army Junior Novice Third	**AT J. V. Morton**

SWIMMING AND WATER POLO

The Berlin Sig Regt achieve very creditable results this season.

Swimming results are as follows:

Army Minor Units Swimming Championships	3rd
BAOR Minor Units Championships	Winner
Berlin Inf Bde Minor Units Championships	Winner

Water Polo:

Berlin Inf Bde Open	Winner

Individual Successes were: **LCpl Ledger**—Army Individual Champion for 100m breaststroke (Missed Army Record by two hundredths of a second). Selected for the Army Team.

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THE CORPS BAND

Under its Director of Music, **Capt D. Wall,** the Corps Band gave a concert at Bedgebury in Kent on 8 November 1988. The appreciative audience included local schoolchildren, a number of whom are the daughters of serving signalmen.

Mr Alan Nipper, Librarian (Archivist Bedgebury School) with his son LCpl Miles Nipper (Bassoon and Saxophone).

Photos by courtesy of Kent and Sussex Courier

The event took on something of an inter-service flavour, having been organised by a member of the Royal Naval Association, the Band played the RAF March as a compliment to **Air Vice Marshal Stacey** (Headcorn RAFA) who was present. Many ex-signalmen, members of the local Royal British Legion were in the audience.

The Band was engaged by Bedgebury School to celebrate the tercentenary of the re-building of the House in 1688. At the end of the concert a collection was taken which raised a handsome sum of money to be shared between The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Fund and The Soldiers, Sailors and Airmens Families Association in Kent.

The Corps Band Director of Music Capt D. Wall, Royal Signals at Bedgebury School, Kent

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Mercury COMMUNICATIONS

— Movements —

Officers

DECEMBER 1988

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col A. R. Bailey	RAC Centre
Lt Col S. M. A. Lee	QMG's London Staff
Lt Col A. L. W. Steane	School of Signals
Maj N. J. Corbin	ACDS (OR) Land Systems
Maj J. P. M. Coulthard	DIS (AE)
Maj R. C. T. Cuthbert	HQ BAOR
Maj I. Foxley	RARDE (PE)(AE)
Maj J. P. Hudson	DSS (AD)
Maj P. H. MacCulloch	13 Sig Regt
Maj D. McConnell	ACDS (OR) Land Systems
Maj N. T. Moore	DGGWL (A)(PE)(AE)
Maj P. J. Oldfield	HQ NI
Maj A. J. Porritt	School of Signals
Maj R. D. Price	CDA RAF Thatcham
Maj D. M. Steele	QMG's London Staff
Maj E. T. A. Webster	241 Sig Sqn
Capt J. F. Calvert	8 Sig Regt
Capt I. A. J. Condie	School of Signals
Capt A. C. Doane	LSP Oman
Capt S. A. Leigh	AA Coll Harrogate
Capt G. R. Mason	School of Signals
Capt C. D. McGrory	RMAS
Capt G. R. Norton	School of Signals
Capt T. W. Pender-Johns	AA Coll Harrogate
Capt N. A. W. Pope	QG Sig Regt
Capt R. A. Sharp	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt A. J. Duncan	HQ BR Forces Belize
Lt D. C. Llewellyn	11 Sig Regt
Lt D. G. Robson	9 Sig Regt

JANUARY 1989

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col J. P. Beasley	ACDS (CIS)
Lt Col L. R. J. Tilson	HQ LONDIST
Maj A. M. Boyle	14 Sig Regt
Maj J. C. Chambers	CGS
Maj R. M. Crombie	204 (4 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
Maj C. M. Eastland	16 Sig Regt
Maj G. R. Elliot	13 Sig Regt
Maj M. J. M. Emslie	QG Sig Regt
Maj J. K. Ewbank	PB 11(A)
Maj I. Forbes	JCUFI
Maj C. K. R. French	259 Sig Sqn
Maj A. J. Grey	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Maj B. M. M. Jackson	DSS (AD)
Maj A. M. Jones	HQ British Forces Cyprus
Maj P. S. Jones	HQ UKLF
Maj S. W. Jones	DSS (AD)
Maj S. J. Kidner	PB 11(O)
Maj P. King	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj G. Lile	251 Sig Sqn
Maj W. A. Locke	21 Sig Regt
Maj D. M. Mills	200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
Maj P. B. Neale	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Maj A. J. Poppleton	Staff College
Maj G. Powell	DSS (AD)
Maj D. C. Richardson	7 Sig Regt
Maj F. T. J. Riley	School of Signals
Maj P. A. R. Rouse	11 Sig Regt
Maj A. W. Russ	1 Inf Bde and Sig Sqn
Maj R. F. Rutherford	HQ Trg Gp R Signals and Catterick Gar
Maj B. J. Scott-Morton	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Maj J. E. Thomas	206 (6 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
Maj D. A. Tiffin	30 Sig Regt
Maj C. J. Whittaker	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt W. S. Balding	8 Sig Regt
Capt A. W. Boag	AA Coll Harrogate
Capt M. Butler	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt S. J. Callaghan	13 Sig Regt
Capt S. Croft	Gibraltar
Capt K. P. Fisher	602 Sig Tp
Capt H. M. Flint	233 Sig Sqn
Capt P. Gillespie	HQ Bde of Gurkhas Nepal
Capt A. A. Goff	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt A. A. S. Harwell	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt J. R. Illingworth	11 Sig Regt
Capt M. P. Llewellyn	HQ 11 Armd Bde
Capt I. W. MacKenzie	School of Signals
Capt N. J. H. Naylor	JCUFI
Capt P. T. Nicholson-Taylor	School of Signals
Capt M. Stapleton	21 Sig Regt
Capt I. D. Westerman	11 Sig Regt
Capt D. J. Whitby	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt M. P. Wise	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt N. J. Yeoell	HQ Northern Ireland
Lt M. J. Barnes	11 Sig Regt
Lt G. W. S. Elliott	AA Coll Harrogate
Lt D. C. Llewellyn	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt L. D. McCourt	Berlin HQ and Sig Regt
Lt R. C. A. Pool	7 Sig Regt
Lt M. Ramshaw	Berlin HQ and Sig Regt

WOs and SNCOs

DECEMBER 1988

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
AWO1 A. T. Kidd	7 Sig Regt
AWO1 (FofS) P. Leach	HQ British Forces Cyprus
AWO1 R. A. H. Melville	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
AWO1 G. T. Reeves	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO1 A. Wilson	31 Sig Regt(V)
WO2 (YofS) J. S. T. Sykes	BDS Washington
AWO2 (FofS) M. J. Allerton	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
AWO2 G. Ellis	30 Sig Regt
AWO2 M. P. McGrath	30 Sig Regt
SSgt T. Beeley	21 Sig Regt
SSgt J. Bellion	14 Sig Regt
SSgt R. W. Bousfield	HQ British Forces Cyprus
SSgt G. A. C. Cottington	11 Sig Regt
SSgt D. Mann	71 Sig Regt(V)
SSgt (YofS) S. M. Rose	Berlin HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt M. L. Strefford	HQ 1 BR Corps
SSgt B. R. Wheatley	37 Sig Regt(V)
Sgt M. R. Bahado	8 Sig Regt
Sgt D. J. Carr	11 Sig Regt
Sgt E. F. Clee	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt W. L. Cox	31 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt B. Glover	HQ 1 BR Corps
Sgt M. Goor	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt L. F. Hoehne	633 Sig Tp
Sgt A. Hogg	16 Sig Regt
Sgt R. S. Ley	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (Int)
Sgt A. P. Minvalla	30 Sig Regt
Sgt J. R. Monkman	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt S. A. Moroney	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt R. C. Mullins	7 Sig Regt
Sgt G. M. McGoff	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt Sgt N. K. McKie	School of Signals
Sgt I. McNelly	School of Signals
Sgt P. McSorley	13 Sig Regt
Sgt R. J. Quinn	8 Sig Regt
Sgt A. P. Rimmell	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt M. I. Scott	7 Sig Regt
Sgt M. T. Sheehan	1 Queens Own Highlanders
Sgt F. D. Shingler	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt R. M. Sleeman	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt R. Sloggett	251 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. E. Street	13 Sig Regt
Sgt S. J. Vaughan	13 Sig Regt
Sgt P. A. Wilson	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt S. P. Clark	22 Sig Regt
ASgt M. R. Littlewood	28 Sig Regt
ASgt M. R. Potterton	SHAPE Sig Gp
ASgt I. M. S. Scott	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt J. Stubley	13 Sig Regt
ASgt T. J. Wright	QG Sig Regt

WOs and SNCOs

JANUARY 1989

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
AWO1 J. Hudson	13 Sig Regt
AWO1 T. W. Hughes	11 Sig Regt
AWO1 (FofS) L. S. Lawton	242 Sig Sqn
AWO1 J. E. Mullender	8 Sig Regt
AWO1 J. A. Pape	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) D. W. Bowman	9 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) M. Flaherty	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
WO2 P. R. Lang	9 Sig Regt
WO2 D. McAllister	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 (YofS) G. H. Ralph	238 (L) Sig Sqn
WO2 R. C. Simpson	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
WO2 B. S. Thomson	13 Sig Regt
AWO2 M. Barker	22 Sig Regt
AWO2 D. W. Bone	14 Sig Regt
AWO2 (FofS) D. J. H. Boxhall	HQ Trg Gp R Signals and Catterick Garrison
AWO2 R. Bruce	Northag Air Sp Radio Sqn
AWO2 D. Chrystal	Tayforth UOTC
AWO2 (FofS) J. P. Dempsey	SHAPE Sig Gp
AWO2 K. L. Gilder	QG Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) W. Riding	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt L. H. T. Allen	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt G. R. Burrows	22 Sig Regt
SSgt D. E. Chester	8 Sig Regt
SSgt J. T. Selkirk	633 Sig Tp
SSgt R. C. Shortis	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt D. J. Cox	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt K. J. Daniel	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt M. J. Laybourn	14 Sig Regt
ASSgt J. B. Parkinson	FSS Brizlee Wood
ASSgt D. Watson	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt N. Allan	16 Sig Regt
Sgt I. G. Barnes	238(n) Sig Sqn
Sgt M. G. Brown	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt R. J. Carey	School of Signals
Sgt T. C. Carter	8 Sig Regt
Sgt T. W. Comyns	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. W. Corner	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt F. M. Darlow	FSS Mossy Hill
Sgt R. Dodd	Cyprus OH I Station
Sgt B. Donegan	JCUF1
Sgt P. Duffy	22 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Fradley	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt G. J. Gardner	21 Sig Regt
Sgt V. R. Grimsley	16 Sig Regt
Sgt J. R. Hearns	1 WFR
Sgt D. B. Humphries	36 Sig Regt(V)
Sgt P. E. Lewis	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt B. E. Mee	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (Int)

WOs and SNCOs

Sgt I. R. Melville	School of Signals
Sgt M. O. Murphy	Berlin HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt S. P. McIntyre	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt T. G. McKay	632 Sig Tp
Sgt D. A. MacPherson	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt M. R. Neighbor	9 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Nicol	School of Signals
Sgt J. M. Osborne	School of Signals
Sgt J. B. Parkinson	FSS Brizlee Wood
Sgt B. Penny	16 Sig Regt
Sgt K. R. Powell	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. Roberts	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. C. Salvesen	Berlin HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt P. Skeith	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. T. Sheppard	40 Sig Regt(V)
Sgt K. Storey	3 CTT (Colchester)
Sgt S. A. Strefford	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
Sgt T. A. Tulloch	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. V. Webb	QG Sig Regt
ASgt J. S. Fisher	7 Sig Regt
ASgt A. Fulton	AA Coll Harrogate
ASgt D. M. O'Brien	AA Coll Harrogate
ASgt A. B. Rose	BR Contingent UNFICYP
ASgt M. Senior	262 Sig Sqn
ASgt S. D. Slaney	1 A and SH

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during November 1988:

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Maj and Mrs R. J. Armstrong	£ 30.00
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G. A. Jenkins	£ 5.00
WO2 (YofS) J. R. Arkley	£ 4.20
Misc	£ 4.15
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NOTICES

DEATHS

Bell—Capt F. Bell—died 4 October 1988.
Bramwell—Capt L. K. Bramwell MBE—died 15 September 1988.
Browne—Mrs Teresa Browne—wife of ex **Cpl J. B. Browne**—died 10 January 1989.
Clark—Maj W. H. Clark—died 20 September 1988.
Heard—Maj J. L. Heard—served 1945-68—died 2 December 1988.
Holmes—Col K. E. Holmes—served 1925-54—died 23 July 1988.
King—ex SSgt R. King—died 26 December 1988.
Moore—Lt Col E. R. Moore TD JP—served 1928-46—died 9 November 1988.
Morris—LCpl P. S. Morri—died 10 November 1988.
Parker—Cpl I. C. Parker—
Pendlebury—Sig G. T. Pendlebury—died 11 November 1988.
Ransome—Lt Col H. N. Ransome—served 1931-63—died 6 December 1988.
Rose—Capt P. L. Rose—died 22 December 1987.
Platts—Maj G. Platts—died 20 December 1988.
Stead—ex Sgt A. E. Stead—served 1943-46—died 4 December 1988.
Swann—Capt J. T. Swann—died 30 July 1988.
Thompson—ex WO2 R. T. Thompson—served 1950-73—died 4 December 1988.
Watts—Lt C. W. Watts—died 5 April 1988.
Wedgbury—Maj A. J. Wedgbury—served 1922-47—died 8 November 1988.

OBITUARIES

Barnicott—Capt (TMO) A. W. Barnicott. Following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, **Arthur Barnicott** joined the Royal Engineers as a boy in 1920 and was sent to the Signal Training Centre at Maresfield. On the formation of the Corps of Signals, he transferred in for training as a Wireless Electrician.

On reaching the age of 18, he was posted as a Signalman to 2 Cavalry Bde Sig Tp, Tidworth, and completed his Rough Riding Course with 12 Royal Lancers. Between 1924 and 1931. **Arthur** saw service in Egypt, Sudan, Aden and India. From then until the outbreak of war, he served with 5 Div Sigs in Scarborough, Egypt and Palestine.

He went to France with the BEF and was evacuated from Dunkirk in 1940. The ship was dive-bombed and sunk and he spent many hours in the water, finally being rescued by a fishing boat and brought back to England. Here he was promoted RSM and was then commissioned in 1941. After training at the Signal Training Centre, Prestatyn, as TMO, **Arthur** joined 1 Div Sigs and saw service in North Africa and Italy, It was during the Italian campaign that he was badly wounded by an anti-personnel mine and was evacuated to UK in 1943. After further service with 15 Scottish Div Sigs and 55 Div Sigs, **Arthur** was invalided out in 1945. The injuries to his back plagued him for the rest of his life.

Arthur lost his beloved wife **Ethel** in 1968 and for the past 20 years he devoted himself to his three daughters, sons-in-law and his grand-children. He was also a great supporter of the Royal British Legion and the Royal Signals Association (Reading Branch). He was a very gentle man, always belittling his own problems and having a ready ear for those of other people. Reading Branch will miss his lively personality and his great friendliness. We extend our sincere condolences to this family. **Barney** died on 19 November 1988, aged 84 years.

Beevor—Sqn Ldr A. Beevor DFC RAF (Retd). It is with deep regret that we report the death of **Arthur Beevor** on 28 November 1988 after a painful illness. After a full career in the RAF, **Arthur** came to 30 Sig Regt as Unit Families Officer where his wealth of experience and compassion was greatly valued. He will be sorely missed by all his friends and members of the Regiment, past and present.

Coomber—Cpl Nigel Coomber died on 6 September 1988. He came to 9 Sig Regt in May 1987 having previously served in Northern Ireland with 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (1981-1983) and with 28 Sig Regt in BAOR (1983-1987). He was accompanied by his wife **Colomba**, and daughter **Sarah Lee**.

On arrival in the unit, he was employed as an Assistant Duty Signal Officer in the Communication Centre where he made rapid progress, not only mastering the complex system engineering tasks but also supervising the telegraphists on his shift. His willingness to learn, ability to absorb new information and acceptance of responsibility very quickly made him an important member of Communications Troop.

He was an enthusiastic sportsman who represented the Regiment at Athletics and Tug of War and played all sports at Troop level. His cheerful, helpful nature made him very popular with his superiors and subordinates alike, **Nigel Coomber** was an intelligent, adaptable, well motivated JNCO, with the potential and prospects of a fine career in Royal Signals. He will be sadly missed by his workmates and all who knew him.

Johnson—Col Peter Johnson OBE, who has died aged 75 served with distinction on the staff of the Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces Mediterranean Malta from 1957-59. The only army officer in this predominantly naval command, he soon found his signals know-how much in demand. Whatever the problems in this still-developing, widely dispersed organisation, his good-humoured advice was held in the highest regard by his NATO colleagues.

Frederick Peter Johnson, educated at St Peter's College, Radley and the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, was commissioned into the Royal Signals in 1933 and posted to India. He served with A Corps Sigs in Rawalpindi and on the North West Frontier. During this period he married **Eileen (Bobby) Braybrook** in Murree. After the outbreak of war, he was appointed officer in charge of the cipher section of GHQ (India) New Delhi. In 1944 he took over command of GHQ (I) Sigs at a time of increasing importance for the South East Asia theatre. When the war was over he was posted to the School of Signals in Catterick undertaking responsibility for Officer Training. Beneath his sometimes stern exterior, cadets soon learnt there was a warm heart, an impish sense of humour and a man of absolute integrity.

In 1951 he was posted to Korea where he commanded the Commonwealth Div Sig Regt. He was appointed OBE in 1953. This experience was to prove invaluable when he returned to England and became Commandant of the Signal Wing at the School of Infantry. In 1955 **Peter** was appointed to command 1 Corps Sig Regt BAOR which led, a year later, to his involvement in the Suez operation.

His last appointment as officer in charge of the Royal Signals Records Reading gave him immense satisfaction. Responsible for the careers of soldiers, NCOs and Warrant Officers, he would go to immense trouble to fit the right man to the right job. He had a knack with postings!

After his retirement in 1962, he became editor of the Army Diary and later a Director of the Method Publishing Co, interesting his wife **Bobby** and his daughter **Sally** in the publication of Army Guides. He continued his interest in oil painting, in ornithology and stamp collecting. One of his more recent delights was to add yet another penny black to his series.

It was a great joy to his family that only last year, amid a large gathering, he and **Bobby** were able to celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary. **Peter** will be remembered with considerable affection by his many friends, not least those in Eversley where he served his local community as Church Councillor and Church Warden for so many years.

Morris—LCpl P. S. Morris. It is with much regret that 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt records the tragic death of **LCpl Paul Morris** of 2 Sqn on 10 November 1988. He was killed when his 1 tonne rebro left the road and crashed into a ditch during Ex First Summit. **LCpl Morris**, formerly of 14 Sig Regt, was a likeable and popular NCO who will be missed by all who knew him.

LCpl Paul Morris was born in BMH Iserlohn on 12 December 1966, whilst his father was serving with 22 Sig Regt in Lippstadt. He showed an early interest in the military, joining the Cadet Force at Broadoak School in Weston-Super-Mare. In 1983, he followed family tradition by enlisting in the Corps, being trained first at the Junior Regiment Royal Signals and later as a Radio Operator at 8 Sig Regt.

His first posting was to 14 Sig Regt, in December 1984. He soon made an impression by his cheerful attitude and determined approach to work and within a year he found himself commanding his own radio detachment. He proved to be a fit and keen sportsman and found time to qualify as an offshore sailing hand at the British Kiel Yacht Club. His continued hard work, intelligence and initiative throughout his second year at 14 Sig Regt, earned early promotion.

While on a radio course in the UK, he demonstrated his courage by going to the assistance of a young couple who were being attacked in the street. His prompt and public-spirited action led to the attacker's subsequent conviction and **LCpl Morris** earned a commendation from the GOC North East District.

After a promising first tour with 14 Sig Regt, **LCpl Morris** was posted in February 1988 to 2 Sqn of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. Here he took command of one of the Divisional rebros, where he rapidly proved his ability.

LCpl Morris enjoyed his job and his conscientious yet cheerful outlook on life was an inspiration to others. He was a personable and popular young man who made friends both within and outside the Army. Although only 21, he had already made his mark and set a fine example for his fellow soldiers to follow.

LCpl Morris was buried at a family service in Weston-Super-Mare on 22 November 1988. The funeral was attended by many of his friends and colleagues serving in the Regiment and ex members of the Corps supporting his parents. **LCpl Morris** will be very much missed by all of us who knew him and we offer our deepest sympathy to his family.

HM THE QUEEN'S PARTY AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Our Colonel-in-Chief HRH The Princess Royal GCVO may attend the Garden Party on Tuesday 11 July 1989.

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.

ST AUDRIES SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

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The Headmistress, Mrs. Ann Smith, B.A. (Hons) PGCE. St. Audries School, West Quantoxhead, near Taunton TA4 4DU (tel: 0984 32426).

REUNIONS

HORA HENA AND EKALA

It is hoped to organise a reunion to be held in the Spring. You are invited to get in touch with **Harry Moore**, 1 Blue Granite Park, The Green, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire LE12 7AG. Tel: 0533 375423 for further details.

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.

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.

3 DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB

The 37th AGM and Luncheon will take place at the Victory (Services) Club 63-79 Seymour Street, London W2 on Saturday 18 March 1989. Assembly 1030 hrs; Lunch 1300 hrs; Break up 1700 hrs. Past members of 3 Div Sig Regt reading this are invited to join the club. We need you. Details of the Reunion from **Maj K. N. Smartt**, 'Imber', Millway Road, Andover, Hants SP10 3EU. Tel: (0264) 52297. Membership details from **Maj D. J. Roberts**, 'Westmead' Park Avenue, Chorleywood, Herts WD3 DY Tel: (0278) 3144

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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.

CORPS DATES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS INSTITUTION

The 1988 AGM of the Royal Signals Institution Council will take place in RHQ Royal Signals at 1030 hrs on Tuesday 4 April 1989.

CORPS DINNER

The dinner will be held at The London International Press Centre, 76 Shoe Lane, London EC4, on Tuesday 9 May 1989 at 1900 for 1930 hrs. Dress: Dinner Jacket.

CORPS LUNCHEON

The luncheon will be held at the Headquarters Mess, Royal Signals, Blandford Camp, on Saturday 17 June 1989 at 1200 for 1300 hrs. Dress: Lounge suit.

GOLF

From: Maj S. G. Falla (Secretary Corps Golf)

All Corps Golfers please note the change of secretary, **Maj (Retd) E. Gill** has handed over to: **Maj S. G. Falla**, School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset, Tel Blandford Mil Ext 2281.

BACK ISSUES OF *THE WIRE*—1946 AND EARLIER

If any reader would like to acquire back issues of *The Wire*, please write to **Col (Retd) S. Rata**, 6 Kenton Gardens, Harrow, Middlesex HA3 8DE.

LETTERS

From: Alan E. Foot Chairman, Reading Branch, RSA

Dear Sir,

During a visit to India in May/June 1988, my wife and I stayed for a week or so at the Savoy Hotel in Mussoorie U.P., and one day, quite by chance, we met a gentleman accompanied by his wife and daughter, who told us that he was making his first visit to the Savoy Hotel for 48 years and, in his opinion, it hadn't changed one bit?

Imagine my surprise when I noticed that he was wearing a Signals cravat and his surprise at my recognising it. Introductions followed and I had a further surprise when I found I was talking to no less than **Lt Gen Raj Batra MBE**, the 'Master' of Indian Signals.

Gen Batra was extremely affable and cordially invited us to call upon him at his home in Delhi on our way back to UK. On learning that we were due to pass through Delhi before his return home, the General then suggested, as an alternative, that we should call upon **Lt Gen Shanbar Mehrotra**, the Indian Signal Officer-in-Chief.

Unfortunately, due to time constraints, we were unable to call on the SOinC but we were most impressed with the cordiality of **Gen Batra's** welcome and felt it typified the spirit of our Corps Family worldwide. I regard myself as extremely privileged to have met **Gen Batra** in his own country and marvel at the coincidence that made this possible. We met again a few days later at Woodstock School, Mussoorie, where this photograph was taken.

Yours faithfully,
Alan E. Foot

96 Chiltern Crescent
Earley
Reading
Berkshire RG6 1AN

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REPORT FROM ULSTER

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 807

Firstly some personality changes in the MT.

HELLO TO:
The new MTWO **WO2 P. Mulvihill** and to **Cpl Allcock, LCpl Brown** and **Cfn Penman.**

and sad farewells to:

Old MTWO **WO2 Mitchell**—off to work with the TA in UK, **LCpl Keight**—posted to BAOR, **Dvr Whitbread**—transferred to the RCT and posted to BAOR, **Sig Howard**—posted to UK, **Cfn Wilson**—posted to BAOR, **Dvr Hall** and **Sig Martin** to civvy street.

LIFE AS THE DETAILS NCO
Cpl 'Woody' Woods has a tough life driving the details-desk in MT, or so he tells us! From October 1987 to date, the Squadron has driven over 1,200,000 miles, the 'Northwest Frontier' of Londonderry, being about as far from most parts of of the Province as you can get. Allocating drivers to cover those miles can produce substantial headaches, especially when the odd vehicle and driver is unserviceable for one reason or another.

Being a very varied fleet, the lads get a good chance to test drive (to their limits?) various vehicles. This is handy experience for those who wish to acquire a tax-free version of their own in BAOR! By the time you all read this, PRE will be in full swing!

The crack team of escapees move away from shore—and find themselves preparing for diving stations. From *L to R:* LCpl Bowen, Sig McDonald, LCpl Patterson, Cpl Conjoice and lastly our chef LCpl Donnachie

EXERCISE DAMP SPIRIT
As a postcript from Summer Camp. The venue was the shores of the River Foyle at Magilligan Trg area. Five desperate men made a bid for freedom across the 'tropical waters' to the distant shores of Co Donegal. After a bit of guidance from **Lt Jake Thackray**, they set to work with some imagination.

At last the floating 'Ultimate Dream' was ready for its maiden voyage. A few metres off shore and all was looking good, buoyancy was supposed to take over. Well, it made a good sea anchor! Perhaps they should have drunk the beer in the kegs beforehand. Better luck next time lads . . .

'HAVE LADDER AND SOLDERING IRON, WILL TRAVEL'
The Life of a Brigade Area Repair Team (BART)

The team, comprises a radio technician and a rigger, and they work round the clock, maintaining the Squadron's commitment to the Province-wide Communication system and an added task of deploying extra equipment in support of specific operations.

Some members of the team have been released by M & RO to pastures new: namely **Sgt Dave Cumming** and **Cpls Nick Stapleton** and **Jim McNaught** now relaxing elsewhere. The new troop staffie—**SSgt Kev 'Jumpers' Bailey** is settling in well and spends more time fixing computers than organising the lads' leave and flights!

The Line/Rigging section is now under the leadership of **Sgt Geordie Tough**, direct from the depot, and his section is frequently seen area-cleaning, painting kerbstones in Corps colours and doing press-ups to his timing!

A fond farewell to **Sgt Mark** and **Marianne Yates** on posting, **Cpl Dave Wyldes** and **LCpl Paul Hales** to civvy street and **Sig Tony Percy and Lorna Squirrel** on posting.

Further new arrivals have been **Sgt Pete Hilton, Cpls Martin Kendall, Dave Harris** and **Daz Evans**, and **LCpl Derek Fielding**. We wish them all a happy and safe tour.

RECTORY FIELDS OLD PEOPLES' HOME CHRISTMAS PARTY
The Annual Christmas Party was held on 7 December 1988 for the old folk of Rectory Fields, Londonderry.

The afternoon started with a few drinks (the RSM keeping a strict eye out, and checking ID's for any underage drinking), while **Sgt Moore** started a few rounds of 'We wish you a Merry Christmas' and 'Jingle Bells'. A few more drinks were consumed (the OC was to 'suffer'—quite merrily it seemed, at the time—many more of **Sgt Harris** specials) and then the mince pies and Christmas cake appeared.

This consumed, Father Christmas (alias **Cpl Smith**) made a guest appearance and posed for a vast number of photos with the residents, giving each of them a present which had been organised by the Squadron wives. Very many thanks to them.

An excellent time as had by all, (especially perhaps, by those who were graciously given the aid of a wheelchair they didn't normally need!)

The RSM looking relaxed with his new 'festive' pace-stick and contemporaries . . . or is it another duties conference?

233 Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

PERSONALITIES (SHQ)

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**
CC	**SSgt (ORSQMS) R. Coleman**

Before the festive season sets on and whilst all eyes are still focusing, a few quick lines on the personalities of the 'Top Corridor'. The OC **Maj Gerry Corbet** is now firmly at the wheel. **SSgt Ron Coleman** when not playing golf, hockey or rugby, is the man with the finger on the pulse; which finger or which pulse nobody really knows? He is assisted in this task by **Cpl Dave Grant** who in turn is ably hindered by **Pte Audrey Freeman** who, it is rumoured, has moved into SHQ. At the end of the corridor, out of sight from the rest of us, and opposite the toilets, lies **WO2 (SSM) Pete Watson's** office and **SSgt Taff Carr's** emporium; little do they realize that this was strategically planned.

Congratulations and best wishes for the future to **Lt Frances Thomas** who leaves us in the New Year for London on well deserved promotion—much to the regret of all the heart broken subalterns in the Province. **Lt McFall**, her replacement has a lot to live up to.

Whilst some members of SHQ are moving on, **Capt Jim Hindle**, the Admin Officer continues at the grindstone. Business has been so good for some time now that, not content with one, he has had two offices up and running. We wish him well in his recent decision to give up smoking!

Finally a fond farewell to the incomparable thespian **Capt Ian Westerman** and his wife **Carolyn** who leave shortly for a sunnier climate down under. Who said that all these phone calls to PB11 were wasted; even if they did come from an anonymous werewolf.

COMMCEN TROOP

Tp OC	**Maj (Tfc) J. O. S. Vannan**
2IC	**WO1 (YofS) R. L. Secker**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt A. Arbuckle**
Cypher SNCO	**SSgt N. Clanachan**
CDA	**Sgt V. Hunter**
DSO A Shift	**Sgt L. Thornton-Granville**
B Shift	**WSgt A. Styles**
C Shift	**Sgt N. Gibson**
Exchange Supvr	**WSgt K. Wooding**
States	**WCpl D. A. Painter**

Commcen Tp is currently preparing for next year's Troop Summer Camp. To this end **Maj Stan Vannan** has been visiting Hong Kong and Berlin (under the guise of AMS visits). **Sgt Vinny Hunter** visiting Florida for two weeks: supposedly on leave, and **Pte Katie Colebrook** departed to Tenerife, Madeira and the Azores on Ex Atlantis Barbara reputedly adventure training. The author's 10 days in Hull earlier this year has been voted already as a proposed location.

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES
The troop bade a fond adieu to the following: **Cpl 'Smudge' Smith** to 7 Sig Regt, **LCpl Graham Keith** to 4 Div, **LCpl 'Geordie' Maughan** and **Pte 'Nicki' Maughan** to Munster, **LCpl Lisa Clayton** to 16 Sig Regt, **LCpl 'Polly' Poynton** to Aldershot. Is she airborne yet? **Pte Trudi Sloan** to 28 Sig Regt, **Pte Liane Denley** to 238 (L) Sig Sqn. We wish all of them the best of luck for the future.

A welcome to the Province to the following 'lucky' people and their families, **Sgt Nick Gibson** from Hong Kong, **Cpl 'Clem' Clements** all the way from distant Londonderry, **LCpl** and **Pte Allan-Burns** (is there a plural?) from the other side of Lisburn (39 Bde) **LCpl Tomlinson** from 21 Sig Regt, **LCpl McCullough** from the 'sunny' Falklands, **LCpl Potter** from 28 Sig Regt, **Sig Horkins** from 22 Sig Regt, **Sig Chester** from 28 (is there anyone left there?), **Pte Smith** from 238 (L) Sig Sqn, **Pte Barker** from 8 Sig Regt.

WRAC HOCKEY
Congratulations to **Cpl Dawn Painter** on being selected for the Army Women's Services Hockey.

EX ATLANTIS BARBARA
ON THE ST BARBARA II
Pte Kate Colebrook took part in Ex Atlantis Barbara, an Adventurous sail training Exercise run by the RA. This is her account of how it all happened.

Skipper: **Maj A. R. E. Singer**

We left Gosport at approximately 1030 hrs and set sail for Falmouth: when we started it was really lovely but the weather soon changed! By the evening the storms had gathered and they were to follow us through our whole trip. It took us two days to get to Falmouth. At last outside Falmouth, we got caught up on a lobster pot and had to get a diver out to set us free. Our white ensign came down very quickly as the skipper said we were a disgrace to it (only the navy, Queen's boais and members of the Royal Yacht Squadron are entitled to fly it). When we got to Falmouth we were storm bound there for six days. Falmouth is my home town and during this time I saw a lot of my family. On the Sunday my Mum invited all the lads to dinner, which was great fun.

We then set sail for the Azores, it took us fourteen days without sight of land to reach the Azores. On the way we saw dolphins. The weather once again was extremely bad and we were having a lot of difficulties with the boat. We lost our helm twice and the electric power, so that we had no navigational equipment. We also tore most of the sails because the wind was so strong; at one stage it reached 58 knots. We filled our cockpit below with water which was quite frightening, although funny to look back on.

When we reached the Azores we went out as a crew for a meal, we had Octopus, Swordfish and Lobster. The Octopus was really OK, surprisingly.

The next day we left for Maderia. It took six days to get there but spirits were high as the weather had improved drastically. When we reached Maderia we had a day there so the lads and I went out that night. **Angela** and **Tony** went to see some friends. That night one of the lads, **Ginge** had to be flown back to the UK because he was unable to sail any more.

We took two days to sail from Madeira to Tenerife. We had a day there as in the other ports but the end of the trip was celebrated in style. We all went for a meal, and a party, as everywhere people were celebrating Halloween.

The following day we went water skiing and made it to the airport with half an hour to go!!

We had a fantastic time and are all better storm sailors now.

Is this a four wheel drive?

TECH TROOP
TROOP MANAGEMENT

OC	**Capt (TOT) A. G. Hooley**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Bill Hughes**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Ralph Madison**
CSC	**SSgt Sandy Sanderson**

FRT	**SSgt Willie Ironside**
Radio	**Sgt George Webb**
Riggers	**Sgt Pete Bagnall**
R&I	**Sgt John Shorter**
Tp Mascot	**Jack Hughes**

The Troop is as busy as ever and survives from crisis to crisis. **Capt Al Hooley** has had a month off on his Refresher Course and had to be frog marched to the Airport screaming, 'I don't need it'. **WO2 (FofS) Bill Hughes** has spent the month trying to get pay of higher rank and fit in the odd night at Bessbrook Mill!

Newcomers to the Troop are: **SSgt Willie Ironside, Sgt Pete** and **Joy Bagnall, Cpl Aruz Arundel, Sgt Fez Newell, Sig Karl Griffiths.** Welcome to you all, we hope you enjoy your time with us!

SYSTEMS

The Systems crew is led from Scotland by **SSgt Sandy Sanderson,** who takes the occasional long weekend to visit the lads and do a bit of work.

SSgt Dave Smith and **Sgt Dave Ball** have been busy writing the gourmets guide to eating at RUC stations.

Cpl Phil Leach suffered the wrath of the Traffic Officer by tripping the power to all the Mainland circuits. **WLCpl Charlie Longmuir** has kept the Commcen busy with all of the 'fan grams' from her bit of passion in South Georgia. There's talk of giving her her own AMS circuit.

Farewells from Systems go to **Cpl Phil Leach** off to Sunny Cyprus, and **Cpl Clive Smith** to rainy Catterick.

LINE/RIGGING SECTION

Since we last contributed to the Wire a few of the lads on Gibraltar tours have left us for civvy street. They include **Sig Sid Steel, Sgt Dave Boyle** and by the time this article hits the press **Cpl Les Bradley.** The section continues to work long hard hours, but always manage to return by 1600 hrs Friday to get to the Peake Inn. Welcome to **Sig Karl Griffiths** who has improved the riggers attendance at PT by 100%. **Cpl John Jolly** has started a new line in 'Perms' causing he SSM to climb to an altitude of 10,000ft.

RADIO SECTION

Radio Section is a bit thin on the ground at the moment with **Cpl 'Winge' Whiston** on his Det Commander's and **LCpl Ritchie Noonan** on his Leadership Course. Good luck on passing lads but don't rush back, **Stu** is managing without you! Rumour has it that the next course is for **LCpl Stu Philips** at the Advanced School of Motoring. **Cpl Mal Pryke** continues to boost the 'Nip Inn's' profits by eating them out of house and home. Our leader **Sgt George Webb** still hasn't been found, perhaps he's locked himself in the new wall safe!

FRT

Welcome to our new helmsman **SSgt Willi 'Chief' Ironside** who joins us from 3 Div. Welcome also to our three cast offs from Systems, **Cpls Bill Owen, Chalky White** and **'Numpty' Dickinson.** Congratulations go to **Sgt Callum Downie** on his recent marriage to **Cilla.**

I TROOP
W SEC

Since our last contribution the Troop has had quite a turn around of personalities, but as expected the new members have slotted straight in and continued to produce the usual high standard. We bid a fond farewell to **Sgt Mick Goor** and his family on posting to 6 Armd Bde, **Sgt Steve Ferguson** now basking in the sunny climate of Cyprus, **LCpl 'Space' Hudson** now residing in 7 Sig Regt and **Cpls Clippy Wood** and **Gary Warn** and family who have opted to become Misters. Good luck to them both in the wilds of Civvy Street.

Our new arrivals include **WO1 (YofS) Des Jepson, Cpls Neil 'Gonzo' Perham, Karl 'P.A' Noot, John Evans, Sigs Mark Nixon, Steve 'B.A' Blakey, Scouse Jones,** and our latest and prettiest new arrival **WPte Caroline 'Tommy' Towers.**

Work goes on at the usual hectic pace interspersed with bouts of feverish activity on the sports field where we tied for first place in the McKelvie Trophy. But as there can be only one winner, the SSM/OC Sqn threw in a tie-breaker road race which we rather unfortunately lost! Still, second place overall isn't too bad, and we turned in some notably outstanding performances particularly in the Rugby 7s when our six players beat the seven men of Romeo Tp by a tremendous 8—0! And all this without our Captain and superstar **Sgt Baz Roberts** who unfortunately was tied up with work at the time of the match. Still we'll win next year.

— News from Headquarters —

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

BRADLEY SQUADRON

As many know, the Apprentices College is always involved in charitable activities. Apart from the obvious benefits of helping worthwhile causes. Involvement of Junior Soldiers in charity work instils in them the need to assist those less fortunate than themselves.

In a bid to do something perhaps a little out of the ordinary, Bradley Sqn recently promoted 'The Great Yorkshire Duck Race'.

The idea was simple—to encourage people to part with £1 to sponsor a duck, put the ducks in the water, and record the first six past the finish line.

To cut a long story short 4,500 ducks were launched into the River Nidd at a pre-selected bridge. They were supposed to finish some two nautical miles further on under the famous High Bridge, Knaresborough. Alas '. . . the best laid eggs of ducks are apt to . . .'.

Suffice it to say that following an unprecedented and unseasonal period of prolonged dry weather, there was insufficient water in the River Nidd to allow any of the ducks to complete the course. Therefore the six ducks who were judged to have gone furthest down the course were declared the prize winners. Six lucky civilians were delighted with the outcome, 4494 others were not, but £2,000 was raised for local charities and that was all that really mattered.

Footnote: Just in case anyone is in doubt, the ducks were made of plastic.

'I must be going quackers . . .
The execution was far from simple

Junior Leaders of Bradley Squadron at the 'Duck Parade' prior to the Race. Just 100 of 4500 Yellow plastic ducks—'Who gets the bill?'

Maj Mike Fisher checks for sex. CSM Neil Crockett can't believe he's involved in this. 'I'd rather this weren't seen by my Battalion Sir'

Recruit Troop 88C

RAWSON SQUADRON

Recruit Tp Permanent Staff—**Lt John Egan**
Sgt Mick Fitzpatrick
Sgt Mick Roe

RECRUIT TROOP 88C BADGING PARADE
by Recruits Craig Horner and Paul Liggett

On Saturday 15 October 88C's Badging Parade took place at Hildebland Barracks, on God's Golden Acre.

After a thorough inspection by **Sgts Mick Roe** and **Mick Fitzpatrick** we then made our way outside to be marched to Hildebland.

The two drill Squads were marched onto the car park and were inspected by **Maj Brian Harrison** the OC, and **Capt Mick Radford** the 2IC. Both Squads passed with flying colours and Squad 2 was marched off to let Squad 1 get on with their drill sequence. After both drill Squads had finished their drill sequences they had to do a saluting test which everyone passed first time except **Recruit 'Druid' Vaughan** who found answering questions in English difficult, so reverted to his native Welsh.

Next came part three of our Badging Parade, the presentation of 'Jimmies', Marksman Badges and Drill Certificates. When the presentation was finished everyone proudly placed 'Jimmies' in their berets, and we all marched back to the Squadron.

88C RECRUIT TROOP SMOKER (SOCIAL EVENING)
Report by Recruit Dickie Brass

Quick change parades, a 'drill' instruction, and **Martin Pink,** the ultimate recruit, doing an eight week basic training programme in ten minutes were only some of the acts which entertained the successfully badged recruits of intake 88C Rawson Sqn.

We all assembled in the YMCA building, thanks to **Eileen,** to mark the end of eight weeks sheer hell (or as the Army calls it, Basic Recruit Training).

Each room in Charlie Tp, had spent a week preparing and rehearsing for the Troop Smoker. **AT LCpl Joe Bedford** was the compere and introduced the acts. A good time was had by all, including honoured guest **Maj Brian Harrison.**

The Smoker

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP

EL Tp was formed four years ago by **Maj Bob Etherton.** The aim being to take the responsibility of adventurous training away from the Squadrons and centralise it. The troop consists of a small group of qualified instructors commanded by an officer. All instructors are selected from the Corps with the exception of a chief instructor who is from the APTC.

All Apprentices and Junior Leaders will be involved in three one-week modules. In the Spring term students will take part in EL Snow and Ice. This is held in Scotland with base camp being a very comfortable hotel in Grantown-on-Spey. Activities take the form of two days snow and ice training, two days langlauf and one day downhill skiing.

The summer term is Canoe based at Patterdale in the Lake District. The students take part in two activities, canoeing and hillwalking—expedition skills.

The Winter term is EL Rock. The venue for this term is Halton training camp in Lancaster. Students are instructed in rock climbing, abseiling and hillwalking—expedition skills.

Some other quotes overheard . . .

AT	— 'I would enjoy hill walking if there weren't any hills.'
AT	— 'How dark does it get up here at night?'
Group 1	— 'What's the visibility like up at the top?'
Group 2	— 'I don't know it was too misty to see.'

Finally if there is anybody qualified, with a good sense of humour, and the motivation to handle the demands of an adventurous training instructor then contact OC EL Tp. EL Tp has always welcomed guest instructors for a one or two week period.

Front row (Left to Right): SSgt Mick Howie, Lt Lawrence McCourt, WO2 (QMSI) Norman Jones and Sgt John Gil
Back Row (Left to Right): Sgt Steve Frampton, Cpl Les Whittaker, Sgt Ray Hayes and LCpl Steve Mitchell

THE WEDDING

At 1616 hrs on Saturday 22 October **Maj Raymond Leonard Danells** took **Christine Campbell Kennedy** as his lawful wedded wife at St Albans Church in the College, so combining 44 years of service. The happy couple have known each other for almost six years, however, they first served together when **Ray** was posted to the Apprentices College in November 1986. Friends came from as far as Germany and Scotland to join in their celebrations. We in the College along with many other friends and acquaintances would like to wish them both all the happiness and the best of good fortune for their future together.

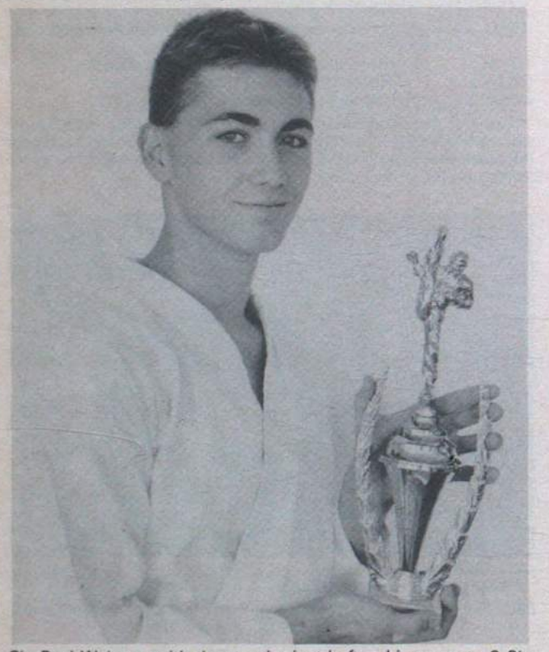
The Majs R. L. Danells

WHAT DID YOU DO ON YOUR 48?
AT Paul Webster

No one really takes notice when you tell them 'Oh yeah, guess what I did on my 48 hrs pass last weekend? . . . I entered the South-East District Invitation Karate Championships and came second.' Not saying the South-East District is a large area represented by many hundreds of clubs or anything. Then you show them the trophy, nickel plated and all, and to top that you show them the write-up in the local paper with action photos of yourself displaying great feats of energetic suppleness in the ring. Now do they believe you? Only just!

I have been training in Karate for the past four years and have now won one third, two seconds and one first place in major District/area Championship tournaments. My latest second place trophy was won fighting in the brown-black belts (Snr grades) cadet section (16—18 yrs) which always has the most action.

FUTURE PLANS—I intend to carry on with this discipline and my primary goal is to fight in the Army Karate team.



Sig Paul Webster with that trophy just before his move to 8 Sig Regt

1000TH DIVE

The College Sub Aqua Club recently celebrated its 1000th dive since its revival in early 1987. The Club had a busy year in 1988 with five diving exercises and numerous Wednesday and Weekend dives. The year ends on a good note with **AT LCpl Lee Burke** and **AT Kevin Wakeford** accompanying an RMAS expedition to the Red Sea in December.

ATs Kevin Wakeford and Lex Barker after participating in the 1000th Dive

SAILING OR NOT SO SWIFT AND ALMOST SURE TO CAPSIZE

Members of the College continue to participate in all aspects of sailing from learning the basic skills of seamanship, to taking part enthusiastically in various competitive events. We regularly attend the Junior Army Championships and make a habit of appearing at the Royal Signals Keelboat Regatta (Seaview). What we lack, at times, in results, is made up for in enthusiasm, enjoyment and gathering valuable experience for the future for those who go on to enjoy the sport at all levels in the Corps.

The College was recently well represented in the NE/NW District Dinghy Sailing Championships. The Junior Event was dominated by the College though it is sad that there were not more Junior Units represented. There was a wider range of competitors in the Adult events and College members did well, winning the Novice Event and coming second in the team event.

Although sailing is seen by some as being a summer sport, those involved know only too well the hard work that goes on all year round to keep our impressive but ageing fleet of six Enterprises, six Toppers and a Laser afloat and in constant use from March till November.

ORIENTEERING
by Capt Jane Liptrot

At this years Royal Signals Orienteering Championships navigational skills were required even before the event began due to the lack of signs to the event centre.

Eventually the College's band of merry men arrived in the deepest part of Sherwood Forest. On the first day's event each team member ran as an individual although their times counted towards the final result.

By Saturday evening the A Team **(WO2 Steven Palfreyman, Sgts Neil Allamby, Adrian Downs** and **Cpl Bill Agnew)** was lying 6th and the B Team **(Maj Bob Etherton, WO2 (QSMI) Norman Jones, Ssgts Mick Lumgair** and **Steve Frampton)** was in 1st place by 1 minute 59 seconds: Our junior teams were in 3rd and 4th places.

Sunday's event was a team relay through a technically demanding wooded area near Nottingham. Due to a good all round team effort the B Team won the Minor Unit Championship (see picture) and the A Team did well to pull up to third place. Our juniors were not placed but were beaten by the Army Apprentices' team of last year, members of which have moved on and now represent 8 Sig Regt and Comms and Security Group. The rivalry which has developed between these

The 'B' Team with their silverware

junior teams should help to improve the already high standards of Junior Army Orienteering. The Army Apprentices' College also carried off the M35 trophy **SSgt Mich Lumgair**, the M40 **Maj Bob Etherton**, and **WO2 (QMSI) Norman Jones** came second in the guest runners.

ADMISSIONS OF A CANOEIST—WELL ALMOST
by 2LT Sarah Pipe

I was posted to the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate in July 1988, and was soon squeezed into a canoe and pushed up stream. Aching arms later I renounced the plastic slalom canoe for a white water one and promptly regretted it as I wobbled along. They did try putting me in a K1 but I'd have needed a snorkel.

With his usual optimism **Archie Miles** persuaded me to accompany the canoe team to Monmouth for the Sprint and Marathon Championships. I did try to wipe out the opposition but actually only rammed one other canoe (by accident) during the Sprints day, much to the boys disappointment. However, more entertainment was provided in the Marathon as I struggled up stream in the flooding river—choice phrases could be heard.

The lads did very well and collected a few bits of silver, coming first overall in the Sprints, second in the Marathon and collecting other individual prizes. I came 1st in 500m Slalom Sprint and 2nd in 250m Slalom Sprint and Marathon, much to my surprise and everbody elses.

Back: AT Parry, JL Boniface, Archie Miles, Cpl Williams, 2Lt Pipe, SSgt (FofS) Truby, JL Kelly, AT Hodson
Front: AT Clayton, JL Ames, JL Cpl Huls, AT Cpl Broders, AT LCpl Plant, AT Heaton, JL Butler

Back: Sgt Peter Crawley, Mr Terry Cook, Maj Alan Robertshaw
Front: AT LCpl Mark Wilson, Lt Hugh Russell, Mr Archie Miles with their medals

A SPORTING RESUME

Having just produced some articles on sports it is, at the end of the year, pertinent to review the College's sporting achievements in 1988. Below are listed the sports where we became Army Junior or Army Senior Champions. Names of the participants are not included, however, sports secretaries should contact their College representative to obtain the names of the stars of the future.

Cross Country— Army Junior Champions
Cycling — Army Junior Winners
— Army Roller Cycling Champions
Hockey — Army Junior (Under 17) Champions
Judo — Army Novice Team Championship Winner, Second and Third
Rugby — Junior Army Cup Winners
Skiing — Army Youth Nodic Championships
— 5 km Winner
— 10 km Winner
— 5 km Team Winners
— 3 × 2.5 km Relay Winners
Soccer — Army Apprentice Cup Winners
Squash — Army Minor Unit Champions

WO1 (SMI) Bob Kelly with some of the silverware

Archery—Army Junior Champions. **Athletics**—**Army Junior Inter Unit Champions. Badminton**—Army Junior Inter Unit Championship. **Canoeing**—Army Senior Slalom Champions (1 × PS, 2 × Juniors), Army Junior Slalom Champions, Army Junior Sprint Champions, Army Junior Surf Champions. **Cricket**—Army Minor Units Cup Winners

PENNEY SQUADRON
Report by Sgt Zac Wright
Inter Squadron Soccer Cup

This took place on 10 September after the draw. Our first game was against Rawson Sqn and a hard game it was too. An over head scissor kick goal by skipper **AT 'Harold' Lloyd** was the only difference between the teams. Scott beat Bradley Sqn 3—1 in the other match. Third/Fourth play off saw Rawson take a 3—0 lead, a tremendous fight back by Bradley with 2 goals in the last 10 minutes, was unfortunately not enough and they just failed to equalise.

The final was an anti-climax. Penney scored within 30 seconds and by the end had won 9—1. Special mentions to **AT Chris Foss** who scored four and **AT LCpl Paul Stephenson** who scored three. The backbone of the College team has been provided by the Squadron, and six of our players are regular Army Youth Team members, **AT 'Rats' Ratcliffe** being Captain.

INTER TROOP SPORTS DAY

AT Sgts Doug Smart and **James Coombs** asked the Squadron Admin **Sgt Zac Wright** if an inter-troop sports day could be held. So after lunch on 8 October battle commenced between Alpha and Bravo Tps. The four daytime sports were, Soccer, Rugby, Hockey and Basketball which meant that almost everybody in the troops had to play something. In the evening Darts and Pool were played in the NAAFI and the decider was a 'Question of Sport' with **Sgt Zac Wright** trying to be **David Coleman**. A good day was had by all with Bravo Tp, **AT Sgt Doug Smart's** team the winners.

CHAMPION SQUADRON POTTED SPORTS COMPETITION

The first of three events of the Winters Champion Squadron Competition was the Potted Sports in the Gym on 5 November,

organised by **WO1 (SM1) Bob Kelly**. There were fourteen exercises in all, each team did each exercise for a two minute period. Dribbling a rugby ball with a hockey stick round three bollards was an example of the exercises. Each Squadron produced seven teams of five men and the aim was to score as many points as possible per exercise. Penney Sqn beat Scott Sqn by a mere 22 points; 1748—1722. A special mention for **AT Cpl Ian Clark** and his team who were individual team winners. Next is the Drill Competition.

The victorious Penney Squadron potted sports teams

School of Signals Blandford Camp Dorset

DEPARTURE OF BRIGADIER A. H. BOYLE

On 15 November **Brig A. H. Boyle** completed the now traditional Commander's Tree Planting Ceremony carried out by the Commander School of Signals to mark the end of his tenure. Our photograph shows **Brig Boyle** and helpers admiring the Flowering Cherry tree at the side of Nelson Road. We wish him and his wife **Anne** all good fortune in their new posting at MOD, and welcome **Brig R. F. Baly** and his wife **Elli** to Blandford.

L to R: WO2 (RQMS) Davies (Acting RSM), Maj Hoghton (2IC School Regt), Mr Halcrow (who provided the tree), Brig Boyle, Wilf (who provided the muscle), Lt Col Stutchbury (CO School Regt) and Mr Watts (Defence Land Office)

2 SQUADRON (TRIALS)
DEVELOPMENT TROOP

It's been a long time since Dev Tp has been mentioned in *The Wire* so it is time to make amends. For those who know little about us here is a brief resume of our role:-

'To assist the Corps and other agencies in providing solutions to some of the diverse technical problems which beset the world of military communications'

In other words we design and build (to varying complexities) interfaces and stand-alone systems to answer the often asked question—wouldn't it be nice if . . .

Being an avid reader of *The Wire* I have noticed that a lot of the reports revolve around sporting and adventurous achievements. Apart from our trio of footballers, **Sgt Brian Wilkins** and **Cpls Gary Mitchinson** and **Steve Welsh**, we cnanot boast of any recent triumphs in the gladiatorial arena. We do however have a very busy workshop, with eight projects currently 'on the go' and five more in the 'In Tray'. The biggest one incorporates high density printed electronic circuits under micro-processor control, driving a number of peripherals.

Cpl Gary Mitchinson has just completed the prototype of a Test Message Generator (TMG), and to give you an insight into a project he put a few words together.

'The TMG project was conceived to meet the requirement for testing Receive Only printers in a field environment. It therefore had to be small and rugged. I was tasked to design, develop and produce a suitable equipment. The planning stage took approximately a month and at the end a Z80 microprocessor based system was decided on. A development system for the Z80 already existed within the troop, this made it easier to design the TMG and making any subsequent software updates easier to implement. Using a processor also cut down the size of the TMG box.

The Machine code software/Test Message Data took about five weeks to write and de-bug and was then "blown" on to an EPRom. The whole project from planning to prototype lasted approximately three months. Initial guidance on how to proceed with the project was provided but from then on the solution was in my hands. A lot of experience was gained during the course of the project, particularly in electronics and software design.'

It is only a coincidence that there are three footballers in the troop. It has nothing to do with the fact that **Capt Peter Smurthwaite** is the School Football Officer/Manager and he is keeping a close eye on them. Congratulations to **SSgt Dave Gaffney** on his recent BEM award, a thoroughly deserved recognition for his efforts in his previous posting. He isn't doing too badly here either. (Is there a Bar for the BEM?)

We have recently lost two valuable members of the troop to civvy street after completion of their 22 years service, **WO2 (FofS) Eddie Harper** and **Sgt Terry Toye**. It would have been nice if **Eddie** had turned up at the local pub for his farewell party. Who said Foreman of Signals are absent-minded! We wish them both all the best in their new careers.

We are due to lose a few of our numbers in 1989 and obviously we need to replace them. If you are enthusiastic about electronics, interested in software design and think life in a small design and development workshop would suit you, drop us a line. RSMRO I'm told are not inflexible and do try to fulfil everybody's 'dreamsheet'.

L-R: SSgt Pete Smith, WO2 (FofS) Ben Nelson, Sgt Nigel Deoweneley, Cpl Martin Gritton, Sgt Brian Wilkins, Cpls Pete Underhill, Steve Welsh, Gary Mitchinson, SSgt Dave Gaffney
Seated: Jackie
Absent on Duty: Capt Peter Smurthwaite and Cpl 'Taff' Fisher

News from Regiments

Berlin Sig Regt
BFPO 45

1 SQUADRON

The last two months have seen 1 Sqn on exercise most of the time. A Brigade CPX, an Allied Logistics FTX and a Brigade Test FTX for 1 KOSB in Schleswig Holstein have reminded us all of our communication skills. While Brigade Tp has done most of the exercises, Sector Tp have not exactly been idle.

SECTOR TROOP

Our exercise season at last started in October with the first of three, three-week rear links in support of the Berlin Infantry Battalions. The major crewing being taken on by **Sig Dave Wilson**, newly arrived, but not much seen, from 30 Sig Regt.

The Troop has also had to live with the heartrending grief of losing **'Slick' Mick (Cpl Evans)**, now languishing in York with 2 Div. We also like to send our sincere best wishes to **Cpl Mac McLaughlin** and **Sue**, and hope everything goes well in the future. PS **Mac**—Hope the tropical fish/Amiga/Space-Cruiser Club is keeping in touch. Also, **WO2 (YofS) Colvin** says he'll give you a thrashing at golf next time he's passing!

We welcome new additions from Brigade Tp who have obviously 'seen the light'. They are, **Cpls 'Geordie' Raine, Keith** 'I've trialled everything' **Kimberley** and **Sig Farrell**. Hello, also, to **Sig 'Lefty' Wright** who has just joined us from 202 Sig Sqn.

As a closing note for us, good luck to **LCpl Mark Pinkney** who's preparing eagerly for his 'Detties'—no doubt he'll be pushing for his Pot YofS!

On briefly to the Commcen now, where probably the vast majority of any activity takes place—especially at the moment where the 'new' Automatic Message Handling System is being installed. After ironing out any small teething problems, we should see message handling time and paperwork cut down to the minimum. All of the Commcen workers have now been trained up on the system. So hopefully everything will go well. The Commcen say goodbye and good luck to **WPte Karen Miller** to Aldershot and also **LCpl 'H-B' Higginbotham** gone to eat bacon and sausage butties all day long in Civvie Street!

A closing 'boast' from the Commcen staff:-

'We would like everyone to know that we have the best "seek him here—seek him there Sergeant in R Signals. That is **Sgt Bob** "gone on a course, leave, skive, see you next year" **Squires**! Hope you all had a good Christmas everyone—All the best from Sector Tp.'

SQUADRON REVUE

No-one is exactly sure whose idea it was to stage a Squadron Revue, but that is perhaps just a plot to protect the guilty! **LCpl 'Sir Larry' Wodke** certainly did most of the organising, and managed also to direct, produce and star in the Commcen play.

The rest of Sector Tp then took the stage with representation of **SSgt Clarke**'s early morning ablutions. **LCpl White** ably assisted by **Sig Farrell** ensured there was not a lot left to the imagination.

Brigade Tp took over, and under the expert guidance of **Cpl Hindley** (alias Seamus Android) presented a 'This Is Your Life' on OC Brigade Tp, **Lt Elliott**. Star (and surprise) appearances by his mother and father, his Squadron Commander and many others added to the chaos.

The evening was a resounding success and looks like becoming an Annual event.

VISIT OF 6TH QEO GURKHA RIFLES

Berlin Headquarters and Signal Regiment kept up their close ties with the Crookham based Gurkha Battalion by administering a party of all ranks for the second year in succession. Twenty seven Gurkha soldiers took leave in Berlin, the Battalion just having completed six months tour patrolling the jungles of Belize.

Highlights of the visit included a call on the Mayor of Wilmersdorf, **Herr H. Dohm**, interviews at BFBS Summit House, lunches at the Berlin Reichstag and Schultheiss brewery, sightseeing and shopping trips in both West and East Berlin and a 6 GR own party at the Signal Regiment Stadium Tavern. The Gurkhas volunteered two pipers and five soldiers in uniform and National dress to perform at the Berlin Police Music Festival.

The Gurkha soldiers were well received everywhere and, who knows, by the Signals Regiment's close liaison the seed may be sown whereby we could see a Gurkha Battalion being full toured in Berlin.

HAIL AND FAREWELL

On 30 September the CO, **Lt Col J. P. Munnery** handed over command of the Regiment to **Lt Col M. J. P. Collins**. We wish **Lt Col** and **Karin Munnery** all the very best fortune in their next posting to Blandford. We welcome **Lt Col** and **Christine Collins** from Herford (and a long summer leave!) and hope that they will enjoy Berlin, and the Regiment during their next two years.

1 Sqn has recently said farewell to **WO2 (SSM) A. Wilson**, his wife **Vera** and the boys. We wish him well in 31 Sig Regt (V) as MTWO. We hear that his trip has cost him slightly more than he thought but if you will leave booking ferries to the last minute . . . !

The new SSM, **WO2 R. A. Bailey** and his wife **Pauline** have arrived from Blandford in time for the Christmas gallop—the advice to them at the moment—don't weaken.

Not content with losing an SSM, the Squadron has also said goodbye to the Brigade Yeoman—**SSgt (YofS) Curley**—off to his Arabic Course and then to SANGCOM. We are more than a little envious of him, **Elaine**, daughter **Stacey** but look forward to many Squadron Adventurous Training trips to Saudi!

SSgt (YofS) Rose has just arrived from York and we extend a warm welcome to him and his family.

STOP PRESS

OC Brigade Tp, **Lt Gordon Elliot** has proposed to **Alison**—Yes folks, the old romantic did it in the RMP look out on the top of the Reichstag! Many congratulations both of them. We trust the wedding will not be on top of the Reichstag too.

1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 32

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON
QM(T) DEPT

The department has been deeply involved with the headaches of 100% G1098 and serial number checks of the Regiments holdings. The checks were deemed highly successful and there were heavy sighs of relief from all and sundry concerned for various reasons! **Sgt Eric Ridley** has now gone off for a well deserved six weeks break to the less rigorous demands of the Royal Signals Staff Sergeants Course. We wish him well and remind his that 'England expects'.

Whilst the busy day to day events keep everyone hard at work, the spirit of sporting competitiveness still runs high and everyone enjoys the beasting meted out by **LCpl Eddie Gajny** on our bi-weekly PT sessions. Indeed, we have Regimental representatives in almost every Regimental sport; **LCpls Eddie Gajny** and **Mark Viles** feature prominently in the Regiment's successful cross-country team; **Sgt Tiny Reynolds** 'props' up the Regiments rugby side; **Cpl Sean Martwich** (formerly known as Schollick) plays Regimental soccer and the Quartermaster recently won the Verden Station Golf competition. The old 'veterans' **Capt Ledwards** and RQMS Chhetri managed to win the Royal Signals BAOR Badminton competition in October.

By the time this narrative gets published we shall have seen the event of the year, **Cpl Sean Martwich** will have acquired a lovely wife. We wish them both well.

1 SQUADRON
ADVENTUROUS TRAINING IN BAVARIA

During September and October, groups of soldiers from the Squadron spent a week at the Regiment's Adventurous Training Hut at Moosbach. The first week was led by **SSgt Neil Arden** and was blessed with glorious weather. **Sig 'Brummie' Turner** and **Jollands** managed to outclimb the rock-climbing instructor while on the river, **Sig Brown** was also hot stuff in a canoe. **Sig Coles** could only canoe upside down, **Sig Ramdehal** couldn't do it at all and **Sig Kehoe** just bottled out.

Later in the season, a week of rock-climbing and high-level trekking was led by **Lt Martin Ramshaw** and despite poor weather, it was very rewarding particularly during a traverse of the Hindelanger Klettersteig.

EAGLE TROOP

In November, command of the Troop was passed from **Lt Martin Ramshaw** to **2Lt Ian Walton**. A warm welcome and good luck!

To keep us busy between exercises, we were tasked to demonstrate a Trunk Node during a visit of the Army Staff College in October. The lads were brilliant and their briefings excellent.

Trunk Node 041 was medically downgraded in September when the Switch was severely injured in a traffic accident requiring hospitalisation in UK. The driver, **Sig 'Frankie' Boyle** was nearly in the same situation after the Squadron Commander had been told.

Stop Press: **Frankie**—1 . . . **Sgt Shenton**'s Recce Rover—0.

Finally, hello and welcome to **LCpl Kelly** and his wife, **Susan**.

FALCON TROOP

Trunk Node 051 took a quick pause for breath after RSIT and then deployed on Ex Noble Aries. This was a 1 Arty Bde exercise and our task was to provide SCRA coverage. The highlight of the entire two weeks was the following conversation which took place in Node Command:

Troop OC, **Capt Somerville**: 'Is that someone having a barbecue, Sarge?'

Sgt Gill (on holiday from 061): 'I think it's toast.'

Two minutes later, **Sgt Gill**: 'What's that smoke pouring out from behind your back?'

OC: 'Aaaaah!'

Fortunately, Node Command was not completely destroyed and was soon back on the road for Ex Highland Malt 3. Unfortunately, **Capt Somerville** had to sit this one out because he couldn't walk due to torn knee ligaments (feeble excuse). **SSgt Tom Patterson** was also away, leaving **SSgt 'Taff' Taylor** and **Sgt Bill Bailey** terrified that they might have to do some hard work for a change. Luckily for them, **Sgt Colin Weir** came across from 041 to add some youth to the Node Command team.

The Troop next deployed on Ex First Summit at the beginning of November, during which **Sig 'Paxo' Paxton** tried to turn **LCpl 'Geordie' Whatley**'s wagon into a scene from The Towering Inferno. Laughing hardest of all was **Cpl 'Jeff' Jones** swanning it with Div Rear; his sense of humour soon failed when he was told that he had to stay out for an extra week.

Finally, congratulations to **Sig 'Santa' Cooper** and his wife **Tracey** on their recent marriage.

PS: **Sig 'Brummie' Tucker** claims that in all his time in the Army (2 mins 35 secs), he has never had a mention the *The Wire* . . . so here you are!

KESTREL TROOP

Earlier this month, Trunk Node 071 celebrated the first anniversary of its amputation from 7 Sig Regt and its subsequent transplant into the Squadron. The occasion was marked by a glittering event in that well-known venue, the Squadron bar. New arrivals in the troop are **Sgt Sharp** and **Sig Green**.

HAWK TROOP

'Bed-and-Breakfast' Tp is now definitely under new management. Command of the Troop was taken from the capable hands of **SSgt Dave Bradshaw** by **2Lt Simon Hutchinson** on arrival from NI. **SSgt Al Davey** left for the School of Signals and was replaced by a tanned and shivering **SSgt Alf Sullivan** on arrival from Cyprus. **Sgt** 'No, I am not here just for the running' **Gill** arrived from 200 Sig Sqn to take over 061 recce.

Farewell also to **Cpl Tony Barker** on his way to 9 Sig Regt, **LCpl 'Fred Boswell' Swithenbank** to NI and **Cpl Neil James** promoted and posted to E Troop as Recce Sergeant. Continuing a long tradition, they were bade farewell on exercise in the usual way by being dragged through the nearest cess-pit.

Finally, a warm welcome to our new powerman, **Cpl Al Williams**.

2 SQUADRON

Yet another busy period for the Squadron, we have now received the report on the RSIT inspection which took place in September, although several recommendations were made, the report on the whole was a good one.

We were selected to provide the vehicles and manpower for the annual Staff College visit and under the watchful eye of the 2IC **Capt Mike Wise** the Squadron set up a complete Divisional Headquarters to show our visitors how we perform. Apart from losing a few of them on day one for a couple of hours everything went smoothly and the visit was deemed a success.

The penultimate exercise of the year was a mixture of a Highland Malt (Regimental Exercise) and First Summit (Corps Exercise). The Squadron deployed at a leisurely pace on a Friday morning to a disused factory some 160km from Verden. This was to be our home for the duration of the exercise—a somewhat unusual occurence. Also we deployed as step-up yet another unusual occurence (could this be a sign of things to come?). A signal received several days into the exercise was the cause of much head scratching by the OC, two FFR landrovers complete with crews were required for a CDE visit by the Polish Army (so they do have one). We had only eight hours to complete the task but such is the versatility of the Squadron that after a quick reconfiguration of the Rebro plot the alloted vehicles were soon on their way back to camp to be refitted and re-deployed. Judging by all the good reports that the Squadron received it would seem that **Cpl Brian Alexander** and his men did a good job.

Unfortunately the exercise ended on a tragic note and it is with deep regret that we have to report the death of **LCpl Paul Morris** in a traffic accident. He will be very much missed by all members of the Regiment. His obituary appears elsewhere in this issue of *The Wire*.

EXERCISE FIRST TEE 88

Ex First Tee was the Comd Arty 1 Armd Div's exercise, designed to test the three Artillery Regiments in the Division. 2 Sqn was tasked with providing comms and admin support for the exercise.

After numerous briefings the Squadron deployed to the area of Bergen/Hohne to be met by the Squadron OC, **Maj Paul Eaton** and the resident car park attendant **WO2 (SSM) Jeff Ashwell**. Once in location the comms complex was set up and the admin area up and running under the beady eye of **Sgt Geoff Martin**.

The next day Comd Arty and his staff arrived and were shown round the complex. They seemed more than happy with what we had provided and so, on a high note the dry firing phase started in earnest.

Once the dry firing phase had finished Excon withdrew to a new location. At the same time the staff and many others went to witness the first firing in BAOR of the new Multi Launch Rocket System (MLRS).

With the highlight of the exercise over, the Div Arty commenced the live firing phase. All went smoothly and finally Endex was called and the Squadron returned to sunny Verden knowing that everyone had done their job.

'LCpl Neil Clarke's reaction to being asked a hard question.'

Cpl Kev Twigger: 'That's right, Sir. On my left is the wagon and on my right is the cam-net.'

Ex first tee—the Sqn 21C Capt Mike Wise wonders how to climb aboard and Cpl Andy Roberts looks for the ignition key!

SOME FIRSTS FOR THE SQUADRON

The Division Recce Officer and Squadron 2IC **Capt Mike Wise** commanded his first Panzer and is reported to have said 'he couldn't hear a thing for days'.

The night shift of **Sgt Phil Parker** and **Sig Martin Burkinshaw** on Comms Ops managed to stay awake and make more than one entry in the log book!

Sgt Geoff Martin managed to get the convoy into the first location without getting lost.

INTER-SQUADRON SPORT

On the sporting front the Squadron is doing very well, at the moment the football team has progressed past the first round in the Generals Cup, mind you, it did go to the second sudden death penalty before we saw off the opposition.

FAREWELLS

As usual we have had a high turnover of personnel in the Squadron and we have to say farewell to the 2IC **Capt Mike Wise** off to 2 Inf Div at York to do a staff job. He should have picked up all their peculiar habits by now. **SSgt Fred Hutchinson** back to his beloved parachutes at 5 AB Bde, **Sgt Shed Bowker** off 'over the water'. **Cpl Andy Roberts, LCpls Mark Carroll** and **Tim Roebuck** off to civvy street. **LCpl Geoff Martinez** off to Catterick and **Sig Ned Kelly** and **Taff Arnopp** off to 249 Sig Sqn. And farewell to **SSgt Steve Lickess** off back down under. We hope that you enjoyed your stay with the Squadron.

HELLOS

Hellos to **Capt Alastair Harwell** the new 2IC fresh from 21 Sig Regt, **Lt Kevin Bowers** the new OC R Troop who moves across from Line Tp 3 Sqn. **SSgt Phil Dixon** in from the TA; welcome to the real world, **Sgt Graham Bryson** on a short tour from 7 Sig Regt. Apologies to all those I have missed out.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Sgt Andy Finch** on his recent promotion and to **Maj Paul Eaton** and his wife **Jo, Sgt Norman Bain** and his wife **Jane, Sgt Phil Cox** and his wife **Sarah** and **Sig Barney Barnes** and his wife **Vera** on the recent additions to their families. The stork has been busy!

Stop Press: A signal has just ben received, something to do with another CDE visit by the Polish Army, 2 FFR's required again; obviously we made a good impression last time.

3 SQUADRON
SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

Now that all the leaves have fallen off the trees and no longer require sweeping up the Troop has been employed on a wide variety of tasks!

During the early part of November the lads were busy on Ex First Summit keeping the comms in working order, despite the absence of the FofS who was away being educated (in what, isn't yet known!).

Hot on the heels of the exercise the tech element was once more in the thick of things setting up the bar for the Verden Garrison Team Chase. We are used (as we should be) to good numbers, however, I think we are far better with the booze! A good day was had by all, and a special mention must go to the 2IC **Capt Nevil Thompson** who entertained all those present with a magnificent display of aerial acrobatics whilst trying to negotiate the fences on a horse. Fortunately he suffered no injuries except to his ego.

Over the last few weeks there have been a few changes to the troop line up. The departures include **SSgt Mac McFarlane** the SQMS going back to the UK for his last six months; **Sig Taff Owens** the clerk, although the SSM refers to him as something else, posted not out of the unit but only to the Crystal Towers of RHQ. **Cpl Muzz Murray** is to depart soon for his T1 course. To all those that have left us we wish them all the best in their new units.

The new arrivals are **SSgt Nat Cole** the new SQMS, **Cpls Tim Hayter** and **Rick Cove**. To all of those we hope they enjoy their tour and just remember that no one has got that long to do here, ha ha ha!

Finally all the members of the troop wish **Cpl Kitch Kitchener** and **Sue** all the very best on their forthcoming marriage.

NOVEMBER TROOP
PROMOTIONS

The troop congratulates **Cpl Haynes** on his promotion to full Corporal, and wish him luck with his new job in Soltau.

ARRIVALS

The troop welcomes: **Sig Davies** and **Sig and Mrs Elston**.

EXERCISE JUNIOR CHALLENGE—ORANGE SECTION

During the last two weeks in October the bulk of November Tp took part in Exercise Junior Challenge, an exercise designed to bring out the best in the junior soldiers of the 3 Sqn. The first week involved in-barracks theory, to prepare the soldiers for the rigours of the coming field phase.

The first two field days revealed a few shortcomings:

Firstly, our section could not work out whether the weapons pointed inwards or outwards for an ambush. Thankfully **Cpl 'Sid' Perks** (yes the Sid Perks) was on hand to educate the doubters.

Secondly, as we moved on towards our Night Harbour our radio operator **Sig Wood** spotted some locals he assumed to be the enemy and without delay ate the CEI! (no comms on day one).

The remainder of the week showed a great deal of improvement within the section, and by the final day we were a team, ready for our final stand. We were to be Section in defence whilst the Blue forces attacked at dawn, in strength. We moved in quietly under cover of darkness and established a perimeter, then adopted night routine, the quietness only interrupted by **Sig 'Dixie' Whitehouse** snoring.

I won't describe the bedlam that followed other than to say that after the post-mortems, honours were even. But, as I am writing this, I will say, we won!

OSCAR TROOP

The troop has spent the last couple of months filling its ranks with unsuspecting newcomers, not least **Sig Dunbar** who arrived one evening to find his webbing already made up and packed ready for an exercise seven hours later!

We also welcome to the troop **Sig 'D. C.' Drudge-Coates, 'Smitty' Smith, 'Rooster' Staff, 'T. C.' Vance** and **Simon Marshall**.

Congratulations to **LCpl Robinson, Cpls Berman** and **Cooper** on well deserved promotions. **LCpl Handley** also received promotion and we are sorry to have to lose him to 2 Sqn.

Two of our merry crowd, **LCpl Hogg** and **Sig Gilchrist**, spent an educational month with the Scots Guards in BATUS learning the life of a 'Grunt'. Their impression of infanteers was interesting.

We are glad to see **Sig Littler** back off his rehabilitation and out on exercise with the lads and our thoughts go out to **Sig Chapman**, now re-trading, and **Sig Davies** in BMH Woolwich.

The final exercise of 1988 was very successful with Oscar giving up Main only for a move and final withdrawal. On return to Verden we once again proved our prowess at horse show construction, this time with the Team Chase. Well done to all the lads involved.

201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 30

Since our last contribution the Squadron had had another busy period. In this time two very successful Ex Highland Malts have been completed with a number of new crews being 'blooded'. In addition the sporting and adventure training programme has been full with the cross-country team winning the Regimental competition and the boxing team being runners up in the Divisional Minor Units Championships. Hockey and Football have also featured with regular games against other minor and some major units. A report on the expedition to the Dolomites led by **Lt Jon Watt** appears elsewhere in this article.

The Commcen has had a face life with 'state of the art' equipment replacing the ageing and out dated kit. At least the girls, **WCpls Durlik, Cooke** and **Pte Malcolm** no longer have to wear ear defenders and they like the equipment colour. They now insist the YofS install chintz curtains and a chaise-longue to complement the decor.

MOUNTAINEERING IN THE ITALIAN DOLOMITES

In late September 10 members of 22 Armd Bde Sig Sqn set off on Ex Dolomite Diamond, a mountaineering expedition to the Italian Dolomites.

The expedition was organised to further advance the mountaineering skills of a group of experienced trekkers by conducting four one day climbs and one four day expedition in the Dolomite area.

The expedition originally planned for 1987 and forestalled due to weather, finally set off in September. The group was self-contained with two civilianised GS rovers and trailers. For the first part of the expedition the group established a base camp at a local camp site in Bressanone.

SSgt 'Big D' Donovan and **LCpl 'Gearbox' Neary** were our rear admin party and between the two of them they somehow managed to feed the walking party and drive the vehicles all with one word of Italian—'Ciao'.

The walkers had four good days of single climbs of four ridge lines which varied in severity from day one, an easy introductory warm up, to the Klettersteiz ridges at the end of the week; Mount Tullen ridge at 2,652m. It was here that **Cpl 'Nasher' Dennis** and **Sig 'Goody' Goodman** developed a new method of eating and drinking the eight points of contact.

The second week consisted of a four day expedition from Merans to the Italian/Swiss border. This walk followed a series of ridge lines which were all over 2,500m with our highest ridge at Hasenohol at 3,026m. Even **Sgt 'Steve' Sommers** was impressed at the amount of ups and downs on one ridge. **Cpl 'KP' Wright** was all set for going across the glaciers, but even **Sig Bowker** with his size 11's acting as snow shoes could not cope.

It was on the fourth day and in beautiful sunshine that the group led by our intrepid speedsters **LCpl 'Bo' Ridley** and **Sig 'Mac' McGuckien** finally reached Switerzerland only by 1m on Piz Chavalatsch at 2,764m.

Having enjoyed a new expertience the group returned to Hohne to go immediately on exercise. That's Life!

SQUADRON BATTLE CAMP

The Squadron held its annual battle camp in the Soltau Luneburg training area from 17-26 October 1988. Everyone that took part enjoyed it, even those on their third trench in 24 hours. The following is perhaps the best 'war' story:

Cpl 'Bob' Anthony, Sig 'Gearbox' Neary and **'Monkey' Richardson** were manning an OP in front of Echelon. An AFV stopped and opened fire in front of them. Subsequent events are as follows:

Sgt Sommers, on the land line to the OP: 'Whats happening?'

Cpl Anthony; 'An AFV has opened fire, but he's not seen us. Well we hope he's not seen us.'

Sgt Sommers; 'Can you see any markings?'

Cpl Anthony; 'No but . . . there's another one. Oh no there's another . . .! there's hundreds of them!'

World War 3 apparently is then heard.

Sgt Somers and four men from the QRF investigate. They found that the OP had been over-run and were confronted by 20 AFV with infantry swarming all over the position. They all made a hasty tactical withdrawal.

Echelon defenders then put up a gallant resistance, under command of **SQMS Riley**, but were beaten by far superior forces.

Who had made the overwhelming attack? Had the OC conjured up some real enemy? Was it 618/619 after a resup? Were we in the correct location? Well it turned out to be a complete company of Queens Own Highlanders who had accidentally run into our positions whilst advancing to contact and were almost as surprised as the OP!

Life in Echelon will never be the same again!

HELLOS AND FAREWELLS

The Squadron has said good bye to **WO2 (YofS) Jim Sykes** and his wife **Vikki** who are posted to the USA, and has welcomed his replacement **WO2 (YofS) Mick Boxall** who was posted from Malvern. It is the new Yeoman's second tour at 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, having left 1 Sqn in 1986.

Our best wishes also go to **Cpl Kenny Niblock** and **Sig Hunt** who are going to Gibraltar. Particular thanks go to **Irene Niblock** for her work with the Wives Club.

Good luck in Civvy Street to **Sig Davies** and **Humphries**.

We welcome **Cpls Rouse Willets, Owen, LCpls Wood, Alison, Sig Dawson, Gilbert, Henderson, Milson, Perrin** and **Cfn Petrie**. Enjoy your tour with 201.

What a place for a cross—looking over to the Austrian Alps on Mount Cuzzo Gitsch 2510m

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

Leaving the Forces? If so RFEA is 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 hundred years of experience behind us, operate through forty Branches throughout the UK where our Employment Officers are in close contact with employers.

If you need our help, fill in the card which will be with your discharge documents, or make earlier contact with the Branch in your area of interest. Branch addresses and telephone numbers can be found from Unit/Ship Resettlement Officers, Regimental, Corps and Service Associations, Jobcentres and local telephone directories, or, write to us at Head Office, 25 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2LN.

207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 37

SINCE WE LAST WROTE

. . . We've all been terribly busy doing, er, exercises. Seriously, we have—but we've also managed to squeeze in one or two other things as well . . . so read on.

NEWS FROM 'A' TROOP

The Troop's successes continue! Having triumphed in the Squadron Sports the other month, the Troop went on to sweep the board in the OC's military training exercise. The Troop took the first three places in the best Patrol competition, won the map reading, and won the march even though the Troop OC **Lt Edwards** was part of the team! The best Patrol was led by **Cpl Miller**. Well done particularly to **Sig Westerman** on getting the OC's prize.

We would like to welcome **Sig Fitzgerald** to the Troop from sunny Osnabruck, and **Sig 'Mick' Brown** from the factory.

That hoary old soldier, **SSgt 'Kev' Lodge**, fresh from his All Arms Range Management Course (yet another badge on the arm course), has ripped into the Troop in his usual gentle way . . . Welcome back and congratulations on getting the prize for the best SA80 shot during the course. It has been a relatively quiet time for the Troop—the usual paid holidays with full board and tours of the N German plain in green company vehicles just like what those brochures say.

Apart from counting the Bear's fangs, the Troop enjoyed the OC's Exercise, the results of which were very close, despite what the 'A' Troop notes indicate! There were many notable performances, particularly **LCpl Hope**. Well done.

Finally the OC Tp, **Lt D. H. Hudson**, is to report to the LAD to have his Bergan welded to his back . . . rumour has it that 'B' Troop is not the Troop to leave kit around in, as one 18 year old second Lieutenant who found himself semi-naked 30 minutes after arriving in the location at night will testify!

On 17 October **Brig T. I. M. Waugh** visited the Squadron. He watched military training in progress after having paid a courtesy call on the Bde Comd, and then presented LS&GCs to **Cpls Small** and **Bruce**. Well done chaps. The SSM and YofS are most envious! The Comd Comms is obviously made of stern stuff as he consumed the cookhouse curry with apparent relish! OC 'A' Troop was nearly as brave, needing only four pints of water to make it to the empty plate stage.

SPORT

As we go to press, the Squadron has, alas, just lost to 1 Ord Bn after extra time in the quarter final round of the Army minor units football competition. Hard luck, and well tried. The OC, **Maj J. M. Willis, Lt Edwards, Cpl Chapman, LCpls Crook, Hogg, Pallett, Ellis** and **Cfn Spencer** all plodded their way round the Berlin Marathon in well under four hours. More importantly, all managed to get in 'a good time' both before and after the Marathon.

THE OC's EXERCISE

Now for the OC's Exercise that you have heard so much about . . . It was to have begun with a tactical insertion on to the SLTA by RAF helicopter. However eight patrols were dropped off by four tonner at pre-set points with the grid of their destination. That destination was a military training stand, at which a task had to be performed. Having completed the stand, the patrol received the grid of the next stand and navigated the 3-5kms to get there. Eventually all patrols ended up at two patrol base sites where defensive preparations were made, and enemy insurgents made life a little more interesting. The next day the patrols continued with the remaining stands, before again ending up at a patrol base. That night, they were kept busy with enemy attacks and a night navigation and recognition exercise run by that well known roughie toughie 'just a few kms more chaps', **Lt M. Edwards**. The following morning saw a forced march to two HLSs where Puma helicopters extracted the patrols and practised a bit of nap of the earth flying. By Endex, most had a blister or three, but most also claimed to have enjoyed themselves. This was followed by a Squadron 'Smoker' with a number of excellent sketches.

Results from the exercise were as follows: First—**Cpl Miller**'s Patrol; Second—**Cpl Lofthouse**'s Patrol; Third— **Cpl MacKenzie**'s Patrol; Map Reading First—**Cpl MacKenzie**'s Patrol; Speed March First—**Cpl MacKenzie**'s Patrol and Best Young Soldier—**Sig Westerman**.

TO END

Well, its eyes down and look in for Christmas now that the final major exercise has finished.

212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 36

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS
by LCpl Sandman

The Gold Award is split into five different sections, each section is to enable the participant to discover fresh interests and make new friends, and find satisfaction in giving service to others. The five sections are, Service, Expeditions, Skills, Physical Recreation and a Residential Project. For the service one must undergo at least 60 hours of practical service spread over 12 months. My service was helping with a cub pack as a cub scout instructor. I had to organise games and instruct the cubs in the simpler elements of scouting skills.

My expedition took me to Snowdonia in North Wales. Before starting the four day expedition one must prepare a route to cover at least 50 miles. The route must also pass through 10 checkpoints each day. You also have a training weekend in which one must be confident in map reading, use of a compass, country code, food and cooking, casualty code and most important safety precautions.

The skills section covers a wide variety of hobbies and leisure activites. The skill you choose has to be followed for at least 18 months. I chose dinghy maintenance and sailboarding, I repaired and maintained the Army Apprentices College's Dinghies which give me a lot of experience.

Physical recreation is gained on a points system. For example you get two points for each hourly session, for the gold you have to gain 36 points. I obtained mine by playing hockey for the Apprentices College.

The residential project is completed by living away from home for a minimum period of five days during which some form of purposeful enterprise is to be undertaken with other people. My project was working at a home for the mentally disabled. Though difficult at first I soon got used to the ways of the home and I enjoyed my stay.

Now I have finished my Gold Award, I am going to travel to St James's Palace to receive my Award from the **HRH The Duke of Edinburgh**. I would recommend the scheme to everybody as everything I have learned and the experience I have had will always be beneficial to me.

WISH YOU WERE HERE
by Cpl Michell

Ably led by **Lts Andy Hill** and **Wendy Neil WRAC**, we started our patrol at the crack of Naafi Break on 27 October. Our first stop at the IGB gave us a stunning view of what can only be described as 'a fence'!

All through the day we made numerous stops and observations on the way. With a running commentry from our Tour Guide **Mr R. Webster** of the BFS and his ever present pipe. Amid many 'oohs' and 'aahs' and the odd 'Gosh'! he explained the history and some of the events that had taken place there.

28 October. Dear diary. Today we saw; yes you guessed it a fence later we swapped our patrol for the comfort of a local Gaststatte and an unusual local dish of raw chicken evidently far more healthy than the boring old cooked fowl we usually have.

Sadly we said a fond farewell to the fence and our five Star Hotel and wended our way back to sunny Osnatraz, happy in our minds that we had seen . . . a fence.

SQUADRON RUGBY CLUB—ODENSE SEVENS

The tournament contained sides from Holland, Denmark and BFG. The BFG sides were ourselves, 204 Sig Sqn and 12 Armd Wksps. Both of the other BFG sides had previously beaten us earlier in the season.

We were drawn in a group with the host club, Odense, 204 Sig Sqn and the eventual winners, Phoenix of Holland. A tough draw we thought.

We beat the hosts 16—4 and then promptly avenged our defeat over 204 with a 12—4 win. Our other group game was a formality as Phoenix and ourselves had already qualified for the semi-finals.

Our semi-final was against the Lindo from Denmark, the favourities. We lost 18—8 but we showed the Danes a thing or two about the forward game! Know what I mean 'Arry!

After an enjoyable day's rugby we eventually finished third after a play off with 12 Armd Wksps.

Without a doubt the BFG sides were landslide winners of the third half, which lasted about 36 hours.

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 Peter Bradley**
Trg Offr	**Capt Tim Peacocke**
Ops offr	**Capt Nick Metcalfe**
RSM	**WO1 Gerry Hegarty**
YofS	**WO1 Mick Drake**
Supt Clk	**WO1 Alastair Sykes**
ORS	**Sgt Danny Cullen**
HQ SQUADRON	
OC	**Maj Ray Briant**
2IC	**Capt Sue Buncombe WRAC**
TCO	**Capt Stewart 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	**Lt Mark Finch**
OC B Tp	**Capt Charlie Miller**
OC 15 Bde	**2Lt Bill Adsett**
2IC 15 Bde	**Capt Pete Stephenson**
OC 49 Bde	**2Lt Scott Youngson**
21C 49 Bde	**WO2 Sandy McLean**
SSM	
2 SQUADRON	
OC	**Maj Mark Grieves**
2IC	**Capt Dave Hornsby**
OC O Tp	**2Lt Bridget Pulverman WRAC**
OC P Tp	**Lt Martin Barnes**
OC R Tp	**2Lt John Norris**
SSM	**WO2 Steve Harrison**

FOREWORD
by WO1 (RSM) Gerry Hegarty

This period has been a very hard one for the Regiment in many ways. In October we moved to Wathgill Camp for our Annual Battle Camp where everybody was truly tested in various military skills and physical fitness. I think most of the lads know their way around the Catterick training area now.

We also have a report on Op Cutter by 2 Sqn who, over a very busy period for them, moved to Deepcut to guard the prison. Needless to say nobody got out!

The Regiment has had a number of visits over the last couple of months. Two of note in October were by **Brig J. O. C. Alexander OBE**, Comd 2 Sig Bde and **Brig T. I. M. Waugh**, Comd Comms HQ 1 (BR) Corps. **Brig Waugh** was treated, not only to a spot of Clay Pigeon shooting but also to an entertaining evening at the Officers' Autumn Ball.

RSM watches the CRA Signing the Sergeants' Mess visitors book

Then on Monday 14 November members of the Sergeants' Mess dined out the departing CRA, **Brig G. S. Hollands**. It was a very enjoyable evening. We all thank the CRA for all he had done for the Regiment and wish him and his family all the best for the future.

Ex Brilliant Fix was one of three CO's exercises designed to test the Squadrons in a tactical situation. 1 Sqn was out on this occasion and I am sure the SSM **WO1 Sandy McLean** thought he had seen the last of digging in!

Finally, may I on behalf of the Commanding Officer and his Regiment wish all Royal Signals personnel and their families a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

PRESENTATION CEREMONY

On Monday 5 December 1988 **Maj Gen Naylor MBE** presented a BEM, NI Commendation and seven LS&GC Medals. The recipients are pictured here.

Award presentation ceremony

2 SQUADRON
AN EVERYDAY STORY OF COMMHEAD FOLK

Well, dear reader, as promised another episode in the life of 2 Sqn. But first the answer to the 'Quiz Photo' (page 585 November 1988 *Wire*). You remember that I challenged you to guess what an obscure scene represented. It was in fact the NMC VIP mobile lavatory—cammed up with urban cam in a rural setting! No one can say that life in 2 Sqn is predictable.

OP CUTTER OR 'PORRIDGE WITHOUT THE LUMPS'!

Having returned from NMC on 15 September, SHQ and P Troop had a rapid turn around and departed on Op Cutter on 18 September. This operation was undertaken in aid of the civil power to assist with measures to deal with prison overcrowding. Two former army camps, Rollestone on Salisbury Plain and Alma/Dettingen in Deepcut have been coverted to temporary prisons. The Squadron was tasked (some would say 'jiffed') with the perimeter guarding of Alma/Dettingen. The guard force was two platoons based on 3 × 17 man sections, each commanded by a Sergeant, with an SHQ element. 1 Platoon was drawn from P Troop, commanded by **Lt 'Digger' Barnes**, still on a high from his role as Senior Car Park Attendant on NMC. His section NCOs were **Sgts 'Scouse' Clair, Jim Hogan** and **Nick Bahado**. 2 Platoon was drawn from 49 Bde Sig Tp commanded by **Capt Pete Steveson** strongly supported by his section commanders, **Sgts Snaith, 'Geordie' Williams** and **'Mighty Midget' Edwards**. SHQ comprised the usual bunch of hoods but with the unusual feature of **YofS 'Bunny' Burbidge** cast in the role of SQMS, since **SSgt 'Marty' Altham** was playing squash—unusually! **'Q' Burbidge** put a totally new interpretation on the expression 'Can I help you?', and as a result the boys began asking who exactly were the prisoners around here. Certainly the inmates seemed to be able to get more out of their admin system than we could get out of ours!

Each platoon did 24 hours on and 24 hours off and it because obvious very quickly that the inmates had more fun watching us than we had watching them. Despite the fact that the 24 hours duty was split between periods in the 'goon' towers, periods as QRF and periods as stand-by it proved to be surprisingly exhausting. So much so that the morning of the stand-down was usually spent sleeping. The other periods were spent doing weapon training, including SA80, courtesy of the Welsh Guards; fitness training, including runs over the NATO assault course at Deepcut and recreational sports. The most popular activity was the water slide complex at Richmond Baths. It was so popular that when it was time to leave it was not only the men who were heard to cry: 'Just one more "Black Hole" please Staff!'.

The routine of guard then stand-down was to prove very tedious after the first week. Time dragged on with little to break the monotony. We had been promised a small riot to enliven things but it never materialised. The inmates hold their TVs in high esteem but it was thought that the Governor intended to remove them. The last time this happened it caused a riot which resulted in the inmates throwing all of their TVs out of the windows. We thought it a strange way to protest about their removal. However, the Governor didn't remove the TVs nor were we inconvenienced by a storm of decending monochromes! We handed the threat over to our replacements, 1 PWO.

Again 'The Sabre Sqn' was called upon to execute a bit of nifty footwork. We recovered from prison guard on 1 October and immediately deployed on Battle Camp on 3 October.

HELLO AND GOODBYE

Yet again there has been some manpower movement within 'The Sabre Sqn'. In particular we say farewell to **Capt Tim Peacocke** who after embarrassing the Regimental officers by exposing their total lack of expertise at NBC on Battle Camp, has been despatched to the Training Wing with a missive from the CO to improve things. In his stead we say 'Hi' to **2Lt Bridget Pulverman**—O Troop will never be the same again. What with the curtains, pot plants and the Mills and Boon books etc!

We have also had to say 'au revoir' to **YofS Mick Dawson** who, despite now being on 1 Sqn's books seems to spend more time in 2 Sqn than he did when he was posted here.

A PREVIEW

Sadly, dear reader this little treatise is somewhat thin on photos and you have also been deprived of a rivetting description of life on Ex Northern Crusade (we were unable to get OC Radio Troop literate before he went on his survival course). I am assured that next time life in the Radio Tp fast lane will be described in lurid detail and there will also be one for the ladies 'Twenty Things You Can Do With An ELG' by **2Lt B. Pulverman (Miss)**.

So until next time, remember, keep your masts vertical and your camnets scrimmed.

BATTLE CAMP

The first two weeks of October was spent at Wathgill Camp near Catterick on our Annual Battle Camp. The first few days were spent updating the annual tests. The Adjt, **Capt 'Johnny' Perks** had devised a testing Section Match Competition, the results of which were added in to the CO's Trumpet Competition. The Regiment was divided up into eight man Sections each commanded by a Corporal. The SNCOs and Officers were used as DS and the Squadron Commanders had a well earned rest.

Despite Friday dawning on a very wet, windy day **2Lt John 'Baldrick' Norris** set the sections off on a March and Shoot Competition; the CO and RSM threw down the Challenge by setting the best time of the day. The Patrol element of the Trumpet Competition took place over two days on Feldom Training area. The event was organised by **Capt Pete Stephenson** and typed by **Capt Charlie Miller**. Thirty-three sections from all Squadrons of the Regiment trudged around 18 stands varying in content from straightforward military skills to novel and unexpected tasks. An arduous cross-country trek between stands, set by the Adjutant **Capt Johnny Perks** presented some of the sections with more than a little

Sect 11 Cpl McPhee takes a well earned break during FIBUA training

Left to Right: LCpl Beel, Cpls McPhee, Collins, Sig McCollum, LCpls Brodie, Lithgow and Sig Perry

Cpl Chesswas and his section work out this command task

The mystery range LCpls Key, Curtis and Sig Gilbert fire their arrows down the range

difficulty. **Cpl Geordie Oxley** swore blind that the range boundary he was following on the map was an 'A' class road, until his section decided that ranges do not often cross village greens.

Reactions of sections varied from the 'Oh no not more planks and barrels' on some stands to Cheyenne war cries on seeing the archery range kindly provided by **Lt Guy Bewsher** from AA Coll Harrogate. There was more enthusiasm than accuracy, but it offered a welcome diversion from pondering how to retrieve secret formulas or light fires with no matches.

Competition between 1 and 2 Squadrons was fierce. Each having its fancied section. The scores were well balanced with a 1 Sqn team slightly in the lead and only the Assault Course remaining. The tension continued right up to the last when, with only teams from 210 Sig Sqn left to run, **Cpl Ned Kelly**'s section was joint leader with a 1 Sqn team. We were all preparing to award the prizes when the last 210 Sig Sqn team to go came in some 20 seconds faster than anyone else!

The rest of the week we suffered with bad weather, but eventually the Trumpet Competition was decided. It was won by Section 11 led by **Cpl 'Jock' McPhee**.

After a very tiring two weeks the Regiment went back to Camp to recover!

EXERCISE BRILLIANT FIX

Ex Brilliant Fix was a CO's tactical exercise designed to test the Squadron in a command and control situation.

The Squadron Commander, **Maj David Hargreaves** gave his orders and at dawn the Squadron set sail in LSLs (cleverly disguised as four tonners) for Ripon beach.

After a successful 'landing' the Company position was secured and preparations for defence were soon under way, despite **Lt Mark Finch** encountering problems finding his Troop.

'Sir, I've managed to scrounge a JCB, where will I send it?' came the desperate cry from **Sgt Phil Jefferies**, in an attempt to ease the ritual of 'Digging In'. 'Unfortunately it's just hit a landmine.' said the CO, **Lt Col John Griffin**.

By last light **LCpl Stait**, who must have obvious designs on transferring to the Pioneer Corps, had actually manged to get down to stage 2. **LCpl 'Recon' Cowens**, who had problems coping with movement in the pitch black, foggy conditions, was reported dropping in on **Sig 'Slim' Eldridge** who was trying to brew up at the time.

Lt Mark Finch wondering where his Troop has got to?

After enemy harassment, during which the Squadron OC, 2IC and SSM were killed-off, the Squadron, now under the command of **Capt 'Chas' Miller** entered the withdrawal phase. This was held up at one point due to the problems encountered crossing a barbed wire fence, until **LCpl 'Geordie' Richards** led the way with his 'double twist with tuck' routine, which provided a light hearted moment in the otherwise serious proceedings.

Dawn brought the 'grunting' to a successful conclusion and the Squadron set sail for York after a most worthwhile insight into how the other half operates.

15 INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL TROOP
by 2Lt Turner

The mist was slowly rising off the moors on the morning of 21 October 1988 as a convoy of unmarked cars took a little known side turning somewhere in North Yorkshire. 15 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Tp was deployed to practise the vital, if somewhat neglected, skill of Low Level Air Defence (LLAD). The time was 0900 hrs, the place the North of England Clay Target Centre (NECTC) at Rufforth. The covert side of things went by the board as the first shot echoed around the range.

Capt 'Chas' Miller and **SSgt Dave Smart** had organised the shoot as a charity fund raising event for the RNLI. Each member of the Troop has obtained sponsorship for hitting a clay pigeon or a straight flat rate for taking part in the whole shoot. Luckily for the RNLI most of the lads got sponsors for the flat rate.

The morning was spent giving everyone a practice at the four types of shoot that would be included in the competition in the afternoon. The 'Pigeon' proved difficult to hit as the clays look nothing like birds (especially when painted fluorescent orange) the realism comes from the flight characteristics of the clays as they leave the traps. The events were: Down the Line (DTL)—The clays fly away from in front of the shooter (singly) at five different angles: Grouse—The clays come towards the river rising gradually: Springing Teal—The clays fly straight up in pairs and Pigeon—The Clays come from the side and behind rising gradually in pairs.

The country quiet was soon taken up with a cacophony of loud bangs and winging clay (usually unscathed!). However, having said that the high scorers of the morning (out of 25) were **Sig Rich Wilson** (16), **Cpl Chris Jarvis** (15) and **Cpl Al Evans** (14). An excellent buffet provided by **Cpl Peter Light** (ACC) was taken in the clubhouse whilst some club professionals unknowingly laid on a display of how it should be done. Eventually, after much coaxing, we managed to drag the troop outside, away from 'Neighbours', to start the Competition. The sun (big fireball variety) appeared and the afternoon promised to be smashing.

The moral of the afternoon competition turned out to be that beginners luck has some validity or that 'practice' just makes your ears ring. There is definitely not only a skill but an art to clay pigeon shooting. Therefore, our warmest congratulations (and heartfelt envy) to the winners: **Capt Miller** (18), narrowly pipping **SSgt George Cook** (16), and highest scoring female **Natasha** (4). Our thanks go to **Alec, Sue Brown** and **Phil Thompson** for letting us use the centre for a very enjoyable day's shooting. The next plan is an inter-troop clay shoot in the New Year. Any takers?

REGIMENTAL GOLF DAY
by WO2 (RQMS) Armstrong

Our long awaited Regimental Golf Day finally took place on Monday 24 October 1988. On arrival at Catterick Golf Club the mist was with us and visibility was down to 100yds. (Plenty for some of us!) By 1000 hrs the mist had risen sufficently for the field of 20 to tee off. The early leader was not the CO **Lt Col John Griffin** but he did look favourite to play the most golf. Looking at his clubs expertly carried by the RSM **WO1 (RSM) Gerry Hegarty** (who else!) we thought they had been borrowed from the local museum. The early fliers turned out to be **Capt Ken Clark** and **WO2 (SSM) Pete Harburn** whom I may add had been seen at Fulford Golf Club the previous day taking a last minute lesson from the resident professional. They were chased all the way by **Maj Bob Vale** (who was still claiming he had only played twice that year) and **WO2 (RQMS) Geoff Armstrong** who was still shell shocked by his playing partner **Pete Harburn**'s form.

The final results were: First Handicap Medal—**Capt Ken Clark** with a fine net 60; Second Handicap Medal—**WO2 (SSM) Pete Harburn**; First Stableford—**WO2 (RQMS) Geoff Armstrong** and Second Stableford—**Maj (QM) Bob Vale**.

As suspected most golf was played by **Lt Col John Griffin** who also picked up a prize for nearest the pin at the Par 3. (His prize was to have been a set of head covers but they would not fit his old fashioned, hickory clubs!)

Special thanks must go to the organisers **SSgt George Cook** and **Sgt John Raeburn** for a fine day's golf and to Catterick Golf Club who looked after us so well. We all look forward to the Spring Competition in 1989 at York Golf Club.

MORE PAIN LESS GLORY
by Lt Mark Finch

2 Inf Div Sig Regt's latest CO's Run was on the same day as the BBC's 'Children in Need Appeal', Friday 18 November. **SSgt Paul Smith**'s appearance as a Golliwog, complete with webbing, to raise money for the charity provided a light-hearted start to the day.

The run (half marathon in CEFO) began at the barracks with the CO, **Lt Col John Griffin** and the RSM **WO1 Gerry Hegarty** taking the Regiment in tow. It ended some three hours later at Strensall, with an assault course and a quick run back to the transport (the ubiquitous army green buses).

During the run **Sig Dobber Day** decided his boots were not fit to be run in and completed the course in his socks. **Maj David Hargreaves** (OC 1 Sqn) was in fine voice and provided some light hearted entertainment from his current operatic performance of Aida. The A Troop choir led by **LCpl Gazza Avery** made every attempt with their renderings of double time drill movements to drown him out, many of them going hoarse in the process. **Capt Charlie Miller** on the other hand, thought the pace was too slow (can you believe it!) and with the remainder of his Troop (numbering approximately five) asked the CO if he could perhaps overtake.

Three guesses what the answer was!

The Regiment made a valiant attempt at completing the run and the assault course. It was particularly pleasing to see some well earned 'beverages' after the run and the transport, for once, at the right place at the right time. Indeed the most pleasant part of the day seemed to be the travelling back in the coaches.

EXERCISE MARSHAL MERLIN
by 2Lt 'Tracker' Adsett

P1 HQ	
OC	**2Lt 'Tracker' Absett**
2IC	**SSgt 'Yozzzz' Sirr**
ROp	**LCpl 'Lifer' Stait**
Dvr	**Cpl 'Nice and Warm' Sear**
1 SEC	
IC	**LCpl 'Squelch' Welch**
Sig	**'Bop' Gatens**
	'Rick'Wilson
	'LW' Lewis-Walker
	'Woody' Woodlands
	'Braithwait' Dewhurst

On Friday 18 November 10 members of 15 Bde Sig Tp braved all (except the CO's run) for the Brigade's Ex Marshal Merlin.

After some notable navigation across the whole of Strensall Training Area the team finally arrived at the hide location. **Sig 'Bop' Gatens** managed to find every bog possible which improved morale! **LCpl 'Lifer' Stait** not too impressed with the resulting smell!

While the recce team blundered through a wood the remainder slowly concealed themselves under water. The move into the hide went well despite **Yozzzz** being captured by a green maggot at a very early stage. He was successfully rescued just before daylight.

After a freezing night out, the team got driven to the ranges by a very warm and content **Cpl 'Rob' Sear** (he had, of course, conscientiously guarded the four tonner from inside the cab!).

Next came a shoot (and the snow) which proved that you can zero on a .22 range. The final event was military skills involving signals, NBC, vehicle recognition and first aid. The Challenger firing at night proved a bit difficult to recognise!

On completion of the exercise the team was thawed out by **Cpl 'Florence' Pearson** who was controlling the communications for the exercise along with several other members of the troop. Well done to him and his crew who stayed on to battle the snow for the remainder of the exercise.

BRAVO TROOP SPONSORED CHARITY WALK
by Cpl Ditchburn

Word filtered down from above that the GOC was running the Wishing Well Appeal this year. Bravo Troop, in their infinite wisdom, decided that this would be a most worthy cause which might net them a few browie points in the process.

They therefore decided on a charity run/cycle from Great Ormond Street to York via the East Coast, a total of some 400 miles. The event was to be held over five days starting on Monday 28 November.

After weeks of letter writing and route planning by **SSgt 'Jim' Mackie** and **Sgt 'Phil' Jefferies** the big day was upon us. It was a bitterly cold and dark morning when the troop arrived outside the Hospital and waited for the starting gun. **Cpl 'Budgie' Finch** and **LCpl 'Gas' Owen** were persuaded to do the painful first miles through the busy London City Centre. As the runners did their part the rest of the troop dispersed to the many small towns en-route where they donned their clown outfits and set out on foot to persuade the general pubic to donate to this worthy cause, **Sig Wahid** was always last back to the transport with an abundance of five and ten pound notes. The day ended with a collection in Colchester, a well earned shower and a meal at that evenings stop-over point.

Day 2 began with keen **LCpl Richardson** and **Cpl Williams** on the cycles. The rest of the team had to squash into two vans after the third broke down in Colchester. The going proved tougher than expected on the cycles due to the 'giant hills' of East Anglia. Towards the evening the team stopped at Cromer with **Sig Steve Palmer** and **Adrian Price** doing an astonishing 28 miles in the hour.

Day 3 was on foot again and we were progressing well with having collected over £1,000. There was a welcoming party at King's Lynn consisting of Yorkshire Television and a local Newspaper reporter.

Fame came to **Sig Breeds** and **'Jacko' Jackson** as they were filmed on the run into the city centre much to the disgust of **Cpls 'Nonch' Ditchburn** and **Erskine** who had been relieved only a mile from the cameras.

Thursday we cycled from King's Lynn to Hull over the Humber Bridge. **Sig 'Punchy' O'Mahony** had difficulty in finding the bridge and **Cpl 'Dude' Milnes** fell off his bike doing an impression of Evil Knevil much to the amusement of passing traffic. Meanwhile **Lt Mark Finch** was one mile behind, nursing a puncture.

Friday was the last leg from Hull to York and although exhausted from the previous day, morale was as high as ever. After collecting for two hours in York we returned to camp, counted the money and went home. Money raised by this event was well in excess of £2,500!

Our thanks go to everyone who contributed, not just the money for which we are very grateful, but also for the support and logistics without which the event would not have been possible.

B Troop after their sponsored charity walk

127 FULFORD ROAD

On the families' side of life, the CO's wife **Mrs Marion Griffin** has been working hard, along with the RSM's wife **Carol Hegarty** and **SSgt Paul Smith** and his wife, to get the new families' 'house' off the ground. **Brig Hollands** opened the house on Tuesday 15 November and **Mrs Rosa Naylor** opened the Thrift Shop on 1 December.

The house is designed to allow wives and children to pop in for coffee and snacks to meet each other and discuss any problems they might have.

OFFICERS' AUTUMN BALL

The officers and friends enjoyed a very successful Autumn Ball on 21 October. Held at the Merchant Adventurers' Hall, it was a Period Fancy Dress Medieval Banquet. Everyone entered into the spirit of the occasion and came in Medieval costumes, to name but a few: **Maj 'King' Vale, Capt 'Blackadder' Perks, 2Lt 'Baldrick' Norris** and **Capt 'Merlin' Gray**. The Banquet lived up to all expectations. A six-course meal was eaten and vast quantities of wine was drunk in the large upstairs hall. Then the 'Time Warp' disco entertained downstairs until the early hours of the morning with breakfast being served at 2am for those who were still hungry!

A terrific evening was had by all and here's hoping next year's is equally as good.

SUMMARY

by 2Lt Nisbet

As usual some hello's and goodbyes need to be said. Firstly, hello to the three new 'Subbies' from the TC 12 course. **2Lts Bill Absett, Bridget Pulverman** and **Scott Youngson**. I hope they enjoy their tour with the Regiment.

Congratulations to **Capt Peter Bradley** on his commission and posting to us as TOT.

We must say goodbye to **Capt Arthur Brittenden** who has gone to the Falklands at very short notice. Good luck and best wishes to him.

Lastly hello to **Maj Robin Ovenden** who takes over from **Maj Ray Briant** as OC HQ Sqn.

Having spent ages compiling next year's forecast of events, the Regiment looks as though it will be as busy next year as we have been this.

Best wishes to everyone for the New Year from 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt.

The wives and children outside 127 with Brig Hollands

Mrs Rosa Naylor opened the thrift shop, pictured here with Carol Hegarty, Marion Griffin and Denise O'Conner

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210 (24 Airmob Bde) Sig Sqn Catterick

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Robert Baxter**
2IC	**Capt Adam Hearn**
AO	**Capt Mick Besant**
OC Radio Tp	**2Lt Richard Rands**
SSM	**WO2 Trevor Jones**
YofS	**WO2 Douggie Mac Taggart**
FofS	**SSgt Russ Lifton**
SQMS	**SSgt Graham Butler**
CC	**SSgt Neil Bartlett**

We have another quiet period to report this issue, just a couple of exercises and some adventure training trips to break up the routine of fitness training, sport and in-barracks maintenance.

Welcome to **2Lt Richard Rands** who joins us from 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt, replacing **Lt Andy Duncan** who is off to Belize for a few months before going to AA Coll Harrogate.

The first event of note was Ex Damp Gryphon, another of the 2IC's sailing exercises; a report follows. Then we almost took part in a Patenschaft parade with 27 Luftlander Bde, but the weather was against us and the event had to be cancelled.

The last week of October saw a few of the Squadron deploying to HQ Scotland for Ex Bonnie Dundee, followed by the rest of the Squadron moving up to Fort William for Ex Tartan Eagle. This was a Squadron manpack radio exercise for the non-operators and consisted of climbing up some very large hills with radio sets to talk to other people on equally large hills with equally heavy radio sets.

November was a busy month for some with two exercises in BAOR. Vantage Point Two required the attendance of our Wavell vehicle in Germany, and Ex Iron Hammer involved two detachments from the Squadron.

The last notable event was the Triathalon, organised by our beloved SSM, just for the fun of it.

EXERCISE DAMP GRYPHON

THE CREW

Skipper	**Capt Adam Hearn**
Mate	**Cpl John Dick**
Crew	**Cpl Danny Thornton**
	LCpl Brian Hyde
	LCpl Brian King

DAY 1

The motley crew asembled at 0200 hrs in the morning and started the long drive to Gosport in the Squadron minibus, loaded to the brim with kit, rations and liquid refreshment. Arriving at Gosport we took over the good ship *Stormer* and proceeded to shoe-horn ourselves into her. Unfortunately our arrival at JSASTC coincided with the appearance of some particularly unpleasant weather, our first day was limited to land bound sailing. Even the big 55ft racing machines were staying in harbour, so our little 27ft craft was not going anywhere.

The Sailing Crew *L to R:* Capt Adam Hearn, Cpl John Dick, LCpl Brian Hyde and Cpl Danny Thornton

DAY 2

0700 hrs found the crew of HMSTC *Stormer* wide awake and raring to go. Being fully conversant with terms nautical and knots various we were ready to attempt the sailing bit. The weather forecast was for gale force 8/9 (for the layman, this can be described as 'rather windy'). Out in the confines of Portsmouth Harbour various skills were practised; tacking, reefing and mooring to bouys. We had an exciting moment on the way back to our berth when smoke was seen pouring from the engine compartment. The fault was soon rectified and we tied up for the night.

The day was rounded off with a game of trivial pursuit, where suspect IQs were revealed for all to see. This was followed by the standard quaffing of ale till dark O'Clock.

DAY 3

Today was not a good day for our trusty Mate, **Cpl John Dick**. Being the only REME representative he was also the ship's engineer, and the engine would not start. After much persuastion and a good talking-to the engine chugged into life and we headed out into the Solent in a Force 5/6 wind (somewhat bumpy). The crew found the boat's motion somewhat unsettling and were soon reviewing their breakfasts. After a scary trip to Cowes on the Isle of Wight we had to sail onto our mooring at Club UK, narrowly avoiding the car ferry. It came to light that the charging circuit on the engine was broken and the ship's batteries were flat, again no engine. To round off **John Dick**'s day he discovered that his locker leaked and most of his kit was soaked through.

DAY 4

We awoke to cries of 'can I get my boat out, please?' The vessel moored inside ours was commanded by a lunatic who wanted to go to sea at half past six in the morning. The Skipper decided that we would return to Gosport and have the duty electrician look at the engine—a bad move. With two reefs in the mainsail and the No 2 jib up we headed out of Cowes, only to meet up with some pretty horrible gale force winds.

John and **Danny** were invited to go onto the foredeck and take down the jib. After lots of hanging on and getting wet the sail came down, the crew were bruised black and blue, and we headed back to Cowes. A good move!

We pulled in at Club UK and decided to calm our nerves in the bar, only to find it shut. The Skipper saved the day, and the morale, by deciding to head for the nearest town and the nearest pub. Nerves calmed we headed back to the boat and sailed further up the river Medina to the Folly Inn. We moored across the river from the Inn and contemplated the water between us and the ale. The dinghy was inflated and we sped across the divide (the Skipper was rowing). Eventually the time came for the return trip, the second bad move of the day. With the tide and a strong wind against us **LCpl Brian Hyde** volunteered to row. Ten minutes later we were still at the pub jetty with a shattered rower. After a rest we tried again and finally managed to get the 100 yds to the boat.

DAY 5

A beautiful morning and a gentle breeze greeted the jolly crew of the good ship *Stormer*, just the day for slipping across the Solent to Southampton Water.

This was the best day for sailing of the whole exercise and more than made up for the wet and windy weather we had experienced. After a lovely sunny day we tied up at Swanwick Marina, just across from the Jolly Sailor pub featured in Howard's Way, and slept well after a nightcap or two.

Sailing in Sunny weather *L to R:* Capt Adam Hearn, LCpls Brian King and Brian Hyde

DAY 6

Our aim today was to return to Gosport, but the weather had other ideas. We left the Hamble at 1100 hrs and battered our way out into the Solent. With the tide and a Force 7 against us we made no progress towards Gosport. It was decided that we should make a run for Cowes instead, but the weather was so rough by this stage that the entry to the River Medina was too dangerous to risk. We ran down wind in the driving rain and anchored in a sheltered bay and waited for the tide to change.

After a rest and a change into dry clothing we caught the tide and managed to get into Cowes. The Club UK bar was visited for a restorative before some of the crew crashed out in the club's drying room to dry out overnight.

DAY 7

An early start and a motor back to Gosport in a flat calm. The yacht was handed back to JSASTC without incident and we drove back up to Catterick for a welcome rest from the sea. The crew performed splendidly in very difficult conditions and they all intend to take part in the 2IC's next adventure, hopefully in better weather.

SUPPORT TROOP

The time has come to say welcome and farewell to various members of the Troop. Farewell to **Sig Bob Queen, Dave Aitken** and **Jerry Ashcroft** who go to civilian life, **Sgt Chippy Wood**—38 Sig Regt (V) and **Sgt Mac McAlpine**—4ADSR.

Welcome to **Sgt Slade** and **Cpl Stapleton** to the Tech Workshop, **Sgt Yeaman** to the MT, **Sgt Bevan** to Support Tp; **Cpl Cullen, LCpl Robertson** and **Sig Small** to Power Section; **Cpl Chapman** to the SQMS's Dept, **Cfn Birchmore** to the LAD, and **Cpl Messenger** to Ptarmigan Section.

INTER-TROOP ORIENTEERING

Despite an outstanding performance by **Cpl 'Ossie' Osbourne** (first place in 45 mins) our Troop came second. The course was devised by **Sgt Jim Patterson** and was intended to give everyone a reasonable chance of finishing by not being too difficult. None the less **Sgt Tony Playford** lost his card, the Chief Clerk started off in the wrong direction and various others lost their cards or missed checkpoints. The competition was enjoyed by all, and the OC even mentioned something about a night orienteer to follow.

RADIO TROOP
EXERCISE BONNIE DUNDEE

While the rest of the Squadron were still preparing for Ex Tartan Eagle three vehicles were already on their way to Scotland for the start of Ex Bonnie Dundee. **Sig Paul Wildish** was deployed to the Brigade logistic cell at Stirling, whilst the 2IC, **Cpl Al Pilcher, Sig Martin Barlow** and **Sig Bob Armstrong** were based with the Brigade Staff at HQ Scotland.

The first few days were spent travelling around the different locations, with the 2IC showing off the mobile telephone that he had been issued for the exercise. The majority of the communications were supplied by BT, with expert advice to the users provided by us. Various advisory visits were made to the TAOR locations, taking in various Scottish sights on the way. A trip to Edinburgh to see the Castle rounded off a very relaxed deployment.

EXERCISE TARTAN EAGLE

On 31 October we deployed to the Great Glen area of Scotland for a three day exercise. The aim being to practise the non-operator trades in the delicate art of manpack rebroadcasting. Five teams were deployed to locations between Fort William and Fort George. After climbing some extremely large hills the rebros were established, along with an HF net. The OC and YofS declared themselves satisfied and we all came back down again having learnt a great deal about manpack radios and the tops of Scottish hills in November.

SQUADRON TRIATHALON

The SSM decided that we would hold a triathalon, we all groaned and smiled grimly. We swam, we shot and we ran and the results are shown below:-

Best Swimmer		**Cpl Thornton**
Best Shot		**Cpl Messenger**
Best Runner		**2Lt Rands**
Overall First		**Cpl Thornton**
Second		**Cpl Smith**
Third		**2Lt Rands**
Radio Tp	First	**54265 points**
Support Tp	Second	**47930 points**

Ex Tartan Eagle *L to R:* Sgt Cowburn, Cfn Reilling, Sig Brown, Cpl Rice with a manpack rebroadcast station

The Sqn Triathlon

2Lt Richard Rands receiving the winning troop trophy for the triathlon from Maj Robert Baxter

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 106

1 SQUADRON

Departures	—	**Lt Ian Birleson**
		SSgt Phil Atkinson
Arrivals	—	**Lt Lance Mitchell**
		Sgt Al Tye
Promotions	—	**Cpl Eddis Leek**
		Cpl Jed Clamp
Births	—	**Michael Stachini**
		Jonathan Gray

EXERCISE IRON HAMMER

After months of meticulous preparation, Exercise Iron Hammer was finally upon us. One man's preparation was found lacking, however, on day one of the exercise, **Cpl Mark Salmon** had remembered every creature comfort know to man; everything that is except his sleeping bag. Man of the match award goes to **David** 'Oops' **Kinnaird**. He started the exercise by managing to fit a whole Trunk Node into an Out-Of-Bounds area, and was awarded a personal 'Thank You' call from **Maj Gen Wilkes**. Whilst sweet talking the AAdjt was stunned to hear **Lt Col Truluck** on the receiving end advising him to quickly press 'Hook' (Blub, blub, blub). **David**'s Troop was tasked to trial the new woodland and urban camouflage. **David** considered this new camouflage to be the greatest thing since sliced bread until he found himself surrounded by a whole Armoured Brigade. Follow the adventures of **Dave**'s blossoming career in further issues!

TN 053 was testing the ability of combat linemen to work in Node Command. **Sig 'Twiggy' Greaves** was selected but failed at the first hurdle when he crushed his finger in the door.

Exercise Iron Hammer was a worthwhile and enjoyable exercise. If there are any doctors reading who specialise in removing tongues from cheeks, please contact **Lt Birleson** ASP.

LCPL JACOBS BATUS ADV TRG CENTRE NORDEEG CANADA

After watching the delightful departure of 1 Sqn from Salamanca Bks, I then waited for my transport to take me to RAF Gutersloh for my flight to the lovely sounding name of BATUS in Canada. To most people, it sounds very much like one of the easy places in which the Corps serves. Not so!! The main area of BATUS (British Army Training Unit Suffield) is located 280km east of Calgary and 45km west of Medicine Hat. Thus the places to go for night life are all in Medicine Hat.

The summer months here are very dry with temperatures in the low 30's. The landscape is very flat and also very dusty. Animal life around the camp does not just consist of people, there are flies, mosquitos, friendly Gophers and the occasional Rattle Snake. I did not stay long on the prairies and after two days I departed on a seven hour journey by Bedford to a place called Nordeeg in the Rocky Mountains. Its here that I am employed as one of the Canoe Instructors at the Adventure Training Centre.

The Centre is in some of the most beautiful country in the world, and it is seven miles from the nearest village. The people who come to the Centre are from the Battlegroups who come to train on the live firing range which is 100kms long and 60kms wide or in simple terms is the same as Salisbury Plain and Soltau Ranges with an extra few miles to spare! They spend two and a half weeks canoeing, cycling and hill-walking with skiing in the winter months.

WIRE NOTES FROM CANADA

For the period of three weeks, the Battle Groups send about seventy soldiers to Nordegg to participate in Adventure Training. This is broken up into three, five-day phases. They are given the chance of: kayaking, canoeing (Canadian style), ski mountaineering, hill walking, cycling and horse riding with the local cowboys. They take part in an activity for one phase then there is a days change over period then on to another activity. The ski mountaineering takes place on the glaciers and covers most aspects of skiing and climbing with crampons. The hill walking is quite arduous and meeting some of the wild life caused a few seven second 100 metre sprints!! The cyclists have not got an easy task either; having to cover around 450kms in five days, rain or shine, and even snow! Horse riding is the most relaxed of the activities. During the five days only one is actually spent under canvas but they are taught the delights of bareback riding and also how to build small corrals in the mountains by real cowboys. The

Canadian style of canoeing is basically an expedition of 127kms. This is broken down into 12kms on the first day on very flat water to get them up to par. Day two is a bit more of a slog, 28kms and the river gets a bit more like white water, with names like: Devils Elbow and Grizzly's. It is not unusual for the local fly fishermen to pull out the odd squaddie or two instead of trout! Day three is more of a long paddle about 38kms being the longest. It is always hoped to have good weather but it's not always on the menu. Days four and five are the 'bigger stuff'. Brylies rapids solving many of the problems caused by ignorance. After an 800 metre swim in Wild Rapids people tend to think a bit more about their paddling strokes!! The Kayaking or real canoeing takes place on the upper Red Deer river, about 250kms away from the camp site. The first day is spent on a lake taking the blokes through basic strokes then we move up to Mountain Air Lodge to set up our main camp. Days two, three and four take the guys through some very awesome water, this includes some rather large stoppers where the instructors impress the pupils by doing some wild pop-outs. Day five is spent on the North Saskatchewan where we meet up with the other group of paddlers before reporting back to Nordegg. All in all it is hard work with litle time off to see the rest of Canada but a most enjoyable job. Maybe the OC Sqn will allow me a retour next year!

2 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

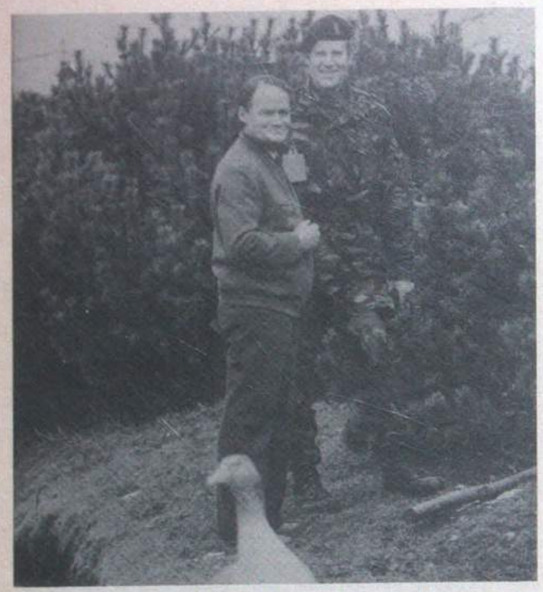
OC	**Maj K Goodfellow**
2IC	**Capt K. Whitehead**
OC O TP	**Capt O'Connor**
OC R TP	**2Lt Baker**
SSM	**WO2 Wise**
SQMS	**SSgt Payne**
YOFS	**SSgt Potterton**
AFOFS	**SSgt Gray**
Sqn Clk	**LCpl Moore**

EXERCISE IRON HAMMER

The majority of the Sqn was involved in Ex Iron Hammer in one form or another, Tango and Oscar Tps secretly managed to get their resettlement courses in well before they are due to leave the army, in such subjects as plastering, painting, decorating and electrical wiring.

A farmyard and a few barns somewhere in Germany were converted into an all singing, all dancing exercise control for Iron Hammer which made NASA space control look like a poor relative. However by week two Ex Con looked like a scene from the Somme, and by week three a scene from Siberia. There was talk of a General Service Medal for 31 continuous days at Ex Con. An award which **Capt (Ninja) O'Conner** was unable to qualify for.

Guess who?



We had many visits from the Regimental 2IC **Maj Anderson**. We noticed how keen on wild life he was.

Meanwhile in the hills Romeo Tp was deployed with elements of 7 Sig Regt. RRB recce and resup had their work cut out for them with mail delivery alone. The results of the Troop mail competition were as follows.

Third **Sig** 'Tuts' **Cunningham** with a total of fifteen letters just beating him to second place was **LCpl Titch Anderson** with a total of fifteen letters and two extra presents but his result was disputed. However the overall winner with a massive total of thirty two letters and one pint of perfume was **Sig Mark Simcock** alias **Marky Simcock**.

Another and hard fought battle was the 'see how I can bog in a rover' competition **LCpl Tony Shand** made a very spirited effort but was thwarted by the shovel work of OC Romeo. The winner, again, was **Sig Simcock** with his co-driver **Cpl Mark Jordan**, who with great skill and determination got his ¾ ton stuck on the Koterburg, a feat many thought was impossible. A close runner up was **Sig Griff Griffiths** and **Sgt Greaves**, both of whom lost their landrover and trailer after moving a log from their path. **Sig Griffiths** found that a hand-brake is not an optional extra.

GOODBYES

Alas the time has come to say goodbye to three of 2 Sqn's most enthusiastic warriors, **LCpls Nick Bearne, Smudge Smith** and **Sig Geordie Lunn**, all of whom leave the Army late this year. Goodluck chaps.

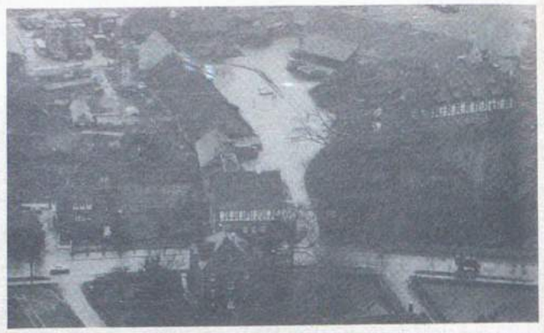
3 SQUADRON
PAPA TROOP
EXERCISE IRON HAMMER—NOTICE

Volunteers Posting:	Allersheim, 21 October-28 November 1988
Trade:	Any
Experience:	Carpentry, Decorating, Manual Labourers desirable
Apply to:	Papa Tp, 3 Sqn

Papa Tp deployed to assist in the Build of Ex Con HQ. This task was carried out solidly and mostly with good humour under poor weather conditions for two weeks prior to the build up exercises leading into Ex Iron Hammer. Comms went well throughout all phases and at Endex, all hands were then employed to tear down the whole caboodle. **Sig 'Gaz' Love** managed to get bitten by a dog, but all attempts to vaccinate the poor animal failed when it disappeared from sight!

Tac HQ was deployed extensively to locations recce'd by **2Lt 'Ninja' Fraser**, where **Sgt 'Ray' Taylor** and **Cpl 'Mick' Clarkson** held off the hordes of visitors including Mr Dennis Thatcher who enjoyed speaking direct to Downing St on a Ptarmigan subset courtesy of **SSgt (YofS) 'Andy' Campbell**.

LCpl 'Skull' Freeman on his last Ex (he thinks) gripped the net with



vigour from within Radcon/OSC/Admin Ops/Tac Recce HQ/Info Centre/Freq Mngr/RRB Resup.

New arrival **Sig Brad Bradley** was shown the ropes by **LCpl 'Wian' Crookes**, whilst **Sigs Dave Skingley, Eddie** (right place, right time) **Smerdon**, and **'Doctor Death' Moore** were left to get on with it by themselves. Other new arrivals just unfortunate to miss the exercise are **Sig Simon Brown** and **Paul Chambers**.

Well-deserved promotions go to **Cpl 'Billy' Mill** and **LCpl 'Ian' Crookes**.

NOVEMBER TROOP

Firstly, farewell to **Sig 'Rick' Keates** and **Sig 'Ken' Kendrick** who have both taken up life as civilians, and **Cpl 'Dobbo' Dobbins** who left us for 20 Armd Bde.'

We would like to welcome new arrivals: **Sgt Keith Fisher** from 11 Sig Regt, **Cpl Arthur Smart** from 22 Sig Regt, and **LCpl Andy Thomas** from 1 Armd Div - Hope you all enjoy your stay with the troop.

Ex Iron Hammer is now well and truly behind us, but proved to be the better of **SSgt Jameson**, who had a collision with an earth spike and came off worst, or at least that's what he claims - the troop knows better, 'It's all right, we won't mention that he hasn't mastered the art of walking down vehicle steps yet'. Still, it did get him sent home early, leaving **Sgt Fisher** in the hot seat. he managed to keep the computer going 24 hrs a day along with **Capt Shaw**, becoming undisputed champions of Leader Board, whilst keeping Rear Headquarters running smoothly.

Apart from some of the troop taking part in Ex Sharp Ledge, the troop now has the Christmas period to look forward to.

Finally, congratulations to the following members of the troop on their promotions: **LCpl 'Wiggy' Wigmore**, and LCpl 'Scouse' Lee. Well Done! Fond farewells to **SSgt Jameson** who is leaving us **LCpl 'Wiggy' Wigmore** who is off to 1 Armd Div, and **Sig 'Taff' Hopkins** who is shortly to become a civilian. All the best from the troop.

SUPPORT TROOP

The hardest job on Ex Iron Hammer was to track down the personnel in the troop for their well-deserved promotions, as they were deployed to all four corners. Congratulations to **LCpl 'Woody' Wood, Cpl Hamish Campbell**, and **Cpl Chris Collin.**

SHQ

Farewell to **WO2 (SSM) 'Derek' Coker**, who departs for NI, and welcome to **WO2 (SSM) 'Billy' Haslam**, to take over the Squadron 'family'.

EXERCISE MAPLE TRIANGLE
Report by 2Lt Neil Fraser

When I arrived at 3 Sqn 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt, one of the first questions my Squadron Commander asked me was 'Have you got a JSMEL Qualification?' 'Yes, Sir' I replied keenly. Little did I know that this somewhat minor incident would lead to an adventurous training expedition to Wells Gray Park, British Columbia, Canada.

After five months of paperwork, collecting stores, arranging travel and finances, the nine man team was ready;

2Lt Neil Fraser	P Troop
SSgt Don Chester	HQ Sqn
Sgt 'Taff' Phillips	S Troop
Cpl 'Mal' Pavier	S Troop
Sig 'Benson' Whyte	P Troop
Sig 'Wain' Crookes (now LCpl)	P Troop
Sig 'Taff' Treharne	N Troop
Sig 'Gilly' Gill	M Troop
Sig 'Naca' McNay	P Troop

Cpl Pavier, Sig McNay and 2Lt Fraser cross another stream

Rain and fog met us when we arrived at Gutersloh, to be replaced some hours later after a smooth flight courtesy of the RAF, by sun at Calgary Airport. We arrived late at night and set about hiring a vehicle to take us the 600km to Wells Gray Park to the West of Calgary. We eventually hired a minivan and travelled through the early hours to Kamloops B.C., a small town, where we purchased supplies, equipment and food for the journey.

AIM

Our aim was to introduce soldiers to living and moving in a wilderness environment by following the trails of the early Canadian settlers.

PLAN

The original plan had been to cross from Southern tip of Clearwater Lake to the Eastern tip of the Azure. This proved not to be feasible due to extreme density of undergrowth and the loss of **SSgt Chester** after two weeks, therefore reducing the canoeing time available. This led to a modificaiton of the plan to:

PHASE 1

To forge a trail along the edge of Clearwater Lake to the Portage.

PHASE 2

Depending on time to either push on to the Azure or change teams to return to base camp. The canoeists would in either case go on to Rainbow Falls.

By 0800 hrs on the 20 September, the groups had sorted themselves out, packed kit, and were ready to set of on Phase 1, which would last around a week. The canoeists loaded their open topped Canadian Canoes and under the watchful eye of **SSgt 'Indiana' Chester**, set about practising the different paddling techniques to control the large canoes.

The walkers heaved their rucsacs loaded with a weeks rations (the canoeists carrying three weeks' rations), emergency and personal equipment, on their backs and strode off at a steady pace. A few hours later, the machetes were out blazing the trail along the Lake edge! We adopted a rough routine waking at 0600 hrs, breakfasting and packing kit, aiming to leave at 0800 hrs. We would then walk till around 1230 hrs, interspersed with short rests, when we would lunch on nuts, sardines, and chocolate. The evening meal would take place at around 1700 hrs and was based on noodles, meats, rice and other dried food spiced up with sauces. Usually, after a couple of hours round the customary campfire, drying kit and chatting, everyone would be in bed by 2100 hrs!

Sig McNay, an intrepid explorer, scaled dizzy heights to store food in trees (a precaution against bears), whilst **Cpl Pavier** and **Sig Crookes** wielded machetes clearing paths by day and chopping wood at night.

The canoeists meanwhile were camping on the Lake edge and followed the same routine with the added bonus of fresh fish to brighten up their diet. **Sgt 'Taff' Phillips** became the expert at 'tickling trout' and relived his days poaching in the Welsh valleys! As well as canoeing, the group carried out day walks along the route to investigate the area.

The walkers were managing around 6-8kms a day, the conditions being quite hard. Navigation was very difficult in the hilly terrain, with visibility being down to some 50m in the thick trees. Quite often we would have to either walk upstream to find crossing points or push logs across the many mountain streams as makeshift bridges. Campground for the three tents often had to be cleared or hunted for!

The canoeing group had the advantage of partially prepared campsites with benches and tables. The problem being that wood was short and lengthy sorties had to be carried out to find a boat-load of wood to supplement the amount of fuel carried. The month of September was fair but it rained most days. The breezes produced waves up to 2ft making conditions cold and uncomfortable in the canoes.

One day greeted both groups with 3 inches of snow, making the pace even slower, and tents very heavy. it also created slight problems with gas stoves, but due to the availability of wood, this was overcome.

It took from 20-26 September to reach the Portage. The canoeists took two days and spent the remaining time doing day hikes from a base camp. Due to remaining time, the groups swapped at the Portage. The canoeists headed up to Rainbow Falls and the new walking group trudged back to Clearwater.

When all groups returned it was decided to attempt an alternative route. This followed a wilderness trail to the east before swinging north to Rainbow Falls. On the route was the Kostal Volcano; this was an amazing sight, devoid of trees until the bush top was covered in volcanic rock amidst a vast lava field, like a lunar landscape! There were also the high level lakes providing fish and washing (for those brave enough to enter the icy water!) By this time people were weary and smelling of trees and sap. We had seen mountain lions, chipmunks, and all manner of birds, but no bears!

We then travelled to Calgary on the 10th, where we found a comfortable place to stay to sample the local beers and await flights. **Sig Gill, Treharne** and **Whyte** also sampled the local produce and enjoyed their time in Camp on Ex Iron Hammer.

The expedition was invaluable in testing men and equipment and providing experience for team and leaders.

Thanks to **WO2 (YofS) Chris Pugh** (16 Sig Regt) for the initial planning and his help and advice along the way.

Cpl Pavier, Sig McNay, Whyte and Crookes

Don't be disappointed!

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202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 16

POSTINGS OUT

The Squadron has had some key people posted out in the last two months: the first to leave was **Maj David Proctor**, the OC, although his departure was far from smooth for personal reasons. He has gone to be DCOS G2/G3 at Catterick. We said farewell too to the SQMS **SSgt Billy Haslam**. He has only gone up the road to Soest where he is now SSM of one of the Regimental Squadrons. Another **Bill** left too, **Sgt Bill Mackie** seeking his fortune as a microprocessor operator in civilian life. **Cpl Chris Murray** has gone to be a civilian and will be missed and remembered by all. **Sig 'Lefty' Wright** could hardly contain his pleasure at picking up a posting to Berlin and is wished the best of luck by all in Rhine Tp.

POSTINGS IN

Maj Fletcher	OC
SSgt Cakebread	SQMS
Sgt Prowse	Crypto Sgt
LCpl Haworth	Det Comd
Sig Heaton	Lineman
Sig Minorczyk	R Op

EXERCISE TAURUS CHARGE

'Well it's quite a week without much going on. A good chance for you to work without too much pressure,' said **Maj David Proctor** confidently as he handed over command of 202 Sig Sqn to **Maj Jo Fletcher** immediately before Ex Taurus Charge II. As a static HQ in Soltau playing Excon he had every right to suppose that things should go smoothly but unfortunately equipment failure, a faulty rebro and self imposed radio silence on behalf of one of the Battle Groups ensured that it was truly a baptism by fire. **Lt Jim Prior** came on shift as everyone had collapsed of exhaustion after finally remedying the situation was heard to say 'Well there's not much going on then . . .'.

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Capt Lyndon Campbell-Black led an helicopter assualt on the BG HQ and after the skirmish managed to get separated from the remainder of the patrol. **Cpl Jock Castle** was the next in line and laid low to avoid an enemy Scimitar; he then found himself in charge of a leaderless patrol. The problem was to reunite the patrol with the helicopter as the enemy had seized the area of the pick up point so they had to attract the attention of the helicopter pilot without drawing attention to themselves as the Lynxes circled overhead. They finally found refuge in a small copse separated from the enemy by a ploughed field. **Cpl Jimmy Rock** then gave covering fire as **Capt Campbell-Black** sprinted across the field with a large hairy Scot, death glaring in his eyes, converging on a diagonal. It was a close run thing but we survived and flew away with the enemy shaking their fists angrily.

EXERCISE IRON HAMMER

As the climax to a busy year it was with some apprehension and excitement that we approached the exercise. In two distinct phases first a Brigade FTX and then a Divisional one it promised to be interesting for us as we had felt that most of our exercises had been FTX's anyway and it would be good to have the boot firmly on the other foot ie. the Battle Groups!

We started with probably the most complicated operation of all; an assualt river crossing. **LCpl Sean Wilkinson** expected to be airlifted to the Royal Scots but in the event was allowed to drive; much to his disappointment. **Sig Dave Pook** (LCpl, of which more later) played a key role together with **Sig Carl Stokes**. It came as a bit of a shock to the sleepy Rebro to be so crucial. As we neared the bridging point we were held up in one of the waiting areas. thigh-deep mud made for exciting driving for all the panzer drivers, especially **Sig Shep Shepherd** who treats most exercises as a rally-cross anyway, but particularly for **SSgt Nigel Sloane** and **LCpl Skev Skevington** in the line landrover who found themselves up to their axles in mud. With a deep sigh **SSgt Sloane** got out of the rover saying 'Well it looks as if I'm going to get dirty then.' Fortunately **Cpl Ray Lane** and **Sig Shep Shepherd** returned to the rescue. It was at this stage that it was decided that **Capt Lyndon Campbell-Black** would travel in the line rover and **SSgt Nigel Sloane** would command the panzers.

Meanwhile the other Headquarters had not been without their share of incidents. On initial deployment **LCpl Mac McKenna** driving and **SSgt Kev Nelson** commanding the 436 decided that straight line travel was the only way to go; straight into a corner cottage. As they both emerged from their hatches through the debris they found themselves directly beneath a window. It was with some alarm that the owner, dressed only in his underpants drew back the curtains to admire his newest sitting room decoration.

Otherwise the exercise continued apace with the usual intermix of fervour and hiatus. The first week was generally considered to have been a very good exercise and ran remarkably smoothly. The second week being externally controlled promised to be both more realistic and unpredictable.

In the event the weather played a major part and after supply trucks had been destroyed by the enemy the exercise became more like the march on Moscow as the winter blizzards swept across the landscape and the supply system became stretched. So concerned were the German Civil Police about the amount of devastation, both civil and military, after the first snow that not only were the autobahns closed but so was the exercise for a 24 hours period. As **WO2 (SSM) Phil Budden** rather wittily said 'The exercise has been frozen in time'.

Unfortunately, as the snow melted with some 'warner' winds the farmyards that had been dry and dusty in the summer became quagmires. Sadly the 2IC **Capt Mark Eaton** had reserved the deepest, muddiest puddle for the Comms Ops crew; YofS **WO2 (YofS) Jeff Hattersley** and **Cpl Ian Clements** were not at all impressed.

Now a message was received that **LCpl Dave Pook** (he of rebro fame) had been promoted and after divesting **LCpl John Cocks** of his tape and OC **Maj Jo Fletcher** and theSSM **WO2 (SSM) Phil Budden** paid the rebro a visit:

'Well, Sir,' said the SSM, 'look at these dirty plates everywhere and what about the state of the cam net'. **Sig Pook** looked a little perturbed.

'It's disgusting, Sergeant Major,' followed theOC, 'the trouble with this detachment is the fact that it has no NCO in charge'. **Sig Pook** now appeared quite crestfallen.

'In fact we'll get one up here right now,' and that said **Sig Pook** was handed his tape to become **LCpl Pook**. Congratulations **LCpl Dave Pook** wore a smile for the remainder of the exercise.

Providence, however, was about to take a hand although **SSM Phil Budden** barely realised as he shuffled around the complex in immaculate combats in front of his, by now, filthy squadron. He also made the great mistake of informing everybody that it was his last exercise. As he walked past a conspirational group of soldiers in NBC kit led by **Sig Ray Fallowfield** he said innocently 'You know we're on NBC low now, lads.'

'Oh yes, we know' they replied menacingly and then it was mud-bathtime for the SSM. The irony is that this wasn't his last exercise at all.

LCpl Dave Pook did not escape the rest of the exercise unscathed either as he was eliminated by a spetsnaz patrol for a period of 10 hours.

CROSS - COUNTRY

the Squadron team has come on in leaps and bounds this season. After an excellent start in the 3 Armd Div league, with three firsts and one second, the team competed in the BAOR 10 mile road race in Bunde on 1 October 1988. With most runners suffering from hangovers from the Sportsmans dinner the previous evening the team got off to a good start. In the first mile **Sgt Charlie Foster, Cpl 'Jock' Castle** and **Sig Andy Dawson** settle in their stride together with **Bdr Gary Young, Sig 'Leftie' Wright** and **Sig Ian Stringer** close behind. Over a very undulating and arduous 10 mile course stamina was a little lacking. The team however packed in well and came a very creditable 3rd place behind FOD Dulmen A and B teams.

After another victory in the 3 Div league the team went on to win the 3 Armd Div minor units Championships held in Menden on 27 October 1988. Notable performances were:

Cpl Jock Castle	1st
Sgt Charlie Foster	2nd
Sig Andy Dawson	7th
Sig Leftie Wright	8th
Sig Paddy Gorman	10th
Bdr Gary Young	11th
LCpl Kev Kerr	13th
Sig Ian Stringer	17th

The team is now looking forward to the BAOR Championships to be held on the 9th December at Bracht. With the new OC **Maj Jo Fletcher**, taking over from **Sig 'Leftie' Wright** (who was posted to Berlin) the team should maintain form, although Ex Iron Hammer will cause training problems.

HOCKEY

The hockey team has had mixed fortunes in this period. Although still unbeaten in the league after a very strongly contested match against 19 Fd Regt which resulted in a 1—1 draw it was in the Cup that we failed. Against 3 Armd Div Fd Ambulance so many people were away that even **WO2 (SSM) Phil Budden** was roped into playing. We had many chances but again it was our goal scoring abilities that let us down. 1—1 all at full time meant extra time and it was during this period that 3 ADFA scored twice to win 3—1. **Sig Dave Pook** was undisputedly our man of the match.

Garrison Hockey Champions
L to R (Back): Cpl Ray Lang, Sig Lance Malin, Cpl Paul Harding
(Front): Capt Lydon Campbell-Black, LCpl Diddy Didcock, Maj David Proctor, Sig Dave Pook

'Maj Jo Fletcher takes command from Maj David Proctor'.

204 (4 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 17

RHINE RUN

'We'll have to get some stamina training in before the ski season starts', said a member of the Squadron Nordic Ski Team. 'Why not do a sponsored run along the Rhine', suggested another. And so with a few recruits from the Squadron Cross Country Team began the 204 (4th Armd Bde) Signal Squadron Rhine Run. The outline plan was to run from the start of the Rhine in Constance to its finish in Rotterdam. The principal beneficiaries were to be the Save The Children Fund and the Vinzenwerk Kinderheim in Muenster.

The Squadron Rhine Run team comprised two 5-man running groups supported by an admin team, including bike orderlies and reserve runners. The runners were: **Capt Eric Heritage, WO2 (SSM) Jim Saveall, Cpls Adrian Moody, Keith Balsdon, Miles Webb, LCpl Jim Hawkins, Sig Stevie Lynch, Aaron Smeeth, Shaun Wilkes**, and **Pte 'Mad Dog' Sellstrom. SSgt Brian Tanner** led the admin support team and was ably assisted by **LCpls Alan McGibbon, Chris Tearle, Stu Maughan** and **Sig 'Scot' Whittaker**

Both running groups started together at the Rheinbruecke in Constance on Friday 21 October. **Herr Schlegel**, the Mayor of Constance's Press Officer, and **Herr Mueller-Neff**, a local marathon runner from Constance, set the runners off. At the border crossing-point on the outskirts to Constance the running routine proper started.

The first runner, **Cpl Adrian Moody**, set off on the first of many ten-mile legs. The run was carried out on a non-stop relay basis, hence there was always someone pounding the cobbles until the finish. To ensure the run was continuous two minibuses were used. Toyota Cars (UK) kindly provided the team with a space cruiser minibus. This was used by the runners when each running group was actually on the road. At intervals of fifty miles the running groups would change vehicles. When a running group had finished its fifty mile stint it would transfer to the Squadron minibus, which acted as the main admin vehicle where the runners fed, watered and rested. During daylight hours a bike orderly accompanied the runners on the road. Consequently both **LCpl Stu Maughan** and **Sig Scot Whittaker** are now recovering from saddle-sore backsides, having each cycled about 300 miles. At night the Toyota Space Cruiser shadowed the runner throughout.

The route took the team through West Germany, Switzerland, France and Holland. Eleven frontier check points were crossed. The pace for each ten-mile leg varied between 65-90 minutes. Daily sitreps were sent to the Squadron throughout the run. On reaching the Rhine embankment in Cologne the team was visited by the OC Squadron, **Maj Alan Poppleton**, who came to give the team extra encouragement in its endeavours. The run eventually finished at the Benelux Tunnel in Rotterdam at around 7.30pm on Monday 24th October - by then the team had been running for just three and a half days and had completed a distance in excess of 1300km and had earned every penny per kilometer which the Chief of Staff 4th Armoured Brigade, **Maj Sebastian Roberts**, had pledged.

Naturally several-note worthy incidents occurred along the route. Most of the border police were bemused, especially the Swiss, when the team said their destination was Rotterdam. However, one particular Swiss border customs guard made the passengers of the admin minibus empty everything out of the vehicle and trailer, unpack all the compo, and was on the verge of confiscating all the tins of corned beef on the grounds that it was imported meat. Fortunately, sense prevailed and the team was not doomed to starve. **Cpl Miles**

Cpl Miles Webb *(left)* hands over to Cpl Adrian Moody

Webb got lost in Basel. **LCpl Jim Hawkins** got caught up in the hordes of rival football fans after a match in Kaiserslautern. **Sig Shawn Wilkes** encountered problems in navigating his way through a sea of cars in Cologne. **Sig Smeeth** narrowly escaped injury as a driver sped past him only to plough into the rear of a stationary car, he fortunately survived. **LCpl Alan McGibbon** nearly brought the Squadron minibus to a grinding halt by filling it with bleifrei instead of leaded petrol. The Admin trailer only survived the journey courtesy of ADAC after one of the inner tubes and burst. At the post event celebrations the attempts of **Pte Sellstrom** to arrange some 'entertainment' for the boys proved to be most amusing.

Incidents aside, the fund raising efforts of the Squadron were greatly boosted by the support from certain firms. As previously mentioned Toyota Cars (UK) gave the team the use of a Space Cruiser minibus cost free. Coca Cola supplied the team with copious quantities of tins of Coke, Sprite and Fanta. P & O European Ferries donated a Super prize return ferry ticket for two passengers plus car to be raffled. Another ferry ticket was donated by the Forces Service Centre in Munster. Financial contributions were forthcoming from JBI Insurance Group, Galt Toys UK and Wilmslow Finance. A number of additional raffle prizes were donated by a variety of other sources such as Bergsport Sundermann, the Stadtsparkasse, the Volksbank, Sesam Schallplatten - all Munster based firms and banks. Even the NAAFI chipped in with a top of the range toaster.

Although all the sponsorship and raffle money have still to be collected, at the end of the day it is envisaged around £2000 will have been raised for charity as a result of the 204 Signal Squadron Rhine Run.

LCpl Stu Maughan *(centre)* stirs the stew for midnight feast

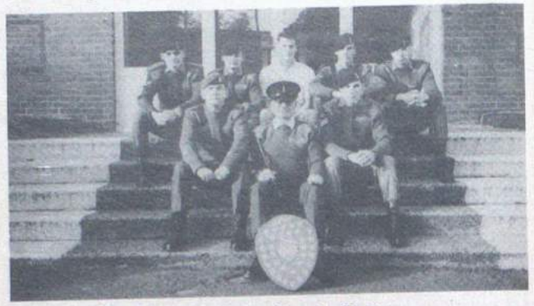
Celebrations at the end in Rotterdam:-
(Back L-R): Capt Eric Heritage, Sig Aaran Smeeth, LCpl Chris Tearle, Pte Sellstrom, Cl Keith Balsdon, Sig Shaun Wilkes, LCpl Jim McGibbon, Sig Scot Whittaker, LCpl Stu Maughan
(Front L-R): LCpl Steve Lynch, Cpl Adrian Moody, LCpl Jim Hawkins, Cpl Miles Webb and WO2 (SSM) Jim Saveall
Taking photo: SSgt Brian Tanner (OC Admin)

EXERCISE RATS REVEILLE

Following an as usual totally unexpected SACEUR Active Edge the OC Sqn, **Maj Alan Poppleton**, held an outloading exercise called Ex Rats Reveille early the following morning. The Chief Clerk worked all night using Pampas to help him calculate the best plan for outloading the Unit Admin Office into the OC Landrover - and still failed! An enlightening exercise, especially when one discovers what everyone wants to leave behind.

CROSS COUNTRY

Slightly depleted by their efforts in the Rhine Run the Squadron Cross Country Team rallied valiantly together to enter a full but below strength team in the 3 Armd Div Championships. The event was held on Thursday 27 October 1988 at Menden and hosted by 50 Missile Regt. With only a few days grace to muster sufficient energy and enthusiasm to compete in the event, the squad performed most creditably by finishing as Runners-up in the Minor Units event. The team now goes forward to the BAOR finals.



The successful Squadron Cross Country Team:-
(Back L-R): Cpl Miles Webb, LCpls Stu Maughan, Steve Lynch, Jim Hawkins, Cpl Adrian Moody
Front L-R): Pte 'Mad Dog' Sellstrom, WO2 (SSM) Jim Saveall and Cpl Keith Balsdon

MODERN TRIATHLON TEAM

Having come straight from a Regimental exercise, the Squadron Modern Triathlon Team, comprising **Cpls Keith Balsdon, Rob Marshall** and **Miles Webb**, had little preparation time available to face a gruelling day ahead. The team departed early in the morning. The venue was Sennelager. The event was the BAOR Modern Team Triathlon competition. The first event was a 300 metre swim. The bogey time was 4 mins 45 secs. Despite trying a variety of strokes none of the team beat the deadline time. However, **Cpl Webb** was close with a time of 4 mins 49 secs. Discipline two was the 9mm pistrol at 10m, 20m and 25m. **Cpls Balsdon** and **Marshall** proved to be sharp-shooters, both scoring 2000 championship points. **Cpl Webb**, however, did not trouble the target-patchers much during this event. The third event was 4km run with a target time of 14 mins 15 secs. **Cpl Webb** also finished within the target time, whilst **Cpl Marshall** put in a brave effort to finish in 17 mins 15 secs. To their surprise but credit the team was judged the most consistent unit and at the end of the day emerged as the BAOR Minor Units Triathlon Winners.

RUGBY

The season started with a convincing win over 212 Sig Sqn at Osnabruck. Stars of the match were **SSgt (FofS) Jim Abernethy, Cpl Rab Marshall, LCpl Tim Tatler** and **Cfn Jim McMahon**. Regimentally early promise turned sour when the team was beaten by HQ Sqn in the inter-Squadron competition. Little will be said here about the 3 Armd Div Minor Units Cup game against 202 Sig Sqn. Despite these setbacks twelve members of the squad travelled to Denmark to take part in the Odense Rugby 7's. The competition was a great success even though no trophies were won. **Cpl Joe Connelly** was delirious about the fact that he had scored - but that was before the real rugby had started. The standard of rugby itself was high but the team was knocked out of the competition by the eventual winners Phoenix from Holland.

BAOR Minor Units Triathlon Winners pose in suitable attire: *(L-R)* Cpls Keith 'Sharp Shooter' Balsdon, Miles 'Water-babe' Webb and Rab 'Coe' Marshall

206 (6 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 106

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 Mcaleer**
YofS	**WO2 Parry**
FofS	**SSgt Boxhall**
SQMS	**SSgt Treen**
Chief	**Sgt Glossop**

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

The Squadron would like to welcome the following personnel: **Sig Addison, Anderson, Baker, Buck** and **Harrold, Cfn Bowes, LCpls Binns, Lyon** and **Goodall, Cpl Phillips** and **Sgt Gaston**. A hearty farewell to **Cpl Fletcher** on promotion to 22 Sig Regt, **LCpl Scott** to 238 (L) Sig Sqn, **Cfn Cowsell** to 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and to **LCpl Bailey** and **Sig Gartside** who are off to see if the other side of the field is really greener!

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations to **Sgt Pilkington, Cpls Deegan, Mellet and Crook** on their recent additions to their family; also to **Cpls Nicol, Trew, LCpl Boslem** and **Sig Sheard** who have recently 'tied the knot'.

PROMOTIONS

Well done to **Cpls Crown** and **Trew** on their recent promotions.

AFTERNOTE

There are also changes to the squadron officer plot. Farewell and thank you to the OC Sqn **Maj Andy Grey** on his posting to Bielefeld. He has taken the Squadron from Airmobility to Armour and leaves us as a strong operational unit. Also farewell to **Alison Grey**. Our warmest thanks for her support of the Sqn Wives Club. The Squadron wish them both every success in the future.

Farewell also to **Capt Mike Stapleton** who departs for a Sqn 2IC post with 21 Sig Regt. Thanks from A Troop and remember—life's a beach!

RUGBY

The Squadron has had a good start to the 1988/89 rubgy season with a win over 2 Sqn 3 ADSR 6—4 in a pre season friendly.

This was followed by a 4—4 draw with a strong RAF Gutersloh side. Then two days prior to the 3 Div inter squadron competition we had a good win over 2nd Bn LI by 23 points.

INTER SQUADRON COMPETITION

In the 3 Div inter squadron competition we had the good fortune to gain a bye into the semi finals, where once again we met 2 Sqn. After a hard game with several drop goals from **Sgt Jimmy Hanlon** we came out winners by 18—0. In the final we met a very strong HQ Sqn side; thanks to excellent work by the pack we managed to run out winners by 10—6 in a very close and hard fought match.

Since the start of the season we have lost two star players—**Sgt Neil Fletcher** to 22 Sig Regt and **Sig Taff Davies** to civvy street. The Squadron wishes them all the best for the future.

EXERCISE OBERLAND TRIANGLE 1988

Capt Mike Stapleton	**Expedition Leader**
Cpl Dave Welsh	**2IC**
LCpl Terry Bowers	
Sig 'Ski' Barr	
Sig Simon Chandler	
Sig Gary Parker	
Sig Paul Shand	
Cfn Sean Royle	

Ex Oberland Triangle left for Switzerland on 22 August 1988. Despite poor weather conditions and a series of small setbacks like lost passports and a faulty vehicle battery, spirits were high and there was a keen sense of escapism. The journey took longer than expected and we finally arrived in Adelboden (1,400m) at midnight where morale had cooled slightly at the prospect of pitching camp in pouring rain.

The next day the skies cleared and along with it all doubts or misgivings from the night before. The surrounding alpine scenery was spectacular and the introductory trek to Engstligenalp (1,950m) whetted the appetite for the more demanding treks to follow.

Cfn Sean Royle, LCpl Terry Bavers, Sig Jimmy Shand, Gaz Parker, Cpl Dave Welsh, Capt Mike Stapleton, Sig 'Ski' Barr, Si Chandler

The first peak ascended by the expedition was coincidentally called First (2,549.7m) and proved to be a demanding and testing trek. The ascent required a certain amount of self confidence to negotiate a series of steep traverses, and scrambling in order to reach the peak. The expedition lunched on the peak and descended by a different route. Unfortunately bad weather stopped trekking on Thursday and the expedition occupied itself with some dry training and the afternoon was spent swimming in a local Hallenbad. Friday saw the expedition on another demanding trek to Kandersteg—a village in a parallel valley to Adelboden, which involved crossing over the Bunderschrinde Pass (2,385m) via Bunderspitz (2,546.2m). It took the whole day to complete the trek to Kandersteg where we all dived into a local cafe for kaffee and kuchen. The expedition then returned to Adelboden via rail and 'Postauto'—a bus service run to outlying areas by the Post Office.

On Saturday the expedition carried out its most arduous trek up Albrishorn (2,761.8m) followed by a trek along a high altitude ridgeway to Hahnenmoospass, returning along the valley to Adelboden. It was with some relief at the end of the day when a rest day was announced for Sunday—visiting Interlaken, and swimming in the afternoon in Adelboden Freibad. Monday also turned out to be a rest day as the weather once again turned nasty and looked likely to jeopardize the climax of the expedition—the ascent of Wildstrubel (3,242.6m).

Wildstrubel is the highest peak in the Adelboden range and dominates the whole valley. Each morning the expedition would be taunted by the peak as they ascended one of the lesser peaks. It was therefore a fitting climax to the expedition to have an opportunity to climb Wildstrubel. Five members of the expedition who had escaped injury were selected: **Capt Mike Stapleton, LCpl Terry Bowers, Sig Ski Barr, Simon Chandler** and **Paul Shand**, and we all moved to a Berghaus on Engstligenalp on Monday evening. There we met up with our guide, **Peter Gyger**, who was to lead us. **Peter** woke us at 0400 hrs on Tuesday and we were on our way by 0430 hrs. The weather looked forbidding and visibility was down to a few metres. It really appeared that we were wasting our time. An hour later, however, we suddenly surfaced above the cloud and turned to watch the fascinating sight of the sun beginning to rise above the cloud layer through which only a couple of peaks protruded. It was also time to put our crampons on and rope up, in order to continue the ascent up onto the glacier. It was at this stage where we realised how important it was to have a guide as the glacier was frequently fractured by large bottomless crevices. The ascent continued, including a traverse across an icefall—not for the faint hearted(!), and then a final march across a snowfield to the peak.

The view from the top was spectacular and all the major peaks in Europe could be seen—Mount Blanc, Matterhorn, Eiger etc etc—and all this before 0900 hrs! The descent was uneventful and the whole expedition celebrated by spending the afternoon at the Freibad.

The return back to barracks was made bearable by a day stopover in Bern. Apart from sightseeing the expedition also participated in some 'white-water' swimming in the River Aare—a real experience for the uninitiated! A final night out at the 'front' in the centre of Bern rounded off the expedition. The next morning we rose early and drove back to Germany—in order to prepare for going on exercise two days later. Welcome home!

EXERCISE IRON HAMMER

November's two week Div FTX was billed as the climax to the Squadrons training since re-armouring. It was also the last run out for the OC and for **Capt Mike Stapleton**. Although quieter than expected, the exercise was a success. Amidst bridge crossing, NBC and air attacks, the SSM was casevacced out and **Sgt Vic Bannister** 'enjoyed' promotion in the field. He was reportedly seen standing on his crypto box, madly directing traffic out of location.

A fault on the new Ops 1 panzer resulted in **Cpl Terry Watton** joining main, while **Cpl Tony Mellett** chilled out at Forward.

Communications were good **YofS Ian Parry** went trouble shooting to assist the Battle Groups—**YofS Power** was further to the fore as he went-a-fishing with an 8m mast!

Rumour has it that **LCpl Sean Ingrams** rebro actually worked—once!

Foreman Dave Boxhall generously allowed **SSgt Clive Soutar** to grace Forward as tech support.

Other performances came from **Pte Elvis Presely**—undoubtedly the flavour of the month; and **Sig Paddy McGill**, who is still thawing out.

For **Cpl Hamish Hermiston** it was an exercise to savour. On arriving at Forward he was collared for his first guard duty in four years.

Sgt Roy Boulton—invigorated by interrogation duties—ensured the cam cream went on nice and thick.

Meanwhile **Cpl Ian Burt** and **Sig Jason Large** were kept on their toes in Comms Ops.

Finally Forward has decided to become a mounted troop following their exploits at Externbrock stables. All except **Sig Cartlidge** and **Sid Buck** who, like some Brigade Staff, had more than their fair share of ups and downs.

EXERCISE SPITZ TRIANGLE

Bravo Tp deployed to Gramisch for Ex Spitz Triangle, a 'Summer' challenge pursuit camp. The support team comprised of **Capt Jim Morley-Kirk**, OIC Ex and IC hill-walking and abseiling; **Cpl Steve Peacock** from 7 Sig Regt, our canoe instructor; and admin back-up by **Sgt Roy Boulton** and **Vic Bannister**.

The first party arrived on Sunday 18 September at the Zugspitze Camping Site—our base camp for the two weeks. Within an hour the trekking group had collected bivis ropes and rucksacks and was off into the hills.

LCpl Taff Davies and Sig Jonah Jones on the Kreuzspitze

LCpl Taff Davies, Sig Jones and **Sid Buck**, walked for three days in the Ammergan Alps. **Sgt Roy Boulton** played the angel of mercy with a resupply. He was informed of the Everest expedition exploits by **LCpl Taff Davies**.

The group crossed many peaks. The classic ridge walk to the Kreuzspitz and up through the cloud to the Krammersplitz, before returning to base. Meanwhile **Cpl Steve Peacock** was instructing his group on the merits of using the canoe as a boat rather than a submarine. The canoeing provided excellent entertainment for the passing locals at the Eibsee. Canoe footbal, chariots and jousting? they must be British!

A days river trip down the R. Loisach rounded off some first class instruction that brought the whole group to proficiency standard. **Cpl John Farnell** is still explaining away his 'dob' on the river while 'playing' in a stopper.

The whole party was in camp for Wednesday to exchange stories of hill and water, blisters and the Attic Bar! The OC Sqn and his wife visited us and a barbecue was held, by our chef extraordinaire, **Sig 'Egg Mayo' Boulton**. The OC was agog as, midway through the meal, a rover pulled in and the local girls 'debussed' to join the party!

With the groups changed over the trekkers had a different programme lined up. A days jaunt up the Krammerspitz and then, on a wet, misty morning, they set off to ascend the Alpspitz. **Sig Jonah Jones** was back again—the perils of a non-swimmer! After a long wait at the Osterfelderkopf for a gap in the weather, the team 'boldly' climbed the numerous Klettersteigs on the via Ferrata to the summit. En route **Sig Paul 'Beaky' Beckett** pulled half the mountain down with his eight points of contact!

Everyone made sure their names went into the summit log book. **Cpl Terry Watton, LCpl Bill Simmonds** and **Sig Mark Baker** were first aboard a passing jeep that saved already tired legs, a hike to the cable car.

The second week was as successful as the first. **Sgt John Spicer, Sig Steve Emmett** and **'Titch' Sheard** climbed the Kreuzspitz and Alpspitz on glorious summer days and were rewarded with fabulous views over the Alps. Poorer weather followed and it became apparent that technicians and maps don't mix.

Overall the Squadron gained twelve more proficient canoeists, a bookfull of knee-trembling stories and several memorable experiences of US/Bavarian hospitality.

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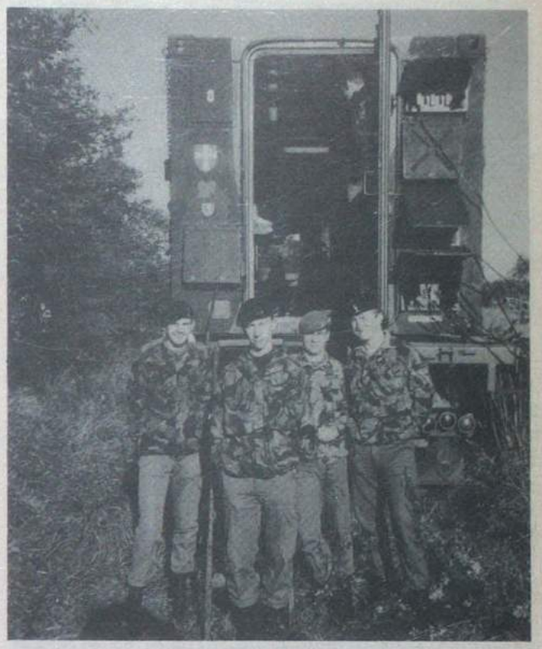


The months of September, October and November had proved to be industrious, with Squadron members in Austria and Denmark. Ex Rock Fist, the Squadron's battle camp at Vogelsang Camp was a joint venture with a platoon from 2(Da) Sig Bn. Proving to be rather a test of morale on both sides, sanity was regained with the Squadron party on the final evening.

Ex Odin Bleep, the return trip to Denmark by 30 members of the Squadron at the beginning of October, proved to be the Dane's revenge, with German weather provided free on Borris Training Area.

SOCCER TEAM

The Squadron started its soccer campaign with a couple of victories in friendly matches. A fine win over 211 Sig Sqn (5—0) in the BAOR minor units cup, was followed by a thrashing from 6 Ord Bn (1—8) in the next round.

The first trophy of the season—the Inter-Squadron Cup of 4 Armd Div Sig Regt—was an interesting challenge for the team. The Squadron reached the final in the two day competition, finally beating HQ Sqn after sudden-death penalties. Later on in the month there was more success, this time in the 4 Armd Div Minor Units Cup, beating BMH Rinleln 4—1.

The first league game in November against 15/19 H second team saw a defeat 2—5; this was balanced the following week by beating 4 Armd Fd Amb 3—1; revenge for the thrashing handed out by them during the cricket season.

In summary, to date the team has played 13 games, won 10 and lost 3. On current form, we're looking for another trophy for the cabinet by the end of the season. We say a sad farewell to **Cpl Sean Mackay**, the team goalie, who is off on his T1. The team manager, **Sgt Jim Stevenson RPC** is off at the end of January, and we wish him well with his wife **Angela** in their new posting in Bicester. We welcome **Sgts Colin Day RAPC** and **Gus Bindle RAOC** to the team.

EXERCISE TREATY
by Sgt Rick Ball

The Squadron was tasked in mid-August with providing a platoon of enemy for Ex Treaty, acting against British, French and American Forces. The platoon's exercise area was the infamous Sennelager Training Area; it looked an interesting sight as the Squadron's platoon deploying from barracks with 3 × 4 tonners, 8 borrowed GPMGs and the ferret scout car, to take on the might of American MI Abram's tanks and our own infanty! A fair match, wouldn't one say!

The brains were exercised with plenty of digging, dying and being resurrected. **Cpl Shi Hamilton** and **LCpl Mo Mowbray** drove the Scout Car admirably, causing a few laughs to come from the American tank crews. It certainly amused us, breaking cover and attacking the MI with GPMGs. Talk about David verus Goliath. The highlight of the exercise came as we swapped sides and took on the role of casualties. At first, our blood curdling screams of agony and shouts of 'we're dying' didn't get much sympathy or win any Oscars. The Umpires prodded the players into action eventually and the platoon was given a ride in Black Hawk helicopters, courtesy of the Americans.

The troops on both sides learned a few things about each other, and about the art of digging holes! A good time was had by all.

EXERCISE ODINS BLEEP II
by Cpl M. Jeanes

This was the second exchange trip to Denmark, when a platoon from the Squadron visited 2(DA) Sig Bn at their battle camp on Borris Training Area. After an eight hour luxury coach trip (in the back of a four tonner) we arrived at the Battalion's barracks to be greeted with the most interesting of foods. It was decided that maybe the ACC wasn't that bad after all.

The platoon fired the Danish equivalent of APWT, as well as looking around the battalion's communication's equipment. All in all, it was a fairly enjoyable time.

SSGT DENNIS RUTTER

The Squadron was shocked with the sudden illness of **SSgt Dennis Rutter** through a heart attack. Thankfully he is now well on the road to recovery after seven weeks (just an excuse for a long lie). Seriously though, he is now back to work and we hope to see him fully participating again in Squadron activities very soon.

EXERCISE ROCK FIST

The Squadron battle camp at Vogelsang Camp proved to be an interesting exercise for one and all. The week comprised FIBUA training, culminating in an attack on the Tin Village located near the camp. Our Danish friends found the whole experience very enlightening, from the food to the beer, and vowed not to return unless they provided the jam sandwiches.

The photographs sum it all up.

Ex Rock Fist—SSM Charlton taking a quick 5

SSgt (SQMS) Mick Ara doing the Hokey Cokey by the tank overrun range

EXERCISE ROLLING FIST

On Saturday 5 November 1988 three members of the Squadron travelled between Detmold and Herford on roller skis to raise money for charity. The skiers were given moral support by the Squadron Lang Lauf team at various points along the route and by a brass quintet from 15/19 Hussars which played in Detmold town centre. The route started at Hobart Barracks and passed through the town centres of Detmold, Lage, Bad Salzuflen and Herford before ending up at Wentworth Barracks, Herford. In each town centre a stand was set up and soldiers collected money as the skiers neared the town. A total of over 3,000 DM was raised in collections and sponsorship and was divided between SSAFA and the local German Multiple Sclerosis charities.

The original idea of the participants, **Sig Paul Ashford, Pte Jim Mundy** and **Spr George Holwill**, was to benefit charities and also to improve the local residents' perception of the army. These aims were achieved through the large sum raised and also the considerable support received from the German press, both before and after the event and from local officials on the day.

The Squadron was delighted to support this effort as was the general public on the street, but it was the cheerful, helpful attitude of the back-up crew that ensured success on the day.

The 'Rolling Fist' Team with the Burgermeister of Herford. Team are in the dark suits

Standing Left to Right: Lt Ian Meers, Cpl Neil Trengove, St Jim Latimer the Burgermeister, Cpl Martin Feenes, Pte Jim Mundy RPC

EXERCISE HIGH QUADRANT

Eleven members of the Squadron went to the Dolomites, North Italy from 15-30 October 1988 and walked part of the high level trek culminating in the successful ascent of various protected climbing paths. It was necessary to devote several days to climbing technique and confidence building on steep slopes before the climbing paths could be attempted. This pre-training involved security on steep ground, moving together roped up, and top-roping practice. With a fit and determined group the three rock leaders in the party were essential to the security of the group at the more difficult movements. It is felt that these routes are ideal for the confident soldier provided he is fit and enthusiastic as his nerve will be tested to the limit. We were pleased that every member of the party completed a climbing path (via ferrata), and it is unlikely that any of us will forget the experience.

LCpl Mowbray remembers the area well . . .

After a day long trek from a mountain refuge we arrived at 'Kleiner Laguzui, a mountain around which there had been fierce fighting in the First World War. Part of the campaign had involved extensive tunnelling by the Italian pioneers under the Austrian positions in an attempt to literally blow them off the top. The tunnel still exists and descent is easy with the aid of wire ropes attached to the walls. The tunnel is 1,110m long and it took us 45 minutes to get down. Unfortunately for the Italians it took them six months to dig it and by the time it was finished the Austrians had gone anyway.

With one via ferrata under our belts and another days climbing we were unstoppable, so under the inspiration of our leader **Lt Ian Meers**, we were set for something a little more challenging. This came under the guise of the 'Punta Fiames' (2,240m) climbed by via 'Michielli Strobel', named after a mountain guide who died in the area. The assault on the summit was undertaken by **Lt Meers, Cpls Pete O'Brien, LCpls Neil Bedford, Mowbs Mowbray** and **Sig George Cowley**. So with the chink of karabiners the ascent began: The route was initially a walk along ledges and up fairly easy climbs, but as the altitude increased and the views became more inspiring, the path became steeper and my life started flashing before my eyes, not helped by **Mr Meers** cries of, 'Oh this is really interesting'. He seemed blissfully unaware of the forces of gravity and requested frequent photo calls, always at the dodgy bits. Closer to the summit (ie further to fall) the town of Cortina D'Ampezzo comes into view and gives a good guide to just how high up you really are.

Sig 'This can't be possible' Duplock surprising himself during pre-training

2Lt 'I love rock' Meers and LCpl Bedford (overhang specialist) high above Contina d'Ampezzo

Now for the assault on the top! the 'path' goes as the guide book says, 'very steeply, but very delightfully' up to the summit, so from then on everything really was 'interesting'. Eventually, interested and delighted, we arrived at the top at which point all the fear fades and the beauty of the place takes over. Well worth it!

Our final via ferrata was Tofana Di Rozes climbed by the via 'Giovanni Lipella' named after an Italian who fell in the war. After a cultural exchange trip to Cortina the night before we set forth—perhaps a little the worse for wear but nevertheless still in climbing mood we set out. The ascent started over a 600m slope which proved quite tiring especially with the sun high in a crystal clear mountain sky. The party consisted of the 'Punta Fiames' team less **LCpl Neil Bedford** who was still suffering from flu. The climb continued up through another tunnel dug by the Italians in the war and emerged 800m later in what the Germans call the 'Schreckensteinscharte' or 'terror stone pass'. (Real heart in the mouth stuff this.) Traversing along and up the side of the mountain we came to what was for me the most exciting, difficult and frightening climb we did on the trip. The route consisted of a wire rope pitoned into a virtually shee cliff and seemed to go up for ever. Regardless of any fear we pressed on once again the cries of 'this is really, really interesting' and **Cpl Mowbray** why don't you try it one handed . . .?' In the moments between thinking about crashing 2,000ft to a very messy end I was able to take in the view which was quite amazing, higher up things became really 'fascinating' with ice or 'verglas' on the path just for that added thrill. The route does not take in the summit but follows the path round the mountain past old Austrian gun positions that are perched in the most precarious places and which still bear the scars of shelling. They were obviously manned by men with nerves of steel.

So we had done it, and that night the camp echoed with the sound of mountaineering stories that there was nothing we couldn't conquer.

EXERCISE PACIFIC QUADRANT II

Ten members of 200 Sig Sqn returned at the end of August last year, from one of the Squadron's major adventure training exercises, bronzed, tired but proud.

They had all been lucky enought to spend three and a half weeks on the West Coast of the United States, involved in activities centered on mountain trekking, trail blazing and water rafting.

Ex Pacific Quadrant II was based on a similar, very successful exercise carried out last year by members of the Squadron, in the same area. The aim then had been to build part of the Pacific Northwest Trail (PNT), which stretches 1,200 miles from Montana to Washington State. The group was based in the village of Alger, Washington State, about 40 miles from the Canadian border.

The result of last year exercise was a 2½ mile stretch of trail subtitled The Gauntlet Trail; the gauntlet is the Brigade sign of 20 Armd Bde.

When those first pioneers returned, it seemed natural to go back to the same area this year and continue building a small stretch of the PNT.

The group for this years exercise were: **Lt Jim Forrest, Cpl Neil Trengove, LCpls Gary Howard, Wayne Simcox, WLCpl Shirley Docherty, Sig Darren Ariss, David Cairns, Jamie Hart, Scott Vance** and **Ivan Walker.** In addition, **LCpl David Watts** a member of last year's expedition, came out at his own expense for the trip.

The group left a cold and wet RAF Gutersloh at the end of July and travelled via RAF Brize Norton to an extremely warm and humid Washington DC. Morale was instantly raised on actually seeing some sunshine!

A short stay in Washington DC was followed by a commercial flight to Seattle and the final road trip to Alger, some 60 miles to the North.

The group was hosted throughout the stay by local residents **Steve** and **Mary Hilliard** who are members of the PNT association and were the group's link with the associations hierarchy based in Seattle.

After a short period recovering from jet-lag, work began in earnest. Initially the group was tasked to rebuild some of the old Gauntlet Trail which had been lost as a result of a tree felling in the forest. Although the group marked the trail, work could not be carried out owing to the fire risk at the time.

The group therefore started a completely new section of the PNT trail, now subtitled The Mercury Trail. It runs to the northeast of The Gauntlet Trail and, once completely finished, will link up with roads and old railway gauges to provide an access for the PNT to the Pacific Coastline of Washington.

Work consisted of recceing, marking and digging out a path approximately 3ft in width, with a gradient of no greater than 1 in 10. In addition, an already established trail was cleared of obstacles in order to provide access to the new trail.

Trail work was interrupted for four days in order to go river rafting on the Upper Skagit and Siuattle Rivers, located some 60 miles to the east near the North Cascades National Park.

At first all the group members were slightly wary about the actual 'white water' content of the rivers. The first day's rafting, on the Upper Skagit River, proved to be a float trip—'enjoy the scenery and don't worry about the paddling,' the guides suggested. No prompting was required on that advice.

The remaining three days rafting on the Siuattle river proved to be a lot more exciting, with 'white water' in abundance, and plenty of water fights if people were not already soaked.

During the exercise, the group was the subject of considerable local interest. This led to an interview with a journalist from one of the local newspapers. One anonymous member of the group was asked what he liked about the US 'ladies, girls, women and members of the opposite sex', came the reply. All were united in saying that the beer was not as good as a British pint!

The group eventually completed the Mercury Trail, covering a distance of around 1½ miles. The trail became functional immediately, being used by a local pony trekking club as well as PNT walkers.

A real sense of satisfaction was gained by all group members, knowing that this piece of work by a group of British soldiers will last for many years to come. A plaque commemerating the work was constructed as a permanent reminder.

Rest and recreation took the form of five days, spent in Canada and the local area. Quite a few of the group also had the chance to go water skiing and 'logging' with some of the local residents.

The group returned to 'sunny' Detmold sad, but all determined to go back at some point to build another section of the PNT trail and stay with friends made in the land of nice people and indifferent beer.

Cpl Neil Trengove and LCpl Wayne Simcox starting the Mercury Trail

Water rafting on the Siuattle River

Left to Right: Sig Tommy Vance, LCpl Shirley Docherty, Cpl Neil Trengove (Instructor), Sig Cairns, LCpl Goz Howard, LCpl Wayne Simcox

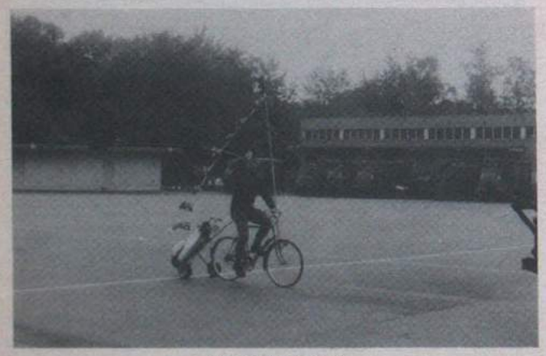
7 Sig Regt
BFPO 15

FAREWELL TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER
LT COL R. J. HOLMES MBE

The CO arrived at Maresfield for his final day with the Regiment thinking that he was to have a photograph with his officers before saying farewell. He was surprised to be met at the gate by a barrack guard made up from men of every cap badge in the Regiment and commanded by the recently promoted **Sgt Bob Patterson**. After inspecting the guard the CO was escorted towards RHQ by the Adjt and RSM only to round the corner and be confronted by the full Regiment on parade. The 2IC asked the CO to present Long Service and Good Conduct medals to **SSgt Ray Holcombe, SSgt John Simpson** ACC, **Sgts Bill Martin and Bob Radburn** RE. After the presentations the CO inspected the men and took the salute as the Regiment marched past. The parade was concluded by a drive past of each type of vehicle plus a dilapidated bike ridden by **Stuart McCrostie** in tribute to the high standards achieved by 2 Sqn on their recent PRE.

As a final gesture of farewell, the inter-squadron boxing had been arranged for the evening. The CO was welcomed by a full house and enjoyed a superb evening's entertainment before being applauded from the gymnasium. After a short sojourn in the Sgts Mess **Lt Col Holmes** left the Regiment on the stroke of midnight.

The CO presents Long Service and Good Conduct Medals



2 Sqn drive past

More leaves to sweep__?

EXERCISE MOROCCAN QUADRANT
By Lt I. R. Whitehall

Ten members of 7 Sig Regt participated in Ex Moroccan Quadrant during August 1988. The exercise included the ascent of Djbel Toubqal which, at 4,165m is Morocco's highest mountain.

The expedition personalities were:-

Leader	**Lt I. R. Whitehall**
2I/C	**Capt A. Bristow**
	Sgt A. Beverley
	Cpl K. Anderson
	Cpl R. Brown
	Cpl N. Roberts
	Cpl I. Thompson
	LCpl I. Quinn
	LCpl M. Tombs
	Cfn M. Kelly

Prior to the trip it was necessary to convert two land rovers. This major task was undertaken by **Cfn Kelly** and **LCpl Quinn** who used over 30 litres of paint stripper and as many wire brushes before the vehicles were ready to be sprayed white. Roofracks, bench seats, fans, spotlights and music systems completed the refit.

On 8 August we loaded the vehicles with spares, tools, rucksacks, camping, walking and personal equipment and headed South. Driving in shifts throughout the night we reached Mulheim on the French/German border in time for breakfast. A further day's driving saw us reach Sete in France where we camped for the night.

In the morning we awoke refreshed and enjoyed our first Mediterranean swim. Crossing into Spain we made good time on the toll roads to our next resting place at Cuellera.

On 11 August we continued south as far as Alicante before we were forced to use normal roads. We then battled through heavy traffic for two days before reaching the ferry port of Algeciras. The fans that we had installed were proving their worth as the outside temperatures rose and the cassette players played a major part in combating boredom.

A 90 minute ferry trip across the Straits of Gibraltar delivered us to the Spanish/Moroccan border at Ceuta. Here we waited for two hours in the intense heat for the border guards to process the traffic. An innocent snapshot by a member of the group resulted in Moroccan soldiers ripping several films out of our cameras. This was annoying as we lost many good photographs. Eventually we crossed into Morocco and, with a sigh of relief, headed along the coast road towards Tangiers. The scenery was magnificent and in total contrast to the over developed Spanish coastline. The many beautiful beaches bordered the clean Atlantic water—a stark contrast to the filthy Mediterranean. When we arrived we found Tangiers fascinating in spite of the number of tourists. The Medina and Casbah were particularly impressive.

PAKISTAN—THE PAST WE SHARE—
SIGNALS FELLOWSHIP 1988

by Maj Gen David Horsfield

For the first 20 years from the birth of The Corps in 1920 a high proportion of our young soldiers found themselves posted to India to work with the Indian Signal Corps, as it then was. The North West Frontier in present day Pakistan was the destination for the majority and many of the soldiers they knew would now be called Pakistanis.

Our 18 year olds, after a four week 'Trooper' and train journey would serve an overseas tour of five years in employment and conditions which developed maturity quickly, and the heat and hardship of the work did nothing to diminish their affection for the country or their pride in the army in which they served.

Fifty years ago the bonds of comradeship amongst our veterans of India and between them and their counterparts in the then Indian Army were recognised by the formation of The (British) Indian Signals Association which is now affiliated to the Royal Signals Association. The Association brings together old India hands, some of whom were serving on the frontier as far back as 1921 and plays its part in renewing and reinforcing the strong bonds which exist with Pakistan and India. The earlier frontiersmen were joined by many war time officers and soldiers who served with Indian troops or in Indian formations in India, Burma, North Africa, Italy, and Persia.

When **Maj Gen Riaz Ahmed Chaudhri**, Pakistan's Signal Officer-in-Chief invited the President to take a party to visit old haunts and meet old friends it was enthusiastically accepted. Planning and arranging such a visit requires much research and organisation at both ends. During this period **Maj Gen Hamid Hasan Butt** took over as SOinC and thereafter we had two Major Generals working out plans for our benefit.

On 19 September 1988 a party of 25 met at Heathrow, 16 men and 9 ladies, to catch the PIA flight to Islamabad. Islamabad airport has been developed from the old Chaklala strip, which some of us remembered from parachute training there during the war. We were met by **Brig Babar**, Commander of the Signals College, and put in the care of **Maj Kamil** who was to accompany us for most of our tour. Arrival time was 0730 hrs and we were soon breakfasting at Flashmans Hotel in Rawlpindi, another link with the past. Our hosts, **Gens Butt** and **Riaz**, were not slow to check that we were really there and met us during breakfast.

Our first day, given over to finding our way around, cashing cheques and some shopping ended with a reception, attended by the British Ambassador and given by **Brig Bill Bullocke**, British Defence Attaché and **Mrs Bullocke**, for ourselves and many of the senior Pakistan officers we would meet later.

Visiting the Military College of Signals, we were shown round by **Brig Babar**, the Commandant. There is much that is the same in our sister Corps so it is the differences which deserve comment. The College runs its own degree courses and about half today's Signals officers have degrees. As a large and highly rated army, Pakistan carries a heavy load in training overseas officers and its Signals students come from many countries, particularly Moslem ones. The equipment covered is equally diverse both in relation to country of origin and age. This produces interesting technical problems, many of which are tackled at the College. The principle is that no equipment should be discarded which, with sound re-engineering can continue to meet the more demanding conditions of today. The imaginative plans for surgery and modification are developed at the College and make it clear that the Corps sets out to measure up to all demands, reserving new funds for purchases in the most important areas.

Meanwhile the ladies had their own entertainment. Three of them had previously lived in Pakistan or India and one had been as a visitor, but for the remainder every experience was new. The Signals Ladies Club received their visitors, rose and double jasmine garlanded, on the steps of the Signals Mess where they were enveloped in the warmth and kindness of Signals hospitality.

The fashion show opened with a Koranic song from a young girl adorned with a lovely red and silver dupata. Thereafter vivid colour contrasts, as well as the softest of variations made their own impact.

The men had moved on to the Special Communications Organisation, Commanded by **Brig Ghafar**, which proved to be of particular interest. Signals have been given the responsibility for providing civil and military communications in the wild and mountainous area leading up to Gilgit and the Chinese border as well as the Pakistan side of the disputed territories of Jammu and Kashmir. This provides project planning and implementation on a vast scale with excellent experience for the communication engineers of the Corps.

Heading off to the north next day, Signals units in the Murree area treated us to a lunch time reception in spectacular surroundings at Bhorban golf course which they have created. This was the start of a two day journey which took us, with a night in Murree at 7,500ft, to Nathiagali and on to Peshawar via Taxila with its archaeological site which was a busy city 1,000 years before Alexander the Great conquered it. Peshawar is a city of the Pathans where swarthy men commonly carry firearms and bandoliers as a normal part of their dress. North and south of Peshawar spreads the vast tribal area with the biggest tribal society in the world. In these areas we were warned that Pakistani law applies only on the metalled roads and that we should not leave the roads.

The drama and excitement heightened when **Brig Qureshi**, Commander Signals of 11 Corps, led the party up the Khyber Pass to Torkram on the Afghan frontier. In British days movement up the pass involved picketing the high points along the way to prevent tribal rifle fire on the marching columns passing below. The pass extends some 35 miles from Jamrud Fort to the Frontier and is today defended by the Pathans. We were in the hands of the Khyber Rifles for the day, protected by armed ground and anti aircraft escorts as well as Signals vehicles. The road winds through steep sided valleys sometimes a mile wide but less than 20 yards at the narrowest.

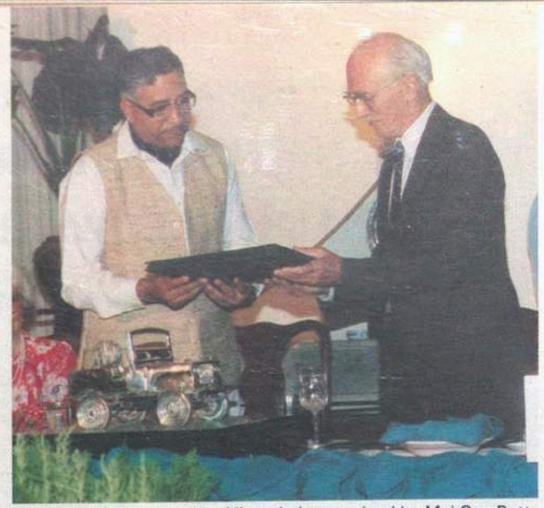
At Torkram Fort we sat overlooking a vast panorama of parched barren mountains and valleys that are sometimes green. **Maj Azmat** of the Khyber Rifles gave a lively and entertaining brief on the historic and present day problems of the area and showed us some of the unwelcome multi rocket projectiles which have arrived during the Afghan war. We were impressed at our briefing by a Khyber Rifleman who brought his pointer smartly to the aim as if it were a rifle to indicate the geographical features mentioned.

The Signal Training Centre at Kohat welcomed us next after a drive through more tribal territory and over a range of mountains. Pakistan produces many striking characters and the warmth of **Brig Akram**'s robust personality had us all entranced from the start. The spacious hill ringed valley of Kohat contains the finest cantonment we were to see. These military towns were developed in British days and in this case well away from any major civilian town. Not only has Kohat been beautifully maintained, but each Commandant since partition has made his contribution by some new development of facilities, buildings or landscaping. The result is a model military town.

So Kohat stamped its impress on our minds and in the morning the pipe band played and marched for us as we gossiped and said our goodbyes before the trip back to Peshawar. On our way we stopped at Darra Adam Khel, a small town in tribal territory, famous as the centre for tribal arms production for 100 years or more. There is continuous trade in arms of all kind, imported (smuggled) and manufactured locally. We were shown Kalashnikov twins, one Russian and one local, copied to the finest detail, including the same rifle number. The houses in such tribal areas are enclosed by high mud walls with one large entrance gate. Every building is inward looking, but the green of many trees above the walls shows what attractive small estates they must be.

Peshawar has been a busy frontier town since well before biblical times. The list of invaders and migrants includes Persians, Greeks, Mongols, Huns, Mughals and half a dozen others. The resulting destruction means that, though some buildings of interest remain, they have to be sought out. After seeing the magnificent early Buddhist carving in the museum we were taken to the Bala Hisar Fort,

Military College. Brig Babar with Frank Bergelin and Hugh Grant in the barrack block they occupied in 1936



Guest Night. Presentation Album being received by Maj Gen Butt.

Presentation Begum Butt for the Pakistan Signals Ladies Club

Six Pakistan SOinCs. Flanking Maj Gen Horsfield are Brig Suleiman and Maj Gen Rehman who number Brig Hobson, Maj Gen Moberly and Maj Gen Horsfield amongst their instructors

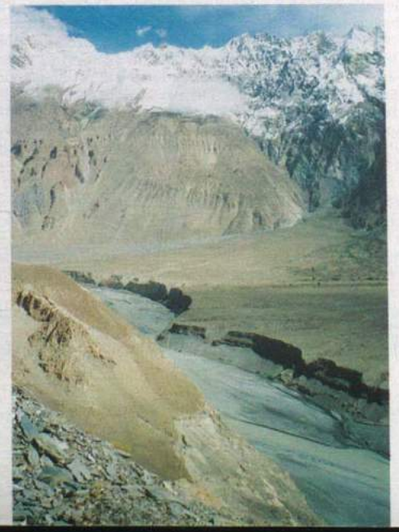
Khyber Rifleman points out a feature

Brig Qureshi, CCSignals, 11 Corps Maj Azmat of the Khyber Rifles

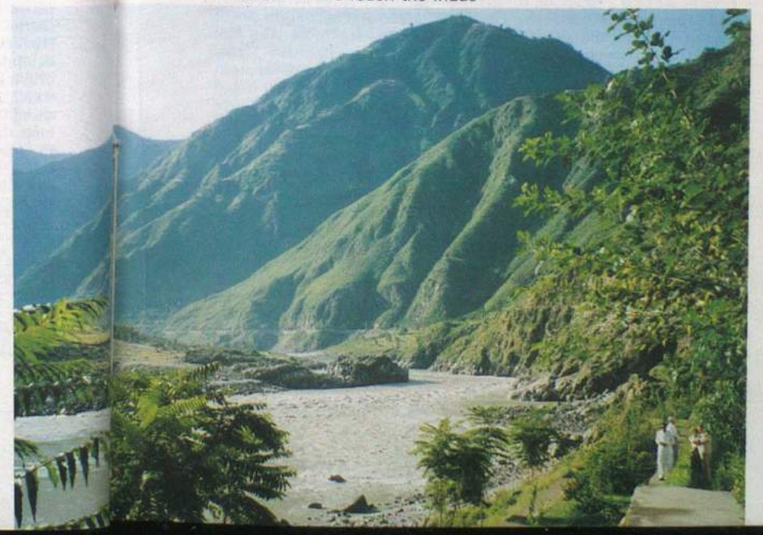
Khyber with an armed escort: British Regimental badges predominate

Peshawar. Group photo at Dean's Hotel

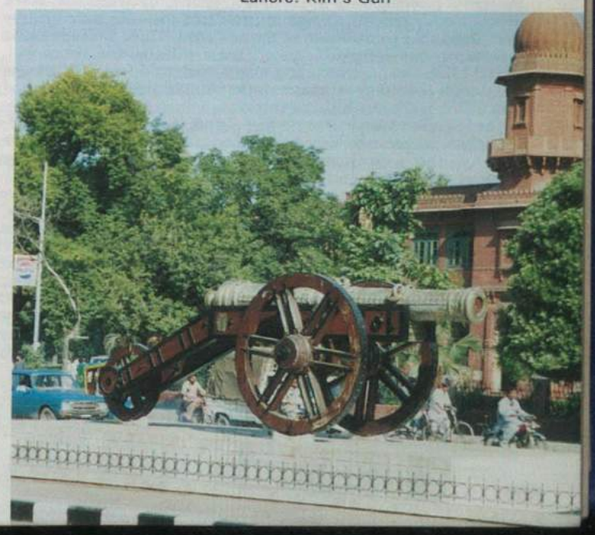
The Hunza River. Not far to China



Besham. We reach the Indus



Lahore. Kim's Gun



the Headquarters of the Frontier Corps. In its history of more than 2,000 years it has been a royal residence as well as a castle. Its present shape owes much to British rebuilding after the annexation of the Punjab in 1849.

A week of military visits was over and it was time for us to become explorers. The Swat valley in the northern part of the Frontier Province, Gilgit and Baltistan in the Northern Territories have borders with Afghanistan and China. In the north only a thin strip of Afghanistan, 10 miles at the narrowest, separates Russia from Pakistan. Several of the major mountain ranges of the world, the Hindu Kush, the Pamirs, the Karakoram and the Himalayas form immense natural barriers and the passes are typically at a height of over 15,000ft. The area contains a high proportion of the world's ten highest mountains. In Hunza geologists have marked the point of collision of the first two great continents Angara and Gondwanaland some 60 million years ago. The mountains still grow.

Swat is renowned for its charm and beauty which is compared with Switzerland. Though it is true that one can see spectacular rivers, hillsides and mountains, the comparison soon breaks down. Where Switzerland is manicured and tamed by man, Swat is wild and rugged with powerful and dangerous rivers and rough winding roads where travel is always slow. We had, I think, misjudged the scale of everything and the time needed to see it properly, so missed much of beauty. However, after visiting Kalam in the north, it was time to move on over the 9,000ft Shangla Pass and down through forested valleys to the river Indus.

The scenery is magnificent and we had good views of the 26,600ft high Nanga Parbat. Big mountains in this area are shy creatures, often concealed by their own immensely tall foothills. One of the biggest at 28,250ft was not discovered until 1934. It is called Hidden Peak. The only other major mountain we saw was Rakaposhi, 25,500ft, which is visible from Gilgit but even that was often in cloud.

Leaving the Indus at Jaglot, the scenery changes to a broad valley which the Gilgit River cut deep into earlier sedimentation leaving 200ft high flat plains covered with green cultivation, changing to rolling country towards the mountains. Gilgit at 5,000ft is a major administrative and military centre surrounded by fruit orchards, commonly growing apricots. Now served by an airstrip as well as the road, its communications are good. Compare our 10 hour journey with 1895 when it took a month for a relief force to march 220 miles to the Chitral.

Gilgit is the centre of the Sinkiang barter trade. Chinese silks were available, but we were told that the best of the porcelain goes through to Islamabad where better prices are available. Here, once more, we were amongst military friends. **Maj Gen Ayaz**, Commander Force Command, Northern Areas attended a number of our London Dinners when serving as Defence Attaché and made the original suggestion to the Signal Officer in Chief Pakistan that there would be merit in inviting some of our members to Pakistan. He was most interesting about the close links with the Chinese who value Pakistan's technical engineering skills and who teamed up with Pakistan in developing the Karakoram Highway. On our last night the whole party were invited to a mess function for officers and their wives and we learned much from our hosts on their particular responsibilities, medical, education and particularly the road problems from **Brig Nejeeb** who said that falling rocks and stones on a scree face towards Hunza which had held us up 'happened every afternoon at 1600 hrs'. We thank them all for their hospitality and generosity.

To reach the Khunjerab Pass one picks up the Karakoram Highway a little south of Gilgit and follows the Hunza river, immediately into winding mountain roads. As a result of new alignments the old Silk Road to China, developed in the 2nd Century AD can often be seen clinging to the rock walls on the opposite side of the valley. The close zig-zags of climbing track would be manageable for camels but looked impossible for vehicles, though we were told that they were used by jeeps during the construction of the new road. Three hours dramatic drive brings one to the province of Hunza at Karimabad, its capital, where rubies and garnets are mined and sold. At 8,000ft the countryside has rugged charm with tall evergreens and terraced agriculture backed by high mountains.

The 550 mile return journey to Rawalpindi took us a day and a half, the only remarkable incident being where a landslide delayed us. We were told that a party had been held up and robbed there on the previous night.

The next two days were the most important of our visit as they gave us a real chance to get to know a large number of the senior officers, both serving and retired, of Pakistan Signals. This reforging of the human links was, after all, the major purpose of the reunion.

The magnificent city of Lahore, which some of our party visited was a centre of Islamic learning and culture from the 11th Century, but was razed to the ground by **Genghis Khan** and **Tamerlane**. Thereafter it suffered less than the northern cities we had come from and superb Moghul buildings and gardens remain, added to by the Sikhs and, in turn, the British whose Victorian-Moghul styles were sympathetic to earlier work. Our sightseeing was now over except for a brief visit on our return journey to Rohtas Fort built in 1540 on the Peshawar to Calcutta trunk road. Much of this massive structure, three miles round the walls, is still standing with fine bastions and gates. As tourism increases the value of such relics of older times are appreciated and their presentation is being improved.

The Signals Officers Mess is the finest possible emblem of the quality and high standing of the Corps. Inaugurated in 1986 on the Mall site of the old Mess it is the latest of several striking and handsome new military buildings to be seen in Rawalpindi. The spacious entry hall, large ante room and dining room on either side have very high ceilings which keep the noise at large parties to pleasant levels and the high quality of everything in the mess creates a wonderful home for the officer corps.

The elders of the Corps whom we met at a guest night had many memories of their early service to recall. The first two Signal officers to head the Corps, **Brig Suleiman** and **Maj Gen Abdul Rehman** had boy service at Jabalpur under **Brig Pat Hobson** and also remembered **Gen Moberly** well. **Gens Abdul Rehman** and **Kurshid Haider** were officer cadets under my command at Mhow and so the exchanges went on. What a happy evening. At dinner for 150 there was a high table for selected hosts and guests and many separate tables for smaller numbers scattered round the room, which was an excellent arrangement for easy conversation. For me it was a great opportunity to get to know the Signal Officer-in-Chief better and to learn from him so much about his Corps. **Gen Butt** spoke well about the importance of the visit, quoting a letter from **Gen Badcock** and made generous presentations to each guest. At least, on this occasion, we were able to respond with framed copies of the Corps 'Frontier' picture to each of the major oganisations we had visited.

At this stage of the tour I was often asked what had changed since our Indian Army days 40 or more years ago. Much has changed, but a great deal relates to things you expect in an energetic young country. Bicycle locomotion is fast disappearing and cars displace most of the tongas and rickshaws. Increased spending power is evident in the bazaars; education is much more widespread and medical services have developed greatly. Creativity, initiative and keeping up with the times come naturally to many imaginative people. These things are expected, so what is new? In war time there was little opportunity to meet the wives and families of officers one served with and to a degree the family entertainments were within the separate races. It has therefore been a great joy to get to know each other on a family basis and to discover how easily and naturally we can enjoy each others company. Lastly, it has been possible to share enjoyment of the local art forms where colour, material, weaving and needlework play such an important part.

The things which are the same are of equal or greater importance. The Pakistanis are a military race where pride of Regiment is very strong and the honour of serving provides powerful motivation. We could not fail to be impressed by the military visits we made where quality was the hallmark down to the finest detail. We learned much from our partner nations in days gone by and their example is still inspiring. Shared interests and sense of humour hold us together, but above all it is the emotional bond, which is so alive and strong, which has made this reunion so enjoyable and rewarding. Beyond that there was exceptional hospitality and generosity which puts us totally in debt to our hosts. We hope to return the compliment in England.

On the evening after the Guest night our whole party was entertained by **Gens Riaz** and **Butt** and families in the former's quarter. One son from each family was leaving the next day to join the Military Academy so we hoped that old soldiers talk plus our good wishes helped to launch them well on their new careers.

Five days later and back from Lahore our last day dawned. In the evening we held a reception for many of the firm friends we had made and sadly said our goodbyes. Our ladies made a presentation to the Signals Ladies Club and there were mementos for those who had helped us so much. For us the initiative of two Pakistan Signal Officers-in-Chief, **Gen Butt** and **Riaz** produced a success beyond our wildest imaginings. It has taught us much about Pakistan, it has established long lasting friendships and it has brought our two Corps closer together. We shall be eternally grateful.

THE PARTY

Maj Gen David Horsfield, Mrs Sheelah Horsfield, Maj Frank Bergelin, Mrs Joan Bergelin, Maj Tom Bewsey, Maj Joe Crocker, Mrs Gwen Crocker, Lt Col Sidney Dagg, Mrs Florence Dagg, Capt Rowland Fereday, Mrs Ann Fereday, Mr Hugh Grant, Maj Bing Gunton, Mrs Joyce Gunton, Maj Lee Harry, Capt (Mrs) Jane Knight, Mr Frank Lovatt, Maj Tony Nash, Mrs Kay Nash, Mr Joe Parker, Capt Frank Perrin, Lt Col Derek Sherrard-Smith, Maj Freddie Stewart, Maj Tim Timbrell and **Mrs Agatha Timbrell.**

Photographs by Maj Gen Horsfield, Maj Bewsey and Capt Fereday.

The next day was a Sunday and we travelled along the coast to Rabat in order to visit the British Embassy to inform them of our presence in Morocco. On Monday morning we headed for Marrakesh and spent an uncomfortable night in a cheap camp-site before departing on the final leg of our journey to Imelil, our trekking base. We reached Imelil at lunchtime having covered around 2,500 miles.

Our first act was to employ a guide to ensure good liaison with the local people and to act as insurance against any mistake we might make. We also obtained three mules to help carry our tentage, food and cooking equipment. The vehicles were left under guard in Imelil while we took advantage of the guide's hospitality and slept on the roof of his house.

The entire group found the first day's walking particularly difficult. The weather was extremely hot at 30-35°C. The gradients were severe and the ground was uneven. Several individuals were already suffering from stomach upsets. As a consequence the distances we covered per day were to be less than we anticipated. Nevertheless we reached Refuge Nelter at 1400 hrs where we made camp ready for the assault on Djbel Toubqal the next day.

We woke early in order to climb as high as possible in the relative cool of the morning. In spite of this movement was slow as a deficit of oxygen and an excess of intestinal bacteria caused many stops. Two members of the group suffered slightly from altitude sickness, but despite slowing their progress it did not dampen their enthusiasm. The route up Djbel Toubqal was steep but not particularly difficult and everyone reached the summit. We were rewarded for our efforts with a breathtaking panorama. We spent an hour at the top resting and taking photographs before returning to Refuge Nelter. The descent was rapid, especially for the braver souls who ran down the loose scree. We reached our camp-site at 1530 hrs where upon **Capt Bristow** tended to several pairs of blistered feet.

We left Refuge Nelter at 0900 hours the following day. After an hour's walk up the valley we turned onto a very steep and precarious track leading to Lac D'Ifri. Although the humans had great difficulty negotiating the path, the mules were as sure footed as mountain goats and threaded their way with dignified grace. Once over the ridge the opportunity for scree running presented itself and the first half of our descent was very exciting. **Cpl Thompson** proved himself a natural scree runner but lacked an accompanying ability to stop. The track degenerated halfway down and our progress slowed considerably. We followed a stream to Lac D'Ifri which was an impressive spectacle. Washing in the lake was interesting as it was not very clear and was rumoured to contain snakes. A quick dive in followed by a rapid exit proved the most popular method.

After a very uncomfortable night on the rocky shoreline we broke camp and headed towards the village Amsouzerte, our next stopping point. The route to Amsouzerte was virtually all downhill and the ground underfoot was relatively easy going. This was a welcome change for the group as some individuals had problems with blistered feet and everyone suffered from diarrhoea. We reached Amsouzerte during mid afternoon and camped by the river. The village is a natural collecting point for travellers and hikers of all description so our arrival went without comment.

Early next morning after breakfasting on scrambled egg, bread and jam to celebrate **Cpl Anderson's** 29th birthday we broke camp and headed towards S'Charmabouch. **LCpl Tombs** was feeling poorly and his feet were blistered so we used a mule to carry his equipment. The three mules were a great asset and contributed considerably to our enjoyment of the trek.

We lunched on sardines and bread at Tissaldai before pressing onto our camp-site on the mountainside near Tizi n'Terhaline. The weather was hot and the trekking very hard work. When we reached the designated camp-site there was only just room for the five tents. During the night a mule blundered into the tent shared by **Sgt Beverley** and **Cpl Brown** badly ripply the flysheet and scaring them considerably.

We woke in arguably the most beautiful location of the trip. Before the midday heat we climbed to the top of Tizi n'Tarha (3,456m). The descent to S'Charmabouch was the most difficult route we followed throughout the expedition. The steep gradient combined with a poorly marked and very dangerous track made it a strenuous and time consuming descent. Upon arriving in S'Charmabouch we refreshed ourselves before completing the trekking back to Imelil.

Our final day in Imelil was spent learning the rudiments of climbing under the tuition of **Capt Bristow**. The weather was hot and everyone caught the sun whilst entertaining the local Moroccans who were amazed by the group's antics on the rocks.

The next day we departed for Agadir. The mountain road over the High Atlas provided incredible scenery along with many opportunities for **Cfn Kelly** to demonstrate his unusual driving technique. We reached Agadir at 1600 hrs eagerly anticipating a hot shower followed by a decent meal. We spent three days on R&R in Agadir before commencing our journey home.

It took us five days to reach Herford from Agadir. We took advantage of our experience of driving in Spain and ensured that we negotiated the busiest roads during the small hours. Near the German border one landrover broke down briefly and this was the only mechanical failure experienced throughout the entire trip.

The expedition achieved it's aims and much more beside. The two landrovers gave us the freedom to truly experience Morocco and allowed us a privileged view of another culture. It was an enjoyable and at times testing trip which has been of benefit to all those involved.

EXERCISE AZTEC QUADRANT
By Lt Martin Woodham
PROLOGUE

The scene is 2 Sqn lines in early December 1987. Two Subalterns are sitting at their desks carrying out first works on their filofaxes.

Perrott : Martin, how do you fancy going to Mexico?
Woodham : Sounds great. What's the excuse?
Perrot : I think there are some mountains there . . .

INTRODUCTION

Ex Aztec Quadrant was a 7 Sig Regt training exercise which took place in Mexico in October 1988. The main aim of the expedition was to climb the volcanoes El Pico de Orizaba (18,700ft) and Popocatepetl (17,887ft). The mountains lie on the Sierra Volcanic Transversal and mark what some geologists consider to be the southern end of the North American Continent.

Although the volcanoes are of extreme height they are made less daunting by the presence of the Central Mexican Plateau at about 7,500ft and, since Mexico borders Belize, they are within easy reach of service expeditions such as ours.

OUTWARD BOUND

Twelve members of the Regiment left Herford on the 1 October and travelled to RAF Brize Norton via Zeebrugge and Dover aboard a minibus. After difficulties over US visas we flew to Belize via Gander and Dulles airports. We were warmly welcomed by 633 Sig Tp but only stayed long enough to acquire Mexican tourist cards and US visas. By vigorous bartering, we also managed to secure the last 48 bottles of coke in the country.

Now properly equipped, we headed North to Chetumal in a bus whose previous role must have been in crash testing for the local equivalent of 'Top Gear'. We were surprised and a little relieved to arrive at the border town in reasonable time and intact. On crossing the border we discovered the first mistake in our exhaustive planning; Mexico has no camp-sites.

We stayed overnight in a cheap hotel where we acquainted ourselves with Tecate, a fine Mexican beer. Refreshed after a good night's sleep we were pleased to board a reasonably comfortable bus for the next leg of our journey to Veracruz on the Gulf of Mexico. Unfortunately the bus suffered three punctures and as a consequence we did not reach our destination until the following morning. We then transferred to the local buses for the journey to Tlachichuca via Orizeba, El Seco and Serdan. We changed buses at each village and with each change the number of passengers increased and the state of the bus worsened.

Eventually we reached Tlachichuca where we met **Senor Peges** the local 'JR'. This entrepreneur supplied us with everything we needed including accommodation and petrol for the stoves. Indeed it was one of Senor Peges' men who drove us to the climbing huts at Piedre Grande in a four wheel drive truck. We were pleased to loosen up for the climb by push-starting the truck after explaining to the driver that it was permissible (if lacking in machismo) to start off in first gear.

FIRST CLIMB

As we walked the 100m from the drop off point to the huts we began to realise what a serious undertaking the climb was. At 14,000 ft there is an immediate altitude problem and we developed headaches very quickly. The symptoms are quite like an unearned hangover. We were horrified to learn that they had set off without waterproofs or emergency survival equipment. Knowing that the nearest telephone was 10 hours walk away and that mountain rescue services were virtually non-existent, we worried for their safety. In the event they were OK.

We climbed the volcanic ash and rock to the foot of the Glacier de Jemapa at 16,000' and set up our high camp. We slept fitfully and most of us suffered severe headaches and next day we had to leave **Martin Silvey, Titch McGiffen** and **Bobby Sandison** to overcome their mountain sickness while guarding the equipment. The rest of the team climbed to 18,500' where the effects of altitude were taking their toll on several members of the group. With the weather closing in and not wishing to split the party we relunctantly decided to return to high camp.

We were bitterly disappointed but this made us determined that we would be successful in climbing Popocatepetl. In order to acclimatise for this we spend a day in Mexico City at 7,500' taking in the sights. The city ('Mexico DF', as the locals call it) is impressive; affluent and bustling in a land of squalor and 'Manana'. We discovered the Zona Rosa with its night clubs and bars and managed to get another round of headaches. In spite of its proximity to Mexico City we were unable to see Popocatepetl because of the ever present layer of smog.

UP POPOCATEPETL

We travelled by bus to the town of Amecameca and managed to secure the hire of a minibus from the depot manager. We used this to travel to the climbing lodge at Tlamacas which turned out to be more of an expensive youth hostel than a hut. We had to sleep in an annex since we arrived on a Friday night and the main lodge was full. Saturday was obviously international 'Let's Climb Popocatepetl' day because 2,000-3,000 people were on the hill. We spent the day climbing to our proposed camp-site at Las Craces then returned to the lodge for the night. Our feet were sore from the sand-like terrain and our throats were parched from saying 'Buenos Dias' every few paces. We had detected no altitude problems that day and we went to sleep in determined mood.

The next morning we climbed to Las Craces equipped with bergans and established camp among the remains of an old climbing shelter. Morale was already high but sight of the summit and the view to East of El Pico de Orizabo lifted our spirits even more. That night we slept like babies.

We awoke to a bitterly cold morning and had travelled as far as the Glacier del Norte before the sun rose to warm the mountainside. We used crampons and rope to slog our way up the 60° snow and ice slope towards the crater rim. Half way up two of the team were forced to turn back and we lost four more at the crater. **John Perrott, Martin Woodham, Paul Sweeney, Tex Dallas, Matt Witcher** and **Tony Pickford** pushed on to arrive coughing and spluttering from the sulphurous dust at the summit hut. We took some photographs of the glorious views then retraced our steps to high camp and Tlamecas. by 2300 we were back in Mexico DF.

EPILOGUE

It is tempting to conclude the account of Aztec Quadrant by telling of our time in Acapulco on R & R, of conquests at sea level rather than at 18,000', of 'Dos Cerveza, por favor' and of the ladies. . . That, however, is another story.

Aztec Quadrant comprised: (slide 1—The Team) **Capt John Perrott, Lt Martin Woodham, Sgt Paul Sweeny, Cpls Mac McIntyre, Tex Dallas, Martin Silvey, LCpls Bonnie Langford, Titch McGiffen, Box Miller, Sig Bobby Sandison, Sig Matt Witcher** and **Pte (now LCpl) Tony Pickford.**

The Team

On El Pico de Orizaba

Matt Whitcher and Titch McGiffen on Popocatepetl

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METROPOLITAN POLICE

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

LS&GC MEDAL PRESENTATION

SSgt (FofS) Higgins, SSgts Knight, Appleyard, Smith, Sgt McGready
Mrs Higgins, Mrs Knight, Brig Topple, Mrs Smith, Mrs McGready

8 Sig Regt has been as busy as usual over the last few months.

Since June the Regiment has been involved in many major events including the Tyne Tees Fun Run, the Old Comrades weekend, Exercise Northern Crusade, the Wheelchair Marathon for the disabled and the Gordon's Cup. This is not forgetting that normal training has continued unceasingly to produce trained soldiers for the Corps. Here are just a few highlights . . .

TYNE TEES TELEVISION
REGIMENT ASSAULT COURSE RUN
Report by 2Lt Jeni Davey

The Tyne Tees Assault Course Run was held, on Sunday 19 June for the last time.

2,400 members of the public set off in staggered groups throughout the day to tackle a 5½ mile run across the Catterick Training Area. Undaunted they then went on to attempt the assault course, with many aims, changing from not getting wet, to getting to the finish!

The Regiment's administration catering for a total crowd of almost 5,000 was, as ever up to standard. **Maj Jane Freebairn** and her team of intrepid organisers ensured a smooth running day of fun and hilarity for everyone.

WO2 (SSM) Dick Heppenstall and **SSgt Joe McKenzie** co-ordinated the cross country route and ended up running the course about 10 times over between them!

WO2 (QMSI) Bob Gilbert took charge of the assault course as the unsuspecting public fell in and off various obstacles aided by ever attentive Signalmen who sometimes just couldn't resist a helping push as they tottered over logs and dangled from ropes.

All the statistics, admin and documentation were dealt with by **WO2 (SSM) John Armstrong** and **WO1 Roger Iredale.** Security was under the eagle eye of the RSM **WO1 Mike Kerr.** Most important of all were the many soldiers whose hard work in building and maintaining the course made the whole event possible.

Tyne Tees was also there, of course, with TV cameras recording all the fun, splash landings and muddy faces recorded for posterity. The photograph is by courtesy of Tyne Tees Television.

All proceeds in excess of £3,000 collected by participants will go to a variety of charities so a good day was had by all for a good cause!

EXERCISE NORTHERN CRUSADE
3 SQUADRON

Exercise Northern Crusade was a Home Defence exercise held throughout NE District in September. We won't bother you with all the details, but it found us all fulfilling our primary role as soldiers, remembering all those infantry skills.

A few thoughts on the exercise . . .

> Being ambushed on deployment certainly concentrates the mind. 2IC Sqn was so good at bobbing and weaving to cover that no one can understand how he got 'jiffed' with these notes.

> The OC's Close Protection Party obviously thought they should drive as close as possible. I hope REME can fix the dents.

> Which Signalman called up Platoon HQ from his sangar halfway through the firefight, wanting to know where his relief was because 'my shift finished ten minutes ago'?

> When the enemy do a recce in Trainers and 'Ron Hills', it's a problem to catch them—When **Cpls Scriven** and **Jackson** have to catch them before they can have their lunch . . . no problem.

> Finally, thanks to the 'enemy', 1 PWO, for taking their role so seriously, even when captured. Shame that they recognised **Cpl Lloyd** when the Rugby Team played 1 PWO the following week. Still, get well soon, **Cpl Lloyd.**

Meanwhile, at headquarters, 2IC 2 Sqn, **Capt David Brough** is still consulting the BR timetable and working out the time of the next attack.

TTS SQUADRON, TRAFFIC GROUP

Group Supervisor	**Mr Harry O'Mahoney**	**JMH/Keyboard**
YofS	**SSgt Dave Leaning**	**Mr Dave Walker**
Indoor Ex	**SSgt Meg Higgins**	**Mr Alan Tibbett**
Supervisor	**Sgt Tony Bentley**	**Mr Dave Floyd**
	Sgt Ossie Pattison	**Sgt Angie Hunt**
	Sgt Paul Dickinson	**Sgt Katriona Watson**
	Sgt Binnie Turrel	**Sgt Steve Mitchell**
	Cpl Charlie Drake	**Sgt Sarah Stonier**
	Cpl Nette Williams	**Sgt Paul Sexby**
	Cpl Charlie Brown	**Cpl Taff Millward**
	Cpl Mouse Housley	
Switchboard Supervisor	**Sgt Sue Leitch**	
	Mr Dennis Smith	
	Cpl Elly Pomeroy	

Traffic Group, not having sent notes to *The Wire* for at least two years, feels it is about time we made ourselves known to the outside world.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We would like to welcome our new Yeoman **Dave Leaning**—will he hack the flak we ask ourselves. We would also like to say a fond farewell to our American friends **Marianne** and **Ron Balser,** who have been posted to the Black Forest, hope you enjoy your stay there. Goodbye also to Cpl, or should I say **Mr Brian McCarthy** who left recently, after 22 years service, to work in America. For once we had a real reason for a party.

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

Sgt Tony Bentley has at last knocked **Cpl Charlie Drake** off the top rung of the squash ladder. Just a pity he had to wait till **Charlie** was on his chin strap before he would play him. Indoor Ex Staffy wonders why she is at the bottom of the ladder, the fact that she has not yet had a game should make no difference.

Sgt Katriona Watson and **Cpl Housley** after 30 minutes tuition, helped TTS Sqn through to the semi-final of the inter squadron tennis. Only problem was that being in a semi-final was a shock to TTS Sqn's system, they are generally knocked out in the first round.

Sgt Sarah Stonier, continues to improve her golf and has at last convinced **Harry** (MCP) **O'Mahoney** to include her in the regimental golf side.

Cpls Charlie Brown, Charlie Drake and **Sgts Tony Bentley** and **Paul Dickinson,** who all represent the Squadron at various sports, continue to get embarrassed by the Traffic Group Cheer Leaders, but us girls don't understand why.

Congratulations are in order for **Cpl Elly Pomeroy,** who has been selected to represent the army at basketball.

WORK

We all continue to beaver away at our own little jobs, even if the group supervisor generally does his on the golf course. (More commonly known as a Chief Instructors Conference).

Sgt Sue Leitch and **Cpl Elly Pomeroy** are tearing their hair out trying to teach the new Monarch system, let's hope the techs sort the equipment out before they are both bald.

The Old and the New. Pte Lisa Hodson, the last WRAC Data Telegraphist to be trained by Data Telegraphist Basic Group, confronts Pte Kathy Osborne, the first Tele Op (Data) to be trained by Basic Traffic Group. Is this a new Trend?

A GOLDEN ACHIEVEMENT

Pte Ann Vardy has recently qualified for the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award. To achieve this much sought after award **Ann** had to complete a number of tasks, which included: rock climbing; caring for the handicapped in the community; an expedition to and within Hong Kong; and learning to drive. All the reports in her record book showed her to be an enthusiastic and cheerful person—this opinion being reinforced by the reports from her training as a Tele Op (Data). **Ann**, who is now serving with 28 Sig Regt, should shortly be called forward to receive her Gold Award from the Duke of Edinburgh in person. Our congratulations to her on this most excellent result.

Lt Col George Finney, recently departed OC TTS, trying to steal Pte Ann Vardy's record book to obtain a Gold Award for himself

GORDONS CUP

Report by WO2 (FofS) OAKES

The Gordons Cup was presented to 8 Sig Regt in 1979 by the 1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders. It was given to mark the highly professional performance by members of the Regiment who had completed a tour of duty with the Gordons in Northern Ireland.

To ensure that the high level of military skills is maintained within the Regiment, the Cup is competed for annually. The competition takes the form of a patrol race based on a nine man team and consists of an inspection, assault course, map reading, two phase stretcher run and a falling plate shoot. To add insult to injury the teams are inspected again at the end to make sure they haven't 'off loaded' any equipment en route.

This year's competition was well supported by the squadrons with no less than eleven teams taking part. Although the weather was dismal all day, the competition was fierce, with a close run finish. The final result, after the scores were checked and rechecked, was HQ Sqn A first, very closely followed by 1 Sqn A. 2 Sqn who had held the cup for several years graciously relinquished control.

The winning team, HQ Sqn A, was led by **Capt David Larkam**, OC Scheme Troop, and the team was drawn from a squad of Schemes troop consisting of **WO2 (FofS) John Oakes, Sgts Harry Griffin, Gordon McGowan, Bob Nicol, Rick South, Cpls Mark Baxter, Dave Coleman, Dave Lloyd, Jim McNaught, LCpls Jim Neaves, Geordie Howe** and **'Biff' Baker**.

FOOTBALL

The Regiment started the season well by qualifying for the Army 6's in Aldershot on 5 October 1988, as winners NE/NW Dist, Qualifying 6's. The NE/NW Dist 6's were hosted by The Kings Div Depot at Strensall. Though the team started slowly with a defeat by AA Coll Harrogate and two games later against 3 LI, we progressed to the final stages as runners-up of Group B. Our sucess to this point was due to goo defensive work by **Cpl Andy Dick** and goalkeeper **Cpl Tye Sanderson**, and striking by **Cpl Dave Buckingham** and **LCpl Andy Powell**. In the semis we were drawn against the Junior Infantry Battalion, Ouston, who as winners of Group A, never lost a game. Following startling performances by **Sig 'Taff' Powell, Jim Mason, Cpls Andy Dick** and **'Shaky' Makin** the team reached the finals by winning 3—1, where we played 38 Engr Regt. In an exciting final where we were at no point ever behind, the result after full time was a 3—3 draw. Extra time was played and the score remained tied at 4—4, so the competition was decided on penalties where **Cpl Tye Sanderson** came into his own saving two out of five penalties, thereby winning the competition, our own players missing none of their allotted penalties. All of which bodes quite well for the coming season.

THE TEAM

OIC **Capt Turner, SSgt 'Mac' McMillan** (Manager), **Sgt Andy Waterston** (Asst Manager), **Cpl Paul Hubble** (Captain), **Cpls Dave Buckingham, 'Shaky' Makin, Tye Sanderson, Andy Dick, LCpl Andy Powell, Sig 'Taff' Powell, Jim Mason**. 'Man of the competition' for 8 Sig Regt—**Cpl Andy Dick**. 'Unluckiest player awared' to **Cpl Paul Hubble** who was injured in the first game but still contributed greatly from the side-lines. 'Top goalscorer'—**Cpl Dave Buckingham**, who scored in every game. Well done to all who played, but what happened to the management team's medals which, if for nothing else were earned for having to watch these nerve racking performances, which as every team boss knows only increases the chances of going bald and shortening your life-span considerably.

CHICHESTER MARCH 1988

Report by 2Lt Jeni Davey

7 August 1988 saw a team of 17 from both cadre and students sponsored by the Regiment taking part in the Royal Military Police and City of Chichester International March. Ten WRAC marched around the 25km course being pipped at the post for the ladies prize for team cohesion and uniformity by HMS *Vivid*. However their standard and morale was excellent and they ran into camp in full song, clocking a creditable time. The six man Royal Signals team completed the 40km march led by team captain **Cpl Jonno Blood. Lt Col Phil Spooner** OC Royal Signals Display Team entered as an individual and ran the 40km course in 4 hrs 17 mins which with his experience of life (we'd not dare use the words 'ripe old age') showed up the young whippersnappers' efforts somewhat!

The march was followed by a parade of teams through the streets of Chichester with the salute taken jointly by **Lt Gen Sir Peter de la Billiere KCB CBE DSO MC** GOC SE District and **Her Grace Lavinia Duchess of Norfolk** Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex. The marching and parading were finally complete 1830 hrs when **Col Phil** and **Sue Spooner** came up trumps and invited the whole team over to their house in Chichester for a celebratory beer or two.

Photograph shows the Ladies Team
Back Row L to R: Ptes Brown, Cottage, Cpls Fairbairn, Ward and 2Lt Davey
Front Row L to R: LCpl Ballington, Ptes Newhouse, Towers, Goodwin and Mangan

9 Sig Regt
BFPO 58

MTG WIN CYPRUS DRAMA FESTIVAL

Among many thriving clubs and societies in that outpost of civilisation at Ayios Nikolaos is the Mercury Theatre Group, otherwise known as The MTG. The MTG draws its small but keen membership from personnel serving with 9 Sig Regt and 33 Signals Unit, and their dependants.

For their fourth production of the year and their entry for the 1988 Cyprus Drama Festival, The MTG chose **'Abigail's Party'**, a clever play devised by **Mike Leigh**, but the work of five actors and actresses who, under his direction, created the play by improvisation at rehearsal. The Festival Adjudicator, **Mr Martyn Colborn**, attended the final performance on Saturday 22 October.

The cast is small, only five players, and for that reason they all need to be good; there is no 2nd Spearcarrier, all the roles are sizeable, and any weak link would let down the whole production. The Director, **Dick Anley**, had realised this and had cast well. **Julia Lattaway, Suzanne Gough, Tina Norman, Hugh Morgan** and **James Stamford** all turned in good solid performances which delighted audiences on all four nights.

The set too was almost piece-perfect, and from the moment the curtains opened the audience was aware that the period was the mid-Seventies. Set designer **Kev Tongs** and his team had played their part fully, and the policy for sparing no expense to get things right subsequently proved a wise move. For example, a tailor-made suit in genuine 70s style was added to the wardrobe for the production.

The play tells the story of what happens at a party in the home of **Beverley** and **Lawrence**. Also attending are a younger couple, **Tony** and **Angela**, and middle-aged **Susan**, whose daughter, **Abigail**, is having a party up the road. **Julia Lattaway** as socially pretentious **Beverley** was superb, while **Hugh Morgan** as her frenetic husband **Lawrence** who, in the climax of the play, dies, was competent and believable (in the Adjudicator's words 'a heart-attack looking for somewhere to happen'). **James Stamford** played by **Tony**, the ex-professional footballer, who is virtually mono-syllabic. **James** grunted well and his portrayal of a husband who despises his wife was a treat. **Suzanne Gough** as **Angela**, the gormless wife, was excellent, and as **Martyn Colborn** said, you could see her trying to comprehend in her cotton wool brain what other characters were saying (**Angela**, not **Suzanne**!) Finally, **Tina Norman**, as **Abigail**'s mother **Susan**, was extremely good. Her concern at the goings-on at **Abigail**'s party were etched all over her face, and made a significant contribution to the audience's belief in the event.

Audiences were very appreciative, and The MTG's loyal band of supporters were optimistic on their behalf. However, **Dick Anley**, although pleased with the end-product, was keeping the festival at the back of his mind and pronouncing himself happy if the audiences were happy.

The performance on adjudication night did not quite match the previous two nights, and the cast knew it, though there were no prompts and the audience's applause was loud and long. It was, however, with some misgivings that the cast took their places to listen to **Martyn Colborn**'s comments.

He gave an entertaining adjudication full of praise for the set, direction and acting, after which more loyal supporters became optimistic and MTG members joined in this optimism. The Director, however, usually an optimist, had heard that Dhekelia and Episkopi Theatre Club's adjudications had gone similarly well, and the Adjudicator still had two more plays to see.

It was an extremely nervous group of MTG members which gathered at the Silver Barn Theatre on the following Wednesday to hear **Martyn Colborn** announce the results on the Mark Tyley Show on BFBS. And eventually, after a run-down on all five entries (and a frustrating pause for a musical interlude), the results were announced.

The award for Best Set went to The Mercury Theatre Group with **'Abigail's Party'**.

The award for Best Actor went to **Lawrence McGinty** of Dhekelia Theatre Club.

The award for Best Actress for 'a performance that could grace any professional stage. For her sizzling light-comedy role as **Angela** in **'Abigail's Party'** went to **Suzanne Gough** of The Mercury Theatre Group.

The runners-up for the Best Production in the 1988 Cyprus Drama Festival were Dhekelia Theatre Club with 'Seasons Greetings'.

The winners of the Festival were The Mercury Theatre Group, Ayios Nikolaos, with **'Abigail's Party'**.

The delight and shouts of joy at the Silver Barn that morning had to be experienced to be believed, and baby Fern who had attended many rehearsals was so overcome with emotion (or the noise) that she burst into tears. Many well-deserved congratulations all round!

THE TICKLE AWARD FOR UNIT EFFICIENCY GOES TO 9 SIGNAL REGIMENT

The late **Mr A. J. B. Tickle**, who served in the British Army in both World Wars, left a substantial sum of money to be used for the promotion of efficiency in Her Majesty's Army. It was **Mr Tickle**'s particular wish that the money be used primarily for prizes. The 1988 Cyprus Tickle Efficiency Award has been won by 9 Sig Regt. The following is an extract from the unit citation.

9 Sig Regt 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 to participate 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.

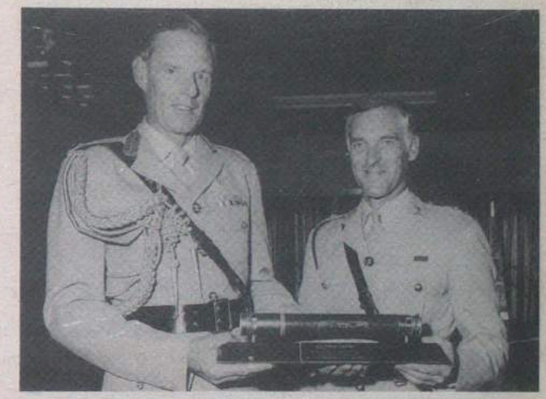
Similarly the Regiment runs an active Saddle Club and the extensive rebuild of Offices and paddocks has been undertaken and completed by members of the club.

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 Regimental wives raised in excess of £2,000 for the Great Ormond Street Wishing Well Appeal.

Despite its isolation, 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, efficiency and morale has greatly improved. This achievement is now officially recognised by the award of the trophy and cheque for £120.



Lt Col Evans receives the Tickle Award from CBFC, Maj Gen Friedberger

TRAINING WING TROPHY

There is an abundance of annual inter troop competitions at Ayios Nikolaos, most of a sporting nature. The one competition that encapsulates the military side of life is the Training Wing Trophy. This fearsome event covers as many of the aspects of military ability as possible. It is divided into four disciplines: Tickle BFT, Speed March (CFT) assault course—stretcher carry, Shooting, and Military Skills (Weapons, NBC, First Aid, Recognition).

Nine-ten man teams battle over a two day period, with each discipline being a competition in its own right, with trophies awarded. The Training Wing Trophy itself is won by an overall tally of the four disciplines.

The holders of the trophy TM Troop (1 Sqn) were keen to retain it, but due to postings and injuries its team was sadly depleted. Even their stalwart from the last campaign **WO1 (FofS) Gardner** was unavailable, apparently he was in TPMH having a pound removed from his wallet. That other Candid Troop from 1 Sqn was Comms Troop, ably led by the Yeoman of some repute **WO2 Bob Marshall**, were training hard. The reports coming in from the enemy camps were somewhat alarming as far as the Squadron was

concerned. Late night training, beer sales down, men running everywhere, things were looking grim.

OC 1 **Maj Nick Nicol** summoned the SSM **WO2 Dick Whittingham** 'Sgt Major get together a team from Training Support Troop, one that can win.' So the hotch-potch outfit was formed made up from SHQ, RHQ, QM's, MT and the secret weapon the Gym Staff. 'Cheats', went up the cry using the Gym Staff eh! Well yes we did. What was not bandied around as loudly was the fact that we also had in the team the old and bold, (two over 40's). It was this blend of fitness and guile that won the day in fine style despite the SSM's broken (well badly bruised) toe. Training and Support Tp won three out of the four disciplines hotly pursued by Comms Tp, who had the bad luck to go on day two in the rain. The Training Wing Trophy suitably inscribed has now been returned to its rightful place in the Squadron trophy cabinet with many thanks to a good team effort.

L Troop from 3 Sqn won the Military Skills section of the competition.

After the assault course the team doubles back to the start (600m) with a laden stretcher

Maj Nicol OC 1 Sqn *(left)*, receives the trophy from the CO Lt Col Evans

Cpl Barker, Sgt Preston, LCpl Netherwood, Lt O'Rourke, LCpl McConnell, WO2 (SSM) Whittingham, Maj Nicol, Sig Burt and Meredith
Missing on duty Cpl Coburn

Lt Parker L Troop receives the silver boot for winning the military skill discipline, from the CO, the RSM, WO1 P. J. Doherty, looks on

THE 12 SU WALKDOWN

The 12 SU Walkdown is held twice a year, in April and December, and there is a wide and varied entry from all over the island: young and old; the keen-and-fit who race along at top speed; and the not-so-fit who do their best.

The writer was one of the latter and wishes to point out for the record that 'Walkdown' is a misnomer. It is firstly not a walk, and secondly not down! Although the route is from Troodos to Episkopi, which sounds as though it is from the mountains to the plain, the going is tough, the terrain difficult, and there are several awesome heights to scale.

The route for some, (the writer has obviously to be included again here), is somewhat longer than the advised 18 miles. For those hot on their map reading perhaps the route was a mere 18 miles. For others a trifle longer. The Adjutant **Capt Jim Clark**, was very sensible about this. He obviously knew map reading would be all-important and took his young son, **Robert**, along with him to help him out a bit. **Robert** looks very fresh in our photo whilst the Adjutant is trying very hard to smile for the camera.

Most people had a memorable day—the scenery was beautiful and the weather extremely kind, and most people finished. Those who took part from the Regiment could be recognised for a week afterwards. All walked as though treading on hot coals without footwear; and were obviously being burned with every step!

Capt Jim Clark, Adjt is led by the hand. He finished very well with his team mates Mrs Frances Evans and Padre Kevin Sarage

1 EXERCISE MERCURY BREAK

Exercise Mercury Break is the title given to the Regiment's Summer Camp. It was decided to break the exercise into two phases, each fifteen days in total. These fifteen days were then divided into three parts, each of five days, so as to enable as many personnel from the Regiment to attend as was possible.

Lt John Aspinall and his staff prepared a non-stop programme which could cater for 80 students per five days.

The students arrived at Troodos Leave Centre to be met by **Sgt Pete Fitzmaurice**, who then allocated them bed spaces and a sleeping bag. There then followed a brief from **Lt John Aspinall** and **WO2 Paddy McConnon** on the activities and the rules for the camp. Having eaten a lunch with a difference (Compo cooked by **Sgt Kev Dyer** and his staff) the students were split into four sections. The afternoon was then spent on a round robin of various sports (Football, Basketball,

Volleyball and Hockey) which had a competitive element by having a prize (a crate of beer) for the best section. This competition was ably run by our own PT staff who having announced the winners at 1730 hrs assisted the winning team in converting the bottles into empties. After the evening meal students received instruction on Map Reading and First Aid. At approximately 2100 hrs the Naafi proved to be popular with the students who were all discussing what was in store for them on the next day.

The next day dawned bright and sunny, as usual. At 0630 hrs the first section departed for a walk around the beautiful tracks of Troodos, with the other sections departing at various times later. About two miles from the Leave Centre the sections had their first shock, because there to greet them was **Lt John Aspinall**, standing above some weird and wonderful contraptions. He had devised a Command Task, involving a death slide, a burma bridge, a low crawl and other awkward obstacles. To make it more interesting, each section had to carry a variety of items (a large oil drum—empty of course, a bucket filled with water, two ammo boxes filled with stones, four medicine balls, a log and a brush) round the course without touching the ground. These items by the way were designed to imitate a cannon and its accessories! About an hour later the sections carried on with their designated route for about three miles. They were then met by **Sgt Pete Fitzmaurice** who briefed them on the First Aid scenario. Having rescued and treated the different casualties, the blood splattered sections departed, wondering what else could possibly happen to interrupt their outing. Four miles later they found out. As they rounded a bend in the road, **Sgt 'Bunny' Hutchinson** stood on the edge of a cliff and was strapped up like a puppet. About 150ft below could be seen a babbling brook running down a lovely valley. After some persuasion and cajoling by Bunny, all students got a closer look at the brook having abseiled (some with eyes tightly closed) down the cliff face. Lunch was next on the agenda and was gratefully received with shaking hands. Having dined, our intrepid walkers followed a stream uphill for about two miles until they met **Cpl 'Smiler' Boardman** and **Cpl Potter**, who were waiting to test their Map Reading abilities. This task having been completed, the students had a straightforward walk back up the hills for about four miles to the Leave Centre, where nine hours ago they had departed seemingly in different bodies. After a shower, evening meal and a clean up of the accommodation everyone departed for Melanda beach site where a tented camp awaited. Arriving here at 2130 hrs, tents were allocated to each section and bed was a welcome relief to most.

The next two days started at 0500 hrs with PT which ensured that all the bodies were tuned up for the days events. The remainder of each of these two days consisted of Boardsailing (taught by **WO2 Dave McCreath**), Canoeing, Abseiling (not again please!), Snorkeling and Orienteering.

An early start the next morning ensured that the camp was clean and all stores were handed into the SQMS and everyone except the DS returned to camp.

Having successfully completed two more camps all DS returned to 9 Sig Regt tired but flushed with the enjoyment from a job well done.

The period prior to Phase Two brought a change of heart within the Regiment as it was decided to alter the emphasis from what had previously been Adventurous Training to Military Training with the priority being placed on navigation. To make it more interesting, one day spent on water sports was also to be included. Undaunted **Lt John Aspinall** and his team finally produced a programme which they felt sure would meet this criteria. It must be said only after numerous late nights, begging phone calls and endless cups of coffee.

Day one of Phase Two saw the students arrive at Melanda beach at about 1100 hrs and from the expressions on their faces, many thought that the Admin Order telling them to bring military kit and webbing had been a set up. However all doubts were dispelled after a full briefing from **Lt John Aspinal** and **WO2 Paddy McConnon**.

After our SQMS **Sgt Pete 'No I haven't got any' Fitzmaurice** had issued kit and sorted accommodation lunch was ready. The afternoon was taken up with First Aid instruction from **Sgt Rick Dudley** and Map Reading from **Sgt Bunny Hutchinson** ably assisted by **Cpl '50 metres' Potter**. After evening meal the video on weapons safety 'An Unthinking Moment' was shown to all students followed by instruction on the use of radio. At 1900 hrs the students (in groups of two) took part in a small navigation exercise designed to give them confidence in using a compass at night. Some gained this confidence whilst others gained the friendly banter from comrades who didn't get lost. And so to bed.

Next day started at 0445 hrs with that friendly alarm called the Sergeant Major (**McConnon** again was one of the more friendly remarks heard). This was followed by a one hours PT session conducted by **LCpl Netherwood**. After a hearty breakfast all sections departed on the 36 hour exercise phase. On arrival at Paramali village the students then had to locate various stands (Map Reading, Command and First Aid with casualty simulation), using all their map reading ability as all they had were eight figure grid references to these stands. After lunch an orienteering exercise was carried out under the supervision of **WO1 (FofS) Gardner** and **SSgt (FofS) Prince**. The course was aptly called Fos's Fumble. At 1700 hrs one could smell the aroma of hexamine as the students prepared their first meal from their 24 hour ration pack. 1830 hrs saw the start of the night navigation phase which consisted of half sections completing a ten mile route across country, passing through various checkpoints on the way. This proved quite successful for most but some found that when they reached the Mediterranean they had headed south instead of north.

By 0630 hrs all students had reached the last checkpoint by one means or another. After breakfast the sections departed for various stands (Map Reading, Verbal Orders, Fire Control Orders and GPMG dry training). At 1700 hrs the students moved back to Melanda Beach for a welcome shower, meal and debrief.

The following day saw the usual start followed after breakfast by a day on Akrotiri Ranges. The morning consisted of Zeroing SLRs and SMGs, with patrolling, Section Battle Drills and Personal Camouflage as background activities. The afternoon consisted of APWTs on personal weapons and finally all students having the opportunity to fire the GPMG. From here it was back to the beach and a well earned Barbecue with a few wets to relax.

The last day was fun day with Boardsailing, Canoeing and snorkeling the order of the day then the students departed for the sanctuary of Ayios Nikolaos. This gave the DS time to prepare for the next group to arrive at 1100 hrs the next morning.

Exercise Mercurty Break, although both phases varied, proved a resounding success as the majority of personnel from the Regiment managed to attend. It also proved that no matter what the exercise, **Lt John Aspinall** and his staff can cope. Thanks are also due to all departments who assisted in making both stores and personnel available, for without their back up the camps would not have been the success they were. Special thanks to: **LCpl Kwantreng, Sgt Sankey, SSgt Lodge, Cpls Smith and Williamson, Sig Burt** and many more too numerous to mention.

'DING DONG THE BELLS ARE GONNA CHIME'

The Royal Corps of Signals has been described as one of the most successful marriage agencies going. On Saturday 4 December there was another partnership given the ecclesiastical seal of approval as **LCpl Holdcroft** and **WLCpl Connor** tied the knot.

The happy couple with members of Comms Tp outside St Michael's Church Ayios Nikolaos

21 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

30 YEARS MAN AND COLONEL!

It was a cold and wet 26 September 1953 when **Sig 'Johnny' Haydon** reported to 83 Air Formation (now the 21st). Employed first as a Physical Training Instructor, sometimes a Lineman, our little **'Johnny'** did well. So well in fact that 35 years to the day he returned, same weather, different reception. This time it was to a Commanding Officers' and Quartermasters' top table luncheon. Somewhat different he says to his first cookhouse meal in those dim dark days.

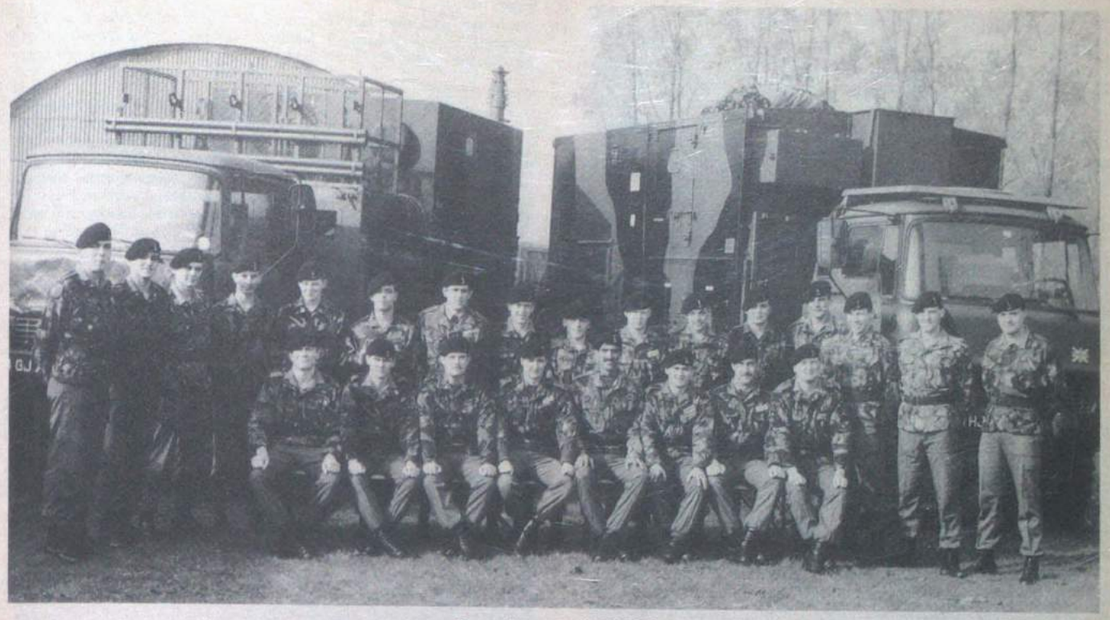
The Regiment took the opportunity of honouring **Lt Col John Haydon**'s 35 years. Now SO2 Comms Branch, HQ BAOR, he received an inscribed history of the Regiment from the CO, **Lt Col Phil Whitemore**.

It was interesting to note that most people sitting at the table had not been born when he first arrived in Wildenrath. The plaque was suitably inscribed: **'Sig J. Haydon—Lt Col J. Haydon.** 35 years and still a friend of the Regiment.

Lt Col John Haydon receives his presentation, History of 21 Sig Regt (AS), from the CO

2 SQUADRON

Against the backdrop of the windmill at Sennelager Training Area 2 Sqn are on parade. The Squadron provides the ground support communications for the Harrier Force and has had a busy year with the introduction of Single Channel Radio Access terminals and the long awaited facsimile equipments. The lower picture was taken in 1978 when the Squadron was equipped with Larkspur and Bruin. 1988 sees the Squadron with a six-fold increase in communications capacity but with less manpower! The 1988 picture was taken on Ex Hazel Flute, which was the final Harrier Force field deployment this year. The exercise was also the last for the GR3 aircraft, from 1989 it will begin to be replaced by the new G5 Harrier. Other replacements required are for **Sgts Derek Smeaton, Roy Shackleton, John Fradley** and **Steve McIntyre** who are all posted from their air support jobs to postings ranging from Norway to sunny Northern Ireland.



Troop Photograph TN038

Back Row (Left to Right): Sig Gill, Cpl Moorcroft, Sig Gittins, Leyland, Tierney, Bostock, Cpl Court, Sig Jones, Burton, LCol Maidment, Sig Henderson

Front Row (Left to Right): Cpls Tinsley, Murray, Ssgt Ramsey, 2Lt Clark, Sgt Dosmartyres, Cpls Kelman, Singer, Riley

TN 038 LIAISON VISIT TO 532 SIGNAL COMPANY (US ARMY)
Report by Cpl Andy Riley

With RSIT behind us at last, the troop was ready for a break. So 038's own **SSgt Alf Ramsey** was commissioned to jack up a demo for 532 Sig Coy at Rhineburg.

The troop departed on Monday 24 October and arrived at lunchtime. There then followed exploring patrols to all points of the Company Lines coupled with a relaxed setting up. So, with the boss to the fore, the troop made its way to the Company bar to exchange drinks, and a fine time was had by all.

Next morning and a period of 'military waiting' until the first demo at 0930 hrs. Groups of four or five at a time ranging from PFC (Private First Class) to Captain were shown the ins and outs. The demo consisted of a conducted tour of: Node Command (Noddies Castle), Switch, Central, Radio Relay and SHF. Background interests included NBC and Weapon stands.

The Americans were very impressed by the 'Sales Patter' emanating from the lads with the confidence and slickness of second hand car salesmen. The Americans were unanimous . . . yes . . . it is better than . . .

FAREWELLS AND ARRIVALS

WO2 (SSM) Terry Hughes off on promotion to be a Troop Commander in Depot Tp we wish him and his wife **Linda** all the best on his new posting and good luck with the house hunting. Replacing **Terry** is **WO2 Joe Fairbairn** having moved from his post as RQMS (Gen). Already a well known figure within the Regiment we welcome him and his wife **Jane** to 3 Sqn.

Also leaving us is Sig or should I now say **LCpl Mick Mulcaire** off on promotion to RHQ via Worthy Down from where hopefully he will return with his B2. Good luck with the course.

In his place has arrived **Cpl 'Bomber' Crayford** newly arrived in the Regiment from the frozen north (Soltau) we wish both **'Bomber'** and his wife **Petra** a happy tour with 3 Sqn.

MT NEWS

Sgt Pete Searle who has always complained of the lack of vehicles available has found his own unique way of solving the problem—he won one. Yes **Pete** was lucky enough to win a metro in the recent SSAFA draw. Well done **Pete**—any chance of getting a works ticket for it?

PERSONALITIES

Troop OC	**Capt Keith Russell**
Troop SSgt	**SSgt Steve Dobson**
Main Sgt	**Sgt Steve Brealey**
NCO i/c Projects	**Cpl Nigel Dix**
Tech Sgt	**Sgt Bill Stadius**
MT Cpl	**Cpl Geordie Brown**
Troop Clerk	**Mrs Sue Brough**

ARRIVALS

Welcome back to H Troop to **Cpl Keith Lowe** who is posted back to us after an absence of about two years in JHQ. Our other newcomer is **LCpl Steve Watkins** to our MT from 30 Sig Regt.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations go to **Cpl Scottie McLay** who received his LS&GC from **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE**, Signal Officer-in-Chief. Congratulations also to **LCpl Si Hodgson** on notification of promotion to Cpl.

3 SQN INTER-TROOP COMPETITION (FISKEL TROPHY)
Report by SSgt Steve Dobson

This year's competition was a keenly fought battle between ten teams representing the five troops of 3 Sqn. Each troop provided two teams and two stands on a (loosely) military training basis. Some were wonders of engineering construction, others were, well, not quite so wondrous. Golf Tp should be awarded a special prize for simplicity—their 'marksmanship test' consisted of throwing mud pies into a circle in the grass!

After much blood, sweat and tears, **Cpl Scouse Sartorius** led his N Troop team to victory.

Having won the Fiskel Trophy last year, H Troop decided to enter only the Tug-of-War this time, which of course they won, with Coach **Cpl Bob Hindle** at the helm. Watch out next year—H Troop may put in their 'A' team and win back the Fiskel Trophy!

VISIT OF COMD COMMS BAOR

As part of a 3 Sqn visit, Comd Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen P. R. Davies** made a (literally) flying visit to H Troop. After being met by OC H Troop, **Capt Keith Russell** and **SSgt Steve Dobson**, the Comd

H Troop Warriors of the Tug-of-War Competition with CO Lt Col P. Whitemore

Maj Gen P. R. Davies, Comd Comms BAOR looks on as Cpl (Tea pot) Hindle points out the finer details of interior decorating

comms was whisked around RAF Bruggen to see the men at work. **Maj Gen Davies** was surprised to see a joint H Troop/RAF Regt digging team at work, headed by **LCpl Si Hodgson** on a works order for the RAF Regt. The visit also took in **Cpl Steve Griffiths** and his intrepid Project team **Cpls Scottie McLay** and **Neil McKenzie**, who explained (through interpreters) what goes on in Standby ATC. **Cpl Bob Hindle** and **Sig Wilbur Wilson** briefed **Maj Gen Davies** on the Comms in a hardened aircraft shelter. No sooner it seemed did the Comd Comms arrive than he was whisked away to JHQ again.

K TROOP PERSONALITIES

Tp OC	**Capt M. D. Bailes**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt R. Taylor**
Maint Sgt	**Sgt S. Moore**
Project Sgt	**Sgt G. Gillings**
Mt Cpl	**Cpl J.T. MacGillvray**
Tp Storeman	**LCpl N. A. Bowers**
Tp Clerk	**Mr T. Johns**

ARRIVALS

Since our last report we welcome the following: **Cpl Brian Wilson**, and his wife **Christine** and family, and **Cpl Robert Carter** and his wife **Mandy**.

POSTINGS

We have said a sad farewell recently to **Sig 'Rab' McPhail** to Depot Tp 11 Sig Regt prior to his discharge from the Service and a new career in 'Civvy Street'.

VISIT OF 855 SIG TP (V)

As part of their annual deployment to BAOR the Troop recently hosted 855 Sig Tp (V) at RAF Wildenrath during the period 18-23 September 1988. This deployment was a great success particularly on the social side which was highlighted by a visit to H Troop at Bruggen on Tuesday 20 September 1988 for an Inter-Troop 'Games Night'. Once again the genius of **SSgt Dick Taylor** and the sporting might of K and 855 Sig Tp (V) resulted in the demise of H Troop and their visitors (a sad day for the premier airfield!). We look forward to the return of 855 Sig Tp (V) to sunny Wildenrath next year. Now it's back to the grindstone and thoughts of ARU, etc, . . .

N TROOP

Since last submitting wire notes Gutersloh has been the usual hive of activity.

VISITS

In August we had a visit from Commander RCZ **Brig Palmer**, who seemed to enjoy his visit to this Airfield.

Commander Communications BAOR **Maj Gen Davies** flew in to see us on 11 October and met the Troop at their various work locations.

Sgt James briefing Brig Palmer on the Records Computer CO and OC 3 Sqn look suitably impressed

OC N Troop Capt Gary Mason welcomes Comd Comms BAOR to RAF Gutersloh

Projects SNCO Sgt (Steve) Gerrish briefs Comd Comms BAOR on a current project

857 AIRFIELD TROOP

Another very successful attachment by our TA Sig Tp, who produced their usual excellent standard of workmanship. The games night was keenly contested and this year we won it on the Moonlight Tug of War, better luck next year 857.

FAMILIES KARTING DAY

Sgt Hill our RAF(G) and BAOR champion organised a families karting day, which turned into a grand prix. The wives and girlfriends showed some of their menfolk a clean exhaust and **Maria** our Troop Administrator won the ladies prize. The men's prize was eventually won by **Cpl (watch my smoke) Parrett**. He was pushed all the way by **LCpl (Fragle) Longden** who tried a short cut through a brick building and destroyed himself and the Kart.

We are pleased to report that the Kart is fixed and Fragle is on the mend with the help of crutches and physio. The Karting was followed by an excellent barbecue organised by **Freda Gerrish** and ably assisted by her husband **Sgt (Mr Project) Steve Gerrish**.

KARTING

Sgt Phil Hill has retained his title as RAF(G)/BOAR 100cc National Karting Champion for the third consecutive year.

Competition this season has been tougher than ever, with more drivers on the grids, hence this year's championship was not decided until the final round.

Phil's main rival **Cpl Steve Pauls** of 230 Sqn RAF Gutersloh proved to be a strong challenger throughout the season, however he had to settle for second place five points behind **Phil.**

Sgt Phil Hill also competed in the RAF Individual Championships held at RAF Little Rissington in July, this event is open to all three Services, ex-members of the RAF and dependents of RAF personnel. Some 45 drivers competed in this year's event and at the end of the day's racing **Phil** was second overall and first in the Association Cup for non RAF personnel, thus proving to be one of the top Service Karters.

In October Laarbruch Kart Club organised a Three Hour Endurance Meeting, all BFG Karters were invited together with four teams from RAF UK. This being a team event ie two drivers per Kart, **Sgt Phil Hill** teamed up with **Cpl Steve Pauls**. The winners would be the team who completed the most laps during the three hour period, Pit Stops, hopefully only being necessary for refuelling, minor adjustments and driver changes.

Sgt Phil Hill on his way to winning the RAF(G)/BAOR Karting Championships for 1988

CAVING

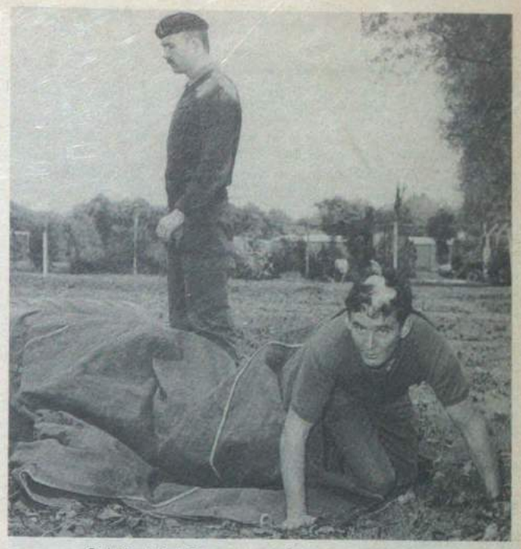
(A Report by the BAOR Caving Secretary)

Cpl (Can I go to China) 'Budgie' Parrett, our not so young caver, has been away a few times this year so far.

A quick weekend with **Lt Richard Smith RAOC** from Dulmen in Belgium in the Ardennes area near Marche-En-Famenne.

Two caves were visited but the weather was too wet to do the caves that had been planned. A good weekend apart from the traffic down. Two weekend trips to south of Stuttgart area with some German friends who were very useful for local knowledge and a complete change of scenery and a chance to improve Anglo-German relations. Two quick day trips to a cave in the Paderborn area which was quite muddy and rather tight for some of the larger members of the Troop, ie **Sig 'Quasy' Meade**, now a Mister. It is hoped to use this a few more times to enable more people in the Troop to have a go at caving.

Also a week in the Harz mountains for Exercise Carpet Backstop, sponsored by 13 Sig Reg and organised by **Capt Plumb** which involved taking some cavers to the largest cave in this area called the Jettenhöhle, which is not technically difficult, except to discover how one gets out of it. Another week was spent assisting **Lt Wendy Smith**, attached to 49 Field Regiment Royal Artillery, prepare and



Cpl (Budgie) Parrett practising for his caving

demonstrate caving as an adventure training package for the 1(BR) Corps adventure training study period in the Harz mountains. In the near future **Cpl Parrett** is going to Sardinia for two weeks to teach caving to personnel from 40 Field Regiment Royal Artillery.

FISKEL TROPHY 1988 (INTER TROOP COMPETITION)

This event was again held at Wildenrath and we travelled down to do battle with the RC Airstrips. We recovered from the journey and as the afternoon progressed the competition was more closely fought. H Troop were, of course, expecting to win again and thought all their practice sessions would pay, but the lads from the front line showed their true grit and snatched the trophy from the RCZ for the first time.

The Tug of War produced a surprise with our team getting to the final and giving a very creditable performance. It goes to prove 'the clothes don't make the Team'.

WELCOME

We would like to welcome to the Troop **Cpl Mark Bullivant** and his wife **Joanne, Cpl Keith Bailey** and his wife **Margaret, LCpl Ron Hirst** and hope you all have an enjoyable tour at Gutersloh.

Fiskel Trophy Winners 1988

Standing Left to Right: Sig Evo Evans, LCpl Charley Farley, CO Lt Col Whitemore, OC Tp Capt Gary Mason, Cpl Scouse Sartorius

Kneeling Left to Right: Sig Andy Collyer, LCpl PT Gradwell

22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

CHANGEOVER OF SQUADRON COMMANDER

Thursday 17 November 1988 saw the departure of **Maj T. R. 'Geordie' Gainford** OC for the previous twelve months having been the QM(T) for three years before. Anyone who knows **Maj Gainford** will be aware that his departure would not have been a quiet affair. The first farewell function was a Squadron Party held in October in the Winston club when he was presented with a wooden shield showing all the cap badges within the squadron.

An Officers' Mess Dinner Night was held on 11 November 1988. The Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs of HQ Sqn held a farewell lunch on 15 November in the Sergeants' Mess where the OC was presented with a clock. The final party for **Maj Gainford** was a send-off by the Rugby Club held on 16 November 1988, **Maj Gainford** and his wife **Brenda** leave with our best wishes for their future in 8 Sig Regt.

We welcome **Maj Peter Cain** (ex 259 Sig Sqn) as the new OC. **Maj Cain** is accompanied by his wife **Jean**.

Our photograph shows **Maj Gainford** (left) handing over the OC's bike and the chain of command to **Maj Cain**.

DIVING EXPEDITION TO ELBA

Whilst the Regiment was at Battle Camp, **WO2 (SSM) Mike Duffin** (SADS), **Sgt Alan Owen** (SADS), **Cpl Steve Munday** (Dive leader) and **Sig 'Geordie' Martin** (Dive leader), were asked by 49 Field Regt RA to assist them in their forthcoming diving expedition, at Lacome Beach, Elba. **Sgt Alan Owen** was left in Lippstadt to make sure the rest of the expedition members made it safely there. Unknown to the advance party, the truck carrying all the diving and admin equipment broke down three hours out from Lippstadt and had to be recovered. **Cpl Ray Louden** (REME/Novice diver) and **Bdr Steve Harper** (RA/Novice diver) worked through the night to put the wagon on the road again. This gave the advance party plenty of time to recce dive-sites around the island of Elba. Eventually the rest of the expedition arrived, camp was set up five minutes from the nearest beach, and all the equipment was prepared for the following morning's training dives.

For the next two weeks diving varied from shore and small boat diving, to exploring wrecks and doing a couple of night dives. The weather was very kind, steadily improving as the days went on. The sea was crystal clear, with a variety of fish, most of the divers came across squid and got the opportunity to see some coral.

The expedition was a complete success with 49 members obtaining their Novice Diver qualifications. **Cpl Steve Munday** and **Sig 'Geordie' Martin** gained the necessary practical skills to qualify as Advanced Divers.

BAOR TRIATHLON COMPETITION

Team: **SSgt Hall, Cpls Brown, Day, Smith, LCpls Johnson, Harland** and **Sig Doyle**.

The Triathlon this year was hosted by 4 Fd Regt Royal Artillery stationed in Osnabruck. The Competition took place over one day, starting north of Osnabruck and ending in Osnabruck at Roberts Barracks. It involved an 800m swim in a lake, followed by a 23km cycle course and ending in a 10km run. Altogether a very arduous day for all competitors.

The team had put in a great deal of effort over the preceding three weeks and was hoping for a good result. Finally the great day dawned and the starting pistol announced the swim across the lake, or rather the mad dash to reach the first marker buoy. This was the area where we were going to make up time and indeed we did. Led by **SSgt Hall** they were ready to mount their bikes and cycle off into the sunset within eight minutes.

The cycling stage was to prove the difficult one for most riders, but the ream managed to make up a few places ready for the run. In fact all the competitors in the team were placed in the first 30.

And so finally to the run, not an easy task after 25km on a bike but again the team held together well and we emerged with **SSgt Hall** in sixth position overall and the other two members of the A-Team in the first 20 giving the Regiment second place overall. A good all round effort from the team who faced some stiff competition.

Triathlon Team
Left to Right: Sig Doyle, LCpl Harland, Cpls Day, Brown, SSgt Hall, Cpl Smith, LCpl Johnson

3 ARMOURED DIVISION TRIATHLON COMPETITION

Team: **SSgt Smith, Cpls Brown, Day, Smith, LCpls Johnson, Harland** and **Sig Doyle**.

The competition involved a 800m swim across the muddy Mohnesee, followed by an up hill and down dale cycle around the area ending with a 10km run starting and finishing at 3 ADSR.

The race began with all competitors stepping into a lake to shiver and shake before the beginning but they were not made to hang around for long and they were soon ploughing their way through the water. Our first man out of the water was **SSgt Hall** in eighth position clearly followed by **Cpls Brown, Day** and **LCpl Johnson**. Bringing up the rear were **Cpl Smith, LCpl Harland** and **Sig Doyle**.

However, the main thing was that the team was reasonably high up in the field and packed tightly. This improved their position over the cycle race which left only the grueling 10km road run. By this stage the team was leading but being closely pressed by 3 RPR. We managed to hold on, thanks to an excellent performance by **SSgt Hall**, coming in sixth position.

So the team retained the cup they had won the year before and **LCpl Harland** won an award as best placed junior. Let's hope we can win it next year.

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj John McIntyre**
2IC	**Capt Dave Wright**
OC A Tp	**Lt Graham Deans**
OC C Tp	**SSgt John Smith**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Handibode**
FofS	**WO2 Tony Amplett**
YofS	**SSgt Bill Ruthven**
SQMS	**SSgt John Gadston**
MT SNCO	**Sgt Roy Gratton**

EXERCISE STERLING SHIELD II
B COMPANY
Report by Cpl Mark Bristow

1 PLATOON A SECTION

3 September saw B Coy forming as a sabre ensemble of three

B Coy, 1 Platoon. Pln Comd SSgt John Smith

platoons for the first time, consisting of four sections from 1 Sqn, one section from 656 (Fwd) Sig Tp and three sections from 4 Sqn. Company seniors were: Coy Comd—**Capt** (The oldest player around) **Dave Wright** (1 Sqn), 2IC—**SSgt Clive Sears** (4 Sqn), SSM—**SSgt (YofS) Bill Ruthven** (1 Sqn), OC 1 Pl—**SSgt John (Eagle) Smith** (1 Sqn), OC2 Pl—**2Lt Mike Stevens** (First Week) (2 Sqn), **Lt Graham Deans** (Second Week) (1 Sqn), OC 3 Pl—**Lt Guy Ashton** (First Week) (4 Sqn) and **2Lt Ashley Stocker** (Second Week) (2 Sqn).

0800 hrs saw us on parade and 1345 hrs saw us well on our way to Vogelsang and the war paint (cam cream) being put on. We debussed and immediately got into all round defence, only to be told by SSM **Brian Cullan** to get back on the bus!

Ex Shakedown then began, abseiling 90ft down the side of a dam, then crossing the lake, paddling like mad, under the watchful eye of **SSgt Mick Lloyd-Williams**, then a little walk up a hill or two to shake the cobwebs and Lippstadt dust from our bones. We knew we had arrived. Sunday saw us refreshed on the anti tank weapons and the SA80.

Monday 5 September saw the camp starting for real. B Coy had drawn the short straw, and was the first to go onto a three-day NBC exercise. We debussed about a mile from the area we were to defend. A tactical move in, saw us in all round defence guarding a missile site. Then the DS hit us with gas, 'NBC Black' was called. Dig in lads shout the DS. NBC shelters everywhere, 'OK' came the reply and when the first pick struck the ground it rebounded near our head. Nine hours later (the DS kept us on our toes by the odd attack) and our NBC shelters were nearly ready, well some were down 6ft others digging on rock were down 3ft deep. All this in NBC kit. When the trenches were finished food at last, but no, more gas, again, again and again. Not only gas upon gas attack but the boss receiving orders from the DS had us patrolling and defending.

Tuesday saw us doing NBC potted sports. This was not only a competition but was designed to show us how hard it was to work in full NBC. Sewing buttons on, loading a truck and even being led by a blind man?

The third day in one of the warmest Septembers for years saw one of the enemy running out of the wood shouting 'Fire Fire Fire' so the complete platoon opened fire with everything it had, only to be shouted at by the boss because there was a real fire. Well we didn't know. This changed the Company from defenders to firemen in one go (still in full NBC). We then sat in our trenches for a couple of hours while the Nuc Sentry did his bit. Have you ever been in a Trench in full IPE? After another couple of gas attacks it was time to embus and go back to Vogelsang. Never knew showers could be so good.

We then went on to the range phase, firing, defending and attacking on every range in Vogelsang broken up by two days of runs, log races, assault courses and normal potted sports.

The next three days saw us tabbing mile after mile, defending an area then more tabbing. Then came the night of the OP. 0430, on a wet cold night (where's all the warm weather we had during NBC?), we arrived in our OP area soaked to the skin. We lay in wait for two long hours when suddenly (yes 2 Sqn again) arrived and waded deep into our weeds. Not a move by anyone, orders to observe and report back to the Coy HQ. Enemy come, enemy go, one even came so close he walked on **Sig Barny Barnetts** rifle muzzle but we lay very still, not a breath, not a flinch. The enemy seem to be looking for us and here I am counting the lace holes in his boots. Then as slowly as they came they went again. With us on this OP was **Rfn McIntyre** with an SLR.

Days came and days went, with no sleep for the wicked. Then the final push in Company strength. Our Pl Comd was taken out again by the DS. Think they had it in for him. Then suddenly the end was in sight, well at least the DS base was. Vogelsang '88' never to be forgotten by those who attended it.

2 SQUADRON
CO's DAY

The Squadron looked forward to this annual event which followed battle camp at Vogelsang. The day incorporated routine work, with **SSgt Gary Annets** ensuring plenty of work for all.

The big day arrived, the Squadron paraded on the square for CO's inspection. The SSM **Martin Smith** demonstrated his ability to motivate men. The inspection of vehicles and equipment got under way with each inspection team following one another around demonstrating their ability to ask the same question six different ways.

RSIT

The CO's inspection day gave us a week to rectify problems before RSIT. The visit is one of the highlights of the year. So after some extra hours of work on the vehicles we felt ready. Unfortunately the RSIT seemed to have moved the goal posts yet again. We are now preparing for next year!

FIRST SUMMIT

This was the last exercise of the year for the Squadron led by **Capt Clark** of battle camp fame.

On testing the shots **Sig York** attacked a garage roof with a mast while driving under it. During the exercise **Cpl Pete Longworth** found that if your vehicle rolls backwards it usually causes large dents and broken windscreen in the vehicle following—it did!

Node 031 hosted the 1 (BR) Corps Comd Node Commander during the week. 013 under command of **Lt Tony Urwin** was used for 'obvious reasons', so he was heard to say.

DANISH VISIT

An exchange visit to Denmark was organised in October, and a reciprocal visit during November. On the visit to Denmark we took part in Assault courses, navigation, and day and night and communications. The Danish Unit was very hospitable and the social calendar was full and enjoyable. We hope to extend the same courtesy when they visit us. The football match was won 4—3 by them but we are determined to put that right!

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to: **SSgt (now SSM) Leighton** to 4 Sqn, **SSgt (now SSM) Handibode** to 1 Sqn, **Cpl Delany, LCpls 'Taff' Cox, Howard, Wood, Sparrow** and **'Scouse' Mallane**.

DEPARTURES

A fond farewell to: **SSgt Bud Abbot** and **Sue**—7 Sig Regt, **Sgt Andy Minvalla** and **Gaby**—30 Sig Regt, **Sgt Terry Carter** and **Moira**—8 Sig Regt, **Cpl Mark Ginwood**—19 Inf Bde Sqn and **Cpl Chris Childs**—2 Div Sig Regt.

FOCUS ON 3 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Rick Coueffin** (Canadian Signals)
2IC	**Capt Bob Dobson**
OC G	**2Lt Mick Stevens**
OC H	**Lt John Fraser**
OC I	**Lt Gordon Anderson**
SSM	**WO2 John MacKay**
YofS	**SSgt Kev Parker**
FofS	**SSgt Paul Cooper**
SQMS	**SSgt Bob Hill**

Various exercise commitments, adventure training in Bavaria, parades etc have all been undertaken by the Squadron, with varying levels of enjoyment.

We welcome a new Squadron Commander, **Maj Rick Coueffin** (Canadian Signals).

There have been many farewells but only a few hello's so we say goodbye to **SSgt Mick Lloyd Williams** who has taken up the post of Estate Warden in Hohne, **SSgt Kirwyn Gilder** who is posted on promotion to Hong King, thanks from us all. We wish you and your families the best of luck in your new appointments.

3 SQUADRON
EXERCISE INDIA INITIATIVE

In October India Tp departed for Holland to take part in an initiative exercise near Amsterdam. The exercise was devised by **Sgt Al Owen** and consisted of the Troop being split into four groups each with a subject to research and a visit to organise. The subjects chosen were diamonds, flowers, cheeses and dykes.

The visit to the worlds largest flower auction organised by **Cpl Kev Tyson** was memorable. The building, the size of 50 football pitches, was full of flowers.

The exercise will be remembered for the excellent visits to the diamond polishing factory, the museums, the friendliness of the Amsterdam population, the canal leaping of **Sig Rus Shields**, the **Jaques Costeau** impression of **Cpl Billy Brunton** and that wonderful PT at 0700 hrs.

3 SQUADRON
INTER SQUADRON CROSS COUNTRY

The Inter Squadron Cross Country took place at the Eringerfeld on Friday 7 October 1988. It was an enjoyable and challenging race. Around 270 entrants took part, a variety of keen volunteers and those press ganged into it. There were two categories, juniors and veterans. The weather was fair, but dull with a hard wind in some places and a light rain shower at the start of the race to wet the entrants. The 4½ mile route through Eringerfeld provided a very challenging event with some interesting scenery.

The race finished with a long funnel and a few spectators to cheer the runners in. First across the line was **LCpl Carl Davies** of 3 Sqn, followed by **WO2 Les Wood** of HQ Sqn and then **2Lt Smith** of 3 Sqn. First veteran was **Maj Kemp** the 2IC. The Squadron was declared the winner (yet another cup for the cabinet).

3 SQUADRON
EXERCISE STERLING SHIELD

OIC	**Lt Fraser**
2IC	**SSgt (YofS) Parker**
SSM	**SSgt Samm**
SQMS	**Sgt Brown**

Ex Sterling Shield was the Regimental Battle Camp.

We started with a 48 hour warm up exercise which resulted in the majority getting cold . . . and wet. It consisted of a one way river crossing followed by abseiling off a dam to get back (**Capt Dobson** was heard to say 'those not wanting to abseil can always jump'). For the next 24 hours we applied old low level tactics and learnt new ones. At the end of this period we were given our 'Pep talk' by the 2IC and left to tab in to Vogelsang Camp. Things did not slow down however as we had to get ready to deploy on Internal Security (IS) the following morning.

For the next three days we were shot at, bombed, compromised, ambushed, observed, captured, interrogated and generally given a good time.

At the end of three days we emerged tired but victorious with some valuable lessons learnt by all. Did we really leave that much equipment behind?

After a good night's rest we began Ex Achilles Ache, the title given to a series of exercises designed to test physical ability. These ranged from 'Pull the Cart', an exercise akin to Geoff Capes trying to pull a lorry to the traditional log race. **Sig 'Mac' MacDermott** gained popularity by asking if we could to it all again.

Phase 4 was NBC and feared by many with good reason. By this stage rumours were abounding. We wondered why **Sgt Mick Licence** was smiling. The answer was, he knew the programme. We started by digging three-man battle trenches with overhead over. **SSgt Nigel Samm** decided Rugby was more to his liking and left **SSgt (YofS) Kevin Parker** and **LCpl Wilf Wilford** to decide who would be at the back of the trench. The weather remained true to form with temperature in the 70s. Oh where was the rain? **Sig Eddie Waring** proved that where there's a will there's a way by being able to snore into a gas mask within five minutes of being attacked. A variety of tasks were carried out, such as loading and unloading a four ton vehicle, sewing for beginners (how do you lick the cotton with a gas mask on?).

Finally the phase we had all been waiting for, the Ranges. True to form . . . it rained. We had the traditional christening of newcomers to the Regiment firstly by trying to crush them under tanks and then letting them have their revenge by throwing Molotov Cocktails.

We had shooting from a vehicle on the move. There was the 84mm training, at which **Sig 'Killer' Skilling** set the standard by an exhibition of weapon handling second to none. We had hands on experience with the SA80, at which even the old and bold managed to do well.

Unfortunately all good things come to an end, only the Smoker and the results were outstanding. The Smoker was . . . like all Smokers. The results . . . C Coy took all the prizes.

Best Shot	**Cpl Keith Dowber**—C Coy
Best Section	Bravo Section—C Coy
Best Platoon	2 Platoon—C Coy
Best Company	C Company

4 SQUADRON

PERSONALITIES:

OC	**Maj Bob Carter**
2IC	**Capt (soon to be Adjt) Ian Dudding**
2IC	**(des) Capt George Odling**
OC J	**Lt Bob Munro**
OC K	**Lt Andy Scott**
OC L	**Lt Guy Ashton**
SSM	**WO2 Keith Leighton**
YofS	**SSgt Ron Perry**
FofS	**SSgt Mick Uttley (welcome back)**
SQMS	**SSgt Clive Sear**

FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

Since our last issue we would like to say farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Bill Hutton** who leaves us on posting to the UK for his last six months. We wish him well and hope he is successful on his LSL application. The Squadron would also like to wish a warm welcome to our new **SSM Keith Leighton** and his wife **Kim**—welcome aboard.

EXERCISE ROMAN BLEEP II

This was the Squadron's reciprocal gesture to the Italians for their hospitality in August.

'**Selection of hosting team**—easy' 'Our 2IC **Capt Ian Dudding** does nothing all day and **SSgt Mick Brown** looks Italian anyway—selection process over'

Well early on Sunday afternoon, 2 October five Italian Officers and five Warrant Officers arrive at Lippstadt Bahnhof after a short 27 hour journey from Bari southern Italy. The weather was glorious but short lived. Settled them into their respective messes and allowed them to catch up on sleep.

Next day with a comprehensive programme under our arm and a gleaming white mini bus hired from 4 ADSR PRI we met the Italians and were ready for action. Quickly **Capt Dudding** becomes known as Stirling Moss (because he was good looking and intelligent I think), and **SSgt Brown** as Nicky Lauda. We move off. A full day was spent looking at our Ptarmigan equipment which impressed the Italians especially its immaculate presentation and cleanliness. The cost of this equipment and the rank of the individual in charge surprised them.

Tuesday saw an early rise and a journey (with death packs) to the Inner German Border (IGB). As they alighted from the bus in full Italian SD there appeared on the horizon an East German Border Guard with his binoculars, 300mm Macro zoom lens, note book and radio. Within 6m of the Italians, the guards focused in with their cameras, much to the amusement of our guests. Interest was shown in the large box we produced from the mini bus which contained more individual white boxes—but it only contained—good old British packed lunches'. We munched happily. On leaving, our guests were heard to say 'Bella', but we weren't sure if it was the food they were commenting on.

Wednesday saw us visiting Koln which was very enjoyable.

Next day, Thursday, a visit to 49 Fd Regt RA in the morning and instruction and live firing of the SA 80, SMG, LMG and 9mm Pistol by **WO1 Mick Hanlon** in the afternoon our guest **Colonel Mansi** fired the 9mm pistol.

The Roman Bleep II party (with Captain Ian Dudding and SSgt Mick Brown) awaiting transport to watch live firing (Scorpion & Chieftain) on Range 7B at Hohne

1 RTR Visit Hohne Ranges
Roman Bleep II
Left to Right: Lt Di Lollo, SM Di Dubbioso, Capt Amodio, SM Barbone, Mllo Grande, SM Di Santo, Lt Col Mansi, Sgt Russo, Lt Tirino, Maj Trombetta
(D Sqn 1 RTR Chieftain in the background)

Friday was our longest journey when we visited 1 RTR live firing on Hohne ranges. On arrival we found ourselves suitably perched on top of a 432 Ambulance pounding up the ranges behind a Scorpion chasing moving targets. Without the aid of ear defenders it all became too much so we reverted to speaking in sign language; why hadn't we thought of this before? On arriving back at range control, totally deaf, we were directed round a corner to an awe inspiring sight of D Sqn Chieftains waiting to go forth into battle. We watched an excellent display by the tanks with cameras recording the spectacle. **Lt Fraser Budd** of D Sqn looked after us admirably and fed us in the field on chicken and chips. On leaving the RTR we paid a visit to the Belsen Bergen Concentration Camp and later looked around Celle with its beautiful buildings.

The next day provided an opportunity for shopping in Sennelager and Lippstadt. In the evening a party in **Capt Dudding**'s house which lasted well into the early hours of Sunday.

At 0600 hrs the bus was waiting with **Capt Dudding** as driver to go to Dortmund to catch a train to Amsterdam. This day must have been the wettest on record; just the ticket for sight-seeing in Amsterdam. **SSgt Brown** kindly collected the small party on their return to Dortmund much later that evening.

10 October, this saw us visiting our sister German Regiment here in Lippstadt, 7th Fernmelde Battalion. This produced an interpreter's nightmare—German to English, English to German, Italian to English, German to Italian—and communications diagrams to boot, need I say more? Nevertheless it was very worthwhile and the Battalion did us proud.

Pinerolo Brigade Plaque
Presentation
CO Lt Col G. J. Barrett receives the Brigade plaque from Lt Col A. Mansi

In the afternoon a splendid visit to 3rd Regiment Army Air Corps in Soest where our guests were treated to a spectacular bombing run in a Lynx over the Mohnesee and a quick buzz of Lippstadt Station.

Next day saw another long bus ride (**SSgt Brown** promised to stay awake and map read) 'maybe' I heard one of the Italians say, 'it would be better if he slept'! This was our visit to 28 Sig Regt in the field during exercise Canary Caper. An excellent look round our NATO Communications was arranged by **Lt Col Chubb** the CO and was much enjoyed by our guests. The communicators amongst them were quite taken aback with the multitude of equipments used. Their meal in the field was warmly received and the presentation of a Battalion plaque showed their gratitude.

Wednesday, and a free day for sight-seeing. In the evening, we had a collective get together in the Sgts Mess with the Regiment's key personnel, arranged by the RSM. This was a farewell, and presentation of a Regimental painting suitably inscribed to our visitors. The presentation was made by our CO **Lt Col G. J. Barrett**.

A Meeting with our Commander Communications **Maj Gen P. R. Davies** on 13 October rounded off a most pleasant and rewarding visit.

A very big thank you to **SSgt Brown** who, despite some of the comments made, did in fact work extremely hard to make this visit a big success.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR

UNIT NOTES

SHORT

28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
BFPO 35

Confusion At The Officers' Mess Photograph

Back Row, L to R: Capt Rod Gladwin, Lt David Chattaway, Capt John Floyd, 2LT Jacky Foster, Lt Davis, Lt Mick Davis, Capt Vic MacDonald-Evans of Denovan

Middle Row, L to R: Lt Debbie Wheatley-Price, Capt Nick Keen, Capt John Phillips, Capt Mike Law, Capt Chris Millard, Capt Martin Corcoran, Capt Keith Jones, Capt Brian Peel, Capt Carol Lee

Front Row, L to R: Maj Andy Bowering (Standing), Capt Jack Cowen, Maj Peter Robinson, Capt Andy Trimble, Ralph, Maj Bob Drake, Maj Alan Evans, Maj George Clark, Maj (Retd) Stephens

NOTES FROM RHQ
By Cpl Robertson

This period's report from the RHQ has been graciously delegated to me, as it has been decided by those above that I am not as busy as I could be. Something like that anyway.

Regular readers will have been a little confused when reading last issue's notes from RHQ, 'What, no workers in RHQ Personalities?' I hear you ask! Well, listed below is the revised list of RHQ Personalities:

Comd	Lt Col Brian Chubb
Ops Cpl	Cpl Robbo Robertson
	(Stand-in: Dep Comd, Chief Clerk, APVRO, ORS, ORC)

Now that the formalities are out of the way, and those who merit a mention have received one (and the Editor's scissors remain in his drawer), readers will now be fully aware of who the workers are.

FAREWELLS/WELCOMES

The Headquarters recently said a sad farewell to **WO1 (RSM) Tom Ponton** and his wife **Maria** and wish them all the very best in their new unit (Cadet Training Team shh!). A warm welcome is extended to **WO1 (RSM) Bob O'Hara** and his wife **Maureen**.

CANARY CAPER

The recent reorganisation of the Operational role of the Regt resulted in the disbandment of 'Sunny Diamond'. However, the vital elements (Offrs' Mess, Sgts' Mess and CP 28) were salvaged from the gripping hands of the SQMS Sp Sqn, **SSgt Alec Turner**, and amalgamated with Support Group. The AAdjt, **2Lt 'Figgy' Foster**, on her first exercise, thoroughly enjoyed herself, the Fig Rolls, and the Commander's Jaffa Cakes. Quote of the Exercise:

2Lt Jacky Foster: 'I can't go next door, I'm here for visit programmes only.'

Miss Foster's 'umbrella' will be auctioned off for charity at her tourex, shortly!

ROUTINE MATTERS ETC

WO1 (FofS) Pete Johnson has received the Commander's Congratulations for succeeding in his 'Battle of the Bulge'. Pete, the slender trendy guy, has submitted a request to the Editor asking to be considered for the award of the 'Wire Slimmer of the Year Competition'.

Sgt Peter Street is welcomed back to the Regt following his two short four week tours in sunny England and Krefeld Education Centre.

1 SQUADRON

Those who run the show are:

OC	**Maj Alan Evans**
2IC	**Capt 'Corky' Corcoran**
SSM	**WO2 Les Jackson**
FofS	**WO2 Tom Sharp/SSgt Norman**
YofS	**WO2 Mick Chapman/SSgt Wally Bacon**
Alpha Tp	**Lt 'LA' Wheatley Price/SSgt Smithson**
Bravo Tp	**Lt Dave Chattaway/SSgt 'Extras' Thompson**
SQMS	**SSgt John Gibson**

ALPHA TROOP

The members of Alpha Tp would like to extend our good wishes for the future to two recent departures from the tp, **SSgt 'JJ' Jackson** and his wife **Jenny** and **Sig 'Scouse' Parr**, who is starting a new life in Support Sqn. We would also like to welcome the following new members into our Tp: **SSgt Smithson, Sgt Geoff Head, Cpl Murphy, WCpl Castledine, Sig Brown** and **More**. We would like to congratulate **Cpl Wightman** and his wife on the birth of their daughter **Therese**, and **Sig Morley** and his wife on the birth of their baby daughter.

NEWS FROM THE STRONGEST TROOP IN THE REGIMENT—BRAVO TROOP

With the recent announcement that Bravo Tp is the strongest Tp in the Regt, it was decided to celebrate it in the only way we knew. So, after ridding ourselves of our hangovers, we set about work in the Regt with our usual humour. Bravo Tp attacked the Squadron military training week and ended it on top with the best section, led by none other than **Sgt Guy Whitfield**, and his merry band of soldiers.

As usual there have been comings and goings within the Troop. We say goodbye to: **Sig Brice, LCpl McGrath** and **LCpl 'Wendy' Bendal**.

We would like to welcome the following to the tp, **WCpl Dawn Phillips, Sig 'Ian' Botham, 'Fred' Pontin** and **LCpl Hughes**.

We wish them all the best of luck in their new surroundings.

EXERCISE CANARY CAPER 3

To round off the year, as far as exercises are concerned, 1 Sqn deployed on Exercise Canary Caper 3. For Bravo Tp this exercise meant being located in a wood somewhere in the RCZ. Once in location, and after the usual manhandling of generators into position, the communication phase started with the Corps detachments pouring in thick and fast just waiting for this illustrious tp to complete its engineering. Within hours all of our circuits were in and working. Even TARE Bravo worked smoothly, which is more than we can say for TARE Alpha!

With communications sorted out it was time to open the floodgates of this truly multi-national Regt to visitors. Amongst others that visited Switch Bravo were ten Italian officers and SNCOs, some American officers and, to top it all, we had three Major Generals visit us in two days.

WLCpl Woods and **LCpl 'Dusty' McGrath**, both of whom received their promotion to LCpl in the field from different Major Generals. The photograph shows **Maj Gen P. R. Davies**, Comd Comms BAOR, presenting **LCpl McGrath** with his newly acquired rank.

2 SQUADRON

OC	**Maj Andy Bowering**
2IC	**Capt Brian Peel**
OC Oscar Tp	**Lt Mark Davis**
OC Papa Tp	**Capt Carol Lee**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Barry Lewis**

OSCAR TROOP

Having the role of 'monitor' this year means that Oscar can concentrate more on military training. This really showed itself on the Squadron training exercise at Grobbendonk camp, where Oscar Tp teams roared to victory in almost every event. There was something for everyone at battlecamp. If you were a member of the BLF or a bugs bunny fan, then concurrent range activity may not have been your scene, but you could enjoy pleasant early morning jobs or soothing your weary body in the comforting waters of 'the lake' (reputed to bring life back into the sick, lame and lazy).

Safely back in camp now though, and a return to barrack routine, or is it? There seems to be a strange sensation of childish excitement through the rank and file. Some say that Father Crhistmas has the same effect every year, but I think that deep down inside themselves, nobody can wait for the next Regimental Leaf Day.

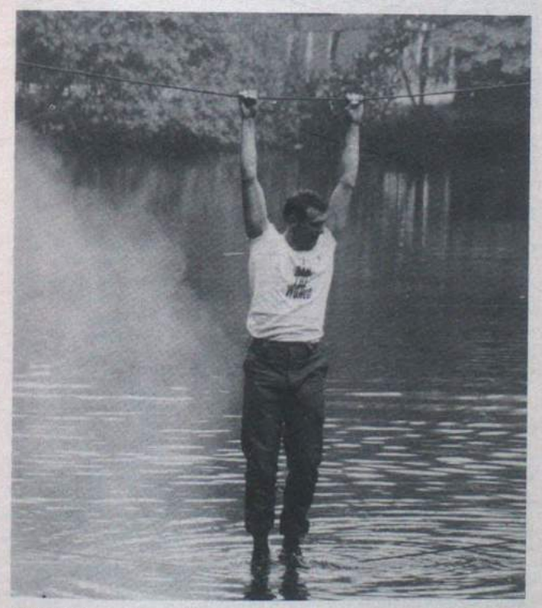
PAPA TROOP

It has been sometime since Papa Tp submitted an article which is a direct reflection of just how busy the troop has been recently. On 3 September the troop had a party, partly as a farewell to certain members of the troop and partly because it was thought that it was about time the troop had a social get together. The party organised by **Cpls Giles** and **Damen** was a great success and more are already in the pipeline.

October saw the culmination of the intertroop competitions which was quite rightly and in all fairness easily won by Papa Tp. It was essential that the troop won the competition as the Commander agreed to allow the troop to wear their brand new troop sweatshirts on Commander's PT on Tuesday and Friday mornings, if they won.

During the third week of September the Squadron departed for six days of fun and enjoyment at a lovely little camp site in Belguim called Grobbendonk. All the normal activities took place, plus a couple of new things, such as a river crossing on a normal 11mm climbing rope which was carefully positioned over the lake so that the heavier members were sure to get wet.

With autumn descending upon us the hard working Papa Tp Leaf Team can be seen busily going about its leaf patrol with their new leaf barrow complete with flashing light and siren. Leaf clearing will never be the same again.



Lt Mark Davis, just using the top rope to steady himself—honest. 'Can young officers walk on water!'

LCpl 'Ginge' Morgan fighting his way across a shark infested moat—he now has only 39 seconds left to save the world!

The OC Sqn, Maj Andy Bowering instructs Cpl Jowitt in the art of self defence

The Admin Cell, *L to R:* Sgt Aklaw, Sgt Thomas, LCpl Edwards

SUPPORT SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj Peter Robinson**
2IC	**Capt Keith Jones**
SSM	**WO2 Bill Woodmason**
Clerk	**Cpl Scouse Bayley**

FAREWELL TO MAJOR JACK BOYLE

On the 23 September 1988 the Officers, WOs and SNCOs of the Squadron dined out **Maj Jack Boyle** and **Shirley** prior to their departure to Blandford.

An excellent night was enjoyed by everyone, with amusing speeches from **WO2 (SSM) Bill Woodmason** and the guest of honour during the presentation of various gifts to mark his farewell.

COMMANDER'S INSPECTION

On the 7 November 1988 the Commander descended on the Squadron for his annual review, starting with a full Squadron Parade of vehicles and men on the Regimental Square, to the strains of the Corps Band being played in the background on the Sgts Mess Disco. The Squadron was then marched off to the gym where **RSM Tom Ponton** and his team entertained themselves by checking that everybody's SOP Kit was not only packed, but that all items of clothing actually fitted.

Various other inspections and visits took place during the morning, rounding off with lunch with the Commander for all the Officers, WOs and SSgts under canvas behind the Regimental Restaurant. At 1400 hrs it was back on Parade where the Commander briefed **Capt Keith Jones RPC** and **SSM Woodmason** of his surprise for the afternoon. The Squadron then performed various military tasks, from an afternoon stroll followed by an obstacle course, to vehicle fault finding and wheel changing. These tests were performed in sections, ably led by **Sgts Ruben Lynch RPC, Steve McCourt TAOC, Ginge Dickson REME, Mick Arnold** and **Dean Marshall**. The final performance of the day was **Maj Boyle**'s production of refreshments for the Squadron in the Rugby Club before he was escorted to the main gate hanging from the back of the recovery vehicle, and deposited in his white Volvo. All ranks of the Squadron wish him and **Shirley** all the very best for the future. A final word from the scribe to welcome our new Squadron Commander **Maj Peter Robinson** and his wife **Andrea** to the fold.

Lt Col B. Chubb interrogates Sig Castaldi during the Commanders Parade. Maj Jack Boyle and Lt Mick Davies practise restraint

Keep your unit notes

SHORT!

NEWS FROM VICTOR TROOP

WRAC Superteams—sounds like something Mike Tyson would compete in! This was the initial thought. However, after reading the itinerary of the day's event, a great sigh of relief was shed by the 'nominated' team captain, **WCpl Naylor**. A team of eight competitors, one reserve and one official had to be found, and with gentle persuasion the Victor Tp team was formed.

On 31 August 1988 Victor Tp, along with ten other competing teams, assembled at Rheindahlen Army Gymnasium to receive their brief. The theme of the day was to bring WRAC from within BAOR/Berlin together for a 'fun-day'. The team had to compete in eight events, which were as follows:

Variety Relay (skipping, egg and spoon, etc), Track Running (Steve Cram style), Swimming, Lilo Race, Shopping Trolley Race, Dribble Basketball, Gym tasks, Obstacle Course.

The girls from Victor Tp, all eager and raring to go, took part in the first event, with all their effort proving worthwhile: after the results were announced Victor Tp was in first position. This gave the team encouragement for the seven remaining events. After four events we were lying in fourth place. More encouragement was swiftly brought onto the scene when the OC **Capt Floyd** and 21C **WO1 Skelton** arrived. Tactics were discussed and 110% effort was instilled in the team. We were sure **WO1 Skelton** would have participated if she had only remembered her tracksuit and trainers! After the final event of the day had finished we sat around eagerly awaiting the results. The announcements were made and Victor Tp came third. Needless to say we were jubilant: it was no easy task against such stiff opposition. We had won a bronze medal, kindly presented by Comd WRAC BAOR and Berlin, **Col Kelly**. A quote from **WCpl Jansen** summed up the day 'it was worth the loss of a treasured finger nail to see the Signals girls coming in the top three. We will go for gold next year'.

WRAC Superteams
Back row *L to R:* Cpl Mackay, Pte Fitches, Cpl Jansen, Pte Samuel
Front row *L to R:* Pte Allan-Burns, LCpl Kerr, Ptes Collyer, Joyce, Cpl Naylor

EXERCISE ODIN-BACKSTOP 1988

CREWS:-

	Boat No1 (Shearwater)	Boat No2 (Petasus)
Skippers	WO1 (FOFS) Johnson	Capt Peel
Mates	Capt Cowen	Gnr Brown
Crews	WO2 Roberts	Cpl Hymas
	LCpl Clark	Cpl Smith
	LCpl Green	Sig Oxborough
	WPte McAuley	Sig McMenamin

After last year's very successful adventurous sailing expedition to the East Baltic **WO1 (FOFS) Pete Johnson** decided to organise another one for this year. This was to be somewhat different in that two boats were to be used: a Sigma 33 from BKYC and the Royal Signals Yacht 'Petasus'. The aim of the expedition was to introduce as many novices to the challenge of off-shore sailing, within the waters of the West Baltic.

It was a well balanced party of novices and experienced sailors which arrived at the BKYC at Keil in the late afternon on 5 July. Both yachts were taken over, and the job of storing kit and rations quickly completed. The next few hours saw both skippers teaching and showing the novices the basics of sailing, safety and boat husbandry.

Crew of Shearwater relaxing at Halmstad
Left to Right: Capt Jack Cowen, WO1 (FofS) Pete Johnson, LCpl Dave Green, WPte Bev McAuley, WO2 Martin Roberts and LCpl Ade Clark

Sig Oxborough, 'Stukie' McMenamin and Cpl Jeff Hymas of Petasus uner a well filled spinnaker

Due to the predicted wind conditions not being favourable for the planned route, that evening saw both skippers and mates hastily planning alternative routes, while the rest of the crews spent a few hours practising their sailing knots in the club house.

Both crews were up early the next morning and ready to sail by 0830 hrs. A few minor faults on Petasus, however, delayed the departure from Kiel until 0930 hrs. As both yachts sailed out of BKYC and headed for the first port of call, Middlefart, a good south-westerly 3-4 was blowing. An excellent sail was had by both yachts until 2100 hrs, when the wind died completely and both were forced to switch on engines. Up went the motoring cones, and to the delight of the crew of Shearwater, Petasus hoisted hers upside down. Due to the lack of wind both yachts headed for the port of Assens for the night. Assens was finally reached by the early hours of Thursday 7 July .

The next morning both yachts slipped Assens by 0830 hrs and with a good south-westerly 4 blowing, Middlefart was reached by lunchtime. After lunch both set sail for the port of Juelsminde, and were alongside by last light. Here both crews had their first experience of having to raft up alongside other yachts.

Both crews awoke to a fine and sunny morning the next day, with a good south-westerly blowing. This is when Shearwater and Petasus parted company as Petasus was only available for 11 days. Petasus headed for Arhus, Shearwater headed for the port of Grena.

The crew of Shearwater had a very pleasant sail to Grena, coming alongside at 2000 hrs. Those on Petasus however did not: a couple of miles out of Arhus they ran into a bad squall and had their first taste of entering a harbour under sail with a good wind blowing. They managed to berth without any problems but it was a very wet crew that came alongside that Friday night.

Saturday morning saw both yachts on their long sails to Sweden: Shearwater to Falkenberg via the island of Anholt, Petasus to Hoganas. With a good south-easterly 4 blowing, progress by each yacht was excellent. Shearwater's crew on arriving at Anholt practiced anchor drills before having some lunch. During lunch and with the wind increasing to force 5, **WO2 Martin Roberts** was heard to say to the skipper 'who's put the sails up?' A count of heads by skip 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 'That's all of us'. 'Well, who is sailing us past the beach then?' Anchors dragging!! So it was all hands on deck, anchor up, and continue the journey to Falkenberg. The sail into this port provided an excellent opportunity to introduce the novices of the crew to sailing on sector and leading lights. Shearwater finally came alongside the yacht jetty at 0100 hrs on Sunday morning.

Petasus' long hop proved to be another good sail with its crew experiencing running before a good win with a heavy swell. They finally made Hoganas by 2300 hrs.

Sunday morning saw both crews up early and away to their next ports of call by 0830 hrs; Shearwater heading for Halmstad and Petasus to Copenhagen. The weather was excellent, a little too hot for some, but with a good steady 2-3 blowing, progress was very good and both yachts reached their respective ports by early evening.

A late start on Monday for those on Shearwater, to allow crew some time to do a bit of shopping, etc. When she finally slipped harbour at 1300 hrs the weather had deteriorated. With a strong south-westerly 6-7 blowing, with main reefed and wetproofs on, the crew enjoyed an exciting few hours sailing in some very high seas. By 1600 hrs however the wind had dropped. This lull did not last long however, with the skies darkening with storm clouds once more, Shearwater was hit by a very bad squall. With the wind blowing in the region of force 9 or more, the second reef was put in the main and the No1 jib changed for the storm jib. Life for the fore-deck crew was anything but dull at this point!! Although the squall lasted no more than 30 minutes, a lot of water had found its way into the cabin area, soaking sleeping bags and personal belongings. It was a very wet crew and damp yacht that came alongside at Hoganas at midnight.

Petasus also ran into the same storm on her journey to the port of Linham. To the great relief of her crew she reached the shelter of port by 1800 hrs, under storm jib and two reefs, soaking wet, minus one or two bits and pieces, but safe.

After a very damp night's sleep, especially those on Shearwater, both crews awoke to a warm and sunny morning. The opportunity was taken on Shearwater to dry out those items that were still wet or damp from the day before. The crew of Petasus slipped Linham early on Tuesday and headed for their next port, Stubberkobing. Sailing weather was good until they were 20 miles from port, when they were becalmed and the engine had to be used. Shearwater finally slipped Hoganas at 1900 to allow for a night sail to Malmo. After quite an uneventful trip, in comparison to the one a few hours before, they arrive in Malmo at 0500 hrs next morning. The rest of the day was spent enjoying the sights of this most interesting city.

Wednesday 13 July saw Petasus being able to fly her spinnaker for the first time, as she made her way from Stubberkobing to Bagenkop Harbour.

Thursday 14 July: a sad day for the crew of Petasus, as it was their last day of the trip and so they headed back to Kiel. For those on Shearwater the memories of the storm of a few days before, flashed before their eyes as they slipped Malmo for Rodvig. The weather forecast predicted another south-westerly 6-8, however, although the conditions were bad, they never deteriorated to those experienced before. Last light saw Shearwater coming alongside. Again rafting-up was required which proved a little more difficult than most other places, since yachts were rafting-up six to eight deep around the harbour.

The next few days saw Shearwater's crew enjoying some fine sailing weather as they continued their journey from Rodvig, calling into the ports of Stubbekobingand, Kosor and Faaborg. The highlight of the leg to Kosor was the opportunity it gave the crew to put up a spinnaker for the first time. Conditions remained so good for spinnakers that they were able to use it for 30 miles.

The final passage to Kiel on the 18 July started with the motor on but about four hours out of Kiel the winds returned and an excellent final sail into BKYC was achieved.

CONCLUSION

All members of both yachts thoroughly enjoyed the exercise. It had been very hard at times, especially when conditions got tough and uncomfortable, but all had learnt to live with these conditions. The yacht Shearwater covered over 500 miles in 13 days while Petasus some 400 miles in 11 days. A great success for an expedition with novices making up two-thirds of each crew.

EXERCISE FRAN BACKSTOP

by Sgt Colin Warnes

Expedition personnel: **Capt 'Boss' Keen, SSgt Dave Orange, Sgt Colin Warnes, Cpl John Daveron, WCpl Jayne Little, LCpl Sean Morgan, Sig 'Geordie' McKay, Lee Croxton, 'Bruce' Forsyth** and **LCpl Anne Pocklington.**

From a cast of hundreds, 10 unlucky individuals were chosen to participate in a months adventure training in the wilderness of Alberta, Canada. These unfortunate volunteers were forced to get up at the crack of dawn on a Sunday to be transported to RAF Gutersloh for the short flight to Calgary via Iceland. After nine hours facing backwards in an air conditioned tube, what started out as a dream became reality when we touched down at Calgary International Airport. After hiring our transport, we headed into Calgary to find ourselves a campsite. By the time we reached our home for the next few days the temperature was a cool 31 degrees. The three days in Calgary where used to purchase essential equipment and arranging future activities. A little time was available for some sight seeing which was put to good effect at the Olympic Park. On Wednesday everything was completed and we headed off into the deepest, darkest depths of Canada's forbidding Rocky mountains.

Our first stop was Kananaskis Country to prepare for our first mountain assault, which was to be Mount Laurie, better known by its Indian name Yamnuska, which rose to a height of 7,300ft. That same afternoon was spent at Wasootch Slabs checking all the expedition equipment and personal climbing skills, or lack of them as was the case with a few of the group. The following morning saw us conquer our first mountain. However, the going was not as easy as it at first looked. During certain stages of the saault the party was broken down into smaller groups and roped together for safety. It took us five hours to reach the summit and the view across Canada was breathtaking. The descent took a little over three hours and was made all the more exciting by being able to 'run down' a 1,000ft scree slope. It is an exhilarating feeling running almost too fast down a moving rock river.

The following day was our first encounter with Canada's rivers. Before us lay the Bow River and its rapids, and between them and us a rubber raft which didn't look big enough to get us all in. After a few tips on safety and what to do if we fell in we took the water. Sitting on the side of a rubber paddling pool watching the rapids approaching definitely got the heart beating a little faster than normal. Before there was time to think, we were in them trying not only to stay in the boat but paddle the way we were told. The further down the river we went the more exciting it became. The first victims were the Boss and **Jayne Little,** who seemed to leave the boat in slow motion and disappear underneath it. Not satisfied that only two had fallen out, our guide **Mike** decided on a game of rock-a-bye-raft to ensure we all got a taste of freezing cold water.

After this little piece of enjoyment it was back to the serious work and Mount Rundle. This mountain towers 9,750ft above the old trading town of Banff. The trail to the mountain was a relatively steady climb until we reached the face. The rock here was very brittle and this made the ascent very difficult indeed. Although we were all trying very hard, the progress was very slow. We almost lost the Boss when his foothold gave way, thankfully the safety rope was in place. After five hours continual climbing we had only reached about 8,000ft and the route to the top looked somewhat dangerous. The descent was as bad as the ascent and after a hard day's work we could not claim a triumph.

Two days activities were lost because of torrential rain so we moved on towards the glacier at Lake Louise. The walk to the glacier was 12kms, but we were carrying bergens laden with all the required equipment and two days supply of food and drink. Once on the glacier, which he then told us is nicknamed 'Deathtrap Glacier', **Dave Orange** taught us to use crampons and ice-axes. Watching an expert slide down an ice slope using only an ice-axe as a brake and actually doing it are two different things. However everybody had a go, having immense fun. **Colin Warnes** earned himself the nickname of 'ice-dancer' for the way he moved around the ice like a fairy. After finishing on the nursery slope, **Dave Orange** showed us the slope we had to walk up to get to the Abotts Hut; 2,000ft of a 50-60 degree slope would be a shock to anybody's system. The rain that had lost us two days haunted us here as well, the slope was covered in four inches of snow and the going proved extremely difficult. A pattern of 20 paces, pause, 20 more paces were established, with the leader only doing a maximum of 100 paces before somebody else took over. This doesn't sound difficult but was extremely tiring and it took over three hours to reach the hut. Needless to say, after a meal everybody hit the sack. Next morning we headed for Mount Victoria. The weather was definitely not being kind at that moment. The wind was whistling through the pass and the temperature only just six degrees. As we climbed higher the clouds began to cover the mountain tops and visibility deteriorated rather rapidly. We managed to reach 10,500ft, but this time couldn't find the actual summit. Going back down the glacier was an experience all of its own. Because of the snow cover we were able to sit down and become human sledges. By raising our legs off the snow we were able to get up a good speed. After that the walk back to Lake Louise was a long slog.

From Lake Louise we headed for Bow Lake and the Peyto Glacier. The lake was a vivid blue and like most lakes and rivers, was crystal clear. After following the river bed for 10kms we had yet another climb as bad as 'Deathtrap Glacier'. Once at the top, Bow Hut was not far over the glacier. It stood there looking rather like a loaf or bread conveniently placed in the middle of nowhere. Unfortunately for us the following day was a white-out and we had to spend the whole day in the 'Hovis'. After being stuck indoors it was nice to get out into the sun and head for St Nicholas Peak. The first part of the climb was an ice-wall. The 'ice-dancer' made it to within 6ft of the top before demonstrating a new version of the twist all the way to the bottom. The remainder of the climb was made difficult by the conditions but this time we did make it to the summit. Below us the Peyto Glacier stretched for miles into the distance and we got the first view of the afternoon walk to the Catherine and Peter Whyte Hut.

Our second experience at the hands of the rivers was to be a trip down the North Saskatchewan rapids in open canoes. This experience turned out to be far more hazardous than the raft. Only two people in a canoe designed for five meant more hard work and a lot of co-ordination. **Sean Morgan** and **Geordie McKay** had immense difficulty in getting the canoe to do what they wanted, while **Colin Warnes** and **John Daveron** decided to spend more time in the river than the canoe. Our two girls however managed to cope admirably with the river until disaster struck one rapid from home and **Jayne Little** was left standing in the fast flowing water waiting for a knight to rescue her. Another new experience which all but one of the group enjoyed.

The next two days were to be spent at a more sedate pace. We had been talked into spending two days on the back of a horse, following the trails that the cowboys used to ride. It turned out to be a somewhat pleasant experience, lost in the Canadian out-back with only the scenery, birds and animals for company. Most of the horses behaved well, that is expect the 'purple peril' that **Geordie McKay** had been given. He had even more trouble with the horse than the canoe and was glad, at the end, to get rid of it.

Our final expedition was to Mount Assiniboine, at 11,880ft the second highest mountain in the Canadian Rockies. As with the previous expeditions we had to walk some 25kms to the mountain hut itself. On the first day we covered 18kms and camped for the night in the shadow of the mountain before our ascent to Assiniboine Hut to prepare for the climb. On day three we rose at 0400 hrs and prepared with a feast of porridge and beans before leaving the warmth of the hut at 0500 hrs for the hour's walk to the foot of the mountain. Six members of the group were to make the last ascent of our Canadian tour in temperatures of four below freezing. The ascent was extremely tough and the rock was so brittle that in places it fell off when too much weight was placed on it. As we climbed higher into the snow and ice the weather started to deteriorate by the minute. By 0950 hrs we had reached a vertical ice field and with our relative inexperience and ever worsening weather conditions it was decided that it was too dangerous to carry on with the attempt. Disheartened, we returned to our camp and the next day walked the 27kms back to the start point.

Our time in Canada was now almost finished and all that was left was time for sightseeing and getting the last minute presents that those at home had ordered. After four weeks of hard work and immense fun it was finally time to return to Germany.

Capt Nick Keen leads half the group onto Victoria Glacier above Lake Louise on their way to Abbots Pass

Sig Lee Croxton leads the team across the Wapta Icefield towards the Peter Whyte Hut at 8,200ft

LCpl Sean Morgan leads the team down from the Summit of Mount Victoria with Sig Lee Croxton behind him

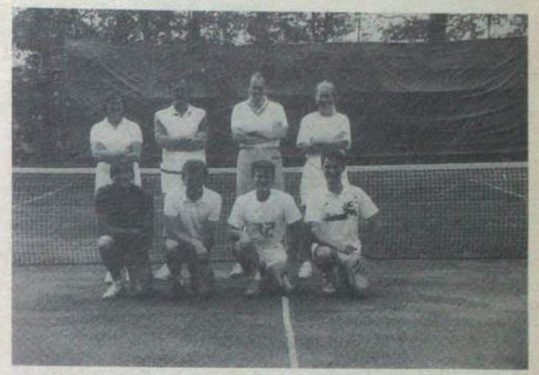
TENNIS

1988 saw a revival of tennis within the Regiment with the following players forming the squad: **Lt Col Brian** 'I just can't seem to get my ground strokes right today' **Chubb, Capt Carol** 'Oops, sorry Colonel' **Lee, Lt Debbie** 'The Boss' **Wheatley Price, Sgt Paul** 'I can't start badminton until the tennis season is over' **Lamplough, Cpl Colin** 'What game is this anyway?' **Ward, LCpls Dave** 'I bought the socks to match the shirt' **Coleman, Alan** 'What do you mean this shirt is too small?' **Hall, Olly** 'My best game is really hockey' **Jay, Andy**'Ma'am, will you buy us a crate if we win this one?' **Jones, 'Geordie Maughan** and **Martin** 'What do you mean I'm laidback?' **Taylor.**

The Regiment was represented at all the Royal Signals and Army Championships of the year, reaching many semi-finals and finals and obtaining the following wins: **Lt Col Chubb** and **LCpl Coleman**—Unit Doubles, Royal Signals Corps Championships, **LCpl Coleman**—Plate, BAOR Open.

In the RCZ league the Regiment finished third. In the BAOR Army Cup the Regiment won the RCZ division, but lost narrowly in the BAOR semi-final.

During the season **LCpl Coleman** was selected to play for RCZ in the Inter-divisional championships, and at the end of the season **Lt Col Chubb, Capt Lee, Lt Wheatley Price** and **LCpl Coleman** were all selected to represent BAOR in the annual interservice match against RAF Germany. BAOR won all the trophies and all participants from the Regiment were awarded their BAOR colours—a fitting end to a successful season.



L to R: Capt Carol Lee, Lt Col Brian Chubb, Sgt Paul Lamplough, Lt Jessie Wheatley Price. In front LCpl Jones, Cpl Taylor, LCpl Hall and LCpl Coleman
The team at the R. Signals (BAOR) Championships

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30 Sig Regt
Blandford Camp

EXERCISE OPAL MERCURY

Ex Opal Mercury was a contingency communication exercise involving 30 Sig Regt and Tactical Communication Wing RAF Brize Norton.

The areas used were Penang in West Malaysia and Singapore, with main headquarters established at Butterworth Air Base. Most of the equipment eventually arrived at the air base in C130s, while the majority of passengers flew to Penang civil airport in a VC10. Here, they were met by an extremely bronzed looking SQMS, **SSgt Ian Duncan** sporting a natty little number 4 haircut. Following an enlightening tour of downtown Butterworth, the Malaysian bus driver deposited his load at the Air Base.

Once the equipment had arrived at the Air Base, it was quickly sorted and communications established. A number of HF outstations deployed into the Malaysian mainland to Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh and towards the Thai border. This gave the crews an excellent opportunity to see the 'real' Malaysia away from the cities. **Sgt Warburton**, jungle fighter extraordinaire, arranged for two periods of jungle training whilst **Capt Jon Dakin**, also sporting a smart number 4 haircut, arranged three cultural visits to Thailand.

Also living on Butterworth Air Base was a company of soldiers from the Royal Australian Regiment which uses Malaysia for jungle training. The Company Rugby Australian Regiment who use Malaysia for jungle training. The Company Rugby Team thrashed the British Best 25 rugby players but entertained us afterwards with an excellent barbecue. The Brits returned the compliment next day out in the mid day sun by giving a demonstration soccer match.

Sgt Greg Lowis from the Royal Australian Regiment briefs the lads from 30 Sig Regt during jungle warfare training on Ex Opal Mercury in Malaysia
L to R: Sig 'Taff' Hennessy, Sgt Greg Lowis RAR and Sgt Ted Warburton

Capt Jon Dakin and his 'motorbike' on R&R in Malaysia

The exercise ran well, and the Tri-Service Headquarters soon gelled into a cohesive unit. The young operators were able to work on many different types of equipment and gained valuable operating experience in a tropical environment.

Maj Andy Whiddett, the Exercise Force Commander, had a pleasant surprise when he landed at Butterworth with the Advance Party. Whilst making an official visit to see **Wing Commander Graham**, the Officer Commanding Australian Forces at Butterworth, **Maj Whiddett** received a signal informing him that he had been awarded the MBE. This was an excellent way to start what turned out to be a very good exercise.

EXERCISE CYGNET WAVE
by SSgt (YofS) Marriott

Ex Cygnet Wave was a 2 Sqn HF Commex which took place in locations throughout the UK over the period 17—21 October.

The aim of the exercise was to practise Sqn tradesmen in the construction and use of various skywave antennas and was followed by a traffic and det drills phase. To obtain maximum benefit from the exercise all participants spent a day in the classroom to revise antenna theory, frequency preditions, BATCO and voice and Tg procedures. Det comds were then briefed on the requirement for the skywave antenna tests and tasked to produce oral orders for their particular link. To ensure continuity an Officer or SNCO deployed with each of the dets at Blandford, Okehampton, Colchester, Inverness, Dundee and Ouston.

The deployment went almost without incident until en route to Inverness **Cpl 'Tock' Tocker's** vehicle decided to suffer from a cracked cylinder sleeve at Blackpool. The vehicle had to go into workships for repair and much to the approval of his DS and Tp OC **Lt Dave Robson**, the communication task was carried out in true operator fashion using dismounted equipment from under a poncho.

Prior to deployment **SSgt (YofS) Dave Marriott** was told by **WO2 (SSM) Gerry Knight** that a route card was not required for Ouston Camp as it is quite clearly marked on the map. Satisfied, after checking the map he deployed with **Cpl Guy Lewendon** arriving at Ouston (as marked on the map) in the early evening. Those of you who have been to Ouston Camp will know that it is actually 30 miles north of Ouston Village. After an 8 hour drive from Blandford and a fruitless search of the village the words uttered when the truth dawned are unprintable!

With all dets in location, the antenna tests were carried out; these included gauging the efficiency of various types of HF skywave antennas, height and gain tests and performance comparisons of Clansman braid, copper wire and D10.

During the comparison tests an anonymous person was heard to say that if a piece of D10 provides good communication he would sign on for 22 years. Much to his surprise it did, but he cannot be found to sign the papers!

Having finished the antenna tests the next phase was to establish an all informed net. Radcon was established at York with **Cpls Rob Allen** and **Paul Sutcliffes** detachments and **SSgt Colin Whawell, Sgts Bob Goode** and **Steve Welding** as watchkeepers.

Once established the net was kept busy with drill traffic. **WO2 (FofS) Campbell Morrison** in an effort to visit as many detachments as possible and to get himself in the Guinness Book of Records managed to cover a thousand miles (in a hire car no less) in a two day period. The last detachment to be visited was **Cpl 'Tock' Tocker** and his crew **Sig Oz Faramus** and **Sig 'Toots' Tuten** packing up ready to move!

BATTLECAMP NOTES
by Sgt Roxburgh (alias Heavy Henry)

As a new member of the Regiment and Training Wing I was asked if I would put pen to paper. Ex Cygnet Trek 12 took place during the period 31 October—1 November 1988 at Westdown Camp on Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA).

Now for those who may say 'it's only down the road', Westdown was not our primary choice, it was a long way down the list due to lack of other accommodation, but it was the only location available for the dates required.

The players for the battlecamp were settled into seven sections, and accommodated in the luxury dormitory condominiums by **SSgt Smith** and his merry men **Cpl Tony Sherwin**, and **LCpl** (Trival Pursuit Champion) **Chapman**. Once accommodated the sections were given a grand tour of the exclusive Westdown Camp delights by (SSI APTC) **SSgt Goodwin** and his gym staff.

The two week period covered many activities and to mention them all in detail would be too lengthy so I have highlighted the points of interest. The following were the main training activities.

FIGHTING IN BUILT—UP AREAS (FIBUA)

This was conducted at Imber village by **WO1 (RSM) Pete Haywood** and his merry band of DS enemy, and battle simulation provided by **SSgt Bob Johnson** from 36 Engr Regt RE. The majority of troops who participated had no previous experience of FIBUA and therefore the training was new and hopefully exciting for all concerned. We were given an entertaining scenario by the RSM, which brought a smile to the face of **Maj Pete McGann**, the 21C.

LIVE FIRING SECTION ATTACKS

An activity again not normally practised in normal military skills, until one reaches the heights of the SSgts course, this phase was conducted by **WO2 (CSM) Hampton** of the 1st Bn RRW assisted by our own **WO2 (SSM) Gerry Knight** and **Cpls McLaughlin** and **Jimmy Frew**. The sections now know 'it ain't as easy as it looks' and again thanks to the DS who assisted in making this training possible.

GRENADE RANGE

Due to the heavy Regimental commitments on Ex Opal Mercury we were in the fortunate position of being able to offer at least two grenades to each soldier who came onto the grenade range. It must be said that this was largely due to **WO2 (RQMS) Eddie Marsh** whose procurement efforts have not been equalled since. We know all too well that one grenade per man is a feat, but two each . . . Well! Once again our thanks to **WO2 (CSM) Harry Hampton** and the acting abilities of **Cpls McLaughlin** and **Frew** on the demonstrations. A gentle reminder at this stage to **LCpl (Kev) Varley**, you must remember 'Don't throw the pin and hold the grenade but rather, pull the pin whilst watching the action, throw the grenade and watch where it lands. Shout 'Grenade' and finally get down! **Capt Harry Lund**, the training officer, was not a happy Teddy Bear.

LEADERSHIP/COMMAND TASKS

These were conducted by **Lt Philippa Owens** and **WO2 (SSM) Chris Edler** and were in themselves a very valuable exercise. Three completely different types of command task were presented to each section, and I am sure all would agree the experience gained was invaluable. It's amazing how rope, empty 50 gallon oil drums and planks of wood can be so testing!

COMBAT SURVIVAL

Oxtail, Mushroom and Chicken soup are out! In is 'Nettle Soup'. Do you know the difference between poisonous fungi and edible fungi? 'No'?, nor do I, but I know a man who does. This was the case when you passed through the skilled hands of **WO2 (SSM) Chris Edler**. The SSM taught almost anything from edible vegetation to snaring and skinning of rabbits all washed down with lashings of nettle soup. The tasty delights of 'al fresco' cooking took on a whole new meaning when the sections passed through this activity.

Cpl Andy Armitage foreground, Sig Brookbank in the middle and Sgt Hallett, DS in rear, approaching Imber Village

L to R: Cpl (Rob) Allen, Sig John Camp and (Oz) Faramus 'Wot, no enemy here'?

48 HOUR COMBAT EXERCISE

This phase was organised by **Lts Dave Robson** and **Paul Graham**. It covered many aspects of the military skills, and the weather during this period was at its worst, the temperature dropping below −4°C. Whilst digging during the section defence phase, the REME section found an anti-aircraft guided (or misguided) missile, and **LCpl Robbo Roberts** uncovered a rather large mortar shell. The Training Officer muttered a few well chosen words before with-drawing everyone to another area; yet another ATO inspection! During the attack phase of the Combat Exercise, **Lt Dave Robson**, whilst actuating a 1.5 Para illum flare, found to his cost the stem of the plastic casing broke in two on ignition and did considerable damage to his hands, thankfully he has almost fully recovered. We wish him well in his new post in Cyprus and recommend him to any training establishment being an officer with 'Hands-On'! experience.

THE DYERS CUP

It is the custom that during battlecamps the sections for a trophy presented to the Regiment by the Worshipful Company of Dyers; this camp was no exception. **Dr Peter Tomson** (Prime Warden) and **Mr James Chambers** (Clerk) represented the Dyers; they visited the stands which were testing the sections on the final day for the Dyers cup Trophy. **Sgt** (Heavy Henry) **Roxburgh** explained the difference between battlefield first aid and peacetime first aid to **Dr P. R. v. Tomson**, whilst testing a section. The overall winning section was commanded by **Cpl (Andy) Armitage**, well supported by **Cpl 'Taff' Cadwgan** and **LCpl Henry**. Well done guys, an excellent effort.

GENERAL NOTES

During Ex Cygnet Trek 12 we had a visit from the Deputy Commander 2 Sig Bde, **Col M. J. C. Galloway**, and we believe he enjoyed his day out, although there were times when he was seen to cover his face whilst being driven around the locations by **SSgt** (Ivor Ruts!) **Hughes**, who is considering next year's Lombard RAC Rally, we'll try to do better next time Sir!. It is with regret we had to say farewell to the Regt 2IC, **Maj Peter McGann** at the end of the battle, good luck in your new post at MOD, we will miss you. Thus ended battlecamp, the do's and don'ts, the wills and won'ts until the next time.

EXERCISE ALPINE CYGENT (MARITIME ALPS)
by Lt Robson

OIC	**Lt Dave Robson**
2IC	**Lt Paul Graham**
Instr	**Cpl Mick Stanyer**
	2Lt Robin Tarling
	Cpl Bob Vowles
	Cpl Kev Booth
	Cpl Ritch Cookson
	Cpl Mick Ginty
	LCpl 'Brommers' Bromley
	LCpl Dougy Douglas
	Sig Jona Jones
	Sig Scouse Duggan

It was 7 July 1988 and after only minor delays at Gatwick we were on our way, 12 men going in search of sun, rock and ultimate

challenge, man versus mountain (well that's what I told the CO anyway).

Within two days we were in the mountains and had begun the constant battle with the mosquitoes which were the size of your average Chinook but a lot more numerous. This was however completely offset by the views we were getting on arriving in the Col de Cougourde on Day 3.

We spent the next four days in this area with **Lt Paul Graham** taking day treks with one group while **Lt Dave Robson** taught some climbing techniques and **Cpl Mick Stanyer** led suicide missions with the others. Several good climbs were made with **Cpl Stanyer** leading **LCpl 'Brommers' Bromley** up a 1000ft difficult route and **Lt** (Off Route Again) **Robson** leading **2Lt Robin Tarling** up the simple variation of the same route.

July 14 found us moving down the valley to catch a bus to Nice and then a train to Tende, a small town further east in the range. At least that was the plan. Unfortunately the SNCF platform announcers had been taking lessons from British Rail. Then when you add the fact that they're in French (surprisingly) plus the entire expedition saying 'What does it mean then?', gives the OIC a reasonable excuse for arriving in Italy.

Our next move took us into the Val de Valmasque to do some more peak bagging. It was at this point that **Cpl Bob Vowles** having recovered from a twisted ankle was careless enough to contract mumps. To his amazement he was then casevaced to the local lunatic asylum for a week. There is of course no truth in the rumour that **Cpl Mick Ginty** reckoned that he should have been there to start with.

The remainder of us continued with **Cpl Kev Booth's** legs appearing to get shorter and his rucksack larger and everyone admiring **Cpl Ritch Cookson's** amazing shorts with the hoops in the bottoms.

Then it was back to reality in Nice in preparation for the flight home. The only questions not yet answered are how many times in the next 24 hours would **Sig Jona Jones** fall in love, and could **Lt Robson** persuade the French Health Authorities to release **Sig Scouse Duggan** in time for the flight (he'd burnt himself preparing the last meal of the expedition)?

L-R: Lt Dave Robson, Sig Mark Jones, LCpl Dougy Douglas and 2Lt Robin Tarling on Mont du Grand Capelet, Ex Alpine Cygnet

Lac Long, Lac Vert and Lac du Basto, Ex Alpine Cygnet

THE TIDE TURNS IN RHQ?
by Capt Mark Perry

The last few months have seen a number of changes on the top floor of RHQ as old hands pass on the new faces arrive. The 2IC, **Maj Peter McGann** has finally been persuaded to move up to the Ministry, but has yet to be replaced. The Adjutant's burden has been passed from **Capt Barry Keegan** to **Capt Mark Perry**, who comes via JDSC from 14 Sig Regt. **Maj Andy Whiddett**, having spent the best part of a year travelling the globe as OC 1 Sqn to 'gain experience', is about to take over as Ops Officer from **Maj Jack Amberton** (whose fate if as yet unknown). **Capt Mark Butler**, the Tech Adjt, leaves for RMCS to be properly educated in things technical (at last). On the middle floor, where all the work is done there have also been a few changes. **Sgt John Reeves** has taken over from **Sgt Brian Glover** as ORS and **WO2 John Pape** goes on promotion to be replaced as ORQMS by **WO2 Mick McGrath**. Our longest serving typist, **Mrs Audrey Nash** has retired after 22 years of pounding the keys and **Mrs Dot Tristram** has left for a post at Bovington. Best wishes to all who have gone and welcome to the new arrivals—you can be sure of a busy time for a next few years!

HOCKEY
by WO2 (RQMS) Mower
SWDIST LEAGUE

During a busy Autumn for the Regiment matches have been difficult to organise. Early results however have been very encouraging.

LE (A) Andover	Drawn	2 — 2
HMS Osprey	Won	3 — 1
22 Engr Regt	Won	5 — 1
1 Queens	Won	3 — 0

With a strong Regimental Squad the team's hopes are high for further success.

DISTRICT/ARMY CUP

The Regiment unfortunately had to forfeit the District Summer Cup due to block leave. A bye was given to our rivals the School of Signals who eventually won the competition (boo!). In this years cup the Regiment recently started its campaign in a tough fixture away to 94 Loc Regt RA. On a typical Regimental pitch our players found the surface difficult and the opponents physical. At the end of normal time there was no score so extra time was played. In the second half with only 10 minutes left, 94 managed a scrambled goal. Finally a short corner by **Sig (Boris) Roberts** was too strong for the 94 defence and a well deserved goal was scored to level the scores. In the closing minutes the light became very bad and a replay was agreed by both captains. Results next issue!

CANADIAN AND WASHINGTON TOURS

Earlier this year, **Sig (Boris) Roberts** was selected to tour Canada with the Combined Services (lucky man). Unfortunately, no printable stories are available from the tour, however, he did earn the nickname of 'Smoothie'.

WO2 (Brian) Mower, Cpl (Sooty) Souter, Cpl (Paul) Collins from the Regiment were selected to represent the Army in the JFK Memorial Tournament played in Washington (USA). **WO2 (Brian) Mower** admits that he only went as 3rd baggage man after other players withdrew! He even managed to take his wife on a whistle stop visit courtesy of RAF indulgence flights! The Army side played extremely well with **Cpl Souter** and **Collins** showing good form. Hopes are high for a second invitation next year. (Any offers for a place!)

Corps Players

During this season **WO2 (RQMS) Mower** has taken over as Corps Secretary. Several Regimental players have played for the Corps in 1988.

	Inter Corps Competitions Outdoor	Inter Corps Competitions Indoor	Inter Service Indoors
WO2 Mower	*	*	*
SSgt Payne	*	-	*
Cpl Souter	*	*	-
Cpl Collins	*	*	*
Cpl Malone	*	*	-
(640 Sig Tp)			*
Sig Roberts	*	*	*
Sig Beaney	*	*	*
Sig Pollitt	*	*	*

The following players are currently playing Army Hockey:

Senior
Cpl Souter
Cpl Collins
Sig Roberts

U21
Cpl Collins
Sig Roberts
Sig Pollitt
Sig Beaney

34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V) Middlesbrough

345 CLUB

This Regiment has a club for serving and past officers and its predecessors 49 (West Riding) Sig Regt and 50 (Northumbrian) Sig Regt. The Club is known as the '345 Club' from the first digit at each of the Regiments from which its members are drawn. Each year it holds a dinner, combined with a Regimental Dinner and we were delighted to be able to use the Royal Signals Mess at Catterick again this year. This dinner had a special significance as we were dining-out our Honorary Colonel, **Col Michael Stewart** and welcoming his successor, **Maj Gen Archie Birtwistle**. Amongst those present were our previous Honorary Colonels, **Brig Claude Fairweather** and **Col John Davies,** most of our former Commanding Officer, **Brig Paddy Evans, Lt Cols Colin Beadle, David Jolly, Col Bill Illingworth, Lt Col Hugh Bonaker, Col Graham Michell** and our present Commanding Officer **Lt Col Mike Macklin**. This year **Brig Fairweather** celebrates the 60th anniversary of his commission in the Corps. We have not attempted to add up the total years of service of those in the picture. It was a splendid occasion and an opportunity for old and new members of the Regiment to exchange stories both 'ancient and modern.

Not to be outdone, the Quartermasters 'demanded' their mug shots be taken, not so much 60 years of history but 20 years of undetected crime.

34(N) Signal Regt (V)
Honorary Colonels and Commanding Officers Past and Present

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

On a crisp sunny November morning the Regiment had the honour of parading in Middlesbrough to mark this year's Remembrance Day Service.

There was a larger than usual turnout both from the military and civil community and it was pleasing to see that all age groups were represented.

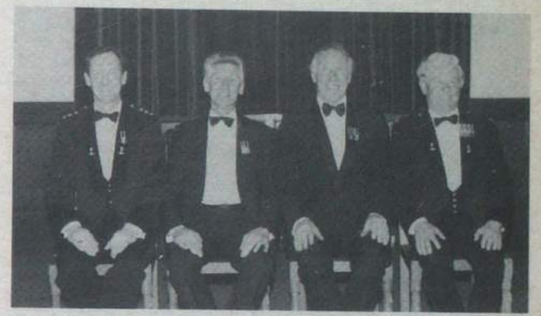
Wreaths were laid on behalf of the County of Cleveland by the Lord Lieutenant, the Mayor on behalf of Middlesbrough and the CO on behalf of the Regiment as well as other civic dignitaries.

The Regimental Band played during the service which was held outdoors and led the March Past which included two Squadrons from the Regiment.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulation to **Lt Eric Harrison,** 90 Sig Sqn on his promotion to Captain.

Col The Lord Gisborough KStJ, JP. HM Lord Lieutenant, Cleveland and Councillor Bryan Lonsborough Mayor of Middlesbrough on Remembrance Sunday



Quartermasters Take 2
Capt R. Hails, Capt (Retd) J. A. Allen, Maj (Retd) R. Vasper, Maj (Retd) D. F. Rees

Members of HQ/90 Sig Sqn on Parade on Remembrance Sunday

36 Sig Regt (V)
Wanstead

ROYAL SIGNALS ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS 1988

The sport of Orienteering is beginning to take off in 36 Sig Regt (V), a growing band of enthusiasts are now regularly entering local events and so finding a team for this year's championships did not prove as difficult as expected.

The Regiment fielded a team of 10 runners drawn from all parts of the unit, namely **SSgt (FofS) Thomas-Peter, Sgt Elborn, Cpls Grant, Pulford, LCpls Keen, Stone, Bartrum, Walker, Sig Barwick** and **Honeywell**.

The first days event, the individual cross-country, was over a wooded but extremely fast course. Good times on the A course from **LCpl Neil Keen** (who almost beat the FOS!) and **Sig Dacre Barwick** combined with solid performances on the B course from **LCpls Bartrum, Stone** and **Honeywell** gave the team third position overall going into the second day. **LCpl Walker (WRAC)** again just missed an individual prize coming fourth on the C course.

On the Saturday night, after **LCpl 'Barty' Bartrum** had displayed a pyromaniac's joy in lighting the pot bellied stove in the hut, the team celebrated the days mixed fortunes with a trip to Nottingham. **Cpl Ian Pulford** had now arrived after spending most of the day running round the wrong wood! **LCpl Gerry Stone** kept us all amused by failing to cope with the local 'mild' ale and earned the title of 'smoothest man in the world' for his antics. **Sgt Elborn** showed us some of the more historic pubs in the city.

Sunday saw us getting lost on the way to the relay venue (along with a lot of other competitors) but finally arriving before the start. Again **LCpl Keen** came within 30 seconds of the FOS and another good time from **Sig Barwick** made up an extremely creditable time on the A course (actually pushing the School of Signals). Unfortunately team selection for the B course was on the previous days performance and not depth of hangover so the time achieved was somewhat slower than expected. **LCpl Stone** confessed to having an 'interesting' run.

After the short wait for the results our final performance was third Major Unit, best TA Team (winning the Pritchard Cup for the second year in a row) with **LCpl Keen** gaining second Overall TA runner.

Everyone involved had an excellent weekend, good courses and good beer, and a special thanks must go to all the organisers and particularly 38 Sig Regt (V) for a well organised and well hosted event. See everyone next year!

REMEMBRANCE PARADE

Headquarter Squadron led by **Capt Dydall** represented the Regiment on the Remembrance Parade held at Ilford War Memorial. A wreath was laid on behalf of the Regiment by the CO **Lt Col C. P. Conlon**.

Taking the Salute as the Squadron march past are the Mayor **Cclr Axon**, Deputy Lord Lieutenant, **Col Hall** and the CO **Lt Col C. P. Conlon**.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' CHRISTMAS DRAW

The annual Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Christmas Dinner was held at Ilford TAC. The evening was a great success with everyone enjoying themselves. The Draw was organised by **WO2 Dave Dunn** and it is thanks to his efforts and hard work that the night/morning went off so well, also contributing to the Draw was **SSgt Bill Vodrey** Master Chef and all his helpers who produced what can only be described as a magnificent display of food which was commented on by everyone who saw and tasted it. A thank you to **SSgt Roy Bilby**, his bar staff and waitresses who kept the flow of liquid refreshment going until the very end, to all the people who came and helped with the putting up of decorations and the 101 other jobs that needed doing, thank you. On behalf of all mess members may I wish all members of the Corps a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

LCpl Barty Bartrum has got all the kit!

L-R Back Row: SSgt (FofS) T. P., Cpl Grant, LCpl Bartrum, Sig Honeywell, Barwick, Cpl Pulford
Front Row: Sgt Elborn, LCpl Walker WRAC, LCpls Keen, Stone

Ilford Remembrance Service

37 Sig Regt (V)
Bristol

RHQ

The autumn is always a busy period for the Regiment and last year was no exception. Just three days before Annual Camp the Regiment was involved in the organisation of a Massed Bands Display on the Downs at Bristol. Heavy traffic delayed the arrival of the bandsmen and an anxious **WO1 (RSM) Bernie Thomas** was noted passing amongst the associated recruiting displays to see if any of those on duty could play any kind of instrument. However at the last minute the coaches arrived, the bandsmen trooped off and all was well.

ANNUAL CAMP

Annual Camp lasted for three weeks and encompassed the military home defence exercises in Wales, South West and Western districts. Most volunteers participated for a fifteen day spell within this period, however several members of the Regiment including all the regular staff slogged on throughout the whole three weeks. Our CO, **Lt Col Jonathan Cox** and his driver **LCpl Nigel Morecroft** covered nearly 8000 miles in under 21 days!

Each Squadron spent some time at either Okehampton or Exeter undergoing final skills and detachment training under the Regimental Instructional Team led by the Trg Maj, **Maj John Reed** and **WO2 (YofS) Bill Wingate** before deploying to their respective exercises.

Also found wandering around the wind and rain-swept slopes of Okehampton Camp in complete disbelief was our new Adjutant **Capt Brian Dearman** newly arrived from 14 Sig Regt. He now knows why his predecessor **Capt Mick Fogg** was so keen to hand over and leg it to the sunshine of Cyprus to join 259 Sig Sqn.

We were fortunate to have several visitors at camp and their bravery in combating the meteorological elements that constantly attack Okehampton was much appreciated. These included **Brig J.O.C Alexander OBE** (Comd 2 Sig Bde), **Col R. P. Myhill OBE TD** (Dep Comd 2 Sig Bde) and **Brig J.G. Starling CBE MC DL** (Secretary Western Wessex TAVRA).

Without doubt the most popular staff at Camp 88 were the QM's clothing team led by **SSgt Harry Wells** who issued everyone with a set of combat waterproofs.

Soon after returning from Camp the WOs and SNCOs were once again getting cold and wet when on their annual training weekend they completed a seven mile hike through the Welsh hills ending with a night river crossing. Those who survived enjoyed a splendid dinner night at which **WO1 (YofS) Bob Parry, SSgt Ken Beedon, Sgts Gary Avery, Mick Boyle** and **Ivor Collins** were dined out.

53 (WELSH) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)—CARDIFF

Congratulations to **Capt Jane Buckels** on her appointment as Sqn 2IC. She handed over her previous command of CMHQ Tp, Brecon to **Capt Tony Reah**.

We welcome **Lt Glen Morrison** from 35 Sig Regt (V).

We were sorry to say goodbye to **SSgt Steve Simpson**, PSI, who left us on posting to Germany. However, we are pleased to say Hello to **SSgt Tony Giles** newly arrived from Germany.

Marriage seems to be a fast catching habit in the Squadron at the moment. **Cpl Lindsay Hughes** married **Cpl Dave Millet** from 43 Sig Sqn (V), Bridgwater. **Cpl Bonnie Gibson** married **Sgt John Clissold** and **LCpl Kim Wood** has married outside from TA (but we understand he was in the Regular Army).

Another currently popular trend within the Squadron is an apparent desire to join the regular army. within a few weeks we lost **Sig Steve Humphries, Tim Allsopp, LCpl Debbie Vince** and **Sig Robert Bazzard**. All is not lost however as we are pleased to welcome **Sig Lewis** who is joining the TA from the regular Corps.

CHARITY PRESENTATION

As a result of money raised from Cheese and Wine Parties during Rugby Internationals held at Cardiff Arms Park, we were able to present a cheque for £1,000 to the Cardiff Branch of the Association for Guide Dogs for the Blind. The money donated paid for the training of a beautiful Golden Labrador which we had the honour to name. Naturally we named the dog Jimmy. An official presentation was made to members of the Branch (and their dogs) during a Training night. In return we were presented with a picture of Jimmy. The evening, which ended in a Curry Supper, left the Squadron feeling very proud that the money raised went to such a worthy cause.

Trg Maj, Maj John Reed caught in the act of briefing himself yet again!

How many more times have we got to put this vehicle to bed?

HQ SQN AND 57 SIG SQN (V)—BRISTOL

As well as providing assistance to other Squadrons on their home defence exercises at camp, the Squadron was able to exercise with its new HF radio equipment. The new kit is mounted in an odd shaped trailer which has already been given the nickname of the 'Corsham Horsebox'. A mobile deployment exercise throughout the South West of England proved a useful exercise for what is hoped will be the first of many. Busiest member of the Squadron at camp was the Regimental Medical Officer **Capt Celia Grummitt** who just about 'jabbed' anything that stood still for more than 30 seconds—even in the meal queue! In fact one old soldier was heard to say 'At least you only got painted if you stood still during National Service!'

After returning from Camp the Squadron was sad to say farewell to PSIs **SSgt Phillip Dixon** posted to a 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt and **SSgt Dave Mann** posted to 71 Sig Regt (V). New PSI **SSgt David Ashley** arrived from 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt just in time to lose his voice shouting at the Squadron's attempts during drill practice for the Remembrance Day Parade.

Recent promotions within the Squadron include **John Crackett** to Captain and nickname of **Mr Mould**, and long serving stalwart **Lesley Brown** to Lance Corporal.

71 Sig Regt (V)
Bexleyheath

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)

RHQ STAFF (BEXLEYHEATH)
WE HAVE MOVED FROM BROMLEY
PERSONALITIES

CO	**Lt Col A. P. Verey TD** R Signals (V)
Trg Maj	**Maj B. H. Rowe**
Adjt	**Capt J. P. Wilson**
RSM	**WO1 J. R. McKenzie**
MTO NRPS	**WO1 T. Curtis**
YofS	**WO2 S. J. McMahon**
CC	**SSgt R. N. Wade**
PSI WRAC	**SSgt M. I. Amos**
RTg (NRPS)	**SSgt P. W. Lockie**
MTO NCO	**LCpl I. R. Brewer**
CO's Dvr	**LCpl J. A. Lee**

QM STAFF

QM	**Maj R. Acott**
RQMS	**WO2 A. J. Hibberd**

LAD STAFF

PSI	**SSgt A. J. Atherton**
Stmn	**SSgt G. Barrett (NRPS)**

TAKEOVER BID BY 14 SIGNAL REGIMENT

The following serving members of 71 (Y) Sig Regt are all ex 14 Sig Regt: **Capt Jeremy Wilson** (Adjt), **WO1 Bob McKenzie** (RSM), **WO2 Steven McMahon** (YofS), **SSgt Dave Mann** (PSI) and **Sgt Keith Robinson** (PSI).

Are we about to change our role, or is it because we are the only soldiers trained to understand the TA logic?

70 (ESSEX YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON
GOODBYE TO D11

'I used the brew my tea on these old sets', sighed the Tech as he hauled the last D11 out of our last K9.

'What do you know about them?', chastened a mature voice from behind, 'You weren't even born when we first got these'.

The full dialogue is not recorded, as other members of 907 Tp gathered around, but it may be enough to say that it followed the well worn paths of, 'Comms I have put in' and 'When I was . . .'. Nostalgia was rife and no-one minded, it was the final parade of our D11 radios at Wretham Camp, Thetford.

For 70 (Essex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn, this parade marked the end of an era and the beginning of our step into computerised communications. Goodbye to K9's and valves and hello to landrovers and microchips. Such a momentous change deserved a final formal photograph.

From our TACs at Chelmsford, Southend and Harlow, the vehicles moved out to Thetford. Some arrived a little later than others, but they all got there and were marshalled into position by **WO2 (SSM) Perry**. The photograph was taken and, under a mournful sky, the moment passed into history.

The effect brought about a sea-change on more than one Squadron member. One senior remarked as he patted the blunt nose of a K9, 'She's as good as new, you know . . . once you wind her up, she'll go forever''. Yet, only the previous day he was heard openly cursing crash gear boxes to damnation and back. Even PSI Tech **Sgt Paul Wilson** was heard to remark that once a D11 had been properly warmed up, there wasn't a better set anywhere. Fellow PSI **Sgt Chris Heyward** refilled his glass and advised him to keep taking the tablets.

From the preliminary briefings, our new equipment will resolve many of the irritants traditionally experienced with HF communication and remove reliance on the D11 'magicians'. As one senior was heard to remark, 'Each D11, has a personality all of its own, you can coax communication from a D11, but how on earth do you coax a microchip?'.

We are sure that like any new system, its eccentricities will be revealed eventually and a new generation of 'magicians' will evolve. Perhaps the new Essex Yeomen will be just as nostalgic when this new kit passes out of service, after all didn't R2D2 and 3CPO have a personality?

Com 2 Sig Bde with his personal mag filler during our ARU, March 1988

DEPARTURES/ARRIVALS

We bid a fond farewell to: **WO2 (FofS) Pete Araniello** to civilian life, **SSgt Bob Hooper** to civilian life, **Sgt Paul Wilson** posted to 212 Sig Sqn, congratulations on promotion and **LCpl Ian Brewer** to civilian life.

We welcome with open arms: **WO1 (RSM) Bob McKenzie** from 14 Sig Regt, **SSgt Wilson** from Signals Wing 12 RSME, **SSgt Dave Mann** from 37 Sig Regt(V), **Sgt Chris Webb** from 608 Sig Tp and **Sgt Keith Bolton** from 8 Sig Regt.

ANNUAL CAMP AT LYDD
Spetsnatz Supreme Commander, PO Box 1, Moscow
7 September 1988

Honourable Sirs,

To all to whom these presents may come greeting and humble felicitations from your servants mobilised in the cause of the Motherland against the dreaded Yeomanry Signal Regiment which is camped in Lydd.

Yours honours asked for a report on the conditions and facilities for the soldiers at Lydd camp as your last information in the file is dated 1949. I have studied the file most carefully and as far as I can see there have been no significant changes to the camp since then.

I was most interested to see that it was your honour himself who was undercover at Lydd in 1949 and who wrote the last report. In fact **JSig Ronald Acott** who featured most prominently in your file as a recidivist reprobate is here as he has been Quartermaster to the Regiment for the last six years. You will be interested to know that your assessment of his career potential was spot on and he leaves the army this year after 39 years service and a distinguished career.

Maj Acott will be sorely missed by the Regiment and particularly by the Potitical and Social Officers (PSOs). You will recollect from my reports last year from Wathgill that PSOs are commissars who, as their name implies, spend most of their time playing politics and socialising. Their plotting is carried out in an exclusive and secret society they call the Drum Club. Infiltration of the Club would yield valuable intelligence on Regimental personalities but may prove impossible. They talk in veiled speech known only to themselves. They often refer to being 'called to the bar', 'skipping off' and 'scotch and water'. This taken in the context of other intelligence I have received I am sure means they are consulting the Inns of Court (called to the Bar) about Ex Hop Scotch (skipping off) with a location possibly on the Hythe Military Canal (Scotch and water). I would suggest there is no other logical interpretation.

I took up your honours suggestion that a suitable undercover listening post would be in Trap 1 of the Officers' Mess ablution facilities. I noticed that this facility is larger than most of the officers in camp. Indeed your honour was absolutely right and for the Officers' Mess dinner night the listening post was manned.

The main cookhouse has been experimenting with the army's latest method of portion control called rationing to scale. The portions are so small that side plates can be used for the main meal. Large dinner plates will therefore be phased out with commensurate savings on renewals and replacement, from four drops per gallon to three drops, a saving of 25%. A novel experiment was the use of freshly picked grass as garnish which is considered to be worthy of further evaluation.

WO2 Cox and **SSgt Evans** have been trying to get some sauce boats. From this I deduce that the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess are short of table crockery for condiments. This is confirmed by a note seen on **Capt Walker**'s desk which read 'eight HP for boat'. It is obvious that this is authority for the local purchase of eight bottles of HP to put in the sauce boat.

Sauce boats with HP is, I would suggest, an example of a phenomenen called 'Yeomanry tradition'. It has been noticed that each time the RSM, newly appointed, notices that something is silly or strange, the explanation is always 'A Yeomanry Tradition, Sir'.

SSgt Pieper, on being introduced to the RSM, claimed his name was **SSgt Lodge**. Several explanations come to mind. The RSM is chasing unpaid mess bills and **SSgt Pieper** is on the hit list? It could be another Yeomanry tradition? Or, and this is the more likely, **SSgt Pieper** is a technician and can therefore plead diminished responsibility.

During the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess dinner a table was laid with a decanter borrowed from the Officers' Mess. The table collapsed, the decanter broke. Luckily the decanter was not one of the recent purchases from Woolworths but an old one that had been lying around the Regiment since the 19th Century.

The Berkshire Yeomanry was observed yesterday training hard for the Regimental patrol race. I am afraid they will be disappointed to find that an egg and spoon race and a sack race are not events in the programme. Nor is there a wheelbarrow race for which **SSM Perry** and **Sgt Micky Metcalfe** of the Essex Yeomanry have been training so hard.

The Regimental patrol race is an event to which we have been paying particular attention on your honour's instructions as we need to know the Yeomanry training methods. I think we have managed to find our all significant detail so that your honours can be fully briefed on how they will conduct this prestigious event.

The Commanding Officer, **Lt Col A. P. Verey**, is to present a magnificent cup and it is the intention that a competition will be held every year for the best eight man patrol. It is hoped that the Commanding Officer will start the event personally by using his pistol (a Verey pistol).

Signed: Anon

Spetsnaz Forces (South)
Trap 2
Spider B
Lydd Camp

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.

News from Squadrons

NORTHAG Air Support Radio Sqn BFPO 18

WE STILL EXIST

Contrary to what many avid readers of the Corps magazine may believe Northag Air Support Radio Sqn (NASRS) lives on. However for those of you who may never have heard of us—a brief introduction to the unit and its personalities.

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

Comd	**Maj P. J. Hryhoruk**
2IC	**Capt G. Palm** NL Army
SSM	**WO2 D. W. Sparkes**
YofS	**WO2 A. I. Fulton**
SQMS	**HFW J. Schoenmackers** GE Army
IC Wksps	**SSgt D. Barton**
IC Comms Tp	**SSgt A. B. Doherty**
MT Sgt	**Sgt B. Rogers**
Chief Clerk	**Sgt R. T. Warne**
Typist	**Miss S. Bijnens**

INFLIGHT COMMAND

1SM Coosemans BE Army
Sgt1 Weyes NE Army
FW Theisen GE Army
Sgt Morgan UK Army

ROYAL SIGNALS POSTS WITHIN THE SQUADRON

For those in the Corps who may wish to volunteer to serve there are 14 posts on the Establishment one of which is the OC!

NASRS was formed in 1967, and although not large, is a unique, quadrinational organisation. It is under the command of HQ Northag Signal Group (Rheindahlen) which consists of Dutch, Belgian, German and British Signal Units all assigned to NATO. Their task is to provide communication to the NATO HQs of HQ Northern Army Gp (NORTHAG) and 2 Allied Tactical Air Force (2ATAF).

The Squadron itself is formed from both professional and conscript soldiers from Holland, Germany and Belgium, as well as the UK element which consists of 17 R Signals (four of whom are on detachment from 7 Sig Regt), a REME Corporal and an ACC Lance Corporal. All detachments within the Squadron are fully integrated which makes most conversations a very complicated business!

The location of this fine 'Natolese' speaking body of men is at the Ambiorix Kaserne in the historical town of Tongeren in Belgium which is some 15 miles from the city of Liege. The town itself is the oldest town in Belgium. It grew up as a Roman military stronghold and to this day you can see almost a mile of the second century Roman walls which now surround the busy town centre and Limburgs finest Gothic Church.

Royal Signals also has its own claim to fame here as Tongeren was in the last war liberated by an Armoured Car Yeomanry Regiment (the Inns of Court Yeomanry) nicknamed 'The Devils Own'. the successors of this unit now form 68 (Inns of Court and City Yeomanry) Sig Sqn a Squadron of 71 (Yeomanry) Sig Regt(V). Past and present members from this Squadron attend an annual pageant in the town. To 'put the cap' on the uniqueness of NASRS, the majority of the British married members have their quarters in the Dutch city of Maastricht 10 miles away and the children attend the AFCENT International school at Brunssum with British, American, Canadian and German teachers.

RANGES—A NEW EXPERIENCE

With four nationalities and seven different types of weapons, range days take on the a whole new meaning, provoking comments such as 'why won't this SLR mag fit this UZI?' and 'how do you cock this G3?'. However with much patience and countless trips to the NL Army ranges at Oirschot, near Eindhoven in Holland, all members of the Squadron managed to fire not only their personal and alternate weapons but each of the other nations weapons as well and, in some cases, to a surprisingly high standard.

SUMMER CAMP 1988

July saw the Squadron deploy to the Mohnesee for our annual Summer Camp and although the drastic fall of the water level and the lack of wind put severe limitations on our waterborne activities, nevertheless, with cycling, canoeing, horse riding and a week long patrol competition an eventful and enjoyable time was had by all. Special mention must go to **LCpl Bob Blythes** section for their efforts to entertain the DS during the river crossing—disguising the raft as flotsam was real inspiration! A real surprise, at least, to our German Missile Regiment opponents from Korbeke, came when the Squadron football team gained a hard fought 3—1 victory. (Perhaps we should have confessed to being able to field, compliments of the NL Army posting system, one ex professional in **Sgt1 Ronnie Boeser** and several semi pro's!).

The week ended with a barbecue and amid scenes from 'The Water Babies' the SNCO's were unceremoniously dunked in the lake. In true Squadron fashion each limb was held by a different nationality!

EXERCISES 1988

Time and space prevent a full review of the years exercise activities but over 1988 the Squadron participated in Ex Crested Eagle, Lucky Strike, Old Warrior, Classic Harvest, Cloggy Emotion and Canary caper and still managed to fit in our annual summer and military camps.

HANDOVER OF OC NASRS

7 July saw the formal HO/TO of NASRS as the Squadron said a fond farewell to **Maj Mervin Johnston** and his wife **Molly** who are off to the bright lights of London and the MOD. Welcome to our new OC **Maj Peter Hryhoruk** and his wife **Carol**. He has now been firmly 'grounded' after his globetrotting at RAF Upavon. We trust you will enjoy your stay with us. Our photograph this month show the formal handshake of handover.

Handover Takeover of outgoing Maj M. N. Johnston (*left*) incoming Maj P. J. Hryhoruk (*Right*)

MILITARY CAMP

October 1988 saw the Squadron deploy the Harderwijk in the Netherlands for our annual military camp as we swopped our berets for steel helmets (or at least plastic ones!) and an infantry role. For those who remember how difficult that task is, have some sympathy as we tried to get four different nations, all of whom have different SOP's, weapons and tactics, to work together. It says much for the efforts of all concerned that an eventful and action packed week went off so well. Mention must go to the following who helped to keep our spirits high during the week.

Gef 'my section has run away' Zensen (GEA), **Sld1 'Don't worry, be happy' Dirks** (RNLA), **Gef Axel 'A platoon' Eiselt** (GEA) and **1Sgt 'Allo Allo' John Dupont** (BEA). Final thanks must go to the OC for at last digging **Sgt Rick Warne** out of his office and home for the week (although after only 10 weeks of marriage we can understand his reluctance!).

HELLOS AND FAREWELLS

Apart from our change of OCs the Squadron has also said hellos and goodbyes to the following:

ARRIVALS

WO2 (SSM) Dave Sparkes, Sgt Keith (Courses) Barker, Cpl Steve Howard and **LCpl John Batts.**

DEPARTURES

SSgt Bob Walker (we're sure your scouse, tact and diplomacy will be of great help at UOTC Southampton) and **Cpl Kenny Phillips.**

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

OC	**Maj C. L. G. Wright**
2IC/Ops Offr	**Capt P. B. Knobel**
AO	**Capt R. A. Hamilton**
QM	**Maj J. M. Kirkman**
OC A Tp	**Capt S. R. Workman**
OC B Tp	**2Lt J. J. Cole**
OC M Tp	**WO2 (FofS) P. Gaffney**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) A. K. Harper**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) G. M. McCrindle**
CClk	**SSgt (ORQMS) C. Clark**

Despite the over-commitment of the Squadron to sundry tasks such as guarding civil prisons, we have still allowed ourselves the opportunity to send the blokes as far away as possible. At least during this period we have not had any excessive postings in or out; the horizon however looks bleak, despite the eagerly anticipated block leave.

SHQ

SHQ has absorbed the new 'Staff' and is now in the process of preparing the Squadron for the coming exercise year. A couple of Troop Re-organisations, Troop Test Exercises, and then of course the inevitable Christmas Parties, all either in planning or action stages!

Sorry to see the Pioneer Platoon move across to the QM's empire, but they will undoubtedly benefit from the cross-training!

Lastly, a little advice to **Cpl 'Twists' Cowan**, next time you want to get out of an exercise, just ask. Taking the unprecedented step of bouncing on a Squadron parachute jump is totally unnecessary! Oh yes, talking of Squadron jumps, will someone tell the 2IC he is allowed to jump on the first green light, he doesn't have to pose in the door for four dummy runs.

A TROOP

OC Tp	**Capt S. R. Workman**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt P. D. Leyman**
Tp Sgts	**Sgt J. W. O'Driscoll**
	Sgt F. D. Kurthausen

Congratulations to **Sig Brown**, our latest recruit from Harrogate who has just passed P Company. Well done—hope you enjoy your jumps course.

This period has been hectic yet again with prison guards, airborne exercises and an exercise with our American allies. In addition, the OC has decided to change the troops around (not again I hear you cry!) so we are busy preparing men, vehicles and equipment for changeovers. **Sgt Frank Kurthausen** is still in the jungles of Brunei and **LCpl 'Ollie' Oliver** on the way for three months in the Bahamas.

When the dust settles we will be ready for next year's exercise commitments. A Troop plans to go out in style with what promises to be a good Christmas party, before block leave.

B TROOP

OC Tp	**2Lt J. Cole**
RLD 1 Sgt	**Sgt R. G. Nixon**
RLD 2 Sgt	**Sgt G. K. Cripps**

After a training month until mid October the Troop was immediately engaged in preparing to take its new LPBG role. Congratulations must go to **Sgt 'Gaz' Cripps** for holding the reins of the Troop before **2Lt Cole** arrived after exercise, parachuting and prison guard. Welcome to **SSgt Fred Hutchinson** recently arrived from BAOR.

The Annual Train Spotter's Reunion was an eventful party where WRAC recruits were introduced to the outside world after their. training. It was a Squadron party, organised by Bravo Tp, with **Sig Sid James** as DJ and **LCpl 'Taff' Phelps** bouncing.

Congratulations to **Sig Dick** for passing P Company at last—if at first you don't succeed . . . Farewells go to **2Lt Graham Fletcher** who departs for the classroom after his attachment, **Sgt 'Gaz' Cripps** who goes to Belize in replacement of **Sgt Bob Nixon**, and **Sig Lund** who goes to 14 Sig Regt.

M TROOP

OC Tp	**WO2 (FofS) P. Gaffney**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt J. S. Black**
IC Tech	**Sgt N. Preston**
IC Line	**Cpl C. C. Smith**
IC Power	**Cpl S. T. Archer**
IC TE	**Sgt J. A. Lockert**

It has been a romantic spell since the summer with four of the Troop getting married. **Sgt Crozier, Cpl Hamill, LCpl Challice** and **Sig Furrie** all tied the knot. Not so rose tinted was **Cpl Robertson's** arrival on to Fox Covert DZ by Express Parachute Delivery shortly after leave. Hope your back sorts itself out at Hedley Court.

Congratulations to **LCpl 'Steeraway' Fearn** getting a well earned second tape and to **LCpl 'Abbo' Welch** earning his first—there must be a tombola in this Troop!

Talking of which **Sgt Crozier, Cpls Wigley** and **Chapman** all sat their T1 entrances recently, **Cpl Wigley** with the benefit of a two week brainstorming at Blandford, the other two subjected to blackboard torture by **FofS Gaffney**. Good luck to all three.

LCpl Baker is still hammering away in the Army Boxing Team with a number of wins since the summer, notably, one was over a Royal Marine in a bout in Plymouth—nice one Ma!

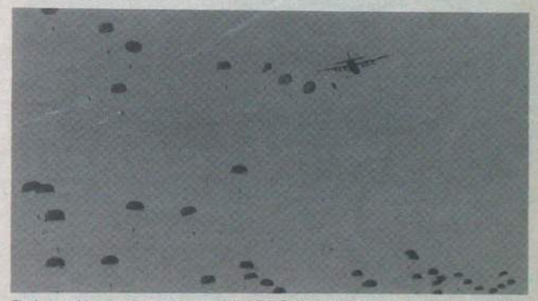
Farewell to **Cpl Wigley** who spent five weeks with the Gurkhas in Hong Kong and now leaves for a one year's posting to pastures green (take care of Winifred while I'm away, lads!); and finally farewell to **LCpl Challice** the human JCB, who is leaving the mob for the high life and bright lights in the wide world of marriage and construction ('make sure Dorothy gets a good home won't you!)

EX LONG HOP

Exercise Long Hop was a Leading Parachute Battalion Group (LPBG) exercise with 2 Para to practise them on their return to role later next year. It was an eventful exercise with **Capt Workman, Sig 'Woody' Woodward** and **'Taff' Lewis** ending up assaulting Keevil Airfield with a Company group from 2 Para. They had failed to make the DZ at Sidbury due to time over the DZ running out too soon. Rumour has it that **Capt Bruce Knobel** was that man stuck in the door; this has not been confirmed, but he does look decidely greyer on top.

This was also a demonstration LPBG exercise for the new OC Squadron. Unfortunately it was a demonstration of how an exercise can go totally wrong when the aircraft don't drop the force on the correct DZ or fail to drop the force at all or the In-Role Battalion advances to contact with half of the Bde HQ equipment.

Anyway, many lessons learned!



Ex Long Hop—deploying with LPBG (note the gap in the top chalk; is Capt Knobel responsible?)

EX LION SUN 10

The Pioneer members of the Squadron jetted off to sunny Cyprus much to he dismay of the one they left behind—**Sgt Bob Wrigley RPC**. A good time was had by all except **Pte Dimond** who had an uncontrollable fear of anything smaller than himself (not that much).

The Section returned to Aldershot on 28 September somewhat darker than the outward journey, but lighter in everything else, especially in cash.

COMMANDERS CUP

The Commanders Cup this year run by 249 Sig Sqn was an enjoyable, hard working event. The day started well with the team winning the Swimming and First Aid. Hopes were kept alive for yet another win when the team came second on the NBC Military Test Paper and Comms Skills Stands. However, despite also winning the March, at the end of the day victory was snatched from us by a good team from 249 Sig Sqn. They had an excellent shoot with their SA80's

and did very well in the Military Test Paper. 244 Sig Sqn (AS) came a close third and a good day was had by all. Well done 249, see you next year.

The team this year was **Capt Scott Workman**, **Sgt John Allan**, **Cpls Pete Fearn**, **Rod Cowan**, **'Smudge' Smith**, **LCpls Stanmore**, **'Jacko' Jackson**, **'Al' Sweet**, **'Jake' Rosser**, **Tom Keville**, **Sig 'Taff' Lewis**, **'Woody' Woodward** and **Chris Coates**.

The Commander's Cup Team

EX BOLD GROUSE 1988

On 3 September 1988, **Cpl** (now Sgt) **John O'Driscoll** and **LCpl Jake Rosser** deployed to Jaegerspris in Denmark for a two week attachment to the Tactical Supply Wing (TSW) of the RAF. The job of the TSW is tactical refuelling of RAF helicopters in the field, and 5 AB Bde had been tasked to advise and assist them with Medrod trials. Most of them had little comms experience, and the initial period was spent training them in the use of Merod, PRC 320, 5.4 metre mast, and the use of various antennae. **Cpl O'Driscoll** and **LCpl Rosser** then accompanied them on a Wing Training Exercise, culminating in Ex Bold Grouse, th UKMF reinforcement of Denmark exercise.

Sgt John O'Driscoll 'at home'—Para Tac HQ

EX OPAL MERCURY

Report by Sig James

During October three members of the Sqn were lucky enough to be involved in Ex Opal Mercury. **Sgt John O'Driscoll**, **Sig Kenny Alexander** and **Sid James** found themselves 'jetsetting' off to sunny Malaysia.

The exercise was a contingency communication exercise run by 30 Sig Regt with members of 244 Sig Sqn, the Tactical Communication Wing (RAF), the Royal Marines, the Royal Navy, and 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn all taking part. Its aim was to prove communication procedures in a Joint Forces scenario.

The venue for the exercise was the Royal Australian Air Force base in Butterworth, Malaysia. It is situated about twelve miles from Penang, a popular tourist area, which provided exciting nights out.

The hard work was rewarded with a period of R & R which was deserved by all participants.

EX ACTIVE LOOK

Report by Cpl Wigley

After a twelve hour delay at Gatwick Airport, having taken advantage of the amenities at Gatwick's Hilton, **Cpl Payne** and I began the sixteen hour flight via Dubai to Kai Tak Airport in Hong Kong. We were to take part in the second half of Exercise Active Look with 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn based with 48 Gurkha Inf Bde in Sek Kong in the New Territories. It is responsible for all border communications, so one of the first tasks for **FofS Colin Ramsey** was to accompany **Sgt Bob Elliot** and two Gurkha technicians on an installations check. I was surprised and impressed at the security. The main defence is a twelve foot wire fence covering 90% of the distance along the border. This is 'active' as if it is touched a signal is sent to the border posts.

The majority of the next two weeks was taken up with testing all the equipment to be taken with us to Brunei for the Exercise Setia Kawan in which we were to establish and monitor umpire communications while 2/2 Gurkha Rifles took on the Sultan of Brunei's Task Force with help from HMS *Ark Royal*.

Whilst on Brunei we were based at Pennanangjong Camp, a brand new but very bleak camp on the NW facing coast. We later moved further up the coast to Barracus Camp which, being close to a NAAFI with a superb swimming pool was a more popular location.

Whilst at Barracus Camp, I was invited by the CO, **Lt Col Adams**, to accompany him, three subalterns and a Gurkha operator on a short trip to a rebroadcast station to explore the possibility of resupply by foot. It was an early start with a rover trip to Maura Port where the Special Combat Squad (Bruneian) took us to Bangar by high powered long boats. Then came the good part; to get from the road, through 5km of primary and secondary jungle to the rebro at Bt Biang up on a very prominent ridge feature. We reached the rebro at 1500 hrs, five hours after starting off from the road. We hardly had time to think about the 7kms tab back down the 'track' along the ridge when a Scout helicopter landed and out popped **Cpl Payne**, as fresh as a daisy!

Needless to say, the daily rain started as we left and within an hour we had lost the elusive track and were fighting through the undergrowth. By 1900 hrs it was too dark to continue so we resigned ourselves to a night out. Having brought little kit it was an uncomfortable night, and for the four of us for whom it was our first night in the jungle it was quite an experience.

Tracks always look better by daylight and after only 45 minutes we hit the road and were on our way back to Bangar Port again. I think **Lt Col Adams** was suitably impressed with our efforts, especially as it went from a forecast 5 hour walk to a 26 hour marathon. He named the occasion Exercise Ulu Puteh, which means whiteman's jungle.

Life then became more predictable except when the Gurkha LCpl ED, who we nicknamed **'Ta Mate'**, drove the ERV down the road, literally. The road gave way under the vehicle and it had to be recovered by about 15 of us pushing and pulling it out of the hole it had left.

We packed up and flew back to Kai Tak by Hercules transports after an enjoyable month in Hong Kong. Thank you 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn for an excellent attachment.

A SAILORS TALE

A report by WO2 (RQMS) A. C. Hedgley

Exercise Medchase 88-89 read the DCI that cluttered my 'in' tray one rain soaked Monday morning early in July, you know—summer. Having promised my boss the Quartermaster, **Maj John Kirkman**, that I would read diligently all the 'guff' that floats into my desk trays I duly perused the article with a view to gleaning more information. 'Sailing experience not required, between 14 and 20 days cruising the balmy sun-kissed waters of the Mediterranean on a 55ft yacht. What's this! It beats working here. Where do I sign? What do I colour in? I've been on cross-channel ferries with the best of them, what I don't know about port (comes in a bottle) and starboard (does not come in a bottle) is not worth the mention—honest. All I have to do is persuade the Quartermaster to countersign the application.

'Well RQ everyone is entitled to one 'swan' in their career and this may well be yours'. It's signed, what joy, what pleasure, what amazement. The application was on its way with the gum on the envelope flap still damp from my fevered licking and I sat back to await developments. Block leave came and went, crew selection date came and went, the starting date of the leg I had applied for drew nearer. Well there must have been loads of applicants so no great surprise in not getting a place. Suddenly, out of the 'blue' with only twelve days to go a phone call from the exercise organiser, I had been a reserve etc etc, someone had dropped out etc etc, was I still available and interested? It is exceptionally hard to be nonchalant at times like these and I suspect the Naval type on the other end of the line was not fooled by my 'okay if you like' attitude (the weeping with joy would have been a give away for a start!) My cheque went off and I received various pieces of paper with kit lists and proposed itinerary etc.

The leg I had been selected for was from Gibraltar to Malta via the Spanish mainland, Ibiza, Sicily and Sardinia. The flight to Gibraltar was from Gatwick and it was there that I met the other members of the crew, including two rather nice young ladies from the Womens Royal Naval Service. The skipper, having flown out two days earlier was the only crew member not present so we were an eleven strong party that boarded the Air Europe flight bound for the sunny Med.

Arrival at Gib brought the first minor problem, the boat was not in Gibraltar, the first-leg crew had left it somewhere in Spain. So we all got our hands in our pockets and hired a mini-bus. Over the Spanish border and three hours later in darkness just north of Cadiz we arrived at a little port named Puerto Santa Maria, (it will be nice when it's finished), and there impressive in appearance and size lay Her Majestys' Sail Training Craft 'Adventure' a 55ft Bermuda rigged yacht.

The skipper welcomed us aboard and showed me a locker about the size of a box for a pair of childs shoes and said that I was to stow my gear in it. Looking down at my two large and one medium size bag stuffed full of kit I realised that I had encountered the second minor problem.

We sailed the following day with the sun shining and the sea calm or at least it was calm in the dock basin. My watch leader was a Surgeon Lieutenant in the Royal Navy and he mentioned anti-sickness pills to the crew. I initially scorned this offer until I spotted the skipper taking some at which time I grabbed a hand full and started the dose. That night passing through the Straits of Gibraltar, the seas were very rough and the wind was gusting to force 10. Steering any sort of course was, for a novice like myself, virtually impossible as the boat was pitching and rolling in a very violent and most alarming manner. Having said that, at no time did I have any reservations about the boat or its seaworthiness; the Nicholson 55's are ocean going vessels in every sense of the word. The sheer force of the wind lashing the spray into the face was, however, a sobering demonstration of nature's forces and although oilskins were provided and my yellow wellies were proving worth their weight in gold the sea still managed to get under all this protection and I was soaked to the skin by the time the watch was over and I went below. Surprisingly despite the noise and the boat's motion I found no problems in going to sleep and staying that way until some sadist shook me after what seemed like ten seconds to advise me that I was due back on watch.

The remainder of the journey consisted of brief, usually overnight stops in Cartagena, Ibixa, Cagliari and finally Malta. During this time I learnt two points of sailing, these being port and starboard tack close hauled, because every time a course was plotted onto the chart the wind came from the exact, or almost, opposite direction. Apart from two days when those not on watch enjoyed sun bathing on deck the choppiness of the seas precluded such activities and I did all bar two watches in oilskins and wellies and invariably ended the watch damp.

On arrival at Malta we were all fairly tired from the work of sailing more or less permanently close hauled, and the all too brief sleep periods. We were also covered in bruises, cuts and grazes from striking various parts of the boat with various parts of our anatomies, footholds not being easy to maintain when the boat was more or less consistently 'heeled' over at different angles. A few days R & R in Malta buying the duty free and presents for those back home, and it was a flight back to Gatwick and a typical English November morning of drizzle, fog and freezing temperatures—welcome home.

There are two points to this tale that I would encourage readers to note. Firstly it pays to read DCI's now and again as some interesting and worthwhile opportunities do crop up. Secondly, anyone out there who thinks sailing in the Mediterranean is all beer and skittles can take it from me that such is not the case. In fact the experience was one that I shall always remember but speaking personally would not rush to do again.

So to all those who think that they might like the change to go sailing or those who are already hooked, get reading and get applying. Remember—nothing ventured, nothing gained. Happy sailing shipmates and avast behind.

19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209 Sig Sqn) Colchester

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj John Davies**
2IC	**Capt Dave Raleigh**
QM	**Capt Bob Lockwood**
AO	**Capt Pauline Lucas WRAC**
OC C Tp	**Capt Mike Griffiths**
OC N Tp	**Lt Richard Quinlan**
OC P Tp	**Sgt Steve Rook**
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**
ASM	**WO1 (ASM) Paul Windsor REME**
CC	**WO2 (ORQMS) John Manley**

Over the past few months the Squadron has been heavily involved in Ex Eastern Shield a Home Defence exercise and Ex Panthers Paw the 19 Bde concentration. We are now looking forward to the end of year festivities.

QM'S DEPARTMENT

As expected the Department took charge of most of the admin tasks on Simex, the QM doing his Basil Fawlty bit accommodating the Brigade Officers in Westdown Camp Officers' Mess whilst **Sgt Jim Vernon** and **Cpl Dave Sands** found some floorspace for the boys.

The RQMS **Tom Ferry** took on a completely new outlook on life and became the Simex Conference Centre Manager. It was lots of fun and the Squadron got a good chit at the end of the day.

From Simex on to a fairly uneventful Summer Sales then on to the highlight of the Squadron's year the '30th Anniversary Parade'. Enough to say everyone worked hard and it went well.

We then had a bit of a breather before Ex Panthers Paw.

During Panthers Paw the Quartermaster departed for Colchester to prepare for his handover to **Capt Bob Lockwood** who is joining us from 21 Sig Regt. All went well and the handover was completed on 27 October.

From there we got ourselves sorted out after a long exercise season.

FAREWELL

A sad farewell to our Quartermaster **Maj Charley Homewood** and his wife **Anna**. Welcome: to **Capt Bob Lockwood** and his wife **Joan**, also to **Sig Robo Robson** and his wife **Anne**, and **LCpl Mac McDonald** and his wife **Liane**.

REME FITTER SECTION

Hello again from the REME element of the Squadron. Another hectic year is drawing to an end and the festive season is in view. With the exercise period behind us and after very little discussion, it has been decided that **Cpl Perkins** has won the 'Green Maggot' award for 1988 by a clear snooze and **Cfn Pegg** is the REME 'Poseur' after repeatedly parading his excuse for a body at the swimming pool on Ex Summer Sales. The last major exercise, Panthers Paw, came and went very slowly. The highlight being our Virgin Expedition to the Isle of Wight in the squadron boat. A good day was had by all despite the fact that the QM forgot to book the good weather.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Goodbye to **LCpl (now Mr) Howard** and welcome to **LCpl Portman** who joined us on promotion from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Welcome back to **Sgt Phil Curnock** from his six months holiday in Cyprus and good luck **Sgt Andy Dewson Dewis** who leaves soon to start his Artificer course. **Sgt Dewis** is going to be replaced by **Sgt Mich Whittall** who will be joining us on promotion and after having done the 'P' Coy course at Aldershot. I've been reliably informed that he can complete the second half of the BFT in 7 min 40 secs. He'll have to put a bit of a spurt on to catch up with the rest of us! Finally good luck to **LCpl 'Skid' Wilkes** who is about to leave for a four months tour in Kenya.

OSCAR TROOP

TROOP PERSONALITIES

Troop OC	**Capt Mike Griffiths**
Troop Sgt	**Sgt Stu Read**
Acting Troop Sgt	**Cpl George Sheppard**

The Troop has had a busy time since we last reported. June saw the

Troop, or at least part of it, deployed to Salisbury for three weeks on Simex, and to Germany on Ex Summer Sales. Directly after Summer Sales the Troop was seen in its ceremonial role, doing parade practise for the 30th Anniversary Parade, which went off very well in front of Anglia TV. Most of August was taken up with block leave which I gather everyone enjoyed. From block leave the Troop's RTgs and Radio Ops found themselves on a sight seeing tour of the Eastern Counties on Ex Eastern Shield.

Ex Panthers Paw saw the Troop deploying to Salisbury (again). We even managed to get **Sig Steve Farrar** on this one. **Steve** also informed us he was the Troop's only real liney. The Radio Relay crews found themselves in the Ex Control Radio Room. **LCpl Kev Waters** (Radio Relay Op 1) even found himself commanding a Rebro for the week.

The Troop welcomes **Sig Simon Nicholson** from Harrogate, and **Sig Andy Snelle**, and **'Dusty' Miller** from November Tp. Sad farewells to **LCpl Eddie Eddleston** who is now in November Tp, and **Sig** (Sorry Mister) **Carl Marsland** and family who have gone to Civvy Street, our best wishes for the future go with them.

Congratulations to **Capt Dave Raleigh** and **Sue** on the birth of their daughter **Elizabeth** and to **LCpl Tony Waddington** and **Lynn** on the birth of their son, **Scott.**

MT TROOP
PERSONALITIES

MTO	**WO1 M. Hewitt RCT**
MT SSgt	**SSgt R. S. Berry RCT**
MT Sgt	**Sgt C. Allen**

Without doubt MT Tp continues to be the busiest troop in the Squadron! Numerous deployments throughout the year, on a variety of excuses (exercises etc) have stretched us to the limit, and sometimes beyond. The odd Landrover and driver being found in the bottom drawer on many occasions, to pacify over eager staff officers. In spite of this we have found the odd weekend for activities such as: PRE preparation, vehicle washdown, office cleaning and winning the UKLF Road Safety and Skilled Driving Competition! This under the captaincy of **Sgt Chris Allen** was a fine achievement and thoroughly deserving of the hard work and preparation he and the other members of the team, **LCpl (now Cpl) Adrian Mullin** and **LCpl Tom Collins**, both RCT, had put in.

The hard work that the Troop has undertaken has been completed despite the 'friendly' inter-corps rivalry. With **Sig 'Dolly' Parton** and **Dvr Simon Sharp** vying for the post of top accident specialist. The winner being . . . Shh . . . you know who!

It was with sadness that we had to say goodbye to **Cpl John Petty** and **LCpl (now Cpl) Mark Rouse** who have both moved on to pastures new having been valued and faithful members to the Troop, along with **Cpl 'Taff' Hillman**. We welcome into the flock **LCpls 'Geordie' Smee** and **Ron Biggins**. We wish them well and if they can find time we hope they enjoy their tour at Colchester. To all Cbt Drivers (soon to be Driver Linemen) who want an easy time getting bored, leave Colchester out of your preference posting plot. To the others . . . come on down and join us.

NOVEMBER TROOP
by Lt Quinlan

August saw two major events in the Troop. The first was the arrival of **Lt Richard Quinlan** from RMCS Shrivenham (What a shock to be back in green!) vice **Capt Julian (Bungle) Bunce** who goes to the School of Signals to be educated. It is about time someone tried! Good luck to the School and also good luck **Julian.**

September was spent preparing for the Brigade Concentration and Major FTX on Salisbury Plain. Part of the Concentration phase of the exercise was an inter platoon competition with each of the three infantry battalions entering nine teams and the final three being made up from 42 Ord Coy, 8 Fd Wksps and the Sig Sqn. A gruelling 48 hour ambush operation was in store for the teams.

After the initial orders and kit checks, the Squadron team deployed in Saxons for the infilitration phase. A vehicle ambush sparked off a night foot navex with the team carrying all 75-85lbs of kit, personal weapons and ammunition. The following morning a vehicle move through a rolling replenishment point to a patrol base drop off point was followed by recce patrols and around robin of stands for the P1 Comd **Lt Quinlan** and the section 2IC's **LCpls Maciejewski, O'Shea** and **Morris**. The stands were Artillery Target Indication, Forward Air Control Officer Procedures, Tank Target Indication and Map Reading. One stand that was not expected was the motorbike stunt rider. **LCpl O'Shea** was in the inverted prone position commonly known as flaked out, when a stray rider on a moped, unfortunately, ran out of control and proceeded to do an Eddie Kidd death defying human leap. Unfortunately he forgot the ramp and hit **LCpl O'Shea** square in the back. Fearing a fatal injury (and always being a bit of an actor) **LCpl O'Shea** groaned loudly and feigned death. All that really happened was a big tear in his combat jacket and slight bruising.

The moral of the story is to avoid mad gunner Majors on mopeds. The competition continued with a night ambush in the pouring rain which came to a climax when it was sprung by a competing platoon with an endless supply of ammunition. The withdrawal on foot was followed by a vehicle move which was (surprise! surprise!) interrupted by an urgent requirement for our vehicles elsewhere. There then followed an 18km march and shoot with Saxon wheel changing and stretcher race phases on route. The team competing with SLR against SA80, both in Respirators—performed very well. Without exception all members of the team performed very well, and gave all in the pursuit of excellence. The final placing was 12th out of the 30 teams with the non infantry teams being 12th, 18th and 27th. Congratulations team. The remainder of the month of October was taken with post exercise clean up and preparation for the visit by Comd Comms 1(BR) Corps **Brig T. I. M. Waugh MBE**.

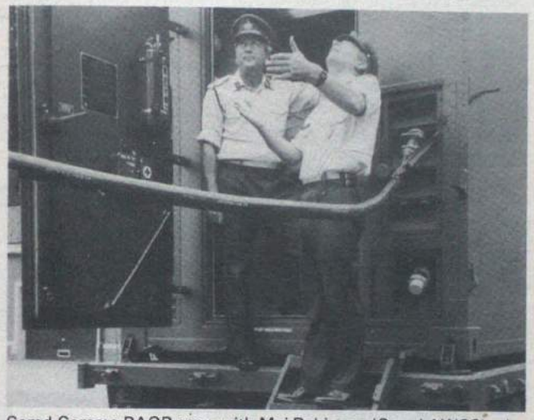
The Troop has lost the services of a couple of its personalities. **Cpl (Orms) Ormerod** leaves us bound for 249 Sig Sqn. **LCpl O'Shea** leaves bound for CCE to Tech, **Sig Llewellyn** is bound for 1 Armd Div Sig Regt. We wish the very best for the future to all three of these characters.

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.

227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT)
BFPO 18

VISITS

It has been an extremely busy period for visits in last few months. We started with a visit from Comd Comms BAOR **Maj Gen P. R. Davies**. He met most members of the Squadron with the Alternate War HQ Communication Squadron Element demonstrating their 85 Buy equipment. The General had lunch in the International Dining Hall with the officers and SNCOs in station - a culinary experience not to be missed, especially if you like hamburgers. No sooner was this over than the Squadron hosted some 120 international guests at a Retreat ceremony at Tapijn Kaserne during the visit of the Corps Band. The 'Welshman' **WO2 (SSM) Williams** was confident that there was no need of a wet weather programme, and that's exactly what happened—just. The rain started as the Band marched off! The Band was magnificent; they arrived in the morning to play a concert at the International School at HQ AFCENT, then moved to Maastricht to find the SSM and his prayer mat, on the camp square, eyeing the dark clouds with apprehension. The ceremony went smoothly with the Chief of Staff HQ AFCENT, **Lt Gen De Jonge** (Dutch Army) taking the salute, escorted by the Sqn Comd. This was followed by a small reception held in the 'Anchor Inn', our all ranks club within Tapijn Kaserne.



Comd Comms BAOR seen with Maj Robinson (Comd AWCS) who is requesting spare parts from a higher authority

Lt Gen De Jonge (Dutch Army) Chief of Staff HQ AFCENT taking the salute at the Playing of Retreat Ceremony

EXERCISES

The Alternate War HQ Communication Squadron (AWCS) deployed on Exercise Cobalt Flash in preparation for Able Archer in October/November. We had our ups and downs but, with a great effort of technological expertise by 'less-than-180-days-to-do' **WO1 (FofS) Graham Atkinson** and with much overtime spent on rewiring some of our vehicles, it resulted in a very successful exercise, with an excellent service provided for the staff of HQ AFCENT.

SPORT

Members of the Squadron continue to participate in a number of sports, principally Orienteering, Cross Country, Rugby, Football and Ten Pin Bowling. In particular, our bowlers field three teams every week, with one being provided exclusively by the wives. One team currently holds top place in the Tuesday and Friday night leagues, so keep it up lads.

ORIENTEERING

This is the sport that has flourished in the Squadron, due mainly to the enthusiasm of **Capt Carol O'Nians WRAC**, our 2IC, and support from the Sqn Comd. At the recent Royal Signals BAOR Championships, **Maj Graham Thomas** became M40 champion and **Capt O'Nians** the WRAC champion. Since then the 2IC has become the Belgian Womens National Champion and recently returned to UK to become the British Interservice and UK Champion at Night Orienteering. November saw the Squadron running an RCZ League Event at Budel near Eindhoven where a successful day was had by all the competitors. We currently lead the RCZ Minor Units league by a wide margin - which we intend to extend by the end of the season.

Maj Gen P. R. Davies Comd Comms BAOR presenting Capt C. S. O'Nians WRAC with her prize at the Corps BAOR Orienteering Meeting

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

The following have left the Squadron, and we take this opportunity to wish them and their families farewell and all the best for the future: **Sgt Bashford, Cpl Butler, Maj Graham, Sgts Mee, O'Shea, Sig Powell, Maj Tricker, LCpl Wood** and **Sig Smith**. We also welcome the following arrivals and their families and hope they enjoy their tour; **Sig Crosby, Sgts Cumming, Dorian, Sig Dunnett, Hunt, Cpl Lewis, Maj Limb, Cpls MacPherson, Townsin, Maj McKay, Sgt Taylor, Sig Cawthrone** and **Busby**.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go to **Cpl** and **Mrs Choules** on the birth of their son, **Alex**, and to **Cpl** and **Mrs Nodwell** on the birth of their son **Adam**. If you can't get recruits, breed your own.

238 (London) Sig Sqn
Chelsea Barracks

LS & GC PRESENTATION—SSGT K. WOODCOCK

September was a busy month for **SSgt Kate Woodcock**. Not only did she receive news of her posting on promotion to COD Bicester, but she also had to find time for about ten farewell parties and an LS & GC presentation.

The SOinC, kindly agreed to present the medal. After a few moments of panic, the 2IC managed to acquire the right uniform and the citation, and look cool, calm and collected to greet the SOinC on his arrival at the Squadron. Almost all members of the Squadron had squeezed themselves into the Bruno Bar to witness the presentation and partake in the customary 'wetting of the medal'. Well done Staff—I presume you have now invested in some non slip shoes!

SSgt Kate proudly displays her medal presented by the SOinC

BATTLE CAMP

Having achieved our mandatory training targets throughout the year this Battle Camp was going to be fun—so the DS claimed.

Fun entailed two separate five day exercises out in the field on compo. For the ceremonial war veterans of 238 Sig Sqn this was to prove a culture shock.

The demarcation lines between male and female combatants were soon established with the men cooking and women guarding. After the first two days of DS led patrols and exercises rusty skills soon began to shine as evidenced by **Sig (Ram) Nairn**, seen giving his excellent orders for an ambush which was unfortunately executed with the finesse of one of his chat up lines.

There was plenty of enthusiasm and a good overall level of soldierly skills shown. **Sig Runchman** was awarded best student on the first week for a combination of his inspired tactical ability and his equally inspired bluffing abilities. Also mentioned in dispatches were **Cpl Bob Dunseith** and **Ptes Sue Webb** and **Lara Doherty**.

Sig (Temporary Sgt) Bob Nairn gives his orders to Sig Ian Tait, 'Crow' Webster and Roy Brunt

Sgt 'Lodging Allowance' Sheehan pictured in action with Cpl Brummie Seaton in attendance

RADIO TROOP
MEDIEVAL NIGHT

On 4 November 1988 Radio Tp decided to break with tradition and have a more sophisticated party. The period costumes ranged over a number of centuries, but that didn't matter as long as you dressed up in something and looked absolutely ridiculous. The prize for the most stupid looking costume went to **Sig Roy Brunt**, hotly pursued by **Sgt Steve Matthews** whose costume didn't do a lot for his 'StreetCred' (what is 'StreetCred' anyway?)

With a little help from the rest of the Troop, **Capt Mike Dunn** and **LCpl Sheldon Woodfine** spent most of the evening in the stocks, the troop is still trying to find out who released them! The evening progressed from a sumptuous banquet to medieval dancing and music, which left little to be desired, as did **Cpl Salisbury**'s singing! Obviously, a good time was had by all.

Sgt Steve Matthews poses in his medieval outfit, his wife Linda also thinks it is quite amusing

DEPARTURES/ARRIVALS/CONGRATULATORY

At times life at 238 can appear to be one continuous party, and yet again a large number have moved on to pastures new. Farewell and good luck to **Capt Dick** and **Veronica Howes** who are enjoying the sunshine in Saudi Arabia and to **SSgt Kate Woodcock**, also to **Sgt Kev Moir** now on his F of S course, **Sgt 'Teenwolf' Sheehan** to 1 QO Hldrs, **LCpl Jones** to 20 Maritime Regt (on promotion to Cpl), **LCpl Jo Inman** to Int & Sy Gp (G), **Pte Lindsey Davidson** to 16 Sig Regt and **Pte Linda Strachan** to JCUFI. Farewell and good luck in your new careers to: **Sgt Colin Ryder, Cpls Ian Henshall, 'Smudge' Smith** and **Sig Martin Flight**, all recently departed for 'civvy street'!

In their place we welcome the new TOT, **Maj Nevell** and **Marie-Rose Armitage** and the new Oscar Tp **SSgt Paula** and husband **Sgt Paul Dean**, also to; **Sgts Dai Rennison, Tracie Dodd, John Bragg, Cpls Cath Smith, Brian Vaughan, Billy** and **Lorraine Scott** and **Robert Dowell, LCpls Liz Dickinson, Tony Speight, William** and **Karen Patterson** and **LCpl Dave** and **Kay Chambers, Sig Robert Holland, Bob Garlick, Ian Tait, Timothy Rome, Jason Malcolm, Andrew Smith** and **Ptes Lara Doherty, Natalie Defriend, Gillian Wakerley, Bridget Johnstone** and **Liane Denley**.

Congratulations on new additions to the family this time go to Tels Tp to: **SSgt Geoff** and **Kay Baldry, Sgt Dougie** and **Leslie Robertson** and **Cpl Colin** and **Lynn Pullen** on the birth of your daughters: **Sophie, Ailsa** and **Lois**, respectively.

244 Sig Sqn (AS)
RAF, Brize Norton

M TROOP

Recently the troop has undergone major cosmetic surgery both in manpower and structure resulting in our numbers being back to quota and a 'happier working environment'.

Sgt 'Molly' Collins has left us to go to Pontrallis Training area on his well earned promotion to SSgt. **Sgts Wood** and **Hartly** have also left us for greener pastures and civilian life, both after over 22 years service. Congratulations go to **Sgt Collins** and **Sgt Hartley** on their recent marriages.

Welcome to our troop **Cpl 'Eric' Sykes** who thinks TE Tech should be changed to PP Tech:- Printing Press Technician; also **LCpls 'Rocky' Bentley, 'Urge' Amies** and **'Veteran' Luffman. LCpl Luffman** having retraded to technician after three years service as Cbt Pmn.

When 'great changes' were mentioned by **WO2 (FofS) Howells** we thought perhaps a new kettle, but the ensuing move and spring clean has left us with a more efficient and tidier workshop. Especially of note is the rebuilt foyer (pictured) of which **Cpl Irwin** has said he will have a nervous breakdown if PSA tell him to rip down his hard work.

Of the two old faithfuls left - **Cpl Williams** has recently become the proud father of a lovely little girl, **Sara Louise**, congratulations to **Debbie** his wife.

Front Row: L Cpls Bentley, Cuffman, Amies
Back Row: Cpls Williams, Irwin, Sykes

EXERCISE ACTIVE LOOK

Exercise Active Look was an exchange visit between Queen's Gurkha Signals and a UK based unit. This year 244 Sig was selected to participate and **Sgt 'Molly' Collins** and **Cpl Pete Goodliff** represented the Squadron.

The flight to Hong Kong was delayed, so unfortunately our intrepid duo had to endure the squalor of the Gatwick Hilton at British Airways expense.

On arrival at Kai Tak Airport the party was transported to Sek Kong Camp where it was based during the stay in Hong Kong.

Then followed a fortnight in 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn during which time the NCOs were employed in trade. This also allowed time for **Cpl 'Stu' Owen**, to show the party the wonders and delights of Kowloon and Wan Chai.

On 18 August Queen's Gurkha Signals deployed to Brunei for Exercise Setia Kawan. In Brunei full advantage was taken of the sun and empty beaches. However 246 did also employ **Sgt Collins** on the ERV and **Cpl Goodliff** on the HF guard net, so some work was achieved.

Our fearless hero **'Molly' Collins** sustained an injury, however, not in the depths of the jungle, but in the comfort of Penanjong Camp. A rather surprised Commcen Operator looked on as **Sgt Collins** walked in with 6 inches of bamboo in his wrist and said he might have a problem. However, he braved the pain in true British style with the odd colourful word added for good measure.

The Squadron arrived back in Hong Kong on 5 September, which was the start of the R and R. During this period we visited various landmarks, such as Victoria Peak, Ocean Park, Yuen Long and Reclamation Street, where they gut live fish as you watch, so you know your getting a fresh fillet.

Alas all good things come to an end and on 15 September the party returned to Gatwick to be met by the SSM and the gloomy British weather.

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

The Squadron has been quite busy in barracks during the last two months. The inevitable preparation for our forthcoming deployment to Norway has been interspersed with the odd competition and course.

EXERCISE DRYSHOD
by LCpl Culleton

As a newcomer to 249 I had to embark on the annual warm up for the Sqn's deployment to Norway. It involved a certain amount of marching between three stands per day with distances totalling from 12 to 16km's. The stands included such things as First Aid in the Arctic and how not to conduct yourself skiing with the section (A few Oscar nominations coming from that one).

At night our time was our own, except for some of the section who were selected for a night navigation course. The aim being to collect the following days rations.

On reflection a very beneficial week and an ideal stepping stone for non Arctic Warfare Trained personnel. Next stop Norway. . .

COMMANDERS CUP COMPETITION 1988

After nine week's hard training, a team was finally selected to represent the Sqn in the competition. After only just being pipped at the post last year by 205 Sig Sqn we were out for revenge.

On 16 October the day was set and looking at the opposition (205 Sig Sqn, 30 Sig Regt, 2 Div, 1 Inf Bde, 244 Sig Sqn) the morale was high. After the initial inspection, it was off to the swimming pool for the Command Task. Just before the next stand 205 Sig Sqn moved tactically to their stand, with faces blackened. 249 moved into action led by Arctic Warrior, **Lt Kim Evans**. After setting a fast time, the team had time to catch their breath on less arduous tasks.
time to catch their breath on less arduous tasks.

Some members of the team watched in amazement, as the 205 Sig Sqn tackled the stepping stones. Two members of the team carrying the 12 x 12 tent, insisted on not using the stones and got totally wet (Not even they can walk on water). After eight events the competition hinged on the last event 'The March and Shoot'. 205 Sig Sqn went off like a Bat out of Hell, chasing the rest of the teams over very hilly terrain. The Sqn had an advantage of knowing the area and were able to pace themselves whereas 205 Sig Sqn finally ran out of steam and their shooting result confirmed this.

It was then back to the unit for the presentation of the cup. 249 were then confirmed as the winners with 205 Sig Sqn running a close second. Better luck next year lads!

The winning team 249 Sig Sqn
Rear: Sgt Steve Hughes, Cpl Ron Foord, LCpl Charlie Challinor, LCpl Phil Render, Sig Andy Blanchard, LCpl Kemp, Lt Kim Evans
Front: LCpl 'Brum' Baker, Sig 'Dizzy' Robinson, LCpl Bill Walker, Sig 'Paddy' Brown

THE KIWI TROPHY COMPETITION

The Kiwi Trophy is the Squadron annual march and shoot competition. Normally held in the summer months, this year due to a very busy schedule the competition took place on Salisbury Plain on 11 November. There was an early start at 0630 hrs for those lucky

souls selected to be markers or officials. The competition is compulsory for all members of the Squadron, with only the sick and lame excused (no lazy in 249)! The early runners had to face the added disability of dense fog which reduced visibility to just a few yards. Some of the whippets ran impressively but were hampered by missing the odd turning and running considerable extra distances.

With the early runners still sweating and panting from their exertions, the bulk of the Squadron set off in pairs at two minute intervals beginning at 0930 hrs. The course consisted of a cross country route taking in over 17km of the plain. To add to the fun competitors were invited to carry a 30lb Bergan and an SA80. The winning time was determined by taking the running time, the shooting score, and any penalties awarded for missing items of equipment. Despite the best efforts of the younger men in the Squadron (that means all of us) the winning time of 2 hrs 2 min 33 sec was achieved by the QM, **Capt Bill White**. Second was **Sig 'Chalky' White** (no relation) with an overall time of 2 hrs 2 min 41 sec but who had the fastest running time of the day. The Squadron was honoured to have **Mr R. A. Farrell**, the Deputy High Commissioner for New Zealand present to present the Kiwi Trophy on the day. **Mr Farrell** also managed to get his hands on the SA80 and succeeded in scaring a few targets to death on the Bulford Ranges. The day ended with everyone marvelling at the QM's excellent time, but we believe he had an unfair advantage, after all we've not had 41 years to practise.

'The Assault Course with burden proved a tough challenge'

Maj Simon Kidner escorts the New Zealand Deputy High Commissioner and guests including the parents of the late Cpl Dowse to a wreath laying ceremony at Tidworth cemetery

The Deputy High Commissioner is briefed on the route of the Kiwi Trophy by the SSM

'The Stretcher race'. Sig Joyce takes it easy on top

SQUADRON LEADERSHIP CADRE

Grimsby Town, famous for its fish docks and football, would not normally feature in Wire Notes if it were not for the fact that 20 men, handpicked by the OC, were bundled out of the 4 tonner that had carried them on the six hour trip from Bulford. they had been gathered together immediately following the Kiwi Trophy Competition on Firday afternoon, obstensibly to be briefed on the Leadership Cadre which was to begin on the following Monday. They were dressed in track suits carrying their MOD Form 90's. they discovered that the course was to start prematurely. Once in Grimsby they were given one simple instruction by the SSM, 'The course begins in Bulford at 0730 hrs on Monday with a BFT, be there!'

So began their week's course of initiative, BFT's, CFT, command tasks, lecturettes, and to finish a Pass Off Parade taken by **Col M. J. C. Galloway** from 2 Sig Bde. The 'Most Improved Student Award' went to **Sig Venus** and the 'Best Student Award' went to **Sig Potter.**

Sig Potter receives the 'Best Student Award'

AUTUMN GOLF MEET

The nine hole course at RAF Upavon witnessed a scene of pure comedy on Wednesday 5 October, but enough of the OC's opening tee shots!

Sixteen staunch members of the Squadron Gold Society, under the directions of **Cpl 'Nobby' Nevill**, braved glorious sunshine cloudless skies and a gentle breeze to compete for the title of 'golfer of the year 1988'.

WO2 (SSM) Gordon Shelly (handicap committee) ensured that a fair system of penalties were evenly distributed so that only he stood any chance of hoisting the trophy aloft. A quick glance at the results will simply prove that once again he had an awful day.

Overall Chamption	**Cpl Mick O'Brien**
2nd	**LCpl 'Sandy' Currie**
3rd	**LCpl 'Chippy' Lang**
Greensome Champions	**Capt Bill White** and **Sig Blanchard**
2nd	**Cpl Wiltshire** and **Sig Paul Young.**
Nearest the Hole (18th Par 3)	**Maj Simon Kidner** 10ft
Longest Dive (6th Par 5)	**LCpl 'Sandy' Currie** 215yds

254 Sig Sqn (UNFICYP) BFPO 567

COMMCEN TROOP
SP REGT CROSS COUNTRY
by Cpl Willy Williams

There was a good all round turnout for the competition, however, due to wide variations in the strengths of the different departments the competition was run on a percentage basis with the first 20 percent of each department counting. This meant our first nineteen counted.

The course was 4.5 mile flat course around the UNPA. The SSM **'Butch Maycock'** promising to open the Squadron Bar and cancel PT the next day if we won. The boys were ready (well nineteen of them), everyone knew it would be a hard race with the Workshops being the favourite, only needing nine to count. The course had a mile stretch up the UN road which sorted the men from the boys.

The wait at the end was tense, we did it though, quite convincingly, **Sig Rog Jolly** taking overall first, **Sig Quinn** taking second in the Squadron and **LCpl Ade Toye** third, the last of our team being **WO1 (YofS)** 'Where's my Medal' **Hammett**.

The SSM kept his word and got the beers in. The next day there was no PT which was just as well really.'

COMMCEN TROOP GOODBYES AND HELLOS
by Cpl 'Wire Notes' Williams

The Squadron is now changing over OC's. Many thanks to **Maj R. F. Rutherford**, we hope you enjoyed your tour and all the best in the future. Welcome to **Maj J. G. Peck**.

Such is the rate of changeover in the Commcen to mention everyone would take forever, so - Ex-members back at 30 Sig Regt, thanks, see you on your next tour. A special goodbye goes to **Cpl Mitch Mitchell** (I've got your shift) now on his way to Bielefeld. Also to **Sig Eldridge** on his promotion and posting to sunny 22 Sig Regt.

Congratulations to **LCpl Craig Bird** for escaping a full tour this time, also **Sig** (now LCpl) **Robbo Robson** who managed a few weeks out here while the sun was out.

Welcome back for the second time to **Cpl Kenny Everett** and **Sig Andy Major**. First timers **LCpl Taff Hughes**, **Cpl 'Big Bob' Mason** and **Sig Kev Wyatt** and **Ian Galloway**. To all those who are due to arrive soon, 'The Wire Inn' awaits you.

TECH AND LINE TROOP—Thoughts of LCpl Toye

After nearly passing out on arrival in Cyprus, due to the heat, everyone assured me it was cooling down after a very hot summer. The journey from Akrotiri to Nicosia was uncomfortable, to say the least, the heat scorching, and we also picked up a few 'worse for wear' UN soldiers who insisted on singing, shouting and generally making a noise—(as long as they were enjoying themselves!). The scenery was different, but it looked okay. Then we arrived at the UN camp in Nicosia, nice place—honest! I was left to look around in the afternoon wondering what I had let myself in for. A visit to a local bar for a cooling pint or two that night seemed a good idea.

The following day (0610 hrs) I found myself on one of many PT lessons that would follow—what a shock!! After freshening up, I was introduced to the Troop wearing KF shirt, Signals Beret and Cap Badge—the first thing to do was to get rid of them and become 'UN-ified'—What?

All dressed up to keep the peace and nowhere to go! I was beginning to enjoy this out of the ordinary thing when I found out I was on duty all week—great I thought! What do I know about Exchanges (being a Radio Relay Tech) and C70's which are a bit on the ancient side? (Ask **'Pops' Shotton**). Oh well, thrown in at the deep end is the best way I guess. Looking back over the last month, I've really enjoyed the job and I am looking forward to the next five (could be longer says the FofS) and elsewhere . . .

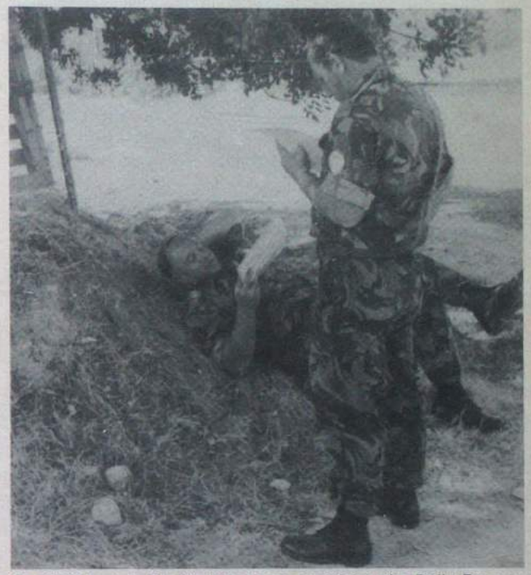
Cpl 'H'Glean is studying for his TI (we hope you pass it) and **Sgt Paul Flint** is still trying to find out what sort of drink Landjut is, and if it's true about Latina in January—you'll soon find out! To all the above, we bid farewell as their tours are now up and we'd like to welcome **Sgt Peter Hancock** and family, **Cpl Kel Watson, LCpl Adey Toye** (sort that head out) and **LCpl Bonnie Tyler**.

RADIO TROOP

First of all the Troop would like to say a sad farewell to **SSgt Brian Lauder, LCpl Paul Davis, Canadian Cpl Brian Devereaux, Canadian Sig Dale Harrison, Sig Titch Bowman, Billy Kaye**—and a welcome to **SSgt Benny Bennett, Sig Shaun Morgan, Andy Brown, Eddie Smerdon** and **Canadian MCpl Warren Kohls** and **Scholfield.**

The Troop team was the best section on Exercise Aphrodites Amble—it was a hard three days, but the lads enjoyed it. The first day consisted of Military stands and a weapon instruction and falling plate competition with the Austrian Assault Rifle. Day Two was a hard 22 mile walk across the mountains, finishing on the beach. day Three started with a Squadron parade which resulted in the whole Squadron marching into the sea, to the amusement of SSM Butch Maycock. We then continued with beach activities for the rest of the day.

The Darts and Pool competition in the Squadron Club the Wire Inn resulted in **LCpl Kev Potts** (Bacardi Bill) retaining the Pool and **Sig Billy Kaye** winning the Darts. Well done lads. Radio Tp has also done a good job of redecorating the Wire Inn again. (But the colours are still mindblowing). Our efforts are well protected this month by the duty barmen however.



The 2IC Captain Charlie Manning scrutinizing the Daily Express for secret messages from one of his agents while the SSM Butch Maycock wonders why Krefeld is not on this map

Sig Jonah Jones, MCpl Bob Corney and LCpl Sad Thomas beating Cpl Charlie Hanson over the head with a scaffolding pole as he tries to negotiate the 14ft wall

Cpl Bailey enjoying the high life

FOOTBALL REPORT

The Squadron has had mixed season so far. While putting on a very gutsy display in the Regimental Cup, the team came third in the competition overall, despite star performances by **Sig Rog Joy, Mal McLaren** and **Des Eldridge**.

One notable success however was a very creditable draw, 2—2, with a local Nicosia side who fielded several ex professional players.

In a very physical game, **Sgt Stan Holden** dazzled everyone with his somewhat slow, but fancy footwork and was asked to turn up for a trial for the local old peoples home! **Sig Des Eldridge** and **SSM Butch Maycock** got on so well with the local referee that he asked for their names and addresses.

There were of course the usual and lengthy after match drinks in the Wire Inn where the Squadron team was presented with trophies and flowers by the match sponsors, courtesy of **Mr Chris Michael**, Chief Executive of PR Advertising Ltd

Standing L-R: Sig Kev Wyatt, LCpl Kev Parnham, Cpl Daz Bailey, LCpl Jim Bowring, Sig Andy Major, LCpl Ade Toye, Sig Rog Jolly, WO2 Butch Maycock
Kneeling L-R: LCpl Craig Bird, Sig John Tierney, Mal McLaren, Des Eldridge, Robbon Robson, Sgt Stan Holden

259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

SHQ PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Danny McConnell**
2IC	**Capt Mick Fogg**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Tim Wallis**
CC	**SSgt (ORQMS) Clyde Atherley**
Trg SNCO	**SSgt Les Allen**
ORC	**Cpl Jim Peat**
Clerk	**Sig Ian Harper**

WELCOME

We welcome **Capt Mick Fogg**, and his wife **Joan** and we know already they are going to enjoy their tour.

DEPARTURES

On 22 September the Squadron said farewell to Comd Comms **Lt Col Tony Kimber**, we wish him a good tour in MOD. In October we also said farewell to **Capt (now Maj) Pete Cain** and his wife **Jean**, on posting to 22 Sig Regt.

The Squadron says farewell to Commander Communications:
Left to Right: SSgt Allen, Cpl Gorman, Sgt Higgins, Lt Col Kimber, Sgt Campbell, SSgt Godfrey

MOUNTAIN TROOP PERSONALITIES

OC	**Lt Iain Standen**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Dave Gunn**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Mark Keller**

CO's CUP COMPETITIONS

Despite the pressures of work (sic) Mountain Troop has been very active on the sporting front during the last few months. August saw the 280 SU CO's Cup Swimming Competition held at Berengaria Pool. The Troop team performed well with a notable appearance by **Sgt Mark Keller** and managed to win the Competition.

Moving to September and back up the mountain for the Hockey element of the Cup; once again an excellent performance by all team members, ably led by the FofS brought yet another win in a very close fought tournament. This win moved the Troop to the top of the CO's Cup league.

Finally October saw the venue move once again this time to Akrotiri for the Basketball and yet again the strength of the Army team was too much for the RAF and another victory strengthened our position at the top of the league table.

HODGSON SHIELD

September also saw the Troop venture off the mountain for the Hodgson Shield swimming competition. Combining with HQ Tp provided a very strong team and despite stiff opposition from the other Troops we managed another win. Our thanks must be passed to **Sgt 'Bod' McDonald** of Epi Tp for his help in the victory.

FINALLY

We say farewell to **Lt Nick Coldrey** and wish him and **Sabina** all the best at University. We also say goodbye to **Sgt Steve James** and wish him well at 7 Sig Regt.

BATTLE CAMP

Early October saw the Squadron perparing for the annual 259/262 Sig Sqns' Battle Camp. This year, as usual, the plan was to go to Akamas for two, one-week camps. However due to the lack of rain in 'sunny Cyprus' the area was put out of bounds to troops and an alternative plan had to be devised at very short notice. Frantic efforts by many people particularly **SSgts Andy Fullwood** and **Les Allen** resulted in a one week Military Skills Course to be held in the Episkopi area. This course took the form of two days of training in the camp which was to cover NBC, Drill, TOETs and Map Reading before moving to the local Sotira training area for a field exercise phase.

Under the careful eyes of the SSM, **WO2 Tim Wallis** and the SQMS **SSgt Stu Mullen**, the first morning began with a marathon drill session. With all the cobwebs shaken away it was over to the section DS, **Sgt Dino Farrell, SSgts Les Allen, Kev Fitzpatrick** and **Andy Fullwood** for NBC and TOETs. The second day followed a similar format with drill in the morning and Map Reading in the afternoon. On the morning of the third day there was an inter-section assault course competition which saw 1 Section establish a good lead in the overall section competition. After the assault course it was time to don combats collect webbing and weapons and head for the exercise area. For this phase of the camp the course was divided into two platoons and underwent a period of training in basic section and platoon tactics. All aspects of fieldcraft were practised as well as 'roping down' from a hovering Wessex helicopter. While the four section DS looked after the platoons the enemy led by the SSM and **Lt Iain Standen** staged numerous incidents to keep the exercise busy and interesting. As the exercise progressed the platoons mounted recce and fighting patrols as well as ambushes and many section and platoon attacks. At one point during a cordon and search operation they were called on to abseil down a small cliff in full kit, a shock to many. The culmination of the exercise phase was a full company attack complete with an endless supply of ammunition, mortar fire simulation and battle casualties to be dealt with on the reorganisation.

Before returning to camp the final element of the weeks training was a 5 mile speed march followed by a shoot. Despite having been in the field for five days, with very little sleep, all teams put up very commendable times and some good shoots. At this point the DS put their heads together and looked at the weeks results in order to select the best section and top student. After much deliberation the best section went to 1 section under the instruction of **SSgt Andy Fullwood**. Top student went to **Cpl 'Chalky' White** who narrowly beat **Cpl Elliott** of 262 into second place.

All in all a good week was enjoyed by those who attended with a great deal achieved particularly considering the last minute planning necessary to set up the week's activities.

Top Student: Cpl 'Chalky' White

Three Section prior to the Company attack

One Platoon pose prior to the Company attack

The Section DS: Sgt Farrell, SSgts Andy Fullwood, Kev Fitzpatrick and Les Allen

262 Sig Sqn
BFPO 58

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Nigel Cory**
TOT	**Capt Colin Bachelor**
AO	**Lt Jane Heywood**
SSM	**WO2 Dave Thomas**
YofS	**WO2 Bill Jackson**
FofS	**WO2 Pete White**
SQMS	**SSgt Dave Edgecombe**

Quite a few changes in the Squadron at present with hellos to **Sgt Trevor** and **Vanessa Glover** from 244 Sig Sqn, also from 244 Sig Sqn is **LCpl Mike Preston**. Hello to **LCpl Fern White** from the Joint Services Communication Centre in the Falkland Islands.

A number of people are leaving the Squadron, so goodbye and good luck to **Sgt John** and **Cherry Salvesen, Cpl Gary** and **Pte Lynne Hewings, LCpl Mel** and **Pte Jackie McCorry, SSgt Roy** and **Shirley Snape, Sgt Bob** and **Evelyn Orchard, Sig Rick Nicholls** and **'Torchy' Wilson**.

Congratulations to **Cpl Donny** and **Susan Robertson** on the birth of their daughter Kayleigh on 13 October; and to **SSgt Nigel** and **Jackie Grant** on the birth of their daughter Samantha on 2 December.

DHEKELIA DASH AND BONFIRE NIGHT

Well 5 November will certainly be remembered by the members of 262 Sig Sqn this year. The day started early with a Squadron call-out- our bonfire, the result of hours of hardwork, had burnt down! But while the start of the rebuilding operation was progressing, 15 lads were pounding the road between Ayios Nikolaos, home of 9 Sig Regt, and Dhekelia in a 15 mile road-relay event known as the Dhekelia Dash. By the afternoon it was all hands to the bonfire and by 1800 hrs it was 'It'll be alright on the night!'

The Squadron finished seventh in the Dhekelia Dash - not bad lads but we'll do even better next year - well done to **WO2 Dave Thomas, SSgt Roy Snape, Sgts Shaun Prior, Al Dixon, Gary Corrigan, Stu Thompson, Cpls Trev Cotter, Mick Garbett, George Stebbing, Paul Thomas, LCpls Dave Giles, Mel McCorry, Tony Dummer, Dave McInnes** and **Sig Milesy Sweeney**. Mention also to **Sgt Sharon Ley, LCpl Nigel Kerr** and **Sig Rod Helps** for their assistance in providing 'up to the minute' results and team positions along the route - just like Grandstand! Especially with the AO **Lt Jane Heywood** in her guise as Unit Public Relations Officer snapping at the runners with her camera - from the back of a Landrover!

After lunch it was back to the beach and 'Operation Bonfire' was in full swing. It was the place to be seen on Saturday afternoon - anyone of importance was there, the Garrison Commander **Col Champion**, the OC, AO, SQMS and both the YofS and the FofS. By 1800 hrs our work was complete and a grateful thanks to our friends from 62 (Cyp) Support Squadron RE, without whose bulldozer we'd still be there! The evening was a tremendous success with over 600 people watching the fireworks and the money raised was distributed to local charities.

BATTLECAMP 1988
by LCpl Dave McInnes

The scorching weather of the Cyprus Summer rendered Akamas training area unusable due to fire risk. But all was not lost! A section of the men were nominated for a 'cadre-type' course run by 259 Sig Sqn. Initial training consisted of drill, NBC, First Aid and Toets. Then it was off out onto Sotira training area for the start of the exercise phase. In anticipation of the arrival of new personal arms all drills were as for the SA80 and LSW - but with in our case the SLR and GPMG! The highlight of the exercise was the company drop by helicopter into our habour area. All previously learnt drills were quickly forgotten as men and equipment scrambled down the 50ft or rope as fast as they could manage. Neither did the abseiling phase add to the confidence of **Sgt 'Russ' Dale** or **Cpl 'Eddy' Edgar, 'Eddy'** disappeared down the rope upside down! But **'Stig' Elliot** surpassed all when he ran out of rope and then adopted the 'freefall' position. Morale was high and excitement building for the final attack. However **LCpl Dave McInnes** and **Sig 'Torchy' Wilson** were still first to get the kettle on as the section prepared for the attack! The final assualt was a success with simulated mortar and LMG cover and lasted only 10 minutes.

After Endex prize giving took place in the 'Jimmy Club' and congratulations to **Sgt 'Stig' Elliott** who came a very credible 2nd in the Best Student Competition. the section would like to thank all concerned at 259 Sig Sqn for a very enjoyable week.

Back row L-R: Sgt Russ Dale, LCpl Dave McInnes, Sig Rod Helps, Cpl Tony Sparks
Front row: Sig 'Torchy' Wilson, Cpl 'Eddy' Edgar, LCpl 'Bonnie' Tyler, Sig Jimmy Watson
Absent: LCpl 'Dusty' Miller, Sgt 'Stig' Elliott

Foreman of Signals
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Telemechanics
Radio Telegraphists
Yeoman of Signals
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THE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE 1988

The Field of Remembrance 1988, in the precincts of Westminster Abbey, was attended as usual by **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother**. There were over 40 members of the Corps family at the Royal Signals plot. Remembrance Crosses were planted for and on behalf of:- The Signal Officer-in-Chief and All Ranks Royal Signals; The Chairman and Members of The Royal Signals Association; The President and members Indian Signals Association; Aldershot; Bedford; Bournemouth; Bradford; Bristol; Cambridge; Cardiff; Catterick; Chester; Cinque Ports (Medway); Darlington; Dorset; Guernsey; Harrogate; Hull; Lincoln; Liverpool; North London; Plymouth; Poole; Preston & Blackburn; Reading; Scarborough; Salisbury; Sheffield; Torbay & District; West London; Winchester; York; 56 Div Signals OCA and 3 Div Reunion Club OCA Branches of the Association together with numerous individual crosses.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother talking to Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle (Chairman Royal Signals Association). The official representatives of the Corps presented to Her Majesty were Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle, Mr Alan Foot (Reading Branch) (Hidden) WO2 (RQMS) E. Davies (School of Signals) and WO1 (RSM) M. Kerr (8 Sig Regt)
Pictured in the foreground is: Gen Sir Edward Burgess KCB, OBE, President, Royal British Legion

The Royal Signals Plot

CONGRATULATIONS

Col Leslie W. Wright TD DL, who was Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee of the Royal Signals Association from 1972 until 1984 and Honorary Colonel University of Sheffield Officers Training Corps from 1977 until 1985, has been appointed Honorary Colonel of the Derbyshire Cadet Battalion of the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment.

ALDERSHOT BRANCH

In early December the Branch held a very successful Christmas luncheon in the Royal Aldershot Officers Club. The first of these was the previous December when a small party had lunch there as a sort of recce for an Annual Dinner. We enjoyed it so much that we thought an annual luncheon a good idea. This December saw a much larger gathering, which proved to be a very happy one, members having travelled from Kent, Dorset and the Hampshire coast to attend. We were especially happy to see **Mrs Toby Ient**, whose late husband, **Mr Vic Ient, MSM**, contributed so greatly to the success of the Branch for many years, and to have the company of **Mr and Mrs Gordon Pickard**, for it was **Gordon** who, strongly supported by his wife, **Janice**, (an Honour Member) continued **Vic's** sterling tradition in the Branch after **Vic** relinquished the office of Secretary. We are indebted to **Mr Terry Rawlings**, and indeed his entire family, for the help they provide on these occasions. He also now has to travel from the Southern sea mists to be with us.

CAMBRIDGE BRANCH

A Report by Branch Secretary Dave Watson

12 members of the Cambridge branch and 54 (EA) Sig Sqn (V) visited Ypres on Friday 11 November to attend the annual Armistice Day Parade.

The visit has become something of a regular occurrence and the early start from Cambridge (0315 Friday) did nothing to deter us. 54 Sqn's training night is on Thursday evenings so for **SSgts Ray Whall** and **Frank Sharp** and **LCpl Paul Middleton** it meant an overnight stay at the TA Centre and an extension of the bar opening times while for others it meant a 2 am departure from home in order to arrive at Cambridge in time.

We left the TA Centre at 0320 hrs and made our way in three cars to Dover to catch the 0600 hrs ferry to Calais. On arrival at Calais I discovered that we had no map but, not to worry, we had been before on a number of occasions and knew the general direction.

After two whistle stop tours of St Omer and a pause to ask directions from a service station we were on the right road. The rest of the journey was fairly uneventful expect when the sign to Ypres from the motorway came up a bit quickly and the first two cars made the turn but, **Martin Darley** in the third car frightened the life out of his passengers when he left a lot of rubber on the road before eventually making the turn.

The Parade was very well attended and it was extremely difficult to get close to the Menin Gate so, after the wreath laying ceremony, we cut through the side streets and made our way back to the market square where we had coffee in a pavement cafe and watched the parade return.

The rest of the morning was spent looking around the Cloth Hall Museum, and after lunch we paid a visit to the Commonwealth War Graves at Tyne Cot Cemetery before making our way back to Calais.

We arrived back at Calais to find that **Neville Cross** and **Pete Saunders** had failed to rendezvous with **Martin** and **Reg Darley** and had been left behind at Ypres. This caused us some concern but **Martin** decided to wait for them at Dover after leaving a message with the ferry office.

The return crossing was calm and we arrived back in Cambridge at approx 2200 hrs.

The good news is that **Neville** and **Pete**, managed to get a lift with a school coach and met up with the **Darleys** at Dover in very good 'spirits'. Next year's visit is already being planned.

GUERNSEY BRANCH

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Members joined in the Parade from the Arsenal to the War memorial in St Peter Port. The Standard Bearer was **Vic Jinks** accompanied by **Len Barbé** and **Alvaro Salazar. John Rudkin**, Branch chairman laid a wreath.

AUTUMN PROGRAMME

On 11 October 1988 a party of 19 members were given a conducted tour of the island's Power Station by **Nick Ozanne**. Afterwards we were invited to put questions to our host. After a vote of thanks by **John Rudkin** the party enjoyed a meal at Challoner's St Sampsons which was organised by our social secretary, **Alf Laine**.

HARROGATE BRANCH

The Branch annual dinner this year, was held once again in the Sergeants' Mess of the Army Apprentices College. A sincere thank you must be recorded from all members of the branch to the Comdt **Col CT Garton** and the RSM **WO1 R. Ritchie SG** for allowing us the use of the Mess.

As is the wont of the Harrogate Branch, support for this function was excellent in that a total of 80 members and their guests sat down to enjoy a superb meal.

Our guest of honour for this, our 6th dinner, was the Comdt of the Army Apprentices College **Col C. T. Garton.**This choice was made for two good reasons. First as a mark of our appreciation for the way he has helped and supported the local Branch during his term of office and secondly, because of his imminent posting on promotion to command 12 Sig Bde. Thank you Colonel and congratulations.

We were also pleased to welcome as our guest, for the first time, the RSM of the College **WO1 Rab Ritchie SG** who is no stranger to the college as he served from 1982 to 1984 as the SSM of Bradley Squadron. Let us hope that he will grace us with his presence at future functions.

'So where is your branch tie then Colonel?'
The Comdt of the Army Apprentices College Harrogate Col CT Garton, sporting the Harrogate branch tie, and the President of the Leeds branch Col (Retd) L. J. D. Davies TD

After the meal **Col C. T. Garton** gave a resume on the state of the Corps. His speech was highly informative and amusing. In response to his speech and as a thank you for his continuing support, our President **Maj (Retd) K. G. Doyle**,made him an honorary member of the Harrogate Branch and to mark the occasion presented him with a Branch tie.

Since our re-birth in May 1982, the Harrogate Branch has gone from strength to strength and we now boast a total of 52 paid up members including one lady, **Mrs Barbara Gibbon**, who has already made her presence felt as a staunch member of the Branch committee.

This year 25 members attended the Catterick reunuion and 20 members lent their support to the Leeds Branch Book of Remembrance Church Service which was held at the Army Apprentices College.

The Remembrance day parade was well attended in that 35 members paraded to march proudly behind the Branch standard to the music of the band of the Army Apprentices College. After the parade members and their wives adjourned to our favourite watering hole, the Harrogate Conservative Club, to enjoy a buffet and drinks.

The Branch meets regularly on the 3rd Friday of each month and for us it is a bad day if we see less than 50% of our members present. Our meeting place, is the Harrogate Conservative club where we are always made welcome by the steward **Mr Dereck Prest**, and his wife **Irene**, who have the happy knack of remembering names, faces and tipples.

It is a good feeling to belong to such a well supported and dedicated Branch. If you are in Harrogate at any time, why not look us up? We can promise that you will be made more than welcome.

The President of the Harrogate branch Maj (Retd) K. G. Doyle, Mrs Jean Doyle and Mrs Kathy Garton

READING BRANCH

At our Annual Dinner held at Brock Barracks, Reading, in October we were delighted to welcome the Signal Officer-in-Chief, and **Mrs Alexander**. We also were very happy to entertain **Lt Col A. P. Verey, TD**. Though long acquainted with some of our members he recently has joined the Association and we felt this was an opportunity for the Branch to congratulate **Tony** on his appointment to the command of 71st (Yeomanry) Sig Regt. This was the first Dinner held at our new venue, and we were well pleased with its sucess.

We are happy to record the award of Honour Membership of the Association to **Mrs Pauline Tennant** and **Mr David Norris. Pauline** is past Chairman and present Social Secretary of the Branch and **David** is Hon Treasurer, and the awards are in recognition of their great contribution to the Reading Branch. We congratulate them both.

Maj Gordon Turner (who attended the dinner with his wife). Former Director of Music he holds an appointment at Kneller Hall and lives in Reading

Mr Alan Foot, Lt Col A. P. Verey TD, our Branch President, Maj Gen W. T. Macfarlane, Mrs Christine Alexander, Maj Gen P. D. Alexander, and Mrs Helen Macfarlane

WEST LONDON BRANCH

The West London Branch continues its activities with gusto and enthusiasm. In recent months we have organised a concert in Staines by the Band of the Middlesex Yeomanry. We also have attended divine service at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, where it is customary for us to parade with the In-Pensioners on such occasion. The weather was not kind, but it must be recorded that the service and the magnificent choir left nothing to be desired.

In the Summer we enjoyed an evening visit to HM Tower of London, where **Yeoman Warder John Kenny**, ex Corps, conducted us on a tour and, following the Ceremony of the Keys, arranged an excellent Buffet Supper in the Yeoman Warders Club.

We are indebted to **Mrs Ray Wyatt** for the many visits she has arranged for the Branch to the Operations Room at 11 Group, RAF Uxbridge.

Our Seventh Annual Dinner was held at the Osterley Comfort Inn early in November. We were very happy to have the company of **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle, CB, CBE** and **Mrs Birtwistle**, who had made the long journey from their Yorkshire home to be with us. Dinner was followed by dancing, the music provided by **Sgt Brian Murkin**. (He says he really is leaving the Service next year but assures us he is not emigrating or anything like that.) We believe this was one of our most successful evenings.

DENBURY REUNION

JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT ROYAL SIGNALS — DENBURY

The third, triennial, Denbury reunion took place in Newton Abbot on 22 and 23 September 1988. **Major (Retd) Sam Ward**, who had painstakingly organised the past two reunions so successfully, again laid on another wonderful weekend.

The initial gathering took place during Friday evening in the Newton abbot Recreational Centre, where a buffet supper had been arranged. By closing time, over 60 husbands and wives had gathered, some already down from Catterick and other 'far north' areas. Despite many tiring hours of travel, old friends were enthusiastically recognising one another—some meeting up again for the first time in almost 30 years. The local press came in the took some photographs and it was interesting to see that the reunion was well balanced. The split between 'ex-boys' and 'ex-staff' was roughly equal and about 30% were still serving. It was good to see some of the old 'schoolies there, especially **Carl Rogers** and **Paddy McMahon**.

On saturday the "parade" assembled at midday in the Watts Blake and Bearne Social Club, Kingsteignton and the numbers had now risen to 80. During lunch **Bri (Retd) Graham Jackson** addressed the reunion, reminiscing in such a dramatic way that it seemed we were reliving yesterday and not events of 20-30 years ago.

John Joyner—the Dartmoor Yeti—had hardly changed, except he was now in a suit and not adventure training kit. The **Pavey** brothers, **Fred** and **Stan**, still retained their old RSM bearing despite many years of Quartermastering and **Frank Young** was as chirpy as ever talking over the past mis-deeds of Iron Tp with **Peter Chase**.

So on to the evening, there was an early tour of the old camp—now Channings Wood Prison—laid on again by **Tom Evans** now a senior officer there. This was followed by a grand party in the prison Officers' Mess, attended by the Governor and his wife. The numbers were now about 100 and many old photographic display by the Staff of the Prison, recorded the demise of the old wooden barracks and showed the rise of the modern category C prison. **Johhny Griffiths**, so used to accompanying the choir, again played his accordian whilst the gathering sang the old favourites and laughed at **'Geordie' Dobson's** jokes and renderings.

Roy Carpenter, remembered by so many as the APTC QMSI, si now the Manager of the Prison Officers' Mess and he laid on another mouth watering buffet—surely he should have been in the ACC! This was seconded by many 'old boys' remembering the tortures of past gym sessions.

The party ended just before midnight with fond farewells said and everyone agreeing to meet again during the third weekend of September 1991—hopefully in time for **Charlie Batten's** hangover to clear away.

Photo—Courtesy of Herald Express, Torquay

Left to Right: Bob Peake, Margaret Davis, Stan Pavey, Graham Jackson, Fred Pavey, Sam Ward, Tom Evans and Carl Rogers

From: Col (Retd) A. J. Leathy OBE

SPECIAL SERVICE BRIGADE SIGNALS—1940-45

On Saturday 16 July a reunion buffet supper organised by **Les Addison** and **Jim Murray** was held in the US Marine Corps PX Clubroom at Eastcote, Middlesex, by kind permission of **Capt Caspers USM**. Two years' work in tracing addresses resulted in 44 veterans, including 4 officers, arriving for the evening out of about 150 enrolled in the unit at one time or another during World War 2. The unit was formed from Royal Signals volunteers for service with the Army Commandos, a few from the Household Cavalry and one Royal Marine Officer. It operated in a variety of roles from small boat raids across the English channel to joint operations with **Marshal Tito's** Partisans, as well as in major actions in Italy and NW Europe. The evening was spent in reminiscing about those times and the eventful training leading up to them including the make-or-break Commando course at Achancarry, in singing the marching songs including 'Macnamara's Band' (led by **Jim Murray**) and remembering old comrades. **Maj (Later Colonel) A. J. Leahy OBE**, the wartime unit commander, presided over the proceedings assisted by **Maj C. V. James MC**. During the evening a Commando Signals' green beret bearing a Corps cap badge (of the type now adopted by the whole Corps) was presented to **Capt Caspers** as a memento.

From: Maj (Retd) Bing Gunton

I visited a cemetery in Pakistan much run down and found few gravestones. My visit was not in our programme and I was therefore rushed and short of time, hence paucity of information.

Graves found in the grass were:

Maj Harry Hamilton, 6th Royal Bn (Scinde) 13 FFR, 16 August 1933; **Maj Thomas Barnes**, 1/19 Hyderabad Regt, 5 July 1935; **Lt S. J. Holme**, 2Lt Bty RA, 21st Indian Mountain Bde RA, 24 August 1930; **Sgt Robert Warth**, No1 Wing Station RAF, 10 August 1931; **LAC Turner** RAF and 20 other RAF graves, 25 October 1928 an aeroplane accident at Khushalgarh. Also Royal Corps of Signals: **Lance Sgt Dennis Ward**, A Corps Signals, 1 February 1936; **CQMS I. H. Small**, 3 February 1936 age 37.

From: Maj (Retd) G. K. Rothwell

Recently, I visited the Commonwealth War Cemetery at Sage, south of Oldenburg. The Visitors Book revealed no sign of any Service (and in particular Royal Signals) visitors. The Cemetery is immaculately maintained and I thought that perhaps those related to the members of Royal Signals whose graves I located would like to know this. They are: 2566136, **Sgt W. Hay**, died 8 April 1945; 7960569, **Sig D. Fairgrieve**, died 14 April 1945.

– Sport –

BADMINTON

By Secretary Corps Badminton
JUNIOR INTER UNIT CHAMPIONSHIPS

On a cold but sunny weekend in November the first Junior Inter Unit Badminton Championships took place at Worthy Down.

The Corps was represented by nine Junior Soldiers from the AA Coll Harrogate ably chaperoned by **Mr Roy Cooper** and **Lt Jackie Young**.

I spent three days watching these young men going from strength to strength and gaining experience with every game they played. What they lacked in experience they made up for in enthusiasm and are to be congratulated on the level of badminton which they achieved.

They were not a fancied team with the AAC/ACC and the Junior Leaders RAPC being the firm favourites for the final.

In the Group B league they disposed of AAColl Chepstow by nine games to nil and JIB (Shorncliffe) by seven games to two to win the league. This then meant they were to face the might of the fancied AAC/ACC in the Semi Finals.

Much to everyone's surprise (but not ours!) they thrashed the AAC/ACC by a staggering eight games to one earning themselves a place in the final against a strong RAPC side.

On Sunday morning battle commenced with all three pairs playing simultaneously with the edge going to the RAPC by two games to one. The second set of three games went on with roles reversed and tying the competition at three games all.

The organisers then decided that the final three games should be played on one court commencing with the third string pair and working up to the first pairs. AAColl Harrogate won the first match relatively easily to lead 4—3 with the second strings to play. This match proved to be a cliff hanger see-sawing between each side. We won the first very close game, they won the second and the third game proved to be a thriller with the lead continually changing sides.

At this stage in the competition **Mr Roy Cooper** could not bear to watch and was fed the scores by a succession of people dashing out to tell him. If he had been a smoker I'm sure he would have gone through many packets of cigarettes!

However our lads managed to hold their nerves and hung on for a famous victory.

Then came the number one seeds and although the result was by then known this was another hard fought match. Incidentally the RAPC first pair were undefeated throughout the whole of the competition but were given a good run for their money by our team.

An excellent result of five games to four in this extremely exciting final of the very first Junior Inter Badminton with the honour of the first name on the trophy going to AAColl Harrogate. The players who made it all possible were **AT Cpls Hinson** and **Naylor, AT's Gammack, Zambuni, Jackson, Crawford, Dowsett** and **Fitzsimmons** and **JL J. Smith**.

I ask myself is this a sign of things to come? can we keep this momentum going and retain the enthusiasm shown for this superb game by these young lads? And could it possibly help to re-kindle the lagging spirit throughout the Corps? I sincerely hope so. If this is the spark that was required to bring this game back to life within the Corps then let us nurture it!

Maybe for the future of the game within the Corps it should be centred at the AAColl Harrogate where they have the facilities and enthusiasm for it.

I would be grateful for any comments and in particular would like to hear from any badminton players within the Corps with their views and thoughts.

INTER CORPS BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

An ad hoc team arrived at Worthy Down on Friday 18 November to take part in the Annual Inter Corps Badminton Tournament, an event we have won before but for the past three years have not even entered.

The team was made up of the following: A decrepit, old Major (in his fiftieth year) **SSgt Steve** (left right, left right) **Croot** (still on his Guards Drill Course!), **Sgt Jim Moore** (hasn't played for two years!), **Cpl Tony Hoare** (please bring your own partner), **Cpl David Middleton (Cpl Hoare**'s pressed man), **LCpl Max Boyce** (also please bring your own partner), **Sig Ian Laugharne (LCpl Boyce**'s pressed man).

Disappointingly only five Corps had entered so it was decided to play a 'round robin' system and the tournament started with us facing the ACC. This was a tense, close match with the Corps finally emerging victorious by five games to four. Our next match was on Friday evening against the RAPC and although we lost by six games to three the result was in doubt until the completion of the final two very close games.

On Saturday morning we faced the might of the Royal Engineers, the team fancied to take this years' title, and although we gave of our best the strength of three Army players in their squad took it's toll and we lost by seven games to two.

In the final session on Saturday afternoon we had our best result against a weakened Army Medical Service team and a seven games to two win helped salvage some of our damaged pride.

All in all a good result with a scratch team which only missed the position of runners up by the narrowest of margins.

Although we only managed third place, at least the presence of the Corps was felt again so the rest had better watch out for next year (that is if I can revive some of the flagging interest)!

BASKETBALL

Standing *(L to R)*: Cpl John Dallison (30 Sig Regt), WO2 (FofS) Dave Smith (School of Signals), WO2 (FofS) Bob Mahoney (School of Signals), Cpl Andy Brown (AA Coll Harrogate), LCpl Stu Budd (16 Sig Regt), Sgt Fred Tedby (16 Sig Regt (Capt/Coach)), 2Lt Gavin Grant (3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn), Sig Fitz Fitzmaurice (207 Sig Sqn), LCpl Mick Duggan (3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt) and Sig John Rowe (14 Sig Regt)
Sitting *(L to R)*: Sgt Joe Pearson (School of Signals (Floor Official)), Lt Neil Holden (RMCS Shrivenham), Sig Taff Davies (16 Sig Regt), Sig Bob Whipp (4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt), WO2 (Supvr R) John Smith (14 Sig Regt (Manager/Asst Coach)), Sig Mark Reeves (16 Sig Regt), SSgt Stu Price (1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt), SSgt (FofS) Steve Roberts (16 Sig Regt) and WO2 (YofS) Mick Bell (Ministry of Defence)
Not in Photo: Brig Bill Robins (Ministry of Defence (President)) and Maj Terry Everett (School of Signals (Secretary))

CORPS BASKETBALL
ANNUAL UK INTER CORPS TOURNAMENT
Report by Maj Terry Everett (Secretary)

The Squad duly assembled and commenced preparation at Blandford on the morning of Saturday 18 November. Time was, as ever, short and the first match versus Aztec's was to be at 1800 hrs.

The match started evenly after the five selected to start, **Fred Tedby, Stu Price, Stu Budd, Andy Brown** and **Gavin Grant** had settled down, the score being only 8 to 6 for the Aztecs after six minutes.

Signals then had a period of command for a few minutes to go to a 25 to 13 lead with good defence from everyone and baskets from **Fred Tedby, Andy Brown**, and **Gavin Grant** working well inside under the basket, this lead coincided with foul trouble for Signals and but for poor free shots from Aztecs they could have come back. Good work between **Stu Budd** and **Gavin Grant** working their way inside took Signals further ahead to 39—22. The concentration was however not maintained and Aztecs fought back to 37 to Signals 45 by the half.

The second half followed a similar pattern to the first. Signals stretched and maintained their lead to the 14th minute at 72 to Aztecs 58 but again failed to maintain form and scored only 5 points to Aztecs 16 over the last 6 minutes. Final score 77 to Aztecs 74.

More training on Sunday morning for an hour then a match versus the Blandford Garrison team in the afternoon. The Garrison played 3 of the Corps Squad, **Bob Mahoney, Dave Smith** and **John Dallison** and Corps standard players not available for tour **Nev Smikle** and **John Hiorns**, the team was completed by **Tom Dooley, Andy Chaney** and over the hill **Terry Everett**. The aim of the match was to give all the members of the Corps Squad match practice before the Inter Corps Tournament.

The first half was conditioned by coach **Tedby** and after an even start Garrison were able to pull away to a 39 to 26 lead by half time for the first ten minutes of the second half the Corps really did not get its act together and the Garrison lead was 71 to 39. Change of tactics by coach **Tedby**, substitution and full court man to man play to catch up, the Garrison side was beginning to tire and succumb to the pressure from the Corps, numerous turnover followed by breaks from **Gavin Grant** and **Andy Brown** brought us back to 74 to Garrison 79. Garrison hung on as the Corps just failed to catch up.

20 November and off to Aldershot for the Inter Corps Tournament and our first match versus RA at 1230 hrs.

Fred Tedby, Andy Brown, Bob Mahoney, Gavin Grant and **Stu Budd** were selected to start and they started well steadily pulling away to a 14 to 6 lead by the 10th minute after a typically slow start to the first game of the Tournament, the score was only 4 to 2 after 6 minutes. Other players such as **Stu Price, Neil Holden** and **Fitz Fitzmaurice** took over and the momentum was maintained. Signals were ahead at 43 to 30 at the half. Second half and the RA pull back to 41 to our 49 but we took back the lead to 18 by the tenth minute. Most of the bench got court time and Signals 78 to 57, all played well and a particularly good game for **Stu Budd** especially at the crucial part of the second half.

Our next opponents were RCT. We romped off to a 14 to 3 lead after six minutes with **Stu Budd, Bob Mahoney, Gavin Grant, Andy Brown** and **Stu Price** starting us off. We then seemed to lose the way and instead of capitalising on our lead allowed RCT to get back into the game. Nobody in Signals seemed to want to take responsibility in offence and this static lack-lustre performance allowed RCT back to 35 to our 36 at the half.

The first part of the second half was much the same as the last part of the first half and the teams played basket for basket to 55 to 54 in our favour at ten minutes, Coach **Tedby** had a time out and went on, he was resting with flu, but needs must. Signals fought to a 76 to 66 lead by the 16th minute but again lost its way under pressure from RCT and were lucky to hold out for a 77 to 76 win, phew!

Tuesday and only one match—mid afternoon versus the RAPC. The Signals five **Stu Budd, Neil Holden, Bob Mahoney, Mark Reeves** and **Andy Brown** started well going out to a 15 to 4 lead which would be expected against one of the weaker sides in the tournament. Again as our opponents stepped up their efforts our form fell off and RAPC fought back to 15 all by twelve minutes. Time out, substitution **Bob Whipp, Dave Smith** and **Gavin Grant** on Signals found a little patchy form to take them to a 33 to 27 lead at the half.

Coach **Tedby** put the first five on in the second half to take the game by the scruff of the neck and by the tenth minute **Fred Tedby, Mark Reeves, Stu Budd, Gavin Grant** and **Andy Brown** took Signals to a 70 to 30 lead. **Neil Holden, Bob Mahoney, John Rowe, Bob Whipp, Mick Duggan** and **John Dallison** all had court time and Signals finished winners at 91 to RAPC 48.

Our next match was versus RAOC on Wednesday morning. Signals started with **Mark Reeves, Stu Budd, Andy Brown, Neil Holden** and **Bob Mahoney** and in five minutes went 14—2 down against the weakest side in the tournament. Realisation that complacency against any team is likely to reap disaster woke up the sleepers and we had a lead of 64 to 26 at half time. The bench ran through in the second half and **Taff Davies** and **Steve Roberts** showed a little 16 Regt mutual understanding and play well. Signals the easy winners at 110 to 60 after a disastrous start.

After some teams withdrew we next played on Thursday evening and the opponents were the APTC. **Fred Tedby, Gavin Grant, Stud Budd, Mark Reeves** and **Andy Brown** started the contest. APTC scored first with a 3 pointer the first seven minutes were very even basket for basket to Signals 13 APTC 12. After fifteen minutes the score was Signals 20 APTC 35. **Bob Mahoney** came on following a time out and Signals fought back to 35 to APTC 45 at the half.

Second half and with **Mark Reeves** back on court finding the basket. Signals repeatedly pressed back to a 5 point margin. APTC pulled away again then **Tedby** in foul trouble. **Stu Price** came on to work the middle and did a good job. Back to a 3 point margin at the tenth minute but APTC went ahead again as Signals could not maintain the momentum. Signals 70 APTC 84 at eighteen minutes. A brave fight back with three 3 pointer 2 from **Gavin Grant** and one from **Andy Brown** brought Signals to 81 against APTC 90 at the final whistle.

Friday morning and the RE; Signals started with **Fred Tedby, Gavin Grant, Bob Mahoney, Stu Price** and **Andy Brown** and played excellent controlled basketball to go into a 22 to 8 lead. This was followed by a period of disastrous play and RE cam back with 19 points without reply to go to a 27 to 22 lead. **Mark Reeves** came on and later **Dave Smith**. Signals woke up a little and went out at half time with an 11 point deficit at 32 to RE 43.

Second half and Signals fought back to a 5 point deficit but RE went out again to 60 to Signals 46 at ten minutes. RE played well drilled, controlled basketball to frustrate Signals and were easy winners at 82 to Signals 59.

Friday evening and the oldest rivals REME. We started with 3 points from **Andy Brown** and our next score was 3 points from **Fred Tedby**. In the intervening five minutes REME accumulated 17 points and Signals were playing a very tired and uninspired game. At seven minutes REME were leading 24 to 8. We showed some signs of our capabilities and came back with a good spell in the last five minutes of the half to get back to a 10 point deficit at 27 to 37 for REME.

Second half and REME left us standing by scoring a further 18 points without reply to go to a 55 to 27 lead. Coach **Tedby** realising the bench cannot do worse than the very tired first five ran through the bench and they more or less held their own. REME were easy winners over a tired and dispirited Signals. Signals 50 REME 81.

Saturday and our final match versus ACC. We worked hard to recover the pride and spirit lost on the previous day by working well as a team and the first half was even with good play from everyone, **Fred Tedby, Gavin Grant, Bob Mahoney, Bob Whipp** and **Mark Reeves.** Half time score was Signals 36 ACC 43 the difference between well matched sides being the percentage of set shots that were successful, ACC had a spell where it seemed they could not miss. Second half and the ACC pulled away to a 15 point lead but Signals showed some spirit and hit back, ACC were eventually deserving winners at 76 to 66.

Another Tournament over and Signals have slipped back to fifth out of nine having climbed to third last year. Everyone in the Squad worked hard and gave their best individually. Unfortunately the team cohesion was never really humming and although a reasonable standard of skills was assembled these were seldom effectively converted to a good team performance, there was periods in every game where we struggled even against weaker opposition.

More work is required on team peformance and with this in view it is planned to start earlier next year to allow the coach and the Squad to work up for four days followed by a days rest between work up and the Inter Corps Tournament. The plan will be to start team training on the Wednesday morning prior to the commencement of the Tournament on Monday 20 November 1989. Hence tour dates will be 15 to 25 November 1989 both dates inclusive.

The Squad was well supported by our President **Brig Bill Robins** who found time to support four of the matches. **Sig John Rowe** managed to spend some time on matters other than basketball and became engaged on the penultimate day of the Tournament, he was suitably congratulated by the Squad on the Saturday.

Summary of Results:-

Signals	vs Aztecs	Won	77—71
	vs Garrison	Lost	74—79
Inter Corps Results:-			
	vs RA	Won	78—57
	vs RCT	Won	77—76
	vs RAPC	Won	91—48
	vs RAOC	Won	110—60
	vs APTC	Lost	81—90
	vs RE	Lost	59—82
	vs REME	Lost	50—81
	vs ACC	Lost	66—76

Positions in Inter Corps Tournament:-

1	APTC
2	ACC
3	REME
4	RE
5	R Signals
6	RA
7	RCT
8	RAPC
9	RAOC

RUGBY

CORPS RUGBY OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1988

The Corps Rugby team has played four matches in this first half of the season. The summary of results is:-

Played	Won	Lost	Points For	Points Against
4	3	1	113	47

ANALYSIS OF SCORES

An account of each match is given below. In summary one has to say that there were, as usual, good and bad facets. The good reflects the enthusiasm which all those who attended showed, the bad reflects the need for better basic skills.

All players in the UK should join a civilian team so that their individual capabilities are improved weekly from playing to a higher standard and mixing with better, more experienced civilian rugby players. Unit rugby officers should be encouraging this and helping younger players to make contacts with local, good quality clubs.

The Corps has six games planned for 1989:

1 Feb	AAC	Blandford
20 Feb	RA	Blandford
22 Feb	REME	Blandford
24 Feb	RCT	Aldershot
2 Mar	Salisbury II	Salisbury (evening game)
8 Mar	RE	Chatham

R SIGNALS V WIMBORNE II
Result: R Signals 23—Wimborne 12

The match was played on 22 October 1988, a fine, dry day with a gentle breeze blowing from the north. The Corps won the toss and elected to play into the breeze in the first half.

From the outset it was clear that the Corps pack was going to have a good day particularly in the scrums. The first three scrums were taken against the head by the Corps but the backs were unable to make best use of the possession. In particular there were several silly penalties given away and two of them were converted by Wimborne to give them an early 6—0 lead. However, the Corps gradually got back into the game and started to attack the Wimborne line and put the opposition under some pressure. It was from a poor touch clearance that the full back **Cpl Micky Walker** caught the ball and very nearly scored a magnificent try, after running through the whole of the Wimborne oposition, only to be brought down just short of the line. The following scrum was again won against the head and **Lt Phil Davis** got the touch down for a well deserved pushover try just before half time. The score at half time therefore was 6—4 to Wimborne.

The breeze had moderated during the first half and so there was little assistance from it in the second half. However, the Corps was quickly on the attack and soon went into the lead with a well taken dropped goal from the fly half **Sgt Dean Richardson**. from this point on the Corps dominated the game with three tries coming from the wingers. **LCpl Steve Bartliff** showed great pace and strength to score twice with **Cpl Mo Fisher** adding the other try. **Cpl Stanley-Jones** added two conversions to give the Corps a commanding lead by 23—6. The game rather ran out of steam after this although Wimborne managed a runaway try before the end which was converted to make the final score 23—12.

Overall impressions of the game were that it was played with great spirit but with far too many mistakes to make it a skilful display. The forwards played particularly strongly and although the wings scored three of the four tries there was little ball handling to delight the spectators. However, it was good to win the first game of the season and we look forward to improvements in the games that follow.

Team: **Cpls Walter, Fisher, Batley, Stanley-Jones, LCpl Bartliff, Sgt Richardson (Capt), Sgt Hawley, Cpl Keevash, Lt Fletcher, LCpl Nelson, LCpl Curtis, 2Lt Scott, LCpl Henry, 2Lt Payne**, and **Lt Davis**.

R SIGNALS V RAOC
Result: R Signals 10 RAOC 35

The match was played on 26 October at Colerne on a dry day with a brisk breeze blowing from the north. The Corps lost the toss and played into the wind in the first half.

From the start it was clear that the RAOC were a strong well drilled side and proof was provided within two minutes in the form of a simple try by the RAOC left wing when some excellent second phase possession was followed by a quick passing movement that left the Corps defence stranded. Two further tries which were both converted gave the RAOC a 16—0 lead in the first 15 minutes. The Corps was clearly being outplayed in the loose and although set piece play was largely even, the momentum generated by the mobile and energetic RAOC back row saw their backs provided with an almost ceaseless stream of quality possession. Some relief was provided for the Corps with an excellent try coming from a good back movement which saw **LCpl Steve Bartliff** outpace the defence to score near the posts. This try was not converted and the RAOC scored a further two tries before half time to make the score at the interval 27—4.

In the second half with the wind behind the Corps the flood of points was stemmed and the Corps got back into the game with some spirited play. The RAOC scored a further two tries whilst **LCpl Steve Bartliff** repeated his run of the first half to score another excellent try that was set in motion by **Sgt Dean Richardson** near his own goal line. This try was ocnverted by **Cpl Stanley-Jones**. Although the scoring was much reduced in this half the game was played at a furious pace with the RAOC making most of the running and the Corps defending solidly until overwhelmed by the excellent close passing, backing up and sheer power of the RAOC pack, most especially the back row.

Overall, the Corps was simply overpowered in the loose; the set pieces were fairly even and a lot of good scrum and line-out ball was produced but not always used to best effect especially in the second half when more use should have been made of the wind to gain ground. The game was played in an excellent spirit and in spite of the score being very one sided it was a thoroughly entertaining match.

Team: **Sig Kennedy, LCpl Bartliff, Cpls Walker, Stanley-Jones, Fisher, Sgt Richardson (Capt, Lt Burgin, Sgt Kessel, LCpl Mundie, Cpl Keevash, Capt Stephenson, LCpl Curtis, Sig Ford, 2Lt Payne** and **Cpl Treeby**.
Substitutes: **LCpl Nelson** and **Cpl Kelly**.

R SIGNALS V RAPC
Result: R Signals 60 RAPC 0

This match was played on 2 November 1988. The Corps won the toss and elected to play up the slope in the first half. The weather was ideal for the game with a slight breeze blowing up the slope.

The game got off to a very scrappy start with lots of unforced errors from both sides. The Corps pack, however, looked strong in the scrums and took most of the possession in this phase, but could not get clean possession from the line-outs which remained the case throughout the game. Eventually the Corps managed to score from a good back movement started by **Sgt Dean Richardson** which led to a fine try by **LCpl Steve Bartliff** after some characteristic strong running. This first score was converted by **Sgt Dean Richardson** and was the only score for the first 30 minutes. The game continued to be rather scrappy with lots of good possession leading to loss of ground as the backs tried too hard to beat their opposite number rather than swing the ball wide and create space that way. Eventually **LCpl Steve Bartliff** got another try following a good back move and, following a strong run by the full back, **Cpl Mick Walker**, which almost led to a try, **Lt Phil Davis** scored from a line-out by catching and falling over the line. Only one of these tries was converted and so the score at half time as 16—0.

The second half started with some good play but the RAPC defence was strong and resolute. However, after 10 minutes the flood gates opened and 44 points were scored in the last 30 minutes of the game. **LCpl Bartliff** scored 2 more tries, **Cpl Ned Kelly** scored 2 and **LCpl Pete Curtis, Lt Tony Burgin, Sig Pete Jones** and **Sgt Richardson** and **Cpl walter** added 4 more to make the final score 60—0.

In summary, therefore, it was a good score that rather flattered the Corps and too much should not be read into the result. The opposition was very weak in the second half and allowed the backs to settle down and get some much needed practice in passing the ball quickly to the wings. The lack of good line-out ball was worrying, as was the continued failure to produce the drive into the loose play with good ruck possession following and allowing second phase play to flourish. On the plus side the solid scrummaging was good to see and it should be noted that so far the wings have scored most of the tries!

Team: **Cpl Walter, Kelly, Cable, Sig Jones, LCpl Bartliff, Sgt Richardson (Capt), Lt Burgin, LCpl Nelson, 2Lt Fletcher, Sgt Kessel, Lt Egan, Capt Stephenson, Lt Davis, Sig Ford** and **LCpl Curtis**.

R SIGNALS V RMCS SHRIVENHAM
Result: R Signals 20 RMCS 0

The game was played on 9 November 1988 on a calm, overcast day with drizzle falling in the second half. The Corps won the toss.

The game as always at Shrivenham was played at a cracking pace, the college team as usual being fit and energetic but the Corps team being rather more experienced, in particular, in the pack. The Corps was able to dominate all the pack play and this forced Shrivenham into errors which allowed the Corps to have most of the territorial advantage. A lot of pressure in the loose finally led to a scrum close to the College line and from this **Lt Phil Davis** was able to pick up the force his way over. Further pressure from the Corps led two more tries before half time. The first was scored by **Sgt Benny Kessell** in his last game for the Corps before leaving the Army. This was scored in his typical poacher's way after the RMCS full back fumbled a good kick ahead by **Cpl Cassidy**, the scrum half. The other try in this half was scored by the enterprising **LCpl Steve Bartliff** who turned up on the opposite wing to score a good try which was converted by **Cpl Stanley-Jones**. That left the score at half time at 14—0.

In the second half the Corps seemed to realise that the RMCS team was not able to exert much pressure and so the game was rather uninspired with one only high spot, that being a delightful try from the full back, **Cpl Mick Walker** who came into the line in a miss move and was, after a couple of impressive dummies, able to score under the posts. This try was also converted. Many more chances were wasted as the Corps coasted to a rather undemanding win 20—0, perhaps the drizzle had something to do with it.

One of the high spots of the game was the performance from **LCpl Pete Curtis** who had a storming game at Number 8, which for him was an unfamiliar position, a player to watch! Thanks must also go to **Sgt Kessell** for his many years of contributing to Corps Rugby and we all wish him well in ''civvy street'' - thank you, **Neil**.

Team: **Cpl Walker, LCpl Barliff, Cpl Stanley-Jones, Sgt Hall, Cpl Kelly, Sgt Richardson (Capt), Cpl Cassidy, LCpl Nelson, Cpl Rogers, Sgt Kessell, Lt Egan, Capt Stephenson, Lt Davis, Capt Workman** and **LCpl Curtis**.

Overall, therefore, the Corps has had a useful start to the season but the way in which the RAOC dominated that match with such strong loose forward play is proof that a lot of work is needed on this aspect of the game and it is hoped that as many players as possible will be practising this with their unit teams and more especially with their civilian clubs because that is the best way for the Corps to raise the overall standard of its play.

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March 1989

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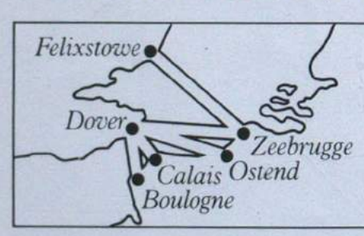

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The Wire

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

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Wire Subscriptions

Once again this year subscribers were late in renewing their subscriptions. Since the end of January 1989 we have received some 150 additional applications for renewal of subscriptions or in a few cases new subscriptions; unfortunately we have not been able to supply a copy of the January Wire in all cases and there will be some disappointed subscribers. We have to tell the printer by 10 January how many copies to print; if subscriptions are outstanding at that date we are liable to run short of copies. Although we ordered extra copies this January the figure was based on a best guess; unfortunately this year our best guess was overtaken by additional applications.

Subscription renewal forms are printed in the Wire in September and November each year. Please ensure that your order is placed in time. (Bankers orders are not affected).

Volunteer Reserve Forces Campaign

September 1988 saw the start of the Volunteer Reserve Forces Campaign which has the aim of 'raising the status of the Reserve Forces amongst peer groups, families and employers; and to increase employers' support of their employees who are members of the Reserve Forces'. The glossy brochure produced to coincide with the start of this five year campaign included a photograph starring the 2IC 36 Sig Regt (V) Maj Douglas McLay, LCpl Paul Dunn and, inside the vehicle, Sig Graham Barnes.

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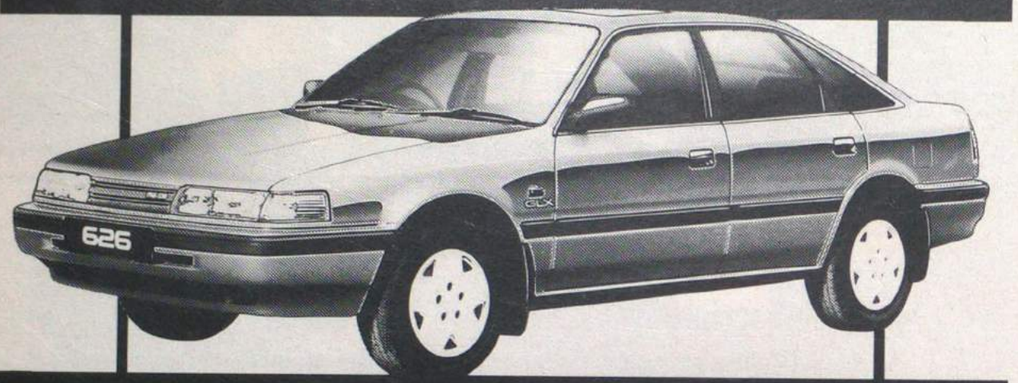

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RETIREMENT OF HERR RICHARD BECKERS

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM LT COL B. CHUBB, CO, 28 SIG REGT TO EX MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENT

In October this year, **Herr Beckers**, Burgermeister of Tonisvorst, will retire after 19 years in office. During this period, and the previous six years when he was on the town council, he has personally taken great interest in the relationship between the local population and the Regiment. His warmth and sincerity have shone through the many years, and the deeprooted and sustained nature of his own personal relationship, particularly with successive commanders and deputy commanders, has made many an officer leave with great regret.

Although the great majority of soldiers are very happy in this area, few appreciate the part played in their contentment by **Herr Becker**'s efforts. Those officers who have served in the Regiment have a far better appreciation and it is principally to those officers that I address my appeal. I intend to present **Herr Beckers** a gift worthy of the occasion, probably as the Regiment dines him out on 22 September. With that gift will be a book containing messages and signatures of donors. Former commanders are to receive a personal letter with these details, but I cannot trace all former officers without considerable effort. I therefore invite any who wish to contribute, regardless of rank, to send their donation to the Regiment complete with message and signature (preferably on white paper; approximately A5 size). Payment can be in any currency, or may be by cheque (UK or Eurocheque) payable to Central Bank 28 (BR) Signal Regiment. Every donor will receive an acknowledgement on receipt and details of the presentation later in the year.

EXERCISE ROCKY ZERO

Report by Lt A. R. Blackwell

An adventurous training exercise held in the Canadian Rockies in November 1988.

The Scene: BATUS (British Army Training Unit Suffield) Ops Room, Canada. Half way through the final three week battlegroup exercise of 1988. **Lt Alan Blackwell** talking to **SSgt Chris Taylor**:-

17 October.

Lt B: 'Staff, what are the Ops Room commitments after the next exercise?'

SSgt T: 'Quite enough, Sir. Why?'

Lt B: 'I was just thinking . . . (warning from **SSgt T** about the danger of this) . . . that it would be good to get the lads out for some adventure training . . . it would be a chance to explore the Rockies and would break the routine of the end of season clean up.'

SSgt T: 'I'll see.'

28 October.

Lt B: 'How many are interested in going?'

SSgt T: 'Two, but possibly more, depending on cost.'

Ex Rocky Zero, a small scale one-phase adventure training exercise, conceived.

29 October.

Over Motorola safety net:-

'Hello 88 this is 0, flick to 2' (Admin channel).

'88: flicking.'

'0: about this adventure training—can you take any more?'

'88: how many more?'

'0: all of us.'

'88: !!@@** out.'

Ex Rocky Zero, a two phase adventure training exercise for all Royal Signals soldiers at BATUS, was born. The first half of November saw much running around, numerous telephone calls, and an exercise becoming reality.

Exercise Rocky Zero I: 12 to 17 November

The team, consisting of **Lt Alan Blackwell** (leader—1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt), **Cpl 'Jock' Adams** (7 Sig Regt), **LCpl (when I was in Belize . . .) Len Bibby** (30 Sig Regt), **Sig 'PT' Pattison-Turner** (7 Sig Regt), and **Sig Ric Woolley** (3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt), collected rations from Camp Crowfoot cookhouse and left camp by 0800 hrs. All the team were in high spirits and looking forward to a change in scenery. The Safari Land Rover was in very low spirits and had no intention of changing scenery. Having changed plugs and done various other checks, we left at 0930 hrs.

The Land Rover got steadily worse, but we managed to splutter to the LAD. By 1130 hrs the group left, arriving in Banff that evening.

13 November.

Up Cascade Mountain, a few kilometres north of Banff, to Cascade Amphitheatre, a natural amphitheatre at 2,195m. The vehicle was left at Mount Norquay car park (1,705m) and we followed the old fire road to 40 Mile Creek at 1,555m. At this point the climb up Cascade Mountain started. The bear warning signs had been freshly posted: **Cpl 'Jock' Adams** saw this as a challenge, **Sig PT** was not so convinced.

The switchback trail continued up through the snowline (around 2,000m) where we saw Ptarmigan (who said we weren't working?). About half an hour later we were on the lip of the amphitheatre, an impressive natural bowl at the top of Cascade Mountain.

14 November.

Having spent the night at Castle Mountain youth hostel (halfway between Banff and Lake Louise) we drove to Lake Louise, intending to try the ambitious walk from Moraine Lake to Paradise Valley via Sentinel Pass. Unfortunately the 14km road up to Moraine Lake was closed and there was no other way up. Rather than spend valuable daylight hours looking for a pass up to the mountains in the area, the group spent the remaining half of the day practising getting down mountains. An enjoyable, and very tiring, half day was therefore spent skiing.

15 November.

We continued north up through Banff National Park. At the Weeping Wall by midday: a sheer rock face from which water pours from numerous cracks and fissures. Now frozen, it was a most impressive sight. Its base can be approached up the frozen river, the ice being between 3 and 12in thick. Although only a short distance (it can be done in an hour) it was very varied: testing the ice, scrambling up the banks and occasional 5 to 10m climbs over the more awkward parts. When at the base of the Wall itself, **Cpl Adams** tried to prove that falling slabs of ice are no threat to the Scots: the theory was disproved.

16 November.

The day was spent on the Parker Ridge and the Athabasca Glacier. Parker Ridge (2,400m) is the dominant feature overlooking the Columbian Icefield. The lower slopes, beneath the treeline, were passable. However, above the treeline (2,100m) the snow was too deep (over 1m) to make the climb practical. The afternoon was spent on the Athabasca Glacier. A path which could just be found under the snow runs along the southern edge of the large glacier. **Sig PT** and **Woolley** demonstrated their death wish by casually wandering around above the 40-60ft fissures: somehow they never fell in, probably because everyone was too busy laughing at **Cpl Adams** who had fallen into a river 50yds from the car park. The views after even half an hour were

Sunwapta Pass, north of Parker Ridge

impressive, particularly the large ice formations which looked like waves suddenly frozen in a rough sea. The night was spent at nearby Hilda Creek Hostel which consisted of three log cabins with no mains power, water, or other intrusions. The emergency food store held there had fresh tracks of a brown bear leading to and from it, but the closest thing we saw was **Sig Ric Wolley**'s teddy.

17 November.

The team made the journey back from the Columbian Icefields to BATUS, a distance of around 600km, arriving back that night.

Exercise Rocky Zero II: 19 to 23 November

The group from phase I took control (?) of the Ops Room and a new group set out towards the Rockies. The weather was steadily getting colder and much more snow was forecast for the days ahead. After a stop in Calgary for those who wanted to buy some more warm clothing, we arrived in Banff around 1800 hrs. The team for this phase was **Lt Alan Blackwell, Cpl John Innes** (7 Sig Regt), **LCpl Len Bibby** (again), **LCpl Tom Handley** (1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt), and **Sig Pollit** (7 Sig Regt).

20 November

Once again, Cascade Amphitheatre was the objective for the first full day in the Rockies. Surprisingly there was less snow and ice on the mountain than in the previous week, but the amphitheatre was no less impressive and tracks from the previous ascent had all been hidden under the snow (or did we just go the wrong way?). The Safari Land Rover, in its 'desert cam' colours, was attracting considerable local interest, including an offer of $20,000 cash.

21 November.

As we worked north to Lake Louise the extent of the snowfall became apparent. Roads were almost deserted and the snow coverage was complete, regardless of altitude. We took the walk along the southern edge of Lake Louise towards the Plain of the Six Glaciers to the west of the lake. The ice on the lake was sufficiently thick by this time for there to be an ice rink on it!

22 November.

The day was spent practising descending mountains and a full day's skiing was achieved. The weather turned in the early afternoon and by 1500 hrs there was a total whiteout across all the peaks. The Rockies had their first blizzard warnings of the winter.

23 November.

Having spent another night at Hilda Creek Hostel and walked a quarter of a mile through 1m of snow to reach it, the last day was spent on the lower slopes of Parker Ridge. The snow in the Columbian Icefields was by now a minimum of 1m, and considerably deeper in drifts. We went about half a kilometre up the lower slopes which proved quite an adventure, particularly for the shorter members of the group. Everyone had a chance to lead through the snow and certainly got a realistic impression of the problems that deep snow can present. After just under an hour we emerged at the clearing we had been aiming for, and tobogganed down back to the road: the start of the Royal Signals Luge team? We left the Columbian Icefields at 1300 hrs and were back at BATUS by 2300 hrs.

Cpl Adams and Sig Woolley and PT prepare to deal with any bears

POST EXERCISE ROCKY ZERO

All those who participated in the exercise thoroughly enjoyed themselves, despite some initial doubts when mountains appeared only to get higher and steeper with every step. It is perhaps a reflection of the attraction of the Rockies, and what can be achieved there, that most of those on the exercise returned to the area in their week off before returning to their parent units in BAOR in UK. The exercise was fortunate in securing so much help and cooperation for a venture organised at such a late stage, in particular a grant of £125 from Corps funds to help offset the cost of accommodation. Hopefully future Royal Signals soldiers serving in Canada will be able to enjoy the Rockies in a similar way.

THETFORD

ADVENTURE TRAINING WITH 1 CADET TRAINING TEAM THETFORD

A Report by Cpl Glen Martin

September 1987 saw my arrival in No 1 Cadet Training Team, in the middle of Thetford Forest! What I learned, from my predecessor, did not prepare me for what was to come!

As I was the Corporal adventure training instructor an intensive programme of canoeing, climbing, abseiling and ski-ing, and unbeknown to me, a host of military subjects awaited me.

The training team consists of the OC, RSM and two military trainers. The adventure training Sergeant and I are employed on quite a wide scale. We have the Army Cadet Force (ACF) who we visit in the evenings—49 of them!—with weekend exercises also, climaxing with the highlight of the year, their summer camp which is two weeks of non-stop activity including range work, assault courses, night exercises, cadre courses, watermanship, march and shoot, canoeing, climbing and abseiling, to name just a few of them!

The Combined Cadet Forces (CCF) are located with the schools we visit every afternoon of the week, teaching the same as we do the ACF with more emphasis on adventure training at the weekends, and on their Easter camps. They too have an annual central camp, held each year at 'Proteus', which runs for three weeks, and run on a much larger scale, involving all the training teams in the district, with all the usual military and adventure training going on.

Our other commitment is to TA units, and also the regular Army, when we can fit them in!

In one day I was canoeing at one school, onto another to take a climbing lesson, back home for five minutes, then on to an evening cadet detachment, to teach the new rifle—Phew! . . .

At the weekends a lot of time is spent in Derbyshire, most of the time under canvas. Normally arriving very late on Friday evenings and inevitably in the rain and darkness, the perfect time to put up your tent! Emerging from your tent each morning, having been woken up with a cup of tea by the cadets at 0600 hrs. The day usually ends having had an excellent day's walking or rock-climbing.

Christmas was a well earned rest!

An enjoyable few weeks skiing, saw the New year in on Ex Snow Cadet. Fortunately, I had no broken legs in my classes! Also some extremely cold canoeing, in the following months.

Easter soon came along and we spent a great time in the Lake District climbing and white water canoeing, and I didn't have to break any ice to do the capsize drills!

Much credit to the cadets, for doing the swimming test in Lake Coniston in March; certainly brings out the character in them. Likewise on the rock face, I've had them all, crybabies, the ones that climb halfway up then won't move, and the 'flyers', destined to follow in our footsteps maybe?

The summer that followed was quite a hectic one, concluding with the summer central camps, meeting the other cadet training teams, learning and laughing about their experiences, but most of all, seeing more cadets then you ever thought possible! During this time, I was granted the local rank of Sergeant, and able to enjoy the luxurious life in the Mess (paying Mess bills!).

Having completed a year now, I look back having learnt many new things, made new friends, and above all, done a well worthwhile and enjoyable job.

Here's looking forward, for what is yet to come!

(The contributor is a serving Corporal in Royal Signals and holds the local rank of Sergeant in the Cadet Training Team.)

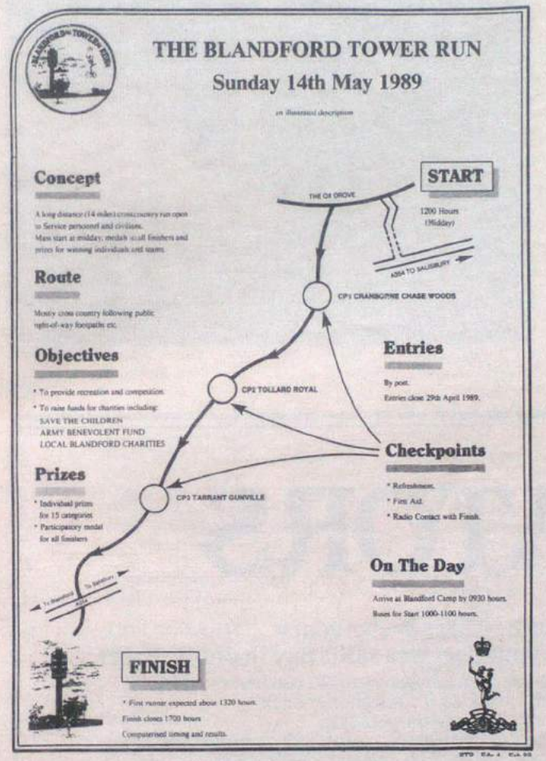
THE BLANDFORD TOWER RUN 1989

The Blandford Tower Run is to take place this year on Sunday 14 May. It is a 14 mile cross country event run through the Wiltshire and Dorset countryside, and organised by the School of Signals. It attracts both 'fun runners' and dedicated athletes. Unit teams and individuals are invited to enter.

The event is timed to coincide with the Old Comrades's day when many past members of the Corps meet at Blandford. It is hoped to raise money for service and civilian charities by encouraging the runners to obtain sponsorship.

The overall winner last year was **Pte Webb** of The Royal Regiment of Wales in a time of 1 hr 19 mins 21 secs.

Request for registration and sponsorship details should be made to: BTR 89, School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Blandford, Dorset DT11 8RH. Telephone Blandford Mil Extension 2304 or 2283, Civil (0258) 52581. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope (14 pence), minimum size 11in × 8in.



CORPS COLOURS AWARDS 1987-88 SEASON

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

Cpl S. Welsh	—	School of Signals
Cpl T. Smith	—	School of Signals
SSgt J. B. Dyer	—	School of Signals
Cpl M. M. Cheetham	—	School of Signals
SSgt D. Taylor	—	School of Signals
Cpl A. Smith	—	School of Signals
Cpl M. Shergold	—	School of Signals

CORPS CRICKET

Sgt A. K. Phillips	—	16 Sig Regt
Sgt S. Naylor	—	8 Sig Regt
Cpl S. Gibbs	—	14 Sig Regt
Sgt G. Watts	—	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt D. Richardson	—	30 Sig Regt
Capt D. Luckett	—	AA Coll Harrogate

SKIING

Capt P. A. Brown	—	School of Signals
Cpl R. M. Anderson	—	22 Sig Regt

ORIENTEERING

Sgt G. Backhouse	—	14 Sig Regt

RUGBY

Sgt E. Atkins	—	30 Sig Regt
LCpl G. Harwood	—	7 Sig Regt
Capt S. Sharman	—	14 Sig Regt

HOCKEY

Cpl C. R. Souter	—	30 Sig Regt
Sig M. W. Roberts	—	30 Sig Regt
Cpl P. J. Collins	—	30 Sig Regt

SHOOTING

Maj I. R. C. Brown	—	HQ SED1st
Cpl P. J. Alden	—	16 Sig Regt
WO2 B. J. Hayward	—	School of Signals

TENNIS

Sgt J. Pearson	—	School of Signals
Cpl M. J. Swift	—	30 Sig Regt

SPORT MOTOCYCLING

Sgt P. Clarkson	—	School of Signals

CANOEING

Sig B. G. Boniface	—	8 Sig Regt
Sig L. P. Broders	—	8 Sig Regt

FOOTBALL

From: Lt Col G. S. (Pat) Massey, Army Football Association PRO

The Corps provided the complete Army back-four unit at the start of both Inter Service Matches in March. Army Team Captain **Sgt A. (Sandy) Brown** (238 (London) Sig Sqn) was joined by **Cpl A. (Tony) Robinson** (School of Signals) in the 'heart' of the defence, with **Cpls A. (Alan) Higgins** (210 Sig Sqn) and **Cpl S. (Steve) Welsh** (School of Signals) in their usual defensive positions on the flanks. The Army won both games beating the Royal Air Force by three goals to one, and the Royal Navy by one goal to nil to retain the Constantinople Cup.

All three Services together for first time

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on

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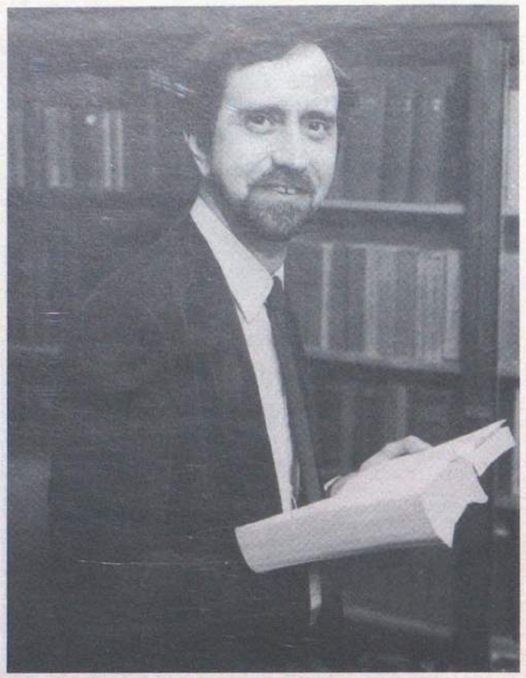
CHANGE AT THE CORPS MUSEUM

After eight years dedicated service to the Royal Signals Museum **Maj Alan Harfield BEM, FRHistS** retired from his post as Deputy Director on 30 November 1988. He will be greatly missed from the corridors of Blandford Camp. The photograph shows **Maj Harfield** apparently about to leave in the Austin 7 Wireless Car carrying with him his leaving presents and the best wishes of his friends and colleagues for his future career as a full-time author.

The second photograph is of the new Deputy Director, **Dr Peter Thwaites** who has come to the Royal Signals Museum after 12 years at the Imperial War Museum. He is shown here in his office probably looking up his leave entitlement.



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NOTES FROM THE OFFICE OF THE REGIMENTAL COLONEL

The 1989 programme of recruiting and publicity events is beginning to take shape and it could well be the busiest year ever for all those in the Corps involved in the recruiting and PR effort. A refurbished Quicksilver will be on the road from April onwards. In an attempt to reinforce recruiting success, much of Quicksilver's programme will be concentrated in NE and NW Districts this year, with the occasional foray into Scotland, E, and SW Districts. RIT programmes are not yet available, and the Quicksilver programme is not complete.

We are particularly keen that TA units utilise these Blue Helmets, White Helmets, Quicksilver and Training Group RIT appearances in their areas, and send a small recruiting stand and maybe some equipment, to stand alongside and take advantage of the occasion. Please let Officer Commanding RSDT know in advance so that he can arrange with the organisers for space to be reserved. The number to ring is Catterick mil Ext 2666.

Another reason for reproducing the programme in such detail in *The Wire*, is to give serving and retired members of the Corps the opportunity to visit events whenever possible. Apart from the entertainment value, the young men and women involved in the teams deserve and appreciate your support.

SOLDIER RECRUITING

The recruiting year 1988/89 is drawing to a close and despite the oft quoted and documented problems that face the recruiting organisation at present, the final figures are not all bad news. Wastage in training is up slightly and retention is the watchword of success if we are to maintain unit manning levels. The recruiting targets for Adults and Young Soldiers were much higher in 1988/89 than in recent years. The requirement was 610, of which 484 were recruited. When Junior Soldiers, Junior Leaders and Apprentices are added on, the totals rise to 1,310 out of 1,507, which is approximately 87%. Targets for 1989/90 will be at a similar level and we will be doing very well if we achieve the same percentage.

OFFICER RECRUITING

It is sad to have to report that only 34 young Officers were commissioned into Royal Signals in 1988/89, against a target of 50, but there was a contributory factor to this low achievement which has to be taken into account. The Standard Military Course (SMC) has been increased from 28 to 42 weeks duration, so one SMC output was missed in the year. The forecast for 1989/90 is 44, of which 24 will be direct entry graduates.

The highest priority continues to be attached to Officer recruiting, since the future of the Corps depends on success in this field. The levels of effort in supporting school CCF contingents and UOTCs are increasing, but since it can take up to seven years for a potential Officer to become a Second Lieutenant Royal Signals, rewards do not come quickly.

ROYAL SIGNALS RECRUITING AND PUBLICITY EVENTS: APRIL-JULY 1989

Date	Event/ Location	Recruiting Team or Unit
1989		
April		
1-27	North East District	Quicksilver
15	Trust House Forte—Blenheim Palace, Woodstock	White Helmets
28-1 May	Teesdale County Fair	Quicksilver
30	Teesdale County Fair	Blue Helmets
30	West Midland Police Open Day	White Helmets
May		
1	Stopsley Festival, Luton	White Helmets
1-14	KAPE—NEDIST	2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt
2-16	KAPE—NWDIST	21 Sig Regt
5	Comd's Opening Show, Catterick	White Helmets, Blue Helmets, Quicksilver, Trg Gp RIT
10-11	Stafford area	Quicksilver
12-14	35 Sig Regt Tattoo, Drayton Manor Park, Birmingham	Quicksilver
13	35 Sig Regt Tattoo, Drayton Manor Park, Birmingham	White Helmets, Blue Helmets
14	Blandford Reunion	White Helmets, Blue Helmets
17-19	West Midlands Show, Shrewsbury	Quicksilver
20-23	Festival of Music, Mons—Belgium	White Helmets
22-26	Tour of N Shropshire (Telford)	Quicksilver
24-25	Stafford County Show	White Helmets
27-30	Western Park Festival, Stoke	Quicksilver
27	Berks Young Farmers, Banbury	White Helmets
28	Leeds Steam Spectacular	White Helmets
29	Northumberland County Show	White Helmets
29	Newlands Children's Home, Hull	Blue Helmets
30	Wetherby Show	White Helmets
June		
3	Lymm Carnival, Warrington	Quicksilver
4-9	North West District	Quicksilver
10	Bury Lions	Quicksilver
10	Glaxo, Barnard Castle	White Helmets
11	Stevenage Show	White Helmets
12-30	Scottish KAPE	Quicksilver
20-22	Lincolnshire Agricultural Show	White Helmets
20-22	Scottish KAPE	Blue Helmets
24-25	Rotherham Tattoo	White Helmets, Blue Helmets
26-29	Dundee KAPE	White Helmets
30	Freedom of Richmond	White Helmets, Blue Helmets
July		
1	Catterick Reunion	White Helmets, Blue Helmets
1-17	KAPE—SEDIST	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
2	Bromyard Gala	White Helmets
4	4 July Celebrations, Menwith Hill	White Helmets
5-6	Army Exhibition to Schools, Bassingbourn	Quicksilver, Blue Helmets, 19 Inf Bde Sig Sqn RIT
7-8	Pudsey Show	Quicksilver
8	37 Sig Regt (V)	Blue Helmets
8-9	Cheshire Steam Fair	White Helmets
10-13	Great Yorkshire Show, Harrogate	Quicksilver
13-15	Kent County Show	White Helmets
14	CCF Central Camp, Wathgill	Trg GP RIT, Blue Helmets
15-16	Halton Show, Widnes	Blue Helmets
15-17	Save the Children Gala, Wakefield	Quicksilver
16	Spilsby Show, Lincs	White Helmets
20	Cumberland Agricultural Show	White Helmets
22	Spectral Vision, AA Col Harrogate	White Helmets
22	Cleveland County Show	Blue Helmets
24-26	Ryedale Show	Quicksilver
26	Yealmpton Show, Devon	White Helmets
26-27	Weston Air Display	Blue Helmets
28	St Helens	White Helmets
28-31	Pickering Traction Rally	Quicksilver
29	Kohima Day, York	Blue Helmets
30-10 Aug	Inverness KAPE	White Helmets
31	Turriff Show, Banff	White Helmets
31-6 Aug	KAPE—SWDIST	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt

— Movements —

Officers

FEBRUARY 1989

Rank and Name	*Units to which posted*
Col R. A. Wright	LSP Oman
Lt Col A. R. Gale	HS Language Trg HEC Mulheim
Lt Col P. T. Innocent	22 Sig Regt
Maj H. J. Bardell	225 Sig Sqn
Maj C. J. Burton	HSDSS (AD)
Maj M. Cost	Staff College
Maj S. A. Crane	DADPTC
Maj R. P. Etherton	38 Sig Regt (V)
Maj D. S. Ewing	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj A. J. H. Harrison	30 Sig Regt
Maj J. P. Hayes	School of Signals
Maj S. G. Hughes	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj N. C. Jackson	CGS
Maj J. P. Moreland	ACDS (OR) Land Systems
Maj A. G. Morgan	608 Sig Tp
" T. E. M. Richardson	DSS (AD)
Maj H. A. Ross	HQ 11 Sig Bde
Maj R. J. Sanders	11 Sig Regt
Maj K. G. Wilson	7 Sig Regt
Capt E. L. Budworth	School of Signals
Capt G. F. Chaloner	21 Sig Regt
Capt M. W. Edwards	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt R. O. N. Evans	Staff College
Capt A. Field	Staff College
Capt S. Gray-Cowan	FSS Mossy Hill
Capt T. G. Inshaw	Staff College
Capt G. R. Leach	Staff College
Capt R. W. Mansfield	13 Sig Regt
Capt P. J. Moseley	Staff College
Capt R. G. Nicholson	HQ 15 Inf Bde
Capt P. A. Pratley	Staff College
Capt D. E. Rowlinson	Staff College
Capt M. A. Stevenson	16 Sig Regt
Capt P. M. Telford	Staff College
2Lt K. Atkinson	School of Signals
2Lt G. E. Bennett	School of Signals
2Lt O. D. Bryant	School of Signals
2Lt A. J. E. Parsons	School of Signals
2Lt G. M. Pullen	School of Signals

FEBRUARY 1989

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col G. J. Barrett	ACDS (Pol and Nuc)
Lt Col SL C. H. Glydon	School of Signals
Maj M. J. M. Alden	11 Sig Regt
Maj H. A. R. Hancock	DSS (AD)
Maj R. T. Hoole	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj S. C. Johns	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj J. S. H. Johnson	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj J. R. S. Ovenden	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt A. G. A. Brittenden	HQ Afcent (BAE)
Capt N. D. Couch	30 Sig Regt
Capt A. S. Eames	School of Signals
Capt M. W. Edwards	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt R. P. Giles	BR Contingent UNFICYP
Capt A. P. Hudson	16 Sig Regt
Capt D. P. Meyer	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Capt P. A. Osment	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt G. Smith	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt J. A. Terrington	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt J. Turner	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt I. D. Westerman	BDLS Australia
Lt D. C. Chattaway	11 Sig Regt
Lt A. J. Clewlow	244 Sig Sqn
Lt J. H. Fraser	AA Coll Harrogate
Lt I. Hooper	7 Sig Regt
Lt P. W. King	28 Sig Regt
Lt I. G. Lawrence	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt R. D. Meinertzhagen	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt G. Neal	14 Sig Regt
Lt M. A. Rogers	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt J. L. Smart	7 Sig Regt
A. B. Stocker	21 Sig Regt
A. R. Urwin	AA Coll Harrogate
2Lt G. W. Fletcher	7 Sig Regt
2Lt D. J. Foulkes	22 Sig Regt
2Lt H. F. M. Hughes	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt J. C. Leader	22 Sig Regt
2Lt D. J. M. Quinn	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

WOs and SNCOs

FEBRUARY 1989

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
AWO1 P. F. Budden	38 Sig Regt (V)
AWO1 (YofS) G. W. Duncan	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO1 D. W. Sparkes	40 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 (FofS) M. Kidd	School of Signals
WO2 (FofS) T. M. Moorhead	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) P. J. Robinson	8 Sig Regt
AWO2 W. Henderson	BR Cont UNFICYP (Sp Regt)
AWO2 G. A. Humble	244 Sig Sqn
SSgt B. Johnson	HQ Trg Gp R Signals and Catterick Gar
SSgt B. Lauder	16 Sig Regt
SSgt J. C. Lewington	8 Sig Regt
SSgt A. M. Reid	9 Sig Regt
SSgt C. Whawel	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt R. L. Woodfire	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt R. J. Dunne	28 Sig Regt
ASSgt I. J. Foster	HQ 4 Sig Gp
ASSgt P. J. Gibney	14 Sig Regt
ASSgt D. R. Price	HQ Int Corps Depot and Centre
ASSgt I. G. Williams	FSS Stenigot
Sgt B. Berrie	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt G. T. Bryson	1 SG
Sgt G. J. Carpanini	30 Sig Regt
Sgt A. J. Clarke	602 Sig Tp
Sgt S. A. Cooper	14 Sig Regt
Sgt C. A. M. Downie	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt K. Dunk	SHAPE ACE
Sgt I. J. England	Rocchan (Balado Bridge)
Sgt W. G. Farrell	21 Sig Regt
Sgt A. R. Finch	22 Sig Regt
Sgt P. M. Flint	HQ Afnorth (BAE)
Sgt J. V. Garhard	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt F. Grant	633 Sig Tp
Sgt K. C. Hallett	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt J. D. Hunter	11 Sig Regt Depot Tp
Sgt R. G. Jenkinson	8 Sig Regt
Sgt S. P. Knaggs	22 Sig Regt
Sgt B. A. Knight	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. Main	UK Support Unit SHAPE
Sgt D. J. Metcalfe	HQ UKLF
Sgt D. I. R. Murray	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. Murray	Berlin HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt V. Murphy	633 Sig Tp
Sgt R. Orchard	21 Sig Regt
Sgt G. K. Owen	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (INT)
Sgt I. D. Richardson	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. L. Russell	28 Sig Regt
Sgt T. Sparshot	28 Sig Regt
Sgt D. M. Stokes	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt J. J. Taylor	39 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt M. Williams	2 Coldm Gds
Sgt M. J. Yates	14 Sig Regt
ASgt R. Horne	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt J. Jenkins	633 Sig Tp
ASgt G. Rigg	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt S. Rosenthal	21 Sig Regt

MARCH 1989

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO2 R. Sharp	16 Sig Regt
WO2 P. J. Underwood	School of Signals
AWO2 M. Comber	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO2 A. Dipple	7 Sig Regt
AWO2 J. K. Eynon	242 Sig Sqn
AWO2 G. D. MacRorie	Queens UOTC
AWO2 T. Palmer	8 Sig Regt
AWO2 J. Riley	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
AWO2 (YofS) W. P. Ruthven	AA Coll Harrogate
SSgt J. Allen	ACIO Chichester
SSgt I. D. Blacklaw	633 Sig Tp
SSgt G. Brook	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt W. P. Craig	HQ NORTHAG Sig Sp Gp
SSgt K. C. Crosby	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt E. A. Doubtfire	RSA and Larkhill Garrison
SSgt M. J. Emmott	9 Sig Regt
SSgt W. C. Jones	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt J. D. Mackie	Battle Gp Tac Trainer
SSgt N. P. Samm	21 Sig Regt
SSgt R. C. Shortis	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt T. W. Smith	16 Sig Regt
SSgt B. W. Thorpe	ACIO Plymouth
ASSgt C. Barlow	22 Sig Regt
ASSgt G. W. N. Bartlett	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASSgt P. J. Callary	HQ NI
ASSgt D. Campbell	21 Sig Regt
ASSgt M. A. Simcox	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt I. M. Wylie	22 Sig Regt
Sgt D. M. Bradford	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. J. Chalmers	QG Sig Regt
Sgt N. Chatterton	633 Sig Tp
Sgt D. R. Clark	28 Sig Regt
Sgt N. M. Collins	8 Sig Regt
Sgt R. A. J. Cox	9 Sig Regt
Sgt D. M. A. Doddy	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. V. H. East	7 Sig Regt
Sgt R. J. Extance	Int and Sy Gp (NI)
Sgt K. S. Falconer	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt M. S. Gibbons	633 Sig Tp
Sgt G. L. Huthart	31 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt G. A. Jones	22 Sig Regt
Sgt G. T. Kendall	RAF Mount Pleasant
Sgt B. Leech	35 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. W. Marsden	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt K. Murray	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt N. McCreedy	HEC Mulheim
Sgt C. N. McKay	16 Sig Regt
Sgt J. M. O'Connor	7 Sig Regt
Sgt S. P. D. Rodriguez	7 Sig Regt
Sgt K. J. Rhodes	HEC Mulheim
Sgt S. I. Ryder	9 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Scantlebury	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt A. Suttie	633 Sig Tp
Sgt D. M. Till	21 Sig Regt
ASgt B. J. Alexander	14 Sig Regt
ASgt A. S. Cupper	39 Sig Regt (V)
ASgt R. H. Hayhurst	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt J. P. Rutland	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt T. Skee	13 Sig Regt
ASgt E. T. Strefford	11 Sig Regt
ASgt P. M. Wood	AA Coll Harrogate

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during January 1989:-

Miss Mary Fowler	£ 875.00
259 Sig Sqn	£ 297.61
56 Div (City of London) Sigs OCA	£ 200.00
In memory of Maj G. Platts	£ 175.00
42 Sig Regt Officers' Club	£ 170.00
N. H. Chadwick	£ 50.00
In memory of Sig M. Clavey	£ 40.00
From the Estate of A. McNiel Watson	£ 25.00
In memory of Col J. E. B. Jones OBE, TD	£ 20.00
J. E. Neale	£ 20.00
Col G. M. L. Claridge	£ 20.00
48 (CofB) Sig Sqn (V)	£ 20.00
A. D. Eraut	£ 15.00
Certa Cito Lodge	£ 10.00
E. E. Bayley in memory of Mr P. Eliot and Mr A. Mills	£ 10.00
J. Bradford	£ 10.00
A. R. Carter	£ 10.00
D. O'Leary	£ 10.00
WO1 (RQMI) A. D. Turner	£ 10.00
M. J. Millichip	£ 10.00
Misc	£ 34.20
	£2,031.81

The following donations were gratefully received during February 1989:-

In memory of Lt Col C. W. Hallett	£100.00
In memory of Mr W. E. Kemp	£ 38.38
In memory of Sig M. Clavey	£ 25.00
Capt S. R. Renfrey	£ 25.00
St Giles Church, School of Infantry, Warminster, Wilts	£ 21.52
STC Rugby Players	£ 18.00
P. M. Sparling	£ 13.00
In memory of Col L. T. Shawcross OBE	£ 10.00
C. A. Smith	£ 8.00
Misc	77.86
	£336.76

ROYAL SIGNALS STABLE BELTS

New 3in Regulation Pattern with Straps
Any Amount Made Up as Required

Export 3in Web with Strengthening ..... £6.33 plus post
Export 3in Web without Strengthening ..... £5.23 plus post

UK inc VAT 3in Web with Strengthening ..... £7.28 plus post
UK inc VAT 3in Web without Strengthening £6.01 plus post

T. FROST (Saddlers)
SOUTH PARADE, BAWTRY
DONCASTER, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

THE VITAL LINK

The Story of Royal Signals 1945-1985 by Philip Warner

(340 pages illustrated—pictures and maps)

This important book is a must for all associated with Royal Signals. Commissioned by the Corps it will be available in May through RHQ Royal Signals to readers of *The Wire* at a discount price of £16.00 on all orders received by 30 April 1989.

The Vital Link examines the variety of tasks carried out world-wide by the Corps and traces the complex developments in techniques, technology and signal tactics since the Second World War. It records the growth of the Corps through the achievements, both personal and professional, of the high quality men and women of the Regular and Territorial Army, who serve in Royal Signals. It is presented in an attractive and enjoyable way as a story rather than a historical record.

Order now by order form or by writing to: RHQ Royal Signals, The Vital Link, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD; enclosing a cheque for £16.00 payable to Royal Signals Corps Funds. (Price after 30 April 1989 is £18.50).

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF AIRBORNE FORCES

The aim of the Golden Jubilee is that all those who served in Airborne Signals celebrate this anniversary, that a permanent memorial should be set up, and that funds should be raised to cover these as well as boosting the Airborne Charities.

You will know that the Airborne Museums at Aldershot and Normandy are for Airborne Forces as a whole. But you may not know that The Airborne Forces Security Fund is able to assist any Airborne or ex-Airborne soldier or his dependants, even though other benevolent funds may be involved.

Our main concern in the Security Fund is that the 1990s will show a threefold increase in the demands for money. The Controller of the Security Fund has done a first stage projection which shows a considerable increase in demands on the Fund in the 1990s as those of the wartime group reach their 80s.

If you wish to take part in the 50th Anniversary celebrations either for the very special Airborne Forces Day on 7 July 1990 in Aldershot, or at one of the Regional Open Days that are being held in other parts of the UK, you should contact the Administrative Officer at 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Arnhem Barracks, Montgomery Lines, ALDERSHOT, Hampshire GU11 2AU.

NOTICES

DEATHS

Bow—Lt Col S. G. Bow MBE—died 17 January 1989.
Craik—Capt J. G. Craik—served 1930-46—died 13 October 1988.
Cutler—ex Sgt H. F. Cutler—served 1935-44—died 31 December 1988.
Hennessy—Capt J. W. Hennessy—died 7 November 1988.
Hogg—Capt G. A. Hogg—served 1939-46—died 17 January 1989.
Jones—Col F. E. B. Jones OBE TD JP DL—served 1921-46—died 15 January 1989.
Kemp—ex WO2 W. E. Kemp—served 1945-68—died 18 January 1989.
King—Mrs C. King—served 1941-46—died 17 January 1989.
McConnell-Wood—Maj F. D. McConnell-Wood—served 1932-69—died 8 February 1989
Owen—ex Cpl D. W. W. Owen—died 27 November 1988
Parker—Cpl I. C. Parker—served from 1975—died 28 December 1988
Potter—ex Sgt V. W. J. Potter—served 1951-63—died 19 December 1988.
Rotherham—ex SSgt R. G. Rotherham BEM—served 1942-70—died 27 December 1988.
Rushworth—Maj V. G. Rushworth MBE—died 6 January 1989.
Saxton—ex Cpl H. Saxton—served 1921-45—died 1 February 1989.
Scott—Lt Col S. Scott OBE MC—died 26 January 1989.
Shawcross—Col L. T. Shawcross OBE—served 1927-52—died 15 February 1989.
Snowden—Cpl A. Snowden—died 9 February 1989.
Walsh—Lt Col C. V. Walsh OBE—Served 1931-67—died 21 January 1989.
Watson—ex SSgt A. M. Watson—served 1950-75—died 30 December 1988.

OBITUARIES

Cooke—Maj W. G. Cooke—William Cooke enlisted in RE Signals in 1920 and transferred to the Corps on formation. He served in Germany from 1921-1926 and later in the Middle and Far East. He was commissioned in Meerut in 1943. He finished his service with 60 Sig Regt (TA) in Sheffield. A member of Lincoln Branch he was its Vice-Chairman from 1984 until 1987 when ill health caused his retirement. **Maj Cooke** died on 8 January 1989.

Jones—Col F. E. B. Jones OBE, TD, DL, JP. Col Jones who died on 15 January aged 89 years enlisted into the Royal Flying Corps in July 1917 and was commissioned as a pilot on completion of training. In 1920 he joined 48 (South Midland) Div Sigs as a Territorial Officer and served with this unit until 1940. As Second in Command he went to France with the BEF and was evacuated from Dunkirk.

As a Lieutenant Colonel he was appointed to command 4 Div Sigs in 1940 and in 1942 became Deputy Chief Signal Officer at Southern Command Headquarters and subsequently at Allied Force Headquarters in London and later in North Africa. He was appointed OBE in 1942, made Justice of the Peace and appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for the county of Warwick in 1955.

In 1957 he was appointed Honorary Colonel of 1/20 Army Sig Regt TA, later renamed 48 (South Midland) Sig Regt TA. When the TA was reorganised into the T and AVR he was reappointed as Honorary Colonel to the newly formed 35 (South Midland) Sig Regt. He retired in 1971 but remained an active Honorary Member of the Regiment providing much valuable advice to its members.

He was on the Central Committee of the Royal Signals Association as the TA representative, and served as Vice-Chairman in 1966. He was also an active member of the Birmingham Branch and its President from 1952-56.

In addition to a distinguished military career he was a successful businessman in the family firm of manufacturing jewellers and was Managing Director of A. E. Godrish and Son Limited.

Col Jones led a very active life in which good humour, patience and dedication to his career endeared him to his very many friends. He will be sadly missed.

King—ex SSgt R. King—It is with much regret that we record the death of **SSgt King** which occurred on 26 December 1988, after long illness. He was aged 41 years. **Bob** joined the Corps in 1966 and served with 11 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, 14 Sig Regt, 16 Sig Regt, SHAPE and finally at 38 Sig Regt (V). He left the army after 22 years service to take up a position as engineering manager for a security firm in Doncaster. Always keen to help others **Bob** helped to organise a regimental football team when serving with 16 Sig Regt which enjoyed success in the 1981 Rothmans six-a-side competition. He also helped the Boy Scouts and other youth organisations. His funeral, which took place on 5 January 1989 was attended by many serving and ex members of the Corps. He leaves a widow **Kath**, a daughter **Adrienne** and a son **Robbie**. The family are very grateful to Sheffield Branch and 38 Sig Regt (V) for all their kind help during a difficult time.

Ling—ex SSgt C. W. Ling—Bill Ling died peacefully in Ipswich, after a short illness, on 4 January 1989. He served in the Corps from 1929 to 1957 and spent most of his career in the Middle and Far East. When he left the army, he moved, with his wife and family, to Hadleigh, Suffolk. **Bill** leaves a widow, **Win**, daughter **Jackie** and two sons **Raymond** and **Peter**, both ex members of the Corps and together they contributed a total of 44 years continuous service.

Neil—Sgt Robert Neil. We regret to announce the death of **Sgt Robert Neil** of 52 (Lowland) Sig Sqn (V) on 12 January 1989. **Robert** joined the TA in June 1980 and was taken ill after Ex Bonnie Dundee '88 in which he took part. All ranks of 32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V) extend their deepest sympathy to **Isobelle, Gayle** and **Danniele**.

Parker—Cpl I. C. Parker. It is with deep regret that we report the death of **Ian Parker** on 28 December 1988. **Ian** was serving with 34 (N) Sig Regt (V) at Middlesbrough where he lived with his wife **Mandy** and two children **Kerry** and **Lee. Ian** joined the Corps in August 1975 and after training as a data telegraphist was posted to 16 Sig Regt. Whilst there he changed his trade to driver and subsequently served with 8 Sig Regt and also a tour of duty in the Falklands. He joined 34 Sig Regt in October 1986 where he quickly became a popular member of the MT section. He was due to leave the Army shortly and settle in the area where he had made many friends. **Ian** will be sadly missed by his workmates and all who knew him.

Rotherham—WO2 R. G. Rotherham—Danny Rotherham died on 27 December 1988, after a long illness. He served for 28 years in the Corps (1942-70). Known as **Danny** to everyone he had a colourful career being Team Sergeant of the White Helmets from 1950-52, during which time **Jeff Duke** and **John Surtees** were members of the team. In 1965 he was awarded the BEM in the New Year Honours List whilst serving with 30 Sig Regt. During the latter period of his career he performed the duties of mess secretary at HQ 1BR Corps mess. He leaves a widow, four sons and a daughter.

Stead—ex Sgt A. E. Stead. Eric Stead died suddenly in December 1988, aged 87 years. He served in the Corps from 1943-46 and then worked at RHQ Royal Signals for the following 20 years as Association Admin Officer. He was awarded the Honour Member Badge of the Association in recognition of his long service. **Eric** was also an active member of the Royal British Legion and was the proud holder of the Legion's Gold Badge. He was a very good friend to many and will be much missed by those who knew him. His wife **Mary** died in 1987.

Thompson—ex WO2 R. T. Thompson (Tommy)—It is with deep regret that we report the death of **Tommy Thompson** which occurred on 2 December 1988 at Celle, West Germany where he was serving as a CASO in the Hohne area.

Tommy served in the Corps from 1950 training at Gallowgate Camp Richmond. 1950-52 Korea, 1953-55 Austria, 1956-62 4 Div, 2 RHA Malaya, Colchester, 1963-64 Oxford UOTC, 1966-68 Northern Ireland, 1970-72 9 Sig Regt, 1973-75 71 Sig Regt (V).

After **Tommy** retired he was appointed BIA and CASO at Catterick Garrison where he indulged his love of golf becoming the Captain of Catterick Garrison Golf Club in 1984. He will be sadly missed by his many friends of all ranks in the Corps.

He leaves a widow **Vera**, daughters **Angela** and **Beverley** and son **Matthew**.

CORPS DATES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS INSTITUTION

The 1989 AGM of the Royal Signals Institution Council will take place in RHQ Royal Signals at 1030 hrs on Tuesday 4 April 1989.

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 9 May 1989 at 1900 for 1930 hrs. Dress: Dinner Jacket.

The price of the dinner is £15 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, 17 June 1989 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 GARDEN PARTY AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Our Colonel-in-Chief HRH The Princess Royal GCVO may attend the Garden Party on Tuesday 11 July 1989.

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.

FOR SALE

- Mess Kit.
- Two No 2 Dress.
- No 4 Dress (sand coloured) with two pairs of trousers. All above ranked, for Colonel GS and in very good condition. Height: 5ft 8in. Waist: 36in. Inside Leg: 29½in.
- Two No 2 Dress Caps, one No 1 Dress Cap—each with red band, GS badge and buttons.
- Riding Mac by Gieves. Chest: 42in. Length: 39in. As new.
- Wellington Boots, boxed with spurs. Size 8.
- George Boots. Size 8M.
- Numerous buttons, badges of rank Royal Signals and GS; Lanyards; Gorgets; Epaulettes; Ties; Straps; Cap; Stable Belts; Mess Kit Jacket (white) and light weight DJ with white Jacket.
- DJ Suit. Chest: 42in.

For details of cost etc, apply **Col (Retd) G. A. W. Hickman OBE**, 332 Richmond Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT2 5PP. Tel: 01-546-8559.

Mess Dress, chest 42in, waist 34in and waistcoat. £80 ono. Contact **R. Stewart**, 43 Carstairs Avenue, Park South, Swindon SN3 2DF. Tel: 0793 45834.

AN OFFER

Mr M. M. Matthews has a quantity of *Wire* magazines from 1984 onwards and wonders if any reader would like to have them. Please write to him at 20 Redford Avenue, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 2HJ.

'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.

One hundred and forty eight pages with illustrations, by **Tom Roe**. Foreword by **Sir Harry Secombe CBE**. Printed by Higham Press. Price £5.50, including postage and package. Obtainable from:- 96 Station Road, Pilsley, Nr Chesterfield S45 8BH.

REUNIONS

The dates for the Annual Reunions in Blandford and Catterick are as follows:-

Blandford Sunday 14 May 1989 and Catterick Saturday/Sunday 1/2 July.

The Catterick Reunion will be preceded by a parade to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Freedom of Richmond. This is to take place on Friday 30 June with a March Past in Richmond Market Square followed by The Playing of Retreat, by the Corps Band, in the grounds of Richmond Castle.

Any member of the Association wishing to have details of these events should write to Association Headquarters, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Members of Branches, should contact their Branch Secretary. Applications should not be made by telephone.

GLOSSOP TERRITORIAL ARMY CENTRE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of Glossop TA Centre and the 44th Anniversary of the Glossop and District Royal Signals Old Comrades Association. To celebrate the occasion an exhibition of memorabilia will be held at the Heritage Centre, Henry Street, Glossop from 8-21 May, Monday to Saturday from 1030 hrs to 1600 hrs. It is hoped to attract as many members and visitors as possible. Do come along! For further information please contact **G. E. Colclough**, 'Hafod', Manor Park Road, Glossop, Derbyshire or **Mr Fred Price**, 43 Kershaw Street, Glossop, Derbyshire.

CALLING ALL WIRELESS OPERATORS

All Wireless Operators who served with GHQ Sig Regt FARELF in Singapore from September 1945, are invited to contact **Dickie Ockenden**, 48 Sanderstead Hill, Sanderstead, Surrey CR2 0HA (Tel: 01 651 2455), with a view to arranging a reunion.

56 (CITY OF LONDON) DIVISIONAL SIGNALS OCA

The AGM of this Old Comrades Association is to be held at HQ 31 Sig Regt (V), 190 Hammersmith Road, London W6 7DL, on Sunday 23 April 1989, 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 will be £5 per head, and a buffet will be provided as an alternative to the curry. Bar facilities will be available.

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 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.

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.

SITUATIONS VACANT

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 eight 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.

RETIRED OFFICER VACANCY
HEADQUARTERS LONDON DISTRICT HORSE GUARDS

A vacancy exists for an RO2 (Tels) appointment in the Headquarters London District. Working in a pleasant environment in Horse Guards, the duties cover the whole range of static telecommunications including planning, accounting and managerial aspects, assisted by a telecoms network manager. The vacancy exists now.

This post has recently been upgraded to an RO2's appointment.

Full details of the post can be obtained by writing to Commander Communications Headquarters London District, Horse Guards, Whitehall, London SW1A 2AX.

NRPS SERGEANT VACANCY
RADIO TECHNICIAN (MOULD CONTROLLER)

A vacancy will occur on 15 May 1989 for a suitably qualified Radio Technician to take up the post of MOULD Controller, HQ London District.

Applicants should be ex Regular Army Radio Technicians, Grade 1. The post carries the rank of Sergeant with daily rates of pay of £30.56 plus Inner London Weighting of £3 per day.

The terms and conditions of service are set out in TA Regulations 1978 Chapter 6. Applications including telephone number and details of two referees should be forwarded to: Adjutant, 71 (Yeomanry) Sig Regt, Phoenix House, TA Centre, Watling Street, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7QQ.

Closing date for applications is 5 May 1989. Short list applicants will be expected to attend a selection board in Bexleyheath on 10 May 1989.

RO VACANCIES

SO2 **RO2** Sigs 36a DSS(A) Main Building post vacant, daily management of all AD Crypto equipments. Suits computer literate Tfc Officer Major or above.

SO3 Trg **RO3**, Sigs 32a DSS(A) Main Building MOD available October 1989—to manage Royal Signals training.

SO3 Sigs **RO3**, Sigs 32c DSS(A) Main Building MOD post vacant, Manpower and Establishments.

SO3 Recruiting **RO3**, Sigs 32b DSS(A) Main Building post vacant, Implementing Recruiting Policy.

Admin Officer **RO3**, RSDT, 8 Sig Regt available June 1989, day to day administration of the RSDT. Programming of the Display Teams. Knowledge of accounts.

Successful new entries selected for RO3 and RO2 appointments in London may be entitled to financial assistance to enable them to move house to take up post. Allowance up to the sum of £5,000 may be available to reimburse Legal and Estate Agent's fees, removal expenses, stamp duty and associated VAT incurred for house purchase/removal. Advise should be sought from CM(A)2(RO) before commitment by anyone who considers that they may be eligible for the allowance.

Job Hunting?

THE REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

Our sole aim is to help men and women leaving the Services find employment and resettle into civilian life. The only criteria are that individuals should have served for more than three years and have a good character reference.

The RFEA has a life long interest in ex-Servicemen and women—they can register at any time, not only on leaving the Service. We advise and assist each year almost 10,500 Servicemen and women and place about half of them in employment. The service is free both to ex-Regulars and to employers. The Association is a registered charity, getting most of its finance from the Ministry of Defence, the Service Benevolent Funds providing the remainder.

There are 40 offices spread throughout the UK each manned by an Employment Officer who is a retired officer or warrant officer from one of the three Services. The head office is at 25 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2LN, and is manned by the General Manager, a treasurer and two clerks.

REGISTRATIONS AND PLACINGS

Although job-finding is the primary task of the Employment Officers, their activities cover a wide field. Apart from looking for a job, an ex-Regular may have other problems, the obvious ones being housing or domestic difficulties or education problems. Very often these problems are inter-related and cannot be separated from settling a man into the right job. The Employment Officer is prepared to advise and generally give a helping hand over any major problem which arises when a man is going through this transition period from Service to civilian life.

We have a life-long interest in the ex-Serviceman. Here we differ from the Job Centres who classify a man as an 'ex-Regular' for two years only after his discharge. With us, provided that a man qualified for our services in the first place, and provided also that he keeps his good name, he can come to us at any time during his working life and we have an obligation to help him.

Behind the scenes the Association maintains contact with the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Employment to ensure that the special circumstances of the ex-Regular are recognised by giving him special help to get on an equal footing with his civilian counterpart in the job market. Currently, the Association is urging those local Authorities who discriminate against ex-Regulars because they have a small pension to think again.

ADVICE

An important part of RFEA's responsibilities, which is less easy to measure, is the part played in giving advice. This is something done jointly with everyone else in the Resettlement organisation. It involves Employment Officers attending Resettlement Boards in the UK and taking part in Regional Resettlement Briefings and Second Career Advice Courses, all of which are sponsored and run by the Services.

There are also individual enquiries which come in all the time. There is nothing to stop any man writing or getting in touch with RFEA at any time. Most of these enquiries are seeking information about some particular career, training and employment opportunities, or housing prospects in some particular area.

The need to consider employment prospects in relation to housing, which can itself constitute a major problem for many Servicemen, makes it all the more necessary for men to plan their resettlement well ahead.

These facilities are of particular value to men and women serving abroad. They can turn to the RFEA at any time during say, there last two years of service, for advice on resettlement prospects in any particular locality. Nearer the time of their return to the UK, we can provide further advice and initiate enquiries about suitable civilian employment.

The Association represents a link between employers and ex-Regulars that has been built up over many years and which works to the advantage of both. Further information will be available with your discharge documents and if you wish to make earlier contact with your Branch, the address may be obtained from your unit resettlement officer.

CIVILIAN ENGINEERING QUALIFICATIONS—CHANGE OF TITLE

A well established system of registering technicians and engineers has been operating for some time, in which three categories were defined:-

Engineering Technician	(Eng Tech)
Technician Engineer	(T Eng), and
Chartered Engineer	(C Eng)

The close similarity of the first two titles has now been clarified by a modification of the second category by the Engineering Council which administers these registers.

The title Technician Engineer has now been replaced by Incorporated Engineer with the abbreviation I Eng.

The Foreman of Signals Course contains the required education and training for this category of registration, and after a short period of experience registration can be undertaken by applying to join the appropriate Institution. After the amalgamation with SERT, the Institution concerned is the Institution of Electrical and Electronics Incorporated Engineers (IEEIE).

Those previously registered as T Eng with the Engineering Council are entitled to use the new title I Eng.

There is *no* change to the title Engineering Technician which is accessible following Class 1 Technician Training by the identical process to that described for those trained as Foreman of Signals.

Application Forms and further details of registration and membership requirements can be obtained from:- The Secretary, The Institution of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Savoy Hill House, Savoy Hill, London WC2R 0BS. Telephone: (01 836) 3357.

NAFFI JUBILEE CUP—FOOTBALL COMPETITION

(INTER-SERVICE CUP WINNERS CUP COMPETITION)

Matches will be played as follows: School of Signals (Army UK Cup Winners) v RAF Wyton (RAF Cup Winners) at Blandford Camp onThursday 4 May. Kick off 1500 hrs.

HMS Sultan v School of Signals (RN Cup Winners) at HMS Sultan, Fareham, Hampshire on Wednesday 17 May. Kick off 1500 hrs.

RAF Wyton v HMS Sultan on Wednesday 24 May at RAF Wyton. Kick off 1500 hrs.

ARMY RUGBY CUP FINAL

7 Sig Regt v Duke of Wellington's Regt at Aldershot Military Stadium on Wednesday 5 April. Kick off 1400 hrs.

ARMY SOCCER CUP FINAL

School of Signals v 1 Kings or 10 Regt RCT at Aldershot Military Stadium on Wednesday 19 April. Kick off 1930 hrs.

Support Your Teams!

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM

The Corps Museum is now firmly established on the tourist map of Southern England and the number of visitors attending the Museum has greatly increased and is still increasing.

Unfortunately the Museum is not open at weekends which means that many would-be-visitors are turned away.

To help overcome this problem a voluntary society, 'Friends of The Royal Signals Museum', was established in 1987 whose members agree to man the Museum shop and supervise visitors during the weekends between May and September.

Interested volunteers can also help in Research, Cataloguing, Preservation and identifying objects.

This scheme worked very well in 1988 but unfortunately a number of Friends have been forced to pull out this year and we need some new recruits to take their place.

Any member, or wife, who is interested in helping the Corps Museum are asked to contact: **Maj (Retd) Leslie Taylor MBE**, Secretary, Friends of The Royal Signals Museum, c/o The Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Dorset, DT11 8RH.

LETTERS

From: Mr H. Craig (ex WO1 (SC))

Dear Sir

I have read in *The Wire* of claims to long service by members and ex members of the Corps. I can claim a long and somewhat unusual connection with the Corps and its members.

I enlisted in Royal Signals TA on 1 May 1939 in Plymouth. I was mobilised on 2 September 1939 and demobilised in March 1946 having served in UK and India. My final rank was war substantive Corporal.

In June 1946, while still on demob leave, I obtained employment at Catterick Camp with 5 Trade Trg Bn as a temporary civilian Clerk Grade III. I progressed to Grade II and in 1947 I was promoted Grade I and took over as acting Orderly Room Sergeant, OI/C R Signals Records being unable to fill the post due to the post war run-down of the army.

On 14 February 1948, I re-enlisted in the Corps having resigned as a civilian clerk the day before! I had, of course, to re-enlist as a Signalman but was promoted acting Sergeant on the same day and continued to be Orderly Room Sergeant of Trade Trg Bn, but now in uniform. I finally left the Corps in September 1965 in the rank of WO1 (SC) at AG11 Stanmore.

Whilst on release leave I received a letter from **Brig (Retd) E. J. C. Harrison OBE** (formerly of the Corps) who was the manager of the newly formed Government Branch of Rank Xerox (UK) Limited offering me a position in his Branch. I accepted. When **Brig Harrison** retired his successor was **Maj R. A. Warren** (also ex Corps). I retired from Rank Xerox in December 1985.

Putting all this together I served in, or have been associated with, the Corps for some 42 years.

Yours faithfully
H. Craig

43 Wellesley House
Churchway
London NW1 1LL

From: WO1 (FofS) M. McDonald

Dear Sir

Having read **FofS Cooper's** letter on page 567 of the November 1988 issue of *The Wire*, I think I can beat his claim, or at least equal it.

Thee are five WO1 Foreman of Signals serving in the Corps at present who all went through basic training at 11 Sig Regt together, starting on 8 September 1969 and all started on basic Radio Relay course RRA9 in November 1969.

The five are myself, **WO1 (FofS) Lee Brown**—3 Armd Div Sig Regt, **WO1 (FofS) Phil Leach**—HQLF Cyprus, **WO1 (FofS) Lou Lawton**—242 Sig Sqn (Shetlands) and **WO1 (FofS) Bruce Wylie**—642 Sig Tp (Gibraltar).

Maybe in time **FofS Cooper** and friends will equal that!

Yours faithfully
Mac McDonald

632 Sig Tp
RA Range Hebrides
Isle of Benbecula
Scotland PA88 5LN

From: WO2 (FofS) T. Inman

Dear Sir,

With reference to **M. G. Cooper's** letter published in the November issue of *The Wire*, I can better his figure of five Foremen of Signals from one Basic Technical Course.

The intake of 73C at Harrogate had two classes of technicians. One class was for ONC students who stayed on at Harrogate for an extra month after basic training. From these 11 students, 7 have emerged as Foremen of Signals which is 63.6% of the class.

One more technician emerged from the other class of technicians making 8 Foremen of Signals from about 21 technicians in all which still beats 33⅓% success rate of PT16.

For the 'new' record, the other seven Foremen of Signals are as follows:-

Stuart Beverley, Robert Morris, John Thompson, Martin Case, Nigel Johnson, Ian Atherton and **Bill Hughes** (from the other class).

Yours sincerely
T. Inman

30 Sig Regt
Blandford Camp

From: Mrs Terri Hull

Dear Sir,

SERVING IN THE TA

I note that one of the aims of the Volunteer Reserve Forces Campaign is to encourage employers to be sympathetic to TA employees in giving them time off for training etc. I wonder if firms realise how much is to be gained by this approach. I wonder too if individuals are aware of the likely benefits. During my service with Royal Signals TA from 1976 to 1978 I qualified as a Data Telegraphist. I would recommend anyone to follow in my footsteps as I found it considerably easier to obtain interesting employment in 'Civvy Street' with a qualification—happily, still with Signals. My husband is a former MT Sergeant and is also employed with the Corps.

Yours faithfully
Terri Hull

c/o 36 Sig Regt (V)

WIRE NOTES MUST REACH THE EDITOR BY 12TH OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.

CAN YOU HELP?

Mrs Lies Maas-van Eijk writes: In preparation of a memorial book about wartime Asten, a committee is looking for British soldiers who were there at the end of 1944 or at the beginning of 1945.

Our committee would like to ask as many veterans as possible to tell us their story of what happened in Asten. Apart from these stories, we would like to get in touch with anybody who has photos of Asten, Ommel, Heusden and Liessel dating from that period. Photos and stories will help up compose our memorial book, which will be published in September 1989.

It was the 15 Scottish Div that is remembered best by the people of Asten. On 27 October 1944 the Germans launched a counter-attack in the Peel marshes. The 15 Scottish Div arrived in time to stop the Germans after severe fighting in Liessel. After these turbulent days, many units were billeted in the houses of the people of Asten. They stayed for five weeks; much longer than the 11 Armd Div which liberated Asten 22 September. After a terrible night in which this Division crossed the channel between Someren and Asten, the Germans were driven out of Asten.

It is well possible that you do not remember that much about Asten. But even a small detail of what happened or the exact name of your unit can help us. Apart from your response, stories and photos of other British soldiers are more than welcome too. The more veterans we contact, the better.

If you want to get in touch with the committee of Asten, you can write to **Mrs Lies Maas-van Eijk**, Julianastraat 40, 5721 GL Asten, Holland.

THE BURMA STAR ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL 'APPEAL FUND' FOR THE ERECTION OF A 'MEMORIAL STATUE' TO THE LATE

FIELD MARSHAL THE VISCOUNT SLIM KG, GCB, GCMG, GCVO, GBE, DSO, MC

Early in 1990, a magnificent 'Memorial Statue' now being sculpted by a Holder of The Burma Star, **Ivor Robert-Jones CBE, RA**, will be erected on Rayleigh Green in Whitehall, London, very near to The Cenotaph. This belated tribute to the British Soldier who became a Field Marshal and who was to prove himself to be the greatest fighting Army Commander the Nation has known since Wellington, will set the seal of recognition on The Fighting Soldiers General. He was a soldier of the highest ability and his most remarkable quality was the influence he had over the troops under his command, both British and Indian alike. He had the Love, Honour and Respect of every Sailor, Soldier and Airman, men and women who had the Honour to serve under the command of this charismatic and famous son of Britain.

WILL YOU PLEASE GIVE THIS APPEAL YOUR KIND ATTENTION?

DONATIONS MAY BE SENT TO:

'FIELD MARSHAL THE VISCOUNT SLIM' MEMORIAL STATUE APPEAL FUND

The Burma Star Association, 51 St George's Drive, London SW1V 4DE

For further information please contact: Statue Project and Appeal Fund Controller, W. H. P. Clarke, 9 Park Parade, Cambridge CB5 8AL (0223-62196).

REPORT FROM ULSTER

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn BFPO 807

INTRODUCTION

Life in 8 Bde is a busy one with vigilance much to the fore.

A big effort is being made to get everyone through their mandatory training before the ARU. Anyone got a spare range?

We recently held our Sportsman's Dinner which was attended by a majority of the gladiators of the Squadron. The Bde Maj kindly agreed to come along and present the colours. An enjoyable evening was had by all.

SYSCON
by LCpl Taff Bowen

Once again the task of scribing ye *Wire* notes is upon us. Firstly we would like to extend a belated congratulations to **Sgt Les Whittle** on his promotion and the Hockey Team on winning The Minor Units. Well done chaps.

Well, 29 January went by rather quietly seeing, **Lt 'Jake'** (black two sugars please) **Thackray** getting a nice ride on a chopper (Helicopter type).

Syscon itself, busy though uneventful has suffered a virtual total revamp stemming from one of **WO2 (FofS) Baugh**'s dangerous ideas. **Cpl Jim Alger**, not to be outdone by this sparkling display of initiative, set about a bit of revamping of his own. Reorganised files, equipments and other general paraphernalia.

Generally things have been running rather smoothly in the absence of our illustrious leader **Cpl George Farrar**. In fact we didn't realise he was away until we got a postcard.

Meanwhile **LCpl 'Dusty' Millar** is battling with the BFT (Big Fat Tummy), **Cpl Steve Chuter** with the cooks and **LCpl Andy Buckle** for a lift back from Aldergrove Airport.

Well, time for a brew so till next time adieu.

A RIGGERS LIFE IN 8
by LCpl Andy Cameron (Mike Tp)

It's late at night the rigger snores
Then comes a knock upon the door
It's 2 in the morning time to work
Who called me out this time? the berk!

Driving along wondering is it far
I bet it's a fault with the UDR
Just for a change you find it's not
So it's off to the talk thro' on the Hill Top.

It's raining and windy and very cold
But off up the mast as you've been told
Two hours later the job is done
A three element has been changed for a one.

You're driving back now the night is over
What a life I'm really in clover
All in all it's not a bad life
That's if you don't mind not seeing your wife.

The FofS is our boss a clever man you'll agree
He's managed to fit ten hours into three
But I don't mind with my days to do
If you're my replacement then God help you!

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

We say farewell to the following:- **2LT S. Hutchinson** to 1 ADSR, **Cpl B. Chapman** RCT to 30 Regt RCT, **Cpl R. Wallace** to 11 Sig Regt, **LCpl W. Paterson** to 238 (London) Sig Sqn, **LCpl N. Smith** to 4 ADSR and **Pte S. Gaughan** ACC to 20 Sig Sqn RCT.

Welcome to:- **2Lt E. Pascoe** as 2IC Comms Tp, **Sgt C. Tough** to Mike Tp, **Cpl D. Barrett** to QMs Dept, **Cpl I. Church** to Mike Tp, **Cpl D. Evans** to Mike Tp, **Cpl B. Green** to Comms Tp, **Cpl T. Scoins** to Comms Tp, **LCpl I. Cassidy** to MT, **LCpl C. Christie** to MT, **LCpl A. Elliot** to QMs Dept, **LCpl N. Flynn** to Comms Tp, **Sig S. Chandler** to Comms Tp, **Sig A. Edge** to MT, **Pte J. Hall** to QMs Dept, **Sig J. James** to MT and **Sig S. Malin** to Comms Tp.

From: 233 Sig Sqn

Lt 'Jake' Thackray receiving the Champion Troop Sports Trophy from Maj Cooper COS 8 Inf Bde

Cpl 'Jacko' Jackson receiving the Sportsman of the Year Trophy from Maj Cooper

WO2 (RQMS) Bob Taylor receiving his LS & GC from Brig M. R. I. Constantine Comd 8 Inf Bde

233 Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

There has been much activity behind the scenes as new equipments are introduced, and old equipment phased out with, of course, usual repair and maintenance programmes on the go. Nevertheless, we still have time for more pleasurable activities and enjoying the mild winter weather; and to prove it here is the news from the Troops.

CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS

The WRAC cross country team (actually they are almost all from the Exchange) took the honours in the Northern Ireland WRAC Cross Country Championships at Ballykelly on Saturday 10 December. The victorious team consisted of **Lt Frances Thomas, LCpl 'Ali' Davies** (the overall winner), **LCpl 'Euni' Bolder, Pte Tracey Cooper** (overall runner-up), **Pte Lorraine Allan-Burns**. Well done girls.

COMMCEN TROOP
COMINGS AND GOINGS

The Troop bids farewell to **Maj Stan Vannan,** who has escaped from 233 Sig Sqn, all the way to distant Comms Branch in HQNI. We wish him the best in his new appointment. We welcome our new Troop OC **Capt Jim Hindle** who comes to us from 15yds up the corridor (darkest Admin Troop). Also goodbye and good luck to **WSgt Ann-Marie Styles** on posting to ACIO Glasgow, **LCpl 'Ali' Davis** on promotion to 242 Sig Sqn, **Cpl Helen Cliffe** who is off to face the rigours(?) of diving in Florida. Also **LCpl Louise Watt** on promotion to 4 Sqn 16 Sig Regt. We welcome back (Bad Penny) **SSgt 'Taff' Carr**. We also welcome the following **LCpl Lee** and **Pte Lorraine Allan-Burns, LCpl Donna McCullough, Pte Karen Barker** and **Pte Julia Smith**. Also Hello's to **Sgt Nick Gibson, LCpl 'Tommo' Tomlinson, Cpl 'Clem' Clements, Sig Al Chester** and **Sig** 'Fatboy' (soon to be slimboy) **Horkins** and **LCpl 'Beatrix' Dave Potter**.

CONGRATULATIONS

We all wish **Cpl Sharon Shersby** and **Paul** all the best for the future. **Sharon** and **Paul** 'sloped off' quietly and were married in early January.

TECH TROOP
SOME NEWS FROM THE SECTIONS:-

RADIO SECTION
Misled by Sgt 'Pathfinder' Webb

The 'Quik Fit' radio fitters of the Squadron have a new member—**Cpl 'Flash' Wilkinson**. 'Flash' is thrilled to be with us. He said so. He added, however that he would have to be off in September 'cos of this Class 1 course. Still, he thanked us for the medal.' **LCpl 'Stu' Philips** is now with us. He has actually been in the Squadron for about a year but the general concensus of opinion is that he is now 'with us.'

Sgt 'Pathfinder' Webb has gone missing again. They say he's leading men on his RSSSC in Catterick. That may well be, but when he left here it was to sort out a fault within the area. If you're going to stay on this fun course **George,** send the tool box back! And finally, we would like to wish **Cpl 'Fred' Threadgold** all the very best in his newly chosen profession of TOT's Clerk. Very efficient.

DC/FRT WORKSHOPS
Completely mis-directed by SSgt 'Willy' Ironside

The FRT (Fatuous Repellent Thugs) have struck again. These groups of Dynamic Duos strike fear into the hearts of the bad guys in the communication industry, daring them to produce a piece of equipment that they (The FRT) cannot break. You have to admire the boys, so far a 100% record!

Gloom and despair hit the section with the publication of the T1 entrance results. Another 100% record! Still as **Cpl Charlie Rigg** says, 'There's always next year . . . and the one after that . . . and the one after . . .'

Finally this poor, misguided bunch of souls must say farewell to **Sgt Calum Downie.** He brought a ray of sunshine into their lives—his wife **Cilla**. They are off to 19 Inf Bde. The best of luck to you both.

LINE AND RIGGING SECTION
Pushed from the back by Sgt 'Lofty' Bagnall

Lofty and his men are a section renowned Province wide for never being satisfied with the amount of work they're given. They're always trying to get rid of some! Of course a lot of their time is taken up converting some of the HQNI cable pits into rented accommodation for accompanied soldiers with more than four kids.

A nice story next. Having been presented, by the RQMS (ex Tech—Class 2 I think), with a home-made Christmas star of wood and a lot of 100w light bulbs, this merry (in fact, very merry at the time) bunch of carol singers decided to mount it in a place befitting its beauty. It took the entire section to do it but the star finally shone from the top of the microwave tower in HQNI, and bathed Lisburn in its light. A really seasonal sight. But, now it is time to take it down!

While writing this, **Sgt 'Lofty' Bagnall** and the OC Tp (who wishes to remain anonymous) left for Moscow Camp. Now two hours later they haven't arrived. Do you think they might have gone to the wrong Moscow? One can only hope.

SYSTEMS SECTION
Controlled from the Golf Course by **SSgt Sandy Sanderson.**

We take great pleasure in welcoming **Sgt Dave Hunt, Cpls 'Aruz' Arundel** and **Garth McKimm** to the section. One of the arrivals can play Rugby!

We are also saying hello to **Sig Terry McIntyre,** his father **Sgt Steve McIntyre,** and **Cpl John Sutton** who seems a nice boy. Soon to arrive is **Cpl Sheree Banfield** and hopefully they will all enjoy safe, happy tours.

And finally the Christmas Rugby Special . . .

RUGBY CHALLENGE MATCH SPECIAL REPORT!

Tech Tp:	'Old and Bald' v 'The Toms.'
The Time:	Late morning.
The Place:	Lisburn Garrison National Stadium.

Christmas festivities were rounded off by a challenge Rugby match between the Seniors and Juniors. Right from the first whistle, the 'Toms' dominated play and had the Seniors on the defensive.

Blues (Old and Bald)
Standing: Sgt 'Baz' Roberts, SSgts Dave Smith, 'Sandy' Sanderson, Sgt Dave Hunt, 'Willy' Ironside, Sgts 'Rob' Hood, Dave Ball and WO2 (FofS) Billy Hughes
Kneeling: Capt Alan Hooley, Sgts Pete Bagnall, Martin Hooley, 'Fez' Newell and Callum Downie

Stripes (The Toms)
Standing: Cpl 'Aruz' Arundel, LCpl 'Divis' Armstrong, Sig Terry McIntyre, Cpl Pete Ruff, LCpl Rich Noonan, Cpls Mal Pryke and John Jolly
Relaxing: Cpl Nig Whiston, LCpl Jim Kerr, Cpl Glan Davies, not pictured, Mr Dave Menice (Ex Cpl)

Through-out the first half the 'Toms', inspired by superb forward running from **Cpl 'Glan' Davies**, threatened to score but were consistently stopped by some 'bone-crushing' tackles from **SSgt 'Willy' Ironside** and casual comments from the TOT about passing the ball to him, or else! The second half was a little more even with the Seniors making some good breaks with their star centre, **Sgt Dave Hunt**, making a lot of space to run in, but unfortunately he caught everybody unaware by actually passing the ball! The result was a marginal win for the seniors, and a suspicious free drink for the Referee!

However, the third half was a resounding success with the 'Toms' winning the session with pints to spare, and some stories from the FofS, **Billy Hughes**, of when he was young and how many tries he never scored! Suffice to say, all who were present had pounding headaches the next morning, but still can't wait for the return game!

INDIA TROOP

The workload increased as shifts were re-arranged to allow people to get away for a much deserved break. The Pond Park bomb was an upsetting event and caused some chaos for a while. However, everyone including the families reacted well and pulled together. Joint effort was the name of the game. A special thanks go to **Cpl Dave Bryant** and **Anke** who accommodated **Sig Saunders** and his family until alternative housing could be found.

After many futile attempts by **SSgt (FofS) Phil McGiveron** to commemorate the commissioning of his Training Simulator, the result of many hundreds of hours of programming, we even got a picture of the great occasion. The Foreman managed to get a few days 'holiday' on a course of the mainland much to his, and our, surprise. We're sure he tunnelled all the way.

Training Simulator—shown *(left to right)* are FofS McGiveron, able assistants Cpls Gary Warn and Chippy Wood with Capts Ian Westerman (Sqn 2IC) and Ted Flint (OC Tp)

ET phoning home, alias LCpl Ellams while in the background SSgt (YofS) Gary Stratton and LCpl Paul Prosser try to look baffled; and succeed

On the sports front **SSgt (YofS) Gary Stratton** has led the Squadron basketball team to victory in the Northern Ireland minor units league. Troop numbers have expanded, **Sgt Baz Roberts** and **Cath** have become parents as have **Sig 'Moff' Moffet** and **Iris**. Congratulations everyone!

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations on promotion to **Sgt Phil Howard** and **LCpl Rick Stacey** who celebrated by charging all Privates and Siggies under Section 69B (not making brews).

HELLO!

Greetings to **Cpl 'Geordie' Reid** and **Susan** from Commcen Tp, **Pte Caroline Towers** from sunny Catterick, **Cpl Keith Geddes** from the Falklands and **LCpl Karen Chester** from 28 Regt.

GOODBYE!

Cheerio to **Sig Joe Blood** off to join the boys in blue, **Cpl 'Willie' Kelly** and **Jacqui** to 28 Regt, **LCpl Karen Ellams** to the Falklands and **LCpl Tracy Hudson** to civvy street as an all singing, all dancing, all shopping, all cleaning housewife.

THE SHIFT WORKER'S LAMENT

I got jiffed for a poem
To write for this section
But I can't say too much
Cause of data protection.

A few lines of verse
Said Dave, our Troop Staff
But why go jiff me
The idea is naff.

With shiftwork and jiff jobs
Then guards and patrol
It's like prison in Victor
Without the parole.

The things that are happening
You just couldn't conceive
There's so little on shift
We've all dipped out on leave.

There are so many day workers
They come out of the cracks
They've got it so cushy
But not as cushy as WRAC's.

They come in late morning
Try to lay down the law
Drink coffee till dinner
Then we see them no more.

I'd better be going
As there is work to be done
And life in the section
Is all work—No fun.

Anon

LCpl Ian Jewison makes a selection from the wide range of background music available to play whilst on shift

— News from Headquarters —

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

The College lines the route

FAREWELL TO COL C. T. GARTON

Col Conrad Garton and his wife **Kathy** left the College on Thursday 12 January. He had a drink in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and was then pulled on a dray by Extra Stout, the largest dray horse in the world, and Strong Porter, from the Sergeants' Mess to the camp exit.

NEW COMMANDANT

The College would like to welcome to Harrogate **Col Peter Burke** and his wife **Claire**. After five and a half years in the MOD it must be good to get back into uniform again. We wish you both the best and hope you have an enjoyable tour as Commandant.

Hard at work already . . .

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 WIR2, The Royal British Legion, 48 Pall Mall, London SW17 5JY.

CHAMPION SQUADRON DAY

For the winter term Champion Squadron Day the College was delighted to welcome **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE**, Chairman, Royal Signals Association. After the Potted Sports and the Drill competitions, Scott was leading from Bradley and Penney Sqns. But it was a close race.

At the end of the competition the result was a tie between Bradley and Scott Sqns. The initiative test result was to decide the competition. Scott was last and Bradley second last in this decisive test!

The General meets AT RSM John Walsh. The Chief Instructor, Lt Col Chris Melhuish and RSM, WO1 Rab Ritchie listen in . . .

'I see no ATs'—Capt Gordon Halewood practising fire control orders on the General. The Commandant and RSM look equally confused

Gen Birtwistle presents the Champion Squadron Cup to JLs Duncan Smith and Nigel Brennan of Bradley Sqn

87A GRADUATION PARADE

On 21 December intake 87A Apprentice Trainees and 88A Junior Leaders graduated. The reviewing officer was **Maj Gen D. M. Naylor MBE** (GOC NE Dist) and yet again it was a cold, windy day at Harrogate. It was also the Commandant, **Col Conrad Garton's**, last parade. A special mention must go to the Parade Commander **AT RSM John Walsh** for an excellent parade under very difficult conditions, when even the General Officer Commanding lost his hat!

The GOC presents LC & GC medals to *(left to right)* Sgts 'Nobby' Clark, 'PC' Collins, Martin Archer and Ken Fudge (guess who are the Troop Sergeants?)

After the Parade *(left to right)* the Commandant, the Parade Commander, the GOC and the Mayor of Harrogate

Counsellor John Marshall presents AT Cpl 'Thomo' Thomas with the Community Service Award at the Prize Giving after the Parade. Well done to all the prize winners

Back Row: ATs Heasman, Lewis, Perkins and Deacon
Centre Row: Sgt Taylor (Trainer), ATs Duddy, Trotter, McCrostie, O'Hara, Peak, Lynn and Capt Radford (OIC)
Front Row: ATs Robertson, Parker, Hodson, Holdsworth, Hughes and Hynard

COLLEGE TUG OF WAR

The competitions started on 9 October at Huddersfield, where **Sgt Ian Taylor** took the teams to compete against some of the best teams in Britain. Unfortunately we were a little unprepared for this and were easily knocked out of the competition. This did not in any way deter the lads, but made them more determined for the following fixture in Wakefield.

A slight change in style, technique and pulling was implemented and the results were most evident. Teams that had previously easily beaten us now found us more of a formidable opposition, as the competition in Wakefield proved. However, as yet we had not pitted our strength against the youth teams. This was to follow three weeks later in Clay Cross, Derby at the North of England Youth Finals. Here we were matched against several youth teams including last year's champions Norton TOWC. The College team performed extremely well being beaten by last year's finalists. We came runners up in the 420-560 class. With out appetite whetted we went down to the National Finals in Kent, yet again the bogey being Norton TOWC who pipped us into runners up in the 420-560 class.

Sgt Ian Taylor started the training timetable in preparation for the Army Finals, held in Aldershot on 7 December. It was a memorable day for the College team where from the start we were determined and confident. We started with the catchweight, pulling with a much lighter team than the rest and came a creditable third.

The 560 competition saw us easily beating SEME 2—0 and beating 7 RHA on points giving us runners up in the UKLF to 26 Regt RA.

Finally the blue riband event the 640kg class.

A very hard fought class, but yet again we were showing good technique and skills beating Lisburn Garrison 2—1 and SEME 2—1. This result placed us in joint second place with 7 RHA. The pull off came at the end of a tiring and demanding day and here muscle and age prevailed giving us a third place in UKLF class.

A very successful term with plenty of medals being won. The team is now preparing for the last indoor event, the National Finals on 11 February. After this, it's all stations go for the outdoors.

CHRISTMAS CHARITY PARTIES

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess entertained the Yorkshire Disabled Society and Needy Pensioners from Harrogate to a Christmas party and meal.

The entertainment starts with the College Playgroup Nativity Play

CHILDREN-IN-NEED

Mrs Marie Vouckelatou and **Mrs Esther Bolton** both typists in College Headquarters, managed to persuade the Adjutant, Regimental Sergeant Major and Chief Clerk to have half of their moustaches shaved off for charity. They were to remain half shaved for 24 hours. In all £390 was raised for Children-in-Need.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH—SILVER AWARD

On Monday 20 January a small parade was held in which the outgoing OC **Maj Bob Etherton** presented the Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award to **AT Marc Claxton.**

Marc Claxton began working for the award in 1986 whilst with the Light Inf Cadet Det in Batley, Yorks.

For his Bronze Award which he obtained in 1987 he trained with the West Yorkshire Fire Service learning Basic Fire Fighting techniques, how to operate a fire appliance and first aid. He also participated in an overnight expedition to walk up the Pen-y-Ghent Peak.

He obtained Silver standard in December 1988 for which he participated in a three day trek in the Yorkshire Dales, completing the three peaks.

Maj Bob Etherton handed over Scott Sqn to **Maj Gus Boag** on 9 February. After four years at the College and several jobs, **Bob** and **Janna** move to 38 Sig Regt (V), **Bob** as Training Major. Good luck to you both. Welcome back to **Maj Gus Boag** and **Freda. Gus** has previously been a Troop Sergeant and Squadron Sergeant Major of Scott Sqn. Probably little has changed . . .

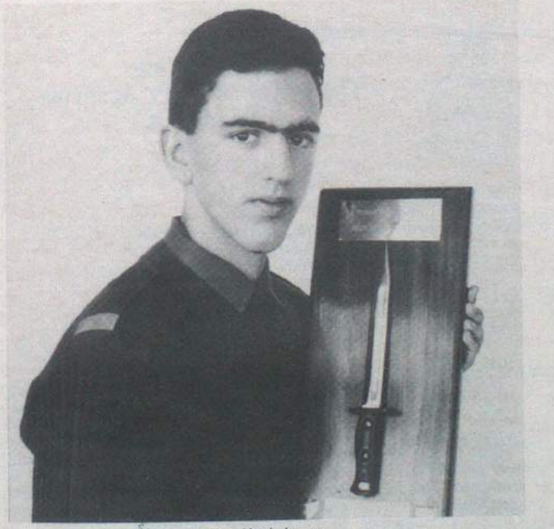
PENNEY SQUADRON

As the winter term came to a close December was its normal hectic time with the Champion Squadron competition, rehearsals for Recruit Pass Off, Graduation Parades and Ex Final Fling for the graduating term 87A. Nevertheless, the Squadron still managed to fit in Christmas social functions.

88C RECRUIT TROOP PARTY

The Recruit Tp end of basic recruit training party was held in the YMCA and was a 'smoker' with refreshments, each Troop room putting on an act. Recruit Tp **Sgts Terry Oakes** and **Steve Leather** taking most of the flak.

It was a fitting end to basic recruit training and a good night was had by all. Congratulations to **Rct Karl Jones** on being awarded 'Best Recruit' for the Squadron intake, well done.



Rct Karl Jones

Thanks must also go to the OC Sqn **Maj Paul Wilkin** and his wife **Carolyn** for inviting the Squadron permanent staff with wives and the graduating term's NCOs to his house for Chirstmas drinks, rather pleased with his newly installed barrel of draught bitter specially plumbed in for the festive season, rumour has it the six pints left the following morning did not last. Cheers Sir!

The end of term saw the graduation of 87A to adult service, congratulations to the **AT RSM John Walsh** on an excellent parade, we wish them all the best for the future, also farewell to our short term Recruit Tp OC, **Lt Mark Finneran** (who!) moving over to Rawson Sqn for the 89A Recruit Tp intake.

Spring term sees the Squadron back to work after a well deserved leave for permanent staff and Apprentice Trainees alike, a warm welcome to **Sgt John Fradley** his wife **Sam** and family, and computer as new recruits to the permanent staff team.

INTER SQUADRON SWIMMING AND WATER POLO COMPETITION

The Inter Squadron Swimming competition started on Saturday 14 January with the preliminary rounds of the Water Polo competition. Rawson Sqn went through to the finals with maximum points, beating Scott Sqn 8—1, Bradley Sqn 11—1 and Penney Sqn 9—2.

Saturday 21 January started with the Swimming competition first, some outstanding performances were put in by individuals and the relay teams, resulting in Rawson Sqn winning 13 of the 16 events, 2nd in 2, and disqualified in 1 of the relays. Bearing in mind that any swimmer was only allowed to enter one individual event and one relay event this presented the team coaches **Sgt Tom Dooley,** and **Cpl Tony Vivian** with headaches. The apprentices came through and produced a brilliant performance. A magnificent start to the term for Rawson Sqn. A special mention must be given to **AT Sgt Tim Williams** Team Captain, for giving the team the confidence and inspiration to produce such a result.

After the Swimming competition came the finals of the Water Polo where Rawson Sqn met Penney Sqn, in what can only be described as an extremely exciting and professional final. Both teams played a clean game with maximum effort resulting in a Rawson Sqn victory 9—2.

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HQ 1 Sig Bde
BFPO 39

Who are they? You may well ask. Well, they are also called Comms Branch, HQ 1 (BR) Corps. The photograph below is almost unique in that all the Officers are in the same place at the same time and not off attending some meeting or other—a feat never matched before. Our thanks to **SSgt Bob Bousfield** for this achievement.

HQ 1 Sig Bde—The Whole Staff
Back Row (L to R): WLCpl Julia McCarron, LCpls Martin Briody, Nigel Ogden, Cpls Graham Champken, Adrian Ferris and WLCpl Alexandra Campbell
Centre Row (L to R): SSgt Bob Bousfield, WO1 Dave Barlow, Capts Keith Hall, Phil Osment, Garth Letori, Maj Richard Ives TA, Mrs Jackie Thomas and Sgt Ian Barnes
Front Row (L to R): Majs Clive Cox, Alan Hutt, Lt Col Keith Butler, Brig T. I. M. Waugh, Majs Nigel Hope, Philip Grey and John Macdonald

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BRANCH SAILING DAY
by LCpl Martin Briody

The day finally arrived, and what a day. Amid a torrential downpour we set off for the Dummersee Yacht Club for a spot of wind surfing/sailing, leaving behind a rather forlorn and wet looking **Sgt Ian Barnes** running round the BFT course. But not to worry, he would follow later. So off we went and within half an hour, mainly due to my magnificent map reading, we were hopelessly lost. Not to worry—the Chief Clerk, **SSgt Bob Bousfield**, took the map away from me muttering words of one syllable and we were soon back on the right road. At the Dummersee we were given a quick lesson by **Maj Joe Fletcher**. We were all raring to go but, alas, our surfboards did not have the same idea and were intent on getting us extremely wet. After much flexing of muscles and numerous bouts of laughter from the shore, we decided to take a break for lunch which was a barbecue. **Sgt Ian Barnes** and myself were responsible for this culinary miracle, and thankfully the rain stopped and the sun came out just long enough for us to have our meal. Then with hunger staved it was back into the fray, but despite all **SSgt Strefford**'s efforts, the wind was not to be beaten. So looking dejected and rather wet we retired to the bar for a beer (purely medicinal you understand). Then it was back to Bielefeld, where we found out the reason for **Capt Letori**'s non-attendance.

BAOR ROYAL SIGNALS MINOR UNITS SAILING FINALS AT THE MOHNESEE

Although no previous races had taken place, HQ 1 Sig Bde was through to the finals of the Minor Units Sailing Competition against 202 Sig Sqn. The HQ entered two crews comprising—Crew 1: **Brig T. I. M. Waugh** and **Sgt Ian Barnes**, Crew 2: **Lt Col Keith Butler** and **LCpl Marty Briody**.

Sgt Ian Barnes and **LCpl Marty Briody** having had very little dinghy sailing experience, had to rely heavily on the very experienced 'Skippers', **Brig T. I. M. Waugh** and **Lt Col Keith Butler**.

The day turned out to be very blustery (gale force actually). However, this did not deter the enthusiasts, not just yet anyway. The first race had to be abandoned due to numerous capsizes, one being **Lt Col Keith Butler**'s boat. He looked extremely cold and wet being towed back to the jetty with **LCpl Marty Briody** sitting snugly in the cabin of the safety boat. **LCpl Marty Briody** was later to recall sailing along happily only to find that he was all alone in the boat—**Lt Col Keith Butler** was trying out a bit of water skiing (minus skis) hanging onto the stern of the boat. **Brig T. I. M. Waugh** found that sailing with a snapped tiller is almost impossible. I say almost, as later, after another broken tiller, he was to prove it was by using a paddle.

The second race saw **Brig T. I. M. Waugh** and **Sgt Ian Barnes** cross the finishing line first. However, **Lt Col Keith Butler** and **LCpl Marty Briody** came in a close fourth. 202 Sig Sqn did slightly better in the final race and won the overall competition.

Signal Wing
The Royal Military Academy
Sandhurst

THE FIRST MENTION?

PERSONALITIES	
Chief Instructor	**Maj Charles Le Gallais**
RSMI	**WO1 Dave Turner**
YofS (SGC & WSC Courses)	**WO2 Mick Brady**
YofS (SMC Courses)	**WO2 Sean Sutton**
SQMS	**SSgt Cliff Marshall**
SSgt Tech	**SSgt Neil Duncan**

OUR ROLE

The Chief Instructor's role in the Academy is double hatted as the CI of the Signal Wing and the Royal Signals representative at Sandhurst. Although the Wing is 'All Arms' approximately half of the strength is Royal Signals. The SNCO's are employed instructing Officer Cadets and Student Officers in the Classroom and on field exercises. The JNCO's command FFR detachments—such as Company Command Posts, Rebroadcast Stations or Command Appointment Driver Operators to personalities ranging from Company Commander to the Academy Commandant.

RMA Sandhurst—December 1988
Rear Row: Majs I. O. Robertson, C. L. Le Gallais and Capt M. Campbell
Centre Row: OCdts C. M. Wood, J. A. Clare, O. D. Bryant, 2Lt K. Atkinson, OCdts A. J. E. J. Parsons, S. J. McConnell and M. J. Hanby
Front Row: OCdt G. E. Bennett, Col M. L. Jennings, Maj Gens A. Yeoman, P. D. Alexander and OCdt G. M. Pullen

CURRENT ACTIVITY

Whilst **YofS Sean Sutton** complains that since arriving here he feels more at home on the Continent than in his quarter, **YofS Mick Brady** and the CI prepare to go to Cyprus (yet again) on Ex Spring Victory taking with them **Sig 'Chopper' Harris** who definitely feels at home in Cyprus with his driving skills. This leaves **RSMI Dave Turner** to look after our future officers and the SQMS to improve his fishing skills.

Finally we offer **Sgt Tim Ainsworth** and his wife **Andrea** our congratulations on the birth of their son **Martyn Ashley**. It just leaves **Tim** to be as successfull with his Foreman of Signals entrance exam which **SSgt Neil Duncan** tells me was a 'doddle'.

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News from Regiments

Berlin Sig Regt
BFPO 45

MAJ GEN P. R. DAVIES COMD COMMS (BAOR) VISITS BERLIN

The Regiment was fortunate to host the General for part of his hectic stay in Berlin. His visit began with a dinner in the Officer's mess attended by the 'Signals Community.' At the dinner **Capt Martin Ramshaw** and **Lt McCourt** were welcomed to the unit and **Lt Lucy Dickson WRAC** was congratulated on her engagement to be married.

The next day **Gen Davies** visited the Regiment and various personalities at Sector Headquarters, including our new GOC, **Maj Gen R. J. S. Corbett.** There had been a number of changes since his last visit and he was quick to notice the refurbished RHQ and, later, in the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess that it too had undergone change.

Whilst in the Mess the General met and congratulated **WOs Alan Hale** and **Tony Moore** on their selection for commissioning.

SSgt (YofS) Steve Rose, WO2 (SSM) Alan Bailey and Comd Comms

WO2 Allen RAMC (PMC) greets Gen Davies

SSM 1 SQUADRON FAREWELL

As reported **WO2 (SSM) Andy Wilson** has left 1 Sqn—the following photograph proves that the event took place.

OC 1 Sqn, Maj C. C. McColville presents SSM 1 Sqn, WO2 A. Wilson with a few mementoes of the Tattoo—how could he possibly forget?

WO2 (SSM) A. Wilson adjusting his brain bucket before driving himself out of camp for the last time. LCpls C. A. Smith and V. P. J. Moody pretend to know what is happening

BRIGADE TROOP
EXERCISE ELLIOTTS BEAR

Over the period 22/23 November, Bde Tp embarked on its second two day exercise organised by **Lt Elliott**.

Day one started with the Troop being divided into four groups of six, after which they moved to The Stadium Gym to tackle four command tasks. As dinner time neared, they were taken out and dropped on the edge of the Grunewald and had to make their own way to the RV, within a set time limit. En route from the RV by four tonners to an undisclosed location, they were ambushed by armed terrorists, **(Cpls 'Geordie' Laverick** and **'Thomo' Thomas).**

The teams ended up Prisoners at Ruhleben Fighting City (RFC) where each was interrogated by the DS. However, as no-one squealed it was decided by the DS that Day one would end.

Day two was an early start for the teams, who left RFC at 0500 hrs. Their task was to make their own way to a grid just outside Gatow. The teams carried this out to the letter, with Private cars, Taxis, buses and the U-Bahn being used. It was also rumoured that **LCpl 'Amega' Davis** took his team home, where his wife cooked them all breakfast!

The four teams were picked up from the RV point and taken to Montgomery Barracks, where the PT Staff of 1 BW had set up a further four command tasks, which lasted all day.

In the afternoon, everybody moved down to Doughboy City, the American equivalent of RFC. The teams were tasked with setting up OP's, sending out recces in preparation for the rescue of hostages later in the evening.

The exercise ended with the standard 'Troop debrief'.

Sig 'Acid' Walsh during Ex Elliott's Bear

SECTOR TROOP
RADIO SECTION

The end of 1988 saw the final rear link manned by **Cpl 'Geordie' Raine, Sig Dave** 'The rear Link' **Wilson, John** 'Bad Neck' **McLeod** and **Nick** 'Please don't take me from the Commcen' **Cotton**, depart to West Germany with 1 BW. They returned to Berlin on 16 December looking forward to a good wind-down for the Christmas and New Year break.

Sector Tp, Radio Section

December also saw us organising a 'Battle of the Bulge' BFT. There should have been two participants—**LCpl Hudson** and **Sig McCauley**, in the end however one of them dropped out due to heavy 'weight loss!' **Sig McCauley** does deserve congratulations for passing though. Although we have now bid a fond farewell to **Sig McCauley** as he passes from the Troop to become the CO's driver.

We have seen the departures this month of **WPte Smith** to 242 Sig Sqn in Edinburgh and **Sgt** 'What's a BFT' **Lewis** to Int and Sy Gp UK. We also welcome to Berlin **LCpl Andy Cook** from Cyprus and **Sig 'Taff' Thomas** from Harrogate—Oh! Another late arrival **Sgt 'Spud' Murphy** from 7 Sig Regt. We wish all members and ex-members of Sector Tp and indeed the Regiment a very happy, prosperous and successful tour in 1989.

COMMCEN SECTION

The last three months has seen the Commcen leaving the world of manual operation behind and after a few hiccups and a couple of software problems the AMHS (Automatic Message Handling System) is now in and running smoothly (which is more than can be said for the supervisors).

A few of the Commcen personalities have been occupied of late with various courses and sports. The Simpson Duo comprising **WLCpl Shirley Simpson** and **Cpl Steve Simpson** have both been busy, with **'Barnacle' Shirley** passing her watchkeepers course and **Steve** assisting Berlin to gain its first ever place in the BAOR Fishing Finals only to sleep in by 10 minutes on the big day and get disqualified.

Our other Dynamic Duo the 'Bunces' consisting of **WLCpl Liz Bunce** and **Cpl Tony Bunce** have been seen chasing each other around the gym shouting 'Am I losing weight yet?' whilst **Sgt** 'now you see me, now you don't' **Squires** keeps involved teaching **Liz** Langlaufing skills whilst trying to dodge **Tony Bunce's** karate. So between them the Commcen can now feed, defend and keep itself afloat like never before.

A few hellos and goodbyes to finish. Firstly we say goodbye to **LCpl Colin Higgin-Botham** and family to civvy street (via 19 Bde). And greetings to **WCpl Maisie Bayley** from Krefeld and **LCpl Rob Eden** who is presently on his RSDCC with **LCpl Jamie Gardner.**

THIS IS YOUR LIFE—WO2 TERRY MARSH

To come to the end of one's Military Service in anyone's life is a big event but when it's at the end of 24 hectic years with the Royal Corps of Signals, it should be an event to remember.

WO2 Terry Marsh (Boggy to his friends) left the Corps in December 1988 and assumed the Managership of Berlin HQ Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

Terry who is a well known character in the Corps and in Berlin deserved something special. We were soon to dine in our CO **Lt Col Mike Collins** and this would be the ideal time to 'Get Terry' with a 'This Is Your Life Presentation.'

Sgts Mick Blakeley and **Dave Whiting** were kind enough to hatch the plot and they soon amassed a collection of colourful stories from **Terry's** far flung friends. They included **Maj Gen Badcock**, Master of Signals, ex **RSM's Capt Phil Daisy, Pete Bawden** and **Capt Ian Sleightholme. RSM Trev Johnson** provided a video with some of his Mess members paying a comical tribute to 'Boggy.'

Mrs Alma Dale was able to fly over specially from Peterlee in County Durham, for the evening, **Alma** and her husband **Keith** had been good friends to **Terry** and his wife **Sue**.

Now the day had arrived how do you keep secret the theme of the dinner from the dinner organiser, when he is the 'star?' Well, it was not easy.

Just to keep **Terry** on his toes the waitresses 'failed to turn up.' They were smuggled through the Mess into the Sauna, as was his wife **Sue** (she should have been at work) they were met by the head waiter **Alex Botterill** who 'had to take leave' for that week.

During the day there had been some 'difficulty' in buying candles in Corps colours and as the **RSM Steve Bailes** is somewhat touchy about these things the Mess Manager *had* to get them (unbeknown to **Terry** we'd had them for days). There were many other little problems which continually kept **Terry** under pressure right up to announcing dinner, which was served only 10 minutes late!

The real fun started as we sat down—Police Sirens, shouting and what seemed like a small riot was taking place right outside the dining room. The RSM in no uncertain terms indicated to a now, highly strung **Mr Marsh** that he must sort out the problem, **Terry** set off and launched himself through the door to be met by two Mess members **(SSgt Steve Newbon** and **Sgt Tony Smith RAMC** from BMH) dressed in operating theatre gowns, carrying a red folder and brandishing a microphone. They were very lucky not to require real medical assistance, but **Terry** quickly re-adjusted and he was escorted to the top table where his wife **Sue** appeared with his Mess dress jacket. **Alec** the headwaiter was miraculously on hand to take **Terry's** dinner jacket and his job as Major Domo. The missing waitresses appeared as did

Alma wearing a tremendous smile much to the amazement of both **Terry** and **Sue**. At last we were all together and the dinner could get underway, but only after the menu cards were changed. They included such exotic delights as: 'Terrien' of Marsh Hare, Oysters Tell Style and Erotic Fruits!

Speeches were made by the RSM and the CO. The CO managed to tell a story which included everyone at the table, including the Padre.

And now to **Terry Marsh** this is your life, **Terry**'s tale is both rich and colourful and some of the funnier stories deserve a mention here.

The one when he was shackled to a real ball and chain on his stag night for over eight hours, which was being sawn off—until someone noticed the nut and bolt!

Or that his penchant for Port in vast quantitites is legendary and many tales of after dinner Port supping sessions were mentioned as were the following hang-overs and Mess bills.

Terry, did not qualify for his LS & GC—but we went one better, the CO was kind enough to present Terry with his Long Service and Misconduct Medal.

All in all it was a superb evening which carried on until dawn—thanks must go to all who helped in the organisation or supplying the funny stories—it was well worth it.

Terry and **Sue** received the best wishes from all of their friends and the members of HQ Berlin Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess—we wish them well.

Fond but painful memories of his stag night—a 'ball and chain'. Mrs Chris Collins, RSM and Mr Alec Boiterill enjoying the fun

Terry wearing his Long Service and Misconduct Medal receives his 'This Is Your Life' folder from the RSM

1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 32

CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

The Regimental cross country team was in action during December and January.

On 9 December we won, convincingly, the BAOR Inter Unit Cross Country and **Sig Frankie Boyle** became the BAOR Junior Champion—well done.

This was also the last race with the team for **WO2 (QMSI) Alex Rodgers** who now goes to Rheindahlen-on-the-Thames. We wish him all the best for his future and thanks for your efforts with the team.

In the New Year the team was racing in the Triangular cross country meet at Rheindahlen. This was with the BAOR team versus RAF (G) versus French Forces Germany. With the help of the lads from 1 ADSR the team won comfortably with RAF (G) second and French Forces Germany third.

At the time of writing the team is in the UK for the Army Championships to be held at Tweseldown on 1 February. Good luck.

Stop Press: The team has won the Army Championships.

Two runners—**Sgt Jeff Martin** and **LCpl Markvile** were selected to represent the Army. Well done.

1 SQUADRON

SQUADRON COMMAND TROOP (SCT)

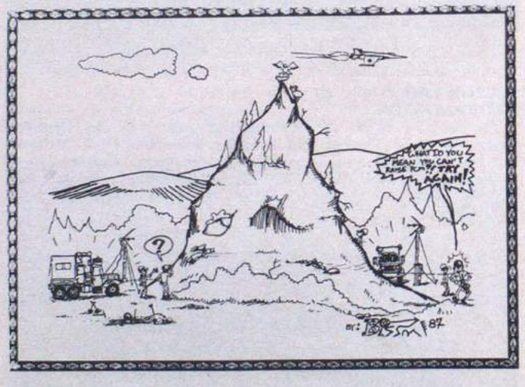
SCT is the Troop around which four trunk nodes revolve. To be fair we in the centre have been watching a fair bit of spinning lately. Question of the month: how do four powermen move five power vehicles? If you have the answer please write to our 2IC, **Capt A. L. McPhee** as he is still trying to solve this riddle.

We would like to welcome to the Troop **Cpl A. L. Williams** and **Sig 'Scouse' Holdsworth**. Both are making their mark on the Squadron, although not in any manner they would have predicted. **Sig Tony Flood** and **Cpl Nige Crabtree** are away learning to ski with **Sgt A. L. Martin**. I don't know who to wish good luck!

With great beating of chest and many a tear we say farewell to **Cpl 'Fag End' Fagan**, who is off to 2 Div as the Regimental Sergeant Major's Driver. Good luck in the new job and best wishes.

The remainder of the Troop looks forward to a year full of fun. In the meantime exercises, site guard and maintenance inspections will have to do.

PS. The enclosed cartoon was originally published in the Canadian Signal Regiment Blue and White (our sister Regiment). It typifies our favourite Brigade Signal Squadron which will remain nameless.



ECHO TROOP

December had arrived, and brought with it a new Troop OC, **2Lt Ian Walton**. His introduction to TN 041 was two weeks on the Lubbecke Ridge. Although the two RR crews, **LCpl Neil Clarke**, **LCpl 'Hutch' Hutchinson**, **Sig Daz Fennell** and **Chippy Wood**, had no problem getting up the hill, within 24 hours the weather had closed in and their two detachments were renamed 'Ice Station Echo'.

As had been expected, Echo Tp retained the coveted Indoor Games Trophy for the second year running. Entertaining performances were provided by **SSgt 'Rocky' Warhurst** and **Sgt Eric James**. Other equally outstanding performances were in the disciplines of pool by **Sig 'Hurricane' Dow** and **'Dick' Barton**, and in the gruelling crib competition by **Cpl Willie Rushton** and **Sig Trev Croxon**.

The 1 ADSR Cross Country Team after winning the Divisional Cross Country Championships
Back Row (Left to Right): Maj Richard Hezlet RH, WO1 (SC) Ian Murray, Sig Frankie Boyle, Cpl Sid Perks, Pte David Stanley and LCpl Nick Withers
Front Row (Left to Right): Sgts Dave Gill, Jeff Martin, Cpl Andy Kennedy, WO2 (QMSI) Alex Rodgers, Sgt Bill Bailey

We have said farewell to **LCpl 'Moog' Clarke** and **Sig John Barton**, and we wish them well in their new postings. The Troop also welcomes **Sig Sam Brownlee**.

FOXTROT TROOP

December started, as most months do, with an exercise. This exercise however, was unusual in that it was in the Garrison and the shift system was flexible enough to allow the important things in life to carry on.

The New Year was greeted in rather subdued manner by several Troop members. **Capt Paddy Somerville**, **LCpls Ninja Ainger**, **Ali Young**, **Sig 'Paxo' Paxton**, **Sid Coles** and **'Brats' Gratton** had a lovely time on site guard and hope to be selected again in March and June.

During the last couple of months we've said goodbye to Legionnaire **Tucker** who's invading Rhiendahlen and hello to **Cpl Dave Brett** and **Sig Stu Bowskill**. Welcome to Verden.

GOLF TROOP

Since the last *Wire* notes people have come and gone (mainly gone), and the Troop has celebrated its first birthday. In November the Troop completed its first year in 1 Div and held a party to commemorate this notable occasion. Unfortunately the buffet did not arrive, but this was nothing that **Anne Ardern** and her able volunteers could not sort out: we ended up with more food than we could get through! The night was a snowy one and the disco did not make it either, but it turned out to be an excellent evening all the same. In mid December (just in time for Christmas, before it was postponed) the new Troop OC, **Lt Alan Blackwell**, arrived.

The Squadron Christmas Party was held in January and the Golf Tp jinx reappeared when we heard that the disco, on its way from Bahrain (honest!) had not arrived. Since the arrival of the new Officer Commanding the Troop has had several Troop photos (one day we had more than 10 people in!) and a 'SPROUT' (Subalterns Periodic Review Of Soldiers Under Command And Technical Equipment). **LCpls Jim Kelly** and **Jock Clifford** have been lost on Inter-Troop postings, **LCpl Ray Bridge** left us at the beginning of February for 30 Sig Regt, and **Sig Si Ramdehal** has already handed all his uniform back for his venture into Civvy Street. All the best to them all.

HOTEL TROOP

The last few months have seen considerable change in the composition of the Troop. We give our best regards to **Sgts Nobby Clark**, **Dave Gill**, **Cpl Sean Littlefield**, **LCpl Nig Allen** and **Sig Ken Ward** all of whom have left our cosy niche.

With the exercise season firmly upon us it is worth noting that there are only 235 shopping days to Christmas (125 if you make all the exercises). It is refreshing to be back on exercise after over a month in Garrison if only to hear the dulcet tones of **Cpl Wilfy Kempton** on the SEOW. A cheer for our gallant one man detachments. The SQMS has received the steel wool and knitting needles and the RR Operators should be ready for collection in March.

Apart from exercise, life seems to revolve around a never ending spiral of mandatory training and vehicle maintenance, yes reader, vehicle maintenance! Morale remains high. **SSgts Dave Bradshaw** and **Arthur Sullivan** insist on it.

On a final note, the Troop would like to welcome **Sgt Dave Gill** our new Recce Sergeant, **Sig Cullen** and **LCpl Paul Traynor**.

2 SQUADRON

PAPA TROOP

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Troop would like to start with farewells to **Cpl Andy Roberts**, **LCpl Tim Roebuck** and **Sig Mark Caroll** and wish them luck on leaving the Army to start new civilian careers. **Sgt 'Ewok' Bryson** is also wished good luck on his posting to Scots Guards RLD. Welcome to **SSgt 'Reg' Dixon**, **Cpl McHugh**, **LCpls 'Sleepy' Sandman** and **'Vincent' Handly**.

BIRTHS

Congratulations to **Sgt 'Sub' Bain** and wife on the birth of their son **Adam**, also to **LCpl 'Mary' Mather** and wife on the birth of their son

Thomas on Christmas Day and **Barny** and **Mrs Barnes** on the birth of their daughter **Bertha**.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Sgt Andy Finch** and **LCpl Richie Byard** on their recent promotions, and to **Sig Steve Weir** on his recent marriage.

The Troop would also like to confirm sightings of **SSgt (YofS) Guy Benson** near a wash down point complete with romper suit after Ex Highland Malt 1/89. Any further sightings to Herford 2222 please.

ROVER TROOP
ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Welcome to **LCpl 'Reg' Preece, Cpls 'Mez' Merrill, 'Yarby' Yarborough** and **Sig 'Jock' Conway**. Farewell to **SSgt Steve 'Aussie Matilda' Lickess** on his return to the Royal Australian Signals after a very successful Long Look.

GENERAL

A few lucky Squadron members were posted for a site guard from 26 December to 2 January and saw in the New Year, in style. There were two exercises in January, Ex Highland Malt and Ex Morning Glory with the new staff. The RRB Recce/Resup Vehicle has a crew of three, with **Lt Kevin Bowers, Sgt Parker** and **LCpl Downs**. The new resupply procedures are working so well that no one has yet been told off by **LCpl 'Ollie' Oliver**. Will it last?

Well done to all the boys on Ex Morning Glory, keep up the effort. A special mention to the quiet pair **Capt John** 'quite noisy' **Stuart** and **SSgt (YofS) Guy** 'extremely noisy' **Benson** for waking up RRB Recce.

Towards the end of 1988 the Squadron sent several men on an attachment to BATUS. This was not the sort of attachment that one might expect of Signals soldiers as it was a month's Infantry Training with the Scots Guards who form part of 22 Armd Bde based at Hohne. The soldiers fired most Infantry weapons and assisted the mortar Platoon with a couple of fire missions. It proved to be a very worthwhile exercise and all parties are now near to being experts in this particular field.

The only snow this winter but LCpl Taylor and Cpl Moses are ready for it

A few members of the Squadron on pre Site guard training

SPORT

The only notable event on the sports field was the progress of the Squadron in the General's Cup football competition. The success thus far is undoubtably due to the excellent management of **SSgt Mick** 'Bobby Robson' **Tucker**, thanks **Bobby**!

3 SQUADRON
SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

The Squadron says farewell to the OC **Maj Brian Scott-Morton** and his wife **Liz**. They leave us for Bielefeld and a 'quiet?' Staff job.

The Wives Club will miss **Liz** who has been a driving force in their organisation. The Officer Commanding will be best remembered for his JNCO Military Training Exercises (Junior Challenge) and his love of Adventurous Training.

LINE TROOP

We say welcome to **LCpl Morton** with wife **Debbie** and son **Andrew** from 22 Sig Regt. Also to **Sig Leroy Williams** and **Alan Hyland** from Trade Training.

Farewells go out to several of our trusty numbers. **LCpl 'Nick' Withers** posted to 30 Sig Regt, **Sig 'Bernie' Dyer** to 1 Inf Bde. Leaving the Army we have **LCpls 'Shaggy' Larkin, 'Davy' Leonard, Sig 'Dusty' Miller, 'Scouse' O'Connor, 'Davy' Bennett** and last, but not least, **Cpl 'Bungle' Joll**.

Congratulations to **Cpl 'Geoff' Chadwick** on promotion to Sergeant and we wish him the best of luck at 7 Sig Regt.

Well done also to **LCpl Matt Thomas** who collected his first stripe just before his short tour to the Falklands.

It has been a time of many farewell celebrations for Line Tp, all in the traditional way. With the manpower stretch great Linie character has been shown recently with hard work to complete all commitments.

The Christmas Function was a complete success, well done **Cpl 'Davy' Stewart**.

Cpl Dave Stewart enjoying a 'cuppa' when visiting the line detachment on Ex Morning Glory

NOVEMBER TROOP

The Troop says welcome to **Sig Parkins** and farewell to **LCpl Elf Elphick** over to 2 Sqn. Congratulations to **Cpl Sid Perks** on passing his YofS entrance exam.

After a hectic festive season January provided the platform for exercises in 1989. The first being a Regimental Plug-Up incorporating a Staff Study Day in which the Troop displayed Rear HQ.

Then followed Highland Malt I for which the Troop had several new faces. The initial stages were painstakingly slow, however, as the week progressed all was put right.

So for 1989 we await the call 'Bring on the Staff Officers'.

Congratulations to **Sig 'Woody' Wood** and wife **Denise** on the birth of their first son **Guy**.

OSCAR TROOP

Congratulations to **Cpl 'Taff' Burn** and his wife on the birth of their son **Joseph**.

Congratulations also to **Cpls** 'Good deal' **Berman, Paul Taylor** and **LCpl Johnny Hart** on their recent promotions.

Welcome to the newcomers, **Cpl Tolly Tollington, LCpl Johnson** and **Sig Paul Timney**.

Farewell to **Sig John 'Suff' Suffolk** who takes many track miles with him to 14 Sig Regt. We wish him and his new wife the best of luck.

With the exercise season starting and Snow Queen courses taking place, Oscar Tp is looking forward to a work hard play hard year.

201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 30

With the 1989 exercise season already underway, the tempo in the Squadron has quickened following the brief respite at the end of the year. The main activities of the last couple of months have been mainly sporting or social ones, the Squadron has had its 'batteries recharged' during the break and is ready to tackle the challenge of a very busy year of exercising.

BOXING

The Divisional Finals took place at Hohne on 18 November, between 1 Armd Fd Ambulance and the Squadron. The Squadron team consisted of: **Sig Mick Turnbull**—Feather, **Sig Paul Bristow**—Light, **LCpl Sammy Faulds**—L/Welter, **Cpl Mike Forbes**—Welter, **LCpl Mick Brett**—L/Middle, **Cpl Gnasher Dennis**—Middle and **Sig Scotty Malone**—L/Heavy.

The evening turned out to be an excellent event with the opposition just winning the competition by four bouts to three. The bouts were hard, fast, exciting and courageous. Our winners were: **Cpl Mike Forbes, LCpl Mick Brett** and **LCpl Sammy Faulds**.

This was a fine result considering the shortage of time to train due to other commitments.

The Squadron Boxing Team—Divisional Minor Units Runners Up

CROSS COUNTRY

The Squadron Cross Country team has now been together for nearly four months, during which hard training and much work had gone into the building of the team. Under the watchful eye of **WO2 (SSM) 'Tommo' Tomlinson**, the team is in the fortunate position of having a number of very talented athletes. **SSgt Paul Barclay, Cpl Steve Owen, LCpl Sammy Faulds** and **Pte Ian Dowrick** have been consistent since the start of the season by achieving excellent results. Our strength, however, is in depth with the B string runners coming to the fore. Most had never run in a Cross Country race in earnest prior to September. The following have been regular squad members: **Cpls John Evans, Mark Rouse, Gnasher Dennis, LCpls Mick Brett, Dave Knapman, Sig Jason Raybould, Sig Vince King** and **Pte Trev Cooke**.

The Squadron Cross Country Team—third in BAOR Championships

Achievements to date are as follows: Inter Squadron Champions (Page Trophy) 7-22 Bde League Winners, Divisional Minor Unit Champions and third place BAOR Finals.

A third place in the BAOR Finals, which took place on 9 December in Bracht, was very satisfying as we were beaten only by the Army Champions and Runners Up. The team is now in training for the remainder of the league fixtures and the Brigade Championship in February.

FOOTBALL

Although the football team's achievements have not been in any way spectacular they are nevertheless worthy of mention. This season it won its first game for four years! Since hitting this winning streak there is no holding them back and they are on line for a very satisfactory season.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROJECT HOHNE

Bergen town had never seen anything like it! This brought a new meaning to dinner in the field, as **Capt Jon Watt** and **SSgt Dave Showell** served lunch to our hard workers. The Squadron had approached the local Stadt volunteering their services for a project which would help the local community. A task was given—'knock down those garages'. It was not quite what we had in mind but they needed to be cleared in order to make room for an ornamental garden in the town centre. So off to work our gallant crews went under the guidance of **SSgt (Demolition) Dave Showell**. The demolition experts were **Cpl Steve Owen, LCpls Dave Jack, Gordon Tunstall, Paul Ryder, DM Davis Morris** and **Sig Mark Bowker**. More buildings for demolition wanted!

DEPARTURES/ARRIVALS

The Squadron says goodbye and best wishes to **Pte Alan Whittaker, LCpl Ted** and **Mrs Heath, Cpl Bob Anthony** and family and **LCpl Shaun Ridley**.

We welcome the following to Hohne **Cpl Mark Rouse** and family, **LCpl Dereck Allison, Cfn John Petre, Pte Peter Graham** and family, **Dvr Trevor Courteny, LCpl Alan McKitterick** and family and **LCpl Mark Dickinson**.

EXERCISE DECI LAMB

In the middle of November 1988 eight members of 201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn departed for Sardinia to take part in Ex Deci Lamb, a two week climbing and trekking expedition. Expedition members were: **Sgt 'Hoppy' Hopkins** (Leader), **Sgt Tim Wells RAPC** (2IC), **Cpls Alan Yerkess, Steve Hartland, 'Dusty' Miller, Sig Paul Coates, 'Woody' Greenwood** and **Nigel Stiff**.

Here are some extracts from the expedition diary.

Tuesday 15 November

As usual the rain was falling in Hohne as we boarded the Bedford for our journey to RAF Wildenwrath, where we embarked for RAF Decimomannu.

On arrival we were met by the OC Base Support Team who took us on an hour's journey to the villa, where we were shown to our 4 Star Vango Force 10 tents with which we were to become acquainted for the next 14 days.

Wednesday 16 November

Our first step was a three and a half hour ride to a village called Aritzo high in the Gennargentu mountains. On arrival at Aritzo it was off the vehicle and on with the packs. We had expected to carry around 50lbs per person but being unable to obtain light-weight rations we each had to carry around 80-90lbs.

Thursday 17 November

We travelled the ridge line taking in Pta Erba Irdes 1,676m, Byrde Maide 1,703m, and to our day two campsite on top of St Spina a mountain 1,828m high.

Friday 18 November

After a very cold night it was a relief for most of the team to get up and do some exercise to get warm. **Cpl Dusty Miller** and **Sig Woody Greenwood** soon had the map and bearing set and we departed for our main objective, the highest mountain on the Island,

Pta La Marmora 1,833m. We reached the top via the western ridge taking Pta Paulinu 1,792m and Br Spina Gorish 1,782m on the way. This was a terrific ridge walk, not very high, but very windy. It was a lovely clear day and you could see for miles. On the roof of the island the scenery was breathtaking.

Saturday 19 November
Torrential rain battered the tents all night and the team was wondering whether the tents would hold out. Morning came and after waiting until mid-morning with no sign of the rain abating **Sgt Hoppy Hopkins** decided that we must move as we had to RV with the support group some 10km away to resupply us with rations. After two and a half hours we reached the PUP and five minutes later the supply landrover arrived. **Cpl Alan Yerkess** and **Sig Woody Greenwood** took over the map reading and the party was on its way to camp site four at Flamendosa Lake.

Sunday 20 November
The weather was back to its usual clear skies and scorching sun. We set off for the short walk to the pick up point for onward transfer to phase two base camp site. At midday we reached the PUP at Stax di Villagrande and half an hour later the transport arrived and transferred us to Arbatax Camp Site.

Monday 21 November
We all left Arbatax camp site for a 40 minute hike to the climbing area. On arrival at the climbing area **Sgt Hoppy Hopkins** set up five top ropes and in our groups of two under the supervision of the expedition leader, we were shown how to set up and operate belays. Then the climbing began in earnest.

Tuesday 22 November
Another sunny day and we were again to Artabax Harbour. The expedition leader showed how to set up and operate an abseil. This was done in pairs supervised by **Sgt Hoppy Hopkins. Cpl Alan Yerkess** had not done any climbing or abseiling before so **Sgt Hoppy Hopkins** always made him go first. **Cpl Steve Hartland** showed great potential and was always on hand to talk people through.

Wednesday 23 November
We left the camp site for the two hour drive to Pedra Longa camping site. On arrival we found it was completely deserted, a pinnacle similar to the Old Man of Hoy standing there waiting to be climbed. We set up camp on the cliffs next to this giant rock and after settling in we spent the remainder of the afternoon bouldering.

The team on top of Pta La Marmora 1,833m

Thursday 24 November
We set out for the climbing area on the pinnacle and **Sgt Hoppy Hopkins** set up some top ropes. **Sgt Hoppy Hopkins** showed us how to lead climb. **Cpls Steve Hartland, Alan Yerkess, Sgt Tim Wells** and **Sig Paul Coates** paired up and tried the climbs, the remainder **Cpl Dusty Miller, Sig Nigel Stiff** and **Woody Greenwood** all carried on climbing on a top rope.

Friday 25 November
We used our fresh knowledge to try some harder climbs directly above the sea. The confidence of each group member had now increased a great deal and we eagerly eyed every poor rock face in the vicinity.

Saturday 26 November
We awoke knowing this was the start of the R & R period. The transport arrived at midday and two hours later we were back. We then went to Arbatax for resupply, some sightseeing and souvenir hunting.

Sunday 27 November
We decided to go climbing at Arbatax again. **Sgt Hoppy Hopkins** decided he would do something different so he set up a Tyrolean Traverse between two sea pillars over the sea. Again **Cpl Alan Yerkess** went first showing that even though he was the least experienced he would still have a go. The day finished in good spirits.

Monday 28 November
Our last morning in Arbatax, having packed the equipment we loaded and boarded the Bedford for the four hour journey to the Villa for our final night in Sardinia (well that's what we thought).

Tuesday 29 November
We left the Villa for the airport, on arrival we were told 'the flight is delayed, come back tomorrow'.

Wednesday 30 November
As the new day began we were unsure of what would happen. A flight was arriving from Germany in the afternoon and would leave at approximately 1600 hrs. We repacked our equipment and departed from RAF Decimomannu. On arrival at RAF Wildenrath it was raining just as it had been when we had left. It was back to reality.

Gennargtu Mountains Western Ridge

207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 37

SQUADRON HEADQUARTER TROOP
Christmas for the Squadron got off to a swinging start with the long awaited, much publicised and well prepared Christmas Party. However, all the preparation in the world could not have foreseen the outcome: with the party in full swing and the band only just coming on for their second stint, the whole event fell victim to the pre-Christmas celebrations ban. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Christmas Draw was also cancelled because of this, but was fortunately rescheduled.

Additions to SHQ. We'd like to welcome **LCpl Phil Quinn** and his family to the Gene Bay (does this reflect the MQ situation?), and also **Cpl Aidy** 'yet another hour on stag' **Garner** and his family.

On the other hand we must say a fond farewell to **Cpl 'Dutch' Holland** and **Heike**, who leave us for 8 Sig Regt. What will you do for skiing now, **Dutch**? (What's wrong with Val D'Isere?). We would also like to bid 'Auf Wiedersehen' to **WO2 (YofS) Mick 'Cooperman' Drewett**, who leaves us for, er, well, information on this seems to have been issued on a need-to-know basis, with not even the Officer Commanding on the distribution list. At his farewell lunch, the Yeoman handed out joke certificates to everyone:-

What will OC A be when he grows up? (Answers on a post-card . . .)
What is the OC's phone bill?
Is OC B on the manifest for the next space mission?

But seriously, the 'Yoz' has been a true 7 Bde character (any resemblance to a rat purely accidental, eh?) and we wish him well. To his replacement, **WO2 (YofS) Riding** and family, we say welcome to Soltau, and Russ Abbott's sending a costume over for you.

Sig 'Blanch' Blanchard earning his wage in Wavell System 13

ALPHA TROOP
Farewells first: bye byes and congrats to **Sig** (now LCpl) **Dave Millar**, who leaves us on promotion to order around penguins in the Falklands, and to **Sig Chris Goble** who has left the Army. An Alpha Tp 'all the best' to you both.

We welcome **Sig 'Chalkey'** (Oh for some originality!) **White**, who has been recently assembled at the factory, and congratulations are in order for **H 'Mac' Mackenzie**, a well deserved promotion to Sergeant, **LCpl Graham Moody** for passing his A1 ('you mean I haven't got rid of him?'—OC A), and **Sig Dave Birdsall** for getting a 'recommended for linguist' pass on his Colloquial German Course.

We deployed on our last exercise of 1988 in November: Highland Malt 47 (pure exaggeration: there were no more than 20 Highland Malts in 1988). The only highlight was **Cpl Dusty Miller** being casevaced with a hand injury. Highland Malt 1 in January was even quieter (this is a euphemism for no comms): Blue Peter are raising money to buy a new Radio Relay for Bravo Tp. We fared slightly better (naturally) but it did occur to us that **SSgt Graham Miles, Sgt** 'Mac the knife' **Mackenzie** and **Sig 'Dickie' Dyer** have picked a good time to go to Kenya . . . see you on Morning Glory, boys!

BRAVO TROOP
After a rather long Autumn exercise season, Bravo Tp settled into a quieter and at times warmer Winter 1988/89. The last exercise of the year saw the Troop slumped wearily over a sleeping Ptarmigan.

In December the Troop congratulated **Cpl 'Chris' Kidd** and his wife **Jane** on the birth of their daughter **Amy**.

On the Adventure Training side **Sig** 'Seth the Mountain Man' **Mulligan** wangled another holiday, this time to Kenya, while **Lt 'Rock' Hudson** and **Cpl 'Vic' Hayes** plan a holiday—sorry, arduous-canoeing exploration to Thailand.

The Troop welcomes **Cpl 'Ferret' Cox** and bids farewell to **Sgt 'Dave' Clarke**, who leaves to join the APTC—very well done. Also due to depart are **Cpl 'Chris' Hollingsworth** and **LCpl 'Steve' Hope**; we wish them both every success. The Troop must also mention **Sig 'Mick' Hay** but we cannot write anything about him as no-one can understand his Scots accent! Last but not least, welcome to **2Lt 'Jim' Clare**, from Verden via the IGB! Have fun prior to your Troop Commander's course.

The Squadron is now into another exercise season—but not so hectic that we didn't have time to best the renowned 1 Ord Bn rugby team and the equally famous 12 Armd Bde Sig Sqn football team. The latter result earning us a place in the 1 Armd Div Minor Units Cup semi-final.

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COMFORTABLE RETIREMENT	—based on an adequate continuing income backed up by an adequate capital reserve
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212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 36

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

During this period the Squadron has experienced three changes to 'the management', with **2Lt Mike Burke** arriving from the Troop Commander's course, to take over Oscar Tp.

The MT section also has changed its hierarchy with **Sgt Bob Quinn** returning to the UK to 8 Sig Regt, and being replaced by **Sgt Scouse Deary** from the AA Coll Harrogate who has already made an impression not solely confined to the beastings he gives on Squadron PT.

SSgt Paul Wilson comes from Colchester to take charge of the Tech Tp and also guide the Squadron Basketball Team to greater heights. With the imminent arrival of a training Sergeant, these arrivals bring the Squadron to full complement of officers and senior NCO's.

Oscar Tp also welcomes **Cpl Bill Walker** to the fold and wishes him all the best in getting to know about the complexities of a 436.

Papa Tp has swelled its numbers by the arrival of **Sgt 'Cliff Richard' Hornsby** who, by also being a PTI, adds to the misery of the Squadron PT sessions.

Apart from **Sgt Quinn** the only departures are **LCpl Jock Scott,** who goes to 30 Sig Regt with everyones best wishes, and **Cpl Stuart Allister** who makes a 100 mile journey back to Verden to serve with 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

The Squadron now feels that the OC, **Maj Hugh Colborn,** is well qualified for his position having completed the two week Squadron Commanders course at Blandford, even though he had performed admirably in the exact same job for 12 months prior to the course.

SSgt Ray Bray is welcomed back to the happy throng after a period of enforced leave due to a touch of flu pretending to be a burst appendix. The lads of Oscar Tp are pleased to have him back to keep **2Lt Mike Burke** on the straight and narrow.

Papa Tp's fears that **SSgt Kev 'Gerbil' Jones** would return from his Drill Course looking like a Guards SNCO were unfounded even though the threat of extra drill now hangs over their heads like the Sword of Damocles.

SPORT

The Squadron is continually participating in all sorts of sports to varying degrees. The cross country team always turns in a very good performance even when competing against Major Units, with **Lt Andy Hill, WO2 (YofS) Bob Pemberton** and **SSgt (FofS) Dave O'Brien** providing an extremely high-quality, fit nucleus for the team.

The football team under **SSgt Jock Weir REME** is enjoying a mixed season with a variation of quality of performances and, consequently, a variation of results. The Rugby team is very much in the same boat. Player availability is the bane of **Cpl Bruce Lee**'s existence as he tries to organise training and a team to play. When the full strength side is fielded, we are a force to be reckoned with, as 4 RTR found out.

The basketball team competed in the Garrison competition but was narrowly beaten by 1 R Irish in their first game to knock them out of the competition.

Hockey also has problems with players availability but **Cpl Craig Morgan** has some fixtures lined up for early 1989 and this should rekindle more enthusiasm for the game.

WEDDINGS

The Squadron congratulates the 2IC **Capt Tony Johnson** on his marriage to **Capt Katherine Turner QARANC** and wishes them every happiness for the future.

Just for the record, their reception will go down in the Garrison Officers' Mess records book as will the Second in Command's Mess Bill for the month.

Also taking the plunge in December was **Cpl Craig Morton** who went back to England to marry **Teresa**. They are now back in Osnabruck and we all wish them the very best together in the future.

SOCIAL

The Christmas period was marked by a spate of parties. Not least of these was the Wives Club Christmas Party which was very well supported. All present had a good time, not least of all **LCpl Stevie Preece** who made an excellent Father Christmas. The Squadron Party was early enough to miss the ban on live music enforced upon us by the air crash. A band played a varied selection of songs old and new at great volume. This was interspersed by a disco and a raffle. The prizes were very well received and the prize numbers were not rigged at all . . . All the Troops also held Christmas parties.

2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
York

Wire Notes time again! This report will be fairly brief as, believe it or not, the Regiment has been reasonably quiet!

We have lost **Majs David Hargreaves, Ray Briant, Lt Martin Barnes** and **WO2 SSM Sandy McLean. David Hargreaves** has gone to 55 Sig Sqn (V) in Liverpool, **Martin Barnes** to 11 Sig Regt and **WO2 Sandy McLean** on LSL to 23 Base Workshops. **Maj Ray Briant** is on extended gardening leave pending his retirement in April 1989.

As we say goodbye to these four we also welcome their replacements. **Maj Robin Ovenden** has arrived from 30 Sig Regt to take over from **Maj Ray Briant** as OC HQ Sqn and **Maj Kevin Barrett** is posted in from School of Signals as OC 1 Sqn. SSM 1 Sqn has been temporarily replaced by newly promoted **WO2 George Cook. WO2 Carey** will eventually become SSM 1 Sqn when he arrives later this year. Also new is **Lt Drew Llewellyn** fresh from a six month tour in Belize.

The terrible trio **2Lts Bridget Pulverman, Bill Adsett** and **Scott Youngson** have been nicknamed 'Faith', 'Hope' and 'Charity'. If **Bridget** is 'Faith', then there is little hope for the other two!

REGIMENTAL ROUND-UP

The CO held an 'End of Year' Debrief in the Gym on Thursday 22 December, summarising the Regiment's achievements for the year. This led to what the Regiment was going to do in 1989 and was rounded off by him presenting his 'Man of the Year' award. It was won by **Sig McSween** for his outstanding sporting achievements and his excellent work as a Data Telegraphist.

So 1989 swung into action and pleasingly the Regiment has started well on the sporting front.

The Orienteering team, led by **SSgt Paul Smith** is doing exceedingly well in the NEDist League. The runners are well up in the placings in both the individual and relay events.

The Cross Country team qualified for the Army Championships and came a very creditable eighth. At 40 plus years **WO1 (RSM) Hegarty** still competes and beats all but three members of the Regiment.

The Squash teams, led by **Capt Stewart Gray RCT**, are slowly defeating the opposition in the Army Cup and are now through to the finals. Our rising star is **LCpl Shaun Humphries** who got to the quarter finals in the Army Championships.

The Rugby, Football and Basketball teams are all doing their bit for the Regiment and whether winning or losing, everyone is enjoying the participation.

Again the CO checked up on the Regimental fitness by holding an 'all in' Cross Country event. It was held on 24 January as an Inter-Squadron competition. Despite several shoes being lost in the mud en route, most people enjoyed it and those that did not were glad to finish!

The results were then rapidly collated and were as follows:

UNDER 20's

1st	**LCpl Sharp** (2)
2nd	**LCpl Dale** (3)
3rd	**LCpl Cruickshank** (7)

20-35's

1st	**Cpl Roberts** (1)
2nd	**Cfn Davey** (5)
3rd	**Cfn Brown** (6)

OVER 35's

1st	**WO1 (RSM) Hegarty** (4)
2nd	**Capt Hornsby** (31)
3rd	**Maj Grieves** (36)

(Overall placings in brackets.)

INTER SQUADRON CUP

1st	1 Sqn
2nd	2 Sqn
3rd	HQ Sqn

The next Regimental 'Bash' will be 'Race the Sun' on 6 June. The CO's idea is for an Inter-Squadron, all day, competition.

The Regiment is currently on Ex Key Panther and testing its communication tactics throughout Britian.

Maj Peter Richards congratulates Cpl Roberts (for winning the Cross Country)

Cpl Steve Corner—'I like trucking'

'Beswick's boys' (at the CO's Cup Competition)

THE DAY RHQ TROOP WENT HORSE RIDING(ISH!)

by Sig Taylor

After many telephone calls and exchanges of words, it was decided that we would hold an 18th Birthday Party for **Sig Oakes** on Tuesday 24 January and then go Horse Riding on the following day. The plan was to dump **Sig Oakes** well and truly in the 'brown smelly stuff', hose him down and then let him find out what happens if you do not ride your horse properly. Unfortunately **Sig Oakes** said, '**Daz**, I won't be going riding. I am going to the Duchess of Kent's Military Hospital for a few days on Monday'.

After a hurried discussion it was decided that we would still go riding and if **Oaksie** was still in hospital, we would visit him afterwards with a few cans to cheer him up.

So our intrepid band of would-be horse riders left Imphal Barracks at 1315 hrs on the Wednesday, joined by **Capt Peter Bradley**, who then proceeded to show me, I drew the short straw, that his Renault 25 would easily beat any Formula One Racing Car.

All the horses were very placid, until you mounted them! Then their menacing eyes rolled back to 'check you out'. Anyway, everything was going well until **Mr Sykes** decided that he would do an impression of 'The Fall Guy'. We all agreed that the 'Super' fell off really professionally. The way he managed to keep his foot in the stirrup to break his fall was exceptional! It took him two or three minutes to let us know that he was only winded.

At last very sore, tired and bow-legged, we climbed into **Miss Nisbet**'s car and visited **Sig Oakes** in hospital. What a day to remember!

CONGRATULATIONS

All members of the Regiment are delighted to offer congratulations to **Capt Johnnie Perks** on his recent engagement to **2Lt Bridget Pulverman WRAC** and wish them Happy Days together. We admire their capacity to keep a secret!

Brig Eastburn gives Cpl Lee his second tape

Regimental Battle Camp (Sharp Shooting)

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210 (24 Airmob Bde) Sig Sqn Catterick

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Robert Baxter**
2IC	**Capt Adam Hearn**
AO	**Capt Mick Besant**
OC Radio Tp	**Lt Richard Rands**
SSM	**WO2 Trevor Jones**
YofS	**WO2 Douggie Mac Taggart**
FofS	**SSgt Russ Lifton**
SQMS	**SSgt Graham Butler**
CC	**SSgt Glen Brook**

January started quietly and built up to our first exercise—Demolished Eagle. This was the Squadron's Fibua training period in the Whinney Hill complex, next to 8 Sig Regt. The grand finale was a battle between the Squadron and a platoon from 1 PWO which tested everyone's power to command and control in very dark and noisy conditions. The whole affair was deemed a success and taught us all a lot about our main functions in BAOR.

EXERCISE KEY PANTHER AIRMOBILE HEADQUARTERSs

This was a fast moving exercise for us with three heli moves down the country from Catterick to the Stanford Trg Area. A lot of cobwebs were blown away along with anything else the Chinook downdraught could move. The two Headquarters Sergeants were 'killed off' at an early stage by the dreaded EPC(A) exams, this gave **Cpls Hebden** and **Wicking** a chance to shine and everybody else a chance to be polished. All in all a very useful exercise with plenty of flying practice.

ECHELON

The merry men of Echelon departed from Catterick for Sturgate Airport following in the wake of the main airmobile Headquarters. On the run in **Sgt Jim Pattison** decided that the airport security lights were not tactically desirable and took the power cable to bits with his truck; however, being the power Sergeant he managed to repair it all before we left.

Our next move was to RAF Barkston Heath, a piece of bare concrete with a little hut and lots of fresh air. Twenty-four hours later it was off again to Oakington Barracks for a day. Then on to Stanford Trg Area where we regained **Sig Davy Watson** and our POL truck after a 48 hour absence. The exercise continued with **LCpl Bri Hyde** going into panic when he failed to get his customary 12 hours sleep each day, and **Cpl Rab Arthur** playing endlessly with bits of wire to make HF antennae that did not seem to get him anywhere, or get us any communication.

We finished the exercise at Waterbeach Barracks where the AO displayed his limited expertise as a cat burglar by breaking a window whilst trying to gain access to a portacabin. It has been suggested that the 2IC picked Waterbeach and insisted on Harbour Parties to make up for the fact that there is no sailing report in these *Wire* notes.

THE SQUADRON COMMANDER'S SALES PITCH

Airmobility continues to generate interest and grow in importance. 24 Inf Bde took over the airmobile role from the present 6 Armd Bde in April 1988. Since then much has been done to build on the first class work carried out by 6 Bde during the trial period. 24 Airmobile Bde, as it is now called, is twice the size of 6 Bde with an additional infantry battalion and a helicopter Regiment. The Brigade is not air cavalry, but does have a vital job as an Army Group anti-tank reserve. It has the fire power of an armoured division and the ability to move anywhere in the 1 (BR) Corps area and well into other areas if required.

210 (24 Airmob Bde) Sig Sqn has the good fortune to support the Airmobile Brigade. The role is challenging and a wide variety of skills are needed. Some have been illustrated in previous issues of *The Wire*. Vehicles routinely move either underslung or internally in Chinook; abseiling from Lynx or Puma is used to insert recce or manpack rebro teams; line is laid from Lynx and the Squadron provides the rear link for the Brigade Recce Company. Operators in the Squadron have complex detachments to keep going—typically Landrover fits include two VHF radios, an SCRA(T), HF radio, three manpacks and either a facsmile equipment or teleprinter.

In some ways the Squadron has the best of both worlds, we live in the North of England and deploy to BAOR on exercise; and we are heavily involved in radio as well as Ptarmigan. 210 Sig Sqn is the smallest Brigade Signal Squadron in the British Army but supports a Brigade staff larger than most. There is no room for passengers, everyone gets as much responsibility as he can handle, and all ranks have to be able to work on their own.

Airmobility is very much part of the future with plans to form an international Airmobile Division. It is a task that requires bright, alert soldiers with plenty of ideas. If you want a challenge and you want to belong to a small, tight-knit unit with an important and interesting role, which is constantly growing and developing, why not ask for a posting to 210 (24 Airmob Bde) Sig Sqn?

A masked man leaps over the assault course during the military training week

Sig Small firing the AK 47 during a range day interest shoot

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 114

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

The past few months have seen a lot of changes in RHQ. In December we said farewell to **Lt Col Ashley Truluck** who left us for the corridors of power, on promotion to Colonel. Our best wishes go with **Col Truluck** and his wife, **Jenny**, and we hope that you wear your boxer shorts with pride Colonel! We welcome our new CO **Lt Col Jonathan Cook** and his wife, **Jane** and wish them an enjoyable tour. In September, having had the job gapped for two months, we welcomed **WO1 Chris Bell**, the Superintendent Clerk who was followed shortly by **Sgt Roy Clarke** the new ORS. In December we said farewell to **WO1 (RSM) Rick Licence** who left us, on commissioning, for 7 Sig Regt. Our thanks and best wishes go to **Rick** and his wife **Jean**. We reckon that 7 Sig Regt's vehicle fleet will be the shiniest in BAOR. **Rick** and **Jean** took with them the Sergeants' Mess Star Draw prize, a mini which should help make up the MT's vehicle shortage.

We say hello and welcome to **WO1 (RSM) Jim Reeves** who joins us from 7 Sig Regt (fair exchange and all that). To the new incumbents we say welcome to them and their families and hope they have an enjoyable time in Soest. Finally, by the time this goes to print, the 2IC, **Maj Mike Anderson** will be installed as the CO of 32 Sig Regt (V). So best wishes and goodbye to him and his wife **Layle**. In his place we welcome **Maj Pat Maloney** who joins us from HQ BAOR. Needless to say, with such a large turnover of the Regiment's management, new brooms are sweeping vigorously and the stores are out of stock!

Lt Col Jonathan Cook signs the visitors book before taking over the Regiment, Lt Col Ashley Truluck looks on

1 SQUADRON
DELTA TROOP

Hardly had Ex Iron Hammer come to an end, when TN 053 were on the road again—this time deploying on Ex Sharp Ledge; a two week static exercise. Despite the odd moan and groan, the Troop set off to complete its task.

Everything went smoothly, even the move out to Borgholzhausen was uneventful. Despite the weather over the next few days which left us cut off over the first weekend without any phones or ways in or out due to ice and rain causing trees to fall across the road, we spent a very comfortable two weeks as guests of the RAF.

The highlights of our stay excluding Endex was **LCpl Jed Clamps** promotion to Cpl and **Sig Gary Greaves** unforgettable birthday party. After exchanging Regimental plaques with the RAF, we bade them farewell and headed home to Soest.

SIERRA TROOP
WELCOMES

We would like to welcome to the Troop **Sig Wright** who, despite not having his driving licence through yet, thereby excused all driving and PT will be in our MT.

FAREWELLS

The Troop would like to say a fond farewell to the OC Sqn **Maj Ross** and his family and wish them all the best for the future.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **Sgt Gez Walker** on his promotion to Sergeant.

3 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj R. V. J. Brannigan**
2IC	**Capt M. G. Shaw**
SSM	**WO2 W. J. Haslam**
YofS	**SSgt A. Campbell**
FofS	**SSgt S. Driver**
SQMS	**SSgt J. Burgess**

Preparations for the Staff College Demo, Red Tricorn, Flying Falcon, PRE and RSIT are all on the horizon. Congratulatins to **YofS Andy Campbell** and Mrs Campbell on the birth of a baby girl, **Cally**. Maybe he will do a little more of the housework now!

PAPA TROOP

Hello to the following who arrived at the end of the year: **LCpl Griffin** and **Sig Brown** from 7 Sig Regt, **LCpl Duff** from 14 Sig Regt, and **Sig Chambers** from 249 Sig Sqn.

Congratulations to **Sgt Lee Keily** on his promotion, he will now help prevent the Yeoman going grey during his tour! Also to **LCpl Stu Gibbs**, well deserved.

EXERCISE OVERBOARD TRIANGLE

Ex Overboard Triangle was an adventurous training exercise held from 24 September to 1 October to demonstrate that five members of 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt who had never windsurfed before could, after doing a basic level 1 course in April, do something as arduous as circumnavigate Lake Constance in five days—all 250 miles of it, without any help from a land based party.

The members of the team came from the LAD, except **Cpl Raine**, who is a member of 1 Sqn.

IC	**WO1 (ASM) Ray Harkness REME**	**RYA Trainer**
2IC	**Cpl Barry Raine**	**RYA Instructor**
Team	**Cpl Andy Whitmore**	
	Cpl Andy Twyman REME	
	Cpl Dave Rogers REME	
	Cpl Steve Davey REME	
	LCpl Simon Lunt REME	

The plan was to depart from Soest on Saturday morning set up in base camp, sail on Sunday to get our sea legs and pack the canoes for the week ahead of us.

We left Soest with the wind blowing a hooley, arrived at Lake Constance (Bodensee) as its known to the Germans, and set up our base camp. Sunday dawned nice and windy so it was out on the water for a blast about, that afternoon was dedicated to packing the canoes. This is where all the plastic bags we had brought came into their own, everything was waterproof now and neatly packed away, we even rerigged the sails for the morning. Monday dawned with not a single breath of wind, the lake was like a mirror, but we weren't deterred with cries of it'll blow up soon, we all derigged our sails, got the paddles off the canoes and set off for out first port of call. After paddling across the ferry lanes at Meersburg we stopped off for supplies for our evening meal and breakfast. Once they were packed, it was off paddling once again for the nearest campsite. Not disheartened at this stage we were promised strong winds by the locals, who thought we were a bit crazy. Tuesday morning no wind but this time there was fog on the lake, so much for the wind promised by the locals. We set off once again towing our four canoes between us. All we could hear during the morning was this foghorn, we were all a bit apprehensive as to where it was coming from, maybe a ship or it was land based. When we crossed a bay, we lost two members of the team in the fog but after shouting they found us. We made camp at Ludwigshafen then set off to the local supermarket and bakery. In the bakery the women serving us asked **Ray** if we were all his kids, this brought a look of disgust to **Ray**'s face and laughter and jibes of Dad, Pa etc from the rest of us. Back at base camp we were all discussing our aches and pains from the two days paddling over our evening meal; we would have had a barbecue except one of the team forgot to pack it, he shall remain nameless.

Wednesday dawned, still no wind, we sat around after breakfast and discussed the options open to us, as we could never make the journey in the remaining three days even if we had storm force winds. We decided to send a member of the team back to base camp to pick up the van and trailer, base camp was now 30km away. While **Simon** was away we decided to do a spot of sightseeing, write postcards to our loved ones etc. On return to the campsite he still had not arrived with the van, so it was off to the shops for provisions for the evening meal. **Simon** arrived just in time for tea. He had arrived at base camp only to find that the council had dug up the exit of the base camp to lay cables, so he stayed there all day helping the Germans fill in the hole, in time for him to leave in the evening.

We all unpacked the canoes and loaded the van but decided to stay where we were as it was almost dark. On Thursday morning we were woken early by the wind, so we repacked the canoes and set off across the lake for Switzerland but after an hour and a half the wind died, so once again it was muscle power. Lunch was had in the middle of the lake, then we paddled into Switzerland. Thursday evening was spent camping in the grounds of an outdoor swimming pool. Switzerland was a shock to us all. Provisions for the evening meal, lunch and breakfast came to DM261. Fourteen rolls in Germany cost DM3.50 that morning but in Switzerland they cost a staggering DM10.00, so no one went to sample the local nectar due to the high prices in Switzerland. That night the wind blew up and canoes and boards had to be brought further ashore, this was done by **Ray** who was the only one awoken by the noise of the equipment banging against the jetty.

Friday morning a really good wind, at last we set off after our bowl of Frosties for Constance itself. We stopped half way for lunch. With the wind still blowing a few ventured out for a blast on the water without the canoes in tow; these had kept us to a fairly slow pace. This is where the waterproof camera came in, with a member of the team chest deep in water taking snaps of us sailing past posing. Playtime was over and it was time to carry on with our journey we bypassed Constance as we were doing so well and made it to a campsite opposite our first base camp. We had taken less than a day to sail the distance we had covered in two and a half days of paddling. Saturday morning we headed around the Lake towards Base camp with the wind against us; there were times when the wind seemed to die but God was on our side and we made it back to base camp.

All in all it was worthwhile but especially hard when paddling.

We would all like to thank the sponsors who helped get this exercise off the ground with the support of funds minibus etc, also the local windsurf shop for its help in supplying some of the equipment.

Outside the Guard Room of St Sebastian Barracks HQ 3 Armd Div *From L to R:* Cpl Andy Whitmore, LCpl Simon Lunt REME, Cpls Barry Raine, Andy Twyman, WO1 R. Harkness, Cpl Dave Rogers REME

Cpl Andy Whitmore fog bound on a windsurfer

Swiss shoreline with Cpl Barry Raine towing all his equipment and rations around Lake Constance

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204 (4 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 17

CHANGE OF COMMAND

The Squadron say a fond farewell to **Maj** (now Lieutenant Colonel) **Alan Poppleton** and wish him well in his new post as a member of the DS at the Staff College, Camberley. In turn the Squadron welcomes **Maj Dick Crombie**, who takes over at the helm, and his wife **Sue**, and wish them every success and happiness during their tour in Muenster.

Congratulations to **SSgt Brian Tanner** who was awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year Honours List. This is a family double as his father was also awarded a BEM. Together with the Yeoman he is considering founding a 204 Sig Sqn BEM Diners Club.

EDEL IRON XI

Having won the Minor Units section of the Divisional Nordic Skiing Championships in 1988, the Squadron Nordic Ski Team had hoped to repeat the performance at Schmirn near Fulpmes, Austria, in 1989. Unfortunately the 3 Armd Wksp had different plans and edged the Squadron out into fourth place. Nevertheless, both **Sig Shaun Wilkes** and **Sig Thomas** managed to put in creditable performances in the 10km Novice Individual, 4 × 10km Team, 4 × 7.5km Biathlon Team and 15km Individual/Team races. Sadly no trophies were won this year, but there are great expectations for 1990 with **LCpl Mac McGibbon** now taking over the reins. One of the areas he will be devoting much attention to during the forthcoming training session, though, will be rangework—the Patrol team hit only 2 out of 15 targets!

RUGBY

The Squadron Rugby team was eager to get under way in 1989. The first match was a hard fought game against 17/21 Lancers with the Squadron eventually winning by 12—8. Scorers in this match were **WO2 (YofS) Lee Pilling** and **Cpl Meek**.

17/21 Lancers were eager for a return match and were soon to realise the error of their ways. On this occasion the Squadron went to town and came away the victors by an easy win of 40—8. Tries were scored by **2Lt McIntosh, SSgt (FofS) Jim Abernethy, Sgt Stoddard** (2), **Sgt Dave Stevens, Cpl Meek** (2) and **Cpl Farrington**. **Cpl Meek** also made four conversions.

The final report comes from the match against 14/20 Hussars. The Squadron put up a determined fight against what proved to be the stronger team on the day. The score at the final whistle had 14/20 Hussars emerging on top by a score of 12—6. Once again **Cpl Chalky Meek** continued his scoring abilities for the team.

206 (6 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 106

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj J. E. Thomas MBE**
2IC	**Capt V. J. Thatcher**
OC A	**Lt I. P. Birleson**
OC B	**Capt J. H. R. Morley Kirk**
SSM	**WO2 F. McAleer**
YofS	**WO2 I. Parry**
ORS	**Sgt B. Glossop**

FAREWELLS

The following have left for pastures new, **LCpl Terry Bowers** to the White Helmets, **SSgt** (now Warrant Officer 2) **Dave Boxhall** to TACT, **Cpl Hamish Hermiston** to 30 Sig Regt, **Sig Harrison** to 2 Inf Div Sig Regt, **Cfn Isherwood** to 1 Scots Guards, **Dvr Gray** to 27 Regt RCT, **Sig Reeves** to 28 Sig Regt, **Sig Chandler** to 8 Inf Bde.

WELCOMES

The Squadron welcomes the following personnel and hope they have an enjoyable tour: **Lt Birleson, Sig Lightfoot, LCpl Laidlaw** from 8 Sig Regt, **Cpl Bishop** from 21 Sig Regt, **Dvr Martyn** from 54 Sqn RCT. Also to **Maj J. E. Thomas MBE** the new OC we hope that he has an enjoyable and successful tour with 206.

BIRTHS

Congratulations to those happy couples on their recent additions to the family **Cpl** and **Mrs Deegan, LCpl** and **Mrs Harden, Sig** and **Mrs Wilson, SSgt** and **Mrs Talbott**.

CHANGE OF BRIGADE COMMANDER

December saw a change in our Brigade Commander so we would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye to **Brig R. A. Smith** and wish him well in his new appointment. A warm welcome to **Brig R. M. W. McAfee** who took up the appointment on 7 December.

EXERCISE SAVOIE TRIANGLE

A review of the making of 'You Only Dab Twice'

Filmed on location in Le Grand Bornand, Haute-Savoie France, over the period 16 December—7 January. This story of high adventure in the French Alps begins in the meagre surrounds of the LAD Workshop, very late on the night of 15 December.

Cpl Pete Mayor puts the final touches to his latest off-the-cuff invention—The Mark 1 roofage. Once in position, and the over time fee duly paid, the eight man cast leave Soest in their two natty blue rovers; destined for three weeks ski race training.

Having survived the arduous journey south through Germany and Switzerland, the cast arrive at their first film set—The pent house flat of Le Rocher, in Chinaillon Village, tucked high in the snow capped mountains. The director, **Capt Jim Morley-Kirk** quickly organises the stage setting in the penthouse. Unfortunately **Sig Jason Le Monde Large** finds his sleeping arrangements somewhat cramped.

The film centres on the Konrad Farnell Ski Race School. **Cpl John Farnell**, executive producer and self acclaimed poseur, immediately purchases essential props—view shades. The cast is then whisked to the primary set for the action scenes—the ski slopes.

From here the main plot is of a veteran ski instructor's exhaustive efforts to create a die-hard race team from mere Snow Queen dropouts.

The first days filming finds much of the cast in avid familiarisation with their own props—two legs, two skis and a lot of snow. Farnellski makes few comments on the early performances. He's far too busy looking good or giving private tuition to his co-star, Trudiscrumptious.

Throughout the film each of the cast comes to centre stage at one time or another.

Once extracted from the tourist office, it becomes evident that **Capt Jacques Morley-Kirk** 'Don't ski mornings!'

Sig Steve 'Bill' Emmett—head camerman and makeup—achieves his first French Connection in this scene. He remarks later that he found no local resistance. By the end of the film 'Ol Blue Eyes' falls madly in love with himself and elopes to Austria.

LCpl Seb 'Colgate' Wiles features in a steamy scene with a Mexican. Despite this excellent performance—aided by an acclaimed extra 5cms—his acting in the 'burnt breakfast denial' scenes is rather unconvincing if not inconceivable!

Sig Paul 'Beaky' Beckett is the productions head stuntman. He is cast as a braindead ski maniac 'The Bounty Bar Kid.' He gives a very reliable performance in his bid to reach Mach I on skis. Indeed his 'falling off the roof' stunt without the aid of special effects is a classic. effects.

Sig Taff 'Trois Plumes' **Boucher** portrays a Roger Moore lookalike who challenges the BB Kid in the quest for eye-streaming speed. He stars in several scenes of 360 degree ski acrobatics, and as the inscrutable draughts player with his pet wolf, Lucky.

Sig Jason Large makes an excellent guest appearance with his Bruno stick, and shaves twice during the screenplay. He features in a saga of lost love and misaddressed mail.

7 January arrives. The moment of truth. **Konrad Farnellski** selects the Squadron Ski Team who make tracks for Austria. Their less fortunate compatriots head for home. Success appears certain as 'Les Piste Artistes' leave the screen with a hearty cry of 'Death First!'

Overall, not a bad first time production by this new 206 crew. Watch the video. Look forward to next years effort's—it can only get better!

3 ARMD DIV SKI MEETING 1989

The Selected Ski Team comprised **Capts J. Morley-Kirk, J. Farnell, Cpl Neil Phillips, LCpl Seb Wiles, Sigs Steve Emmett** and **Jason Large**.

The Divisional Ski Meeting took place from 8/18 January in Fulpmes Austria. This was the Squadron's first year of Alpine racing and we were uncertain as to how we would bear up in the competition.

There are three main alpine team events. The Giant Slalom (GS) the Downhill (DH) and the Slalom. Four men represent each team.

We made a good start in the GS. **Cpl Jon Farnell** lead us in. **LCpl Seb Wiles** had an excellent combined run time just behind. The team held 3rd place out of seven minor units after the GS.

The Downhill event is an experience in itself. After two days DH training the team were raring to go. **LCpl Wiles** gave another very good performance, closely followed by **Sig Steve 'Wendy' Emmett**. We achieved 3rd place again.

The Slalom event did not go our way. Having partied the previous night **Cpl Farnell** had a good first run, only to 'blow out' on his second. **LCpl Wiles** fell in sympathy. The team fell into 4th place in the overall competition. A very good result for a novice team.

To earn their keep all competitors had to take part in the 15km langlauf event. It was an excellent day in the hills—**Capt Jim Morley-Kirk** running home with one ski on his foot and one in hand! **Sig Steve Emmett** didn't get around to offering a new ski as he was too busy taking photos!

The individual GS was held on the last day but 206 went surfing!

An excellent competition which gave some very valuable race experience to the new team. Well done to all. Future success seems certain.

4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

Presentation of LS & GC Medals by Brig T. I. M. Waugh, Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps on 13 December 1988
Back Row (Left to Right): WO2's (RQMS) Calow, Ayre, SSgt Campbell, Brig Waugh, Sgts Till and Varley
Front Row (Left to Right): Ross, Charlene, Margaret Calow, Sheila Campbell, Zoe Till, Helen, Barry and Daniel Varley

REGIMENTAL TRIATHLON

When the Squadron received a letter from the Garrison Education Officer (GEO) advertising a Regimental Triathlon on 16 December the initial reaction was one of amazement at the choice of season, but when we discovered that the swimming discipline was in an open air pool the GEO's sanity was also questioned! However, we were advised that it was heated and quite comfortable (we've heard that one before!). So it was at 0730 hrs on a frosty December morning that we arrived at the gymnasium for our briefing, wearing it must be added, more than one tracksuit and trying not to think about swimming.

Briefing over, we boarded a warm, inviting coach which made the thought of the open air water more depressing. Arrival at the German Sports and Leisure complex in the Spa town of Bad Salzuflen provided us with a pleasant surprise; the facilities were superb and the water was salty (as spa water is), but wonder of wonders (and relief), it was warm. The Squadron had entered two teams of three, namely the subalterns; **Lt Smith, 2Lts Picknell** and **Appleby**, and the 'Panther Warriors'; **WO2 (SSM) Peter Halstead, Sgt Ken Sykes** and **LCpl Taff Evans**, a subtle blend of youth, experience and outstanding talent (although it is left to the reader to figure out which is which!). Each team had to nominate who was going to swim what distance 12, 8 or 4 lengths, followed by the running/orienteering over 10, 8 and 6kms. The final event, .22 shooting, involved all members of the team. With **LCpl Taff Evans** resembling a torpedo, Panther Warriors were lying in second place after the swimming. However, the orienteering/running phase proved something of a mystery to the swimming star, who believes that all movement on dry land should be by vehicle. It was this event in which **Sgt Ken Sykes** and **WO2 (SSM) Peter Halstead** practised the well known orienteering phrase of 'cunning running', and as a result won this section moving them into the lead.

Meanwhile the others were dragging their sodden bodies around the course with **Lt Andy Smith** showing that his para training hadn't been forgotten.

Panther Warriors finally secured first place in the overall competition by shooting soundly, and being the only team to score over 3,000 points. Despite all the exercises, UWI preparation, etc 1 Sqn proved its versatility yet again, and it was a quietly pleased, if somewhat tired trio who received their awards from the GOC.

1 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Gordon Rafferty**
2IC	**Capt Nick Borrill**
OC P Tp	**2Lt Tony Picknell**
OC C Tp	**2Lt Bret Appleby**
OC K Tp	**Lt Andrew Smith**
OC J Tp	**2Lt Graham Addley**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Peter Halstead**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Bob Thomas**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Mike Purves**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Charles Ward**

INTRODUCTION

The Squadron has undergone change in the hierarchy. **Capt Donald Macaulay** disappeared to do his NBC Officers and JCSC Courses. In his stead **Capt Nick Borrill** arrived from 2 Sqn and we welcome him and his wife **Christine** (the only married officer in the Squadron!). Two new subalterns arrived in November, just prior to Ex Iron Hammer so it was in at the deep end for **2Lt Tony Picknell** with 044 and **2Lt Bret Appleby** with 054. 074 saw **Lt Paul Vingoe** return from his 'holiday' in Australia, and after a week he was posted to 3 Sqn whilst **2Lt Graham Addley** arrived in 074. Not to be outdone 064 gained a new Staff Sergeant in the form of **SSgt Bud Abbott** from 22 Sig Regt and the 'all change' was completed with **SSgt (SQMS) Chas Ward** arriving from Cyprus replacing **SSgt Graham Cottington** who left for 11 Sig Regt. With the busy period of Ex Iron Hammer and Sharp Ledge plus UWI everyone got used very quickly to the hectic 1 Sqn schedule.

CHEETAH TROOP—THE HAPPY NODE

The last time Cheetah Tp appeared in *The Wire* there was a request for information concerning the location of the tug-of-war team and the six members of the troop with them. We are pleased to report that they've returned at last, well, at least until next season, or was it next Monday? Arriving shortly afterwards was **Sig 'Shakey' Beard** whom we also welcome.

Ex Iron Hammer provided the troop with the chance to say a traditional 'Cheetah Tp' farewell to **LCpl Scouse Miney**.

I would not be forgiven if I didn't mention those who did well on the exercise, including **Cpl Davidson** and his guide **SSgt Dubique**, **Cpl Bastow** and **LCpl Compton**—all of whom I hear, are banned from driving next exercise.

PANTHER TROOP

Ex Rubber Mallet (Iron Hammer) marked the arrival of **2Lt Tony Picknell** to the team. Also pleased to be back was **SSgt 'Chappie' Tunks**, from the steaming shade of Africa. As usual the Troop tried desperately to overcome the inevitable excitement of exercise routine; some, like **Cpl Robson** and **Sig Stevens** composed songs and lost the few friends they had by playing them. Surprisingly **Sgt Sykes** failed to find a barn for once and were it not for his stick of cam cream, he would probably have been sacked.

Moving into the new year without **Cpl Greenland** and **Sig Stevens** will inevitably be difficult, but the troop wish them all the best in their future postings.

2 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj M. J. Dent MBE**
OC A1 (Papa) Tp	**Lt A. G. Ross**
OC A3 (Radio) Tp	**Lt J. S. Charnock**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) W. J. Kelly**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) M. S. Baron**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) P. J. Stoddart**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) R. M. Minton**
SSgt Tech	**SSgt J. M. Jamieson**
MT Sgts	**Sgt K. K. Enfield**
	Sgt J. G. McGowan RCT

SHQ TROOP

FAREWELLS

Since our last update a number of major changes have occured. Firstly **WO2 (SSM) Brian Howe** departed on promotion to 7 Sig Regt, his farewell was marked by a Squadron Officers' and SNCOs' dining-out held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. An excellent evening was enjoyed by everyone. The waiters looked particularly good in their DPM bow ties and cam cream! We wish **Brian** and **Sue** every happiness 'down the road' and hope they will keep in touch. Next to leave, though only in spirit, was the SQMS, **SSgt Ian Selkirk**, again a 'dining-out' but this time in a restaurant. **Ian** remains on held strength until he is fully fit to return to duty after injuring his leg in a rather unfortunate accident. We wish **Ian** and **Elaine** every success, wherever they end up!

RETURN OF THE 2IC

The Squadron 2IC, **Capt Nick Borrill**, made an appearance in early December following a five month sojourn in Warminster only to be told he was to be posted to 1 Sqn. Rumour has it that the reason is he needs the exercise experience before he and **Christine** disappear off to Canada in September 1989—Nice one **Nick** and good luck in OSC 134! We wish them all the best and hope that Trunk Nodes aren't catching!

ARRIVALS

Firstly all the technicians moved at the OC's whim from A1 and A3 Tps into SHQ to give the Foreman of Signals and **Staff Jamieson** someone to shout at. We welcome **LCpl Dave Hickson** our baby tech who joins us from Catterick, the new SSM, **WO2 Bill Kelly** and his wife **Sue** from Minden, the new 'Q', **SSgt Mick Baron** and his wife **Nancy** from 'sunny' Blandford and **Sgt 'Billy' Parker** from A1 Tp.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **LCpls Mick Concepcion** and **'JC' Cartmell** on their recent promotions, well done!

A1 (PAPA) TROOP

THE HIERARCHY

OC	**Lt Alastair Ross**
Tp SSgt	**Sgt Dave Mason**
Tp SSgts	**Sgt Steve Talbot**
	Sgt Mark Richmond
Attached	**2Lt Mark Hanby**

In preparation for the forthcoming exercise season the troop ran AFV Commanders and Driving Courses. The highlight being the cross-country (more like swimming) phase.

While the weather held the troop took the opportunity to do some adventurous training. Ex Rock Jester was a rock climbing and abseiling exercise to the 'Ith' rocks. Most enjoyed the abseiling more than the climbing but were still rather wary when being told to just fall off the rock face' by the instructors **Sgt Steve Talbot** and **Cpl John Rutland**. But even **Sig 'Knee Shakes' Hamilton** and **Faulkner** got the hang of it by the end of the day.

Sig 'Chippy' Chipperfield and Rick Cawthorne swimming the 'mud pit'

Sig Tony Evans on the way down

ARRIVALS

The troop welcomes **Cpl 'Oz' Lindon, LCpl Steve McGinnigle** and **Sig 'Tomo' Tomlinson** from 1 Sqn; **Sig Bruce Forsyth** on his return from six months in sunny Cyprus; **Cpl Phil Headland** and **Sig 'Shady' Saidy** from A3 Tp; **Sig Neil Callow** back from 3 Sqn and **Sig Paul Forster** and **'Corny' Cornwell** from Catterick.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Sgt Mark Rutland, LCpls Aidie Bakes, Martin Hobbs** and **'Geordie' Leask** on their recent promotions.

Cpl Headland and his Section pulling the Wrecker into a pond

FAREWELLS

To **Cpl 'Digger' Barnes** on promotion to 14 Sig Regt; **LCpl 'Donkey' Moon** to the 'White Helmets', **Cpl Mal Harriden** to 1 Sqn, **LCpl 'Popie' Pope** to 16 Sig Regt, **LCpl 'Nick' Collins** to civvy street, **Sig 'Daz' Paine** to 1 Sqn and last but not least **Cpl John Rutland** and his family to 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn on promotion to Sergeant, thanks to all of you and good luck for the future.

A3 (RADIO) TROOP

THE HIERARCHY

OC	**Lt John Charnock**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Kev Nicholls**
Tp Sgt	**Cpl Al Evans**

UPDATE

The troop was busy participating in Ex Iron Hammer and preparing for UWIs. However time was 'made' firstly for a map reading exercise on the Lubbecke Ridge in November, a day prompted by **Sig 'Rodders' Rodwell**'s comment to the 2IC, 'I can't map read sir!' It was a good day and the weather was extremely kind. The only problem being the transport back to Herford when **Sig 'Wendy' Morrit** decided to restyle the bodywork of one of SHQ Tp's four tonner's!

EXERCISE DRIVE ON

This was a troop cross-country driving and recovery exercise held on 30 November. There were many memorable moments during the day but several deserve special mention. **Sig 'AJ' Crabbe**'s attempt to re-route the competition by trying to remove an earth bank and several trees. **Sig 'Scoey' Scourfield**'s attempt at an emergency stop, only to find his foot was on the accelerator and that the only alternative was to turn his landrover on its side; **Sig 'Paddy' Porter** was the star of the day winning the driving competition.

NUGGET OF THE MONTH

By popular acclaimation **Sig 'Tim' Clemens** was voted 'Troop nugget of the month'. He excelled himself by trying to drive a three ton GS with only three wheels and spent the afternoon dressed as a battery to ensure the would never again possess 'dry cells'.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Cpl 'Taff Hetherington, LCpls 'Rodders' Rodwell** and **Jim Lyons** on their recent promotions and to **Cpl Al Evans** for being £200 better off in December—nice one **Maj Dent**!

FAREWELLS

We say goodbye to **Cpls Andy Masterson, Phil Headland** and **Sig 'Shady' Saidy** who have all been cross posted to A1 Tp. To **LCpl Shahid' Husain** who left for Bristol and civvy street, **Sig 'Kilts' Kielty** off to Cyprus with 3RHA for six months, **Sig Bingham** off to Colchester! and finally **LCpl 'Rab' McLaughlin** off to 14 Sig Regt.

3 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Rick Barfoot**
2IC	**Capt Barry Williams**
OC A2	**Lt Paul Vingoe**
OC B	**Lt Vinay Pandya**
SSM	**WO2 John Dent**
SQMS	**SSgt Ian Blacklaw**
Sqn Secretary	**Mrs Shirley Dennis**

The Squadron welcomes its new OC **Maj Rick Barfoot** and wife **Catherine**. We hope they will have an enjoyable time. We say farewell to **Maj Alan** and **Pat Jones** who never tired of telling us that he was posted to Cyprus. We wish him all the best. We also welcome **Lt Paul Vingo** who did a straight swop with **2Lt Graham Addley** who moves to 1 Sqn.

BRAVO TROOP

OC	**Lt Vinay Pandya**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt John Brooks**

The Troop welcomes back **LCpl Parkinson** and congratulates him on his well earned promotion. He has returned from a six month UN tour in Cyprus with 4/7 DG. It must have been all 'under cover' work as he has no sun tan to talk about. **LCpl 'Swot' Turner** did rather well on his A2-A1 Upgrading Course, as did **Cpl McGregor** who has swopped his screwdriver for a pen whilst sitting his T1 Entrance and EPC exams. **LCpl 'Mucky' Greenwood** passed his Det Comds Course despite all predictions.

The Troop welcomes some new faces. **Cpl Paul** and **Alexandra Henderson, LCpl Mark** and **Susan Hurren** from 30 Sig Regt, **LCpl Kevin Prince** from A 1 Troop and last but not least **Sig Craig Penwarden** straight from the sausage machine. We bid fond farewells to **Cpls Rooney, Capes, LCpls Riley** and **Bott** who are all posted within the Regiment.

TM TROOP

TOT	**Capt Mick Woodhouse**
FofS	**WO1 (FofS) Terry Witts**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Danny Daniel**

Sgt Steve Cherry returned from his leadership course intact and, as we're led to believe, a new man!

Welcome relief to **Cpls Bob Low** and **Ted Heath**, with the end of their detachment to the guardroom. Each is soon to be presented with personalised Daily Occurrence Books.

Wednesday afternoons, during the winter months, in TM Tp, are occupied by representing the Regiment in the Quadrant Cross-Country League (encouraged by the OIC Cross-Country—the TOT). Varying results are achieved, but a regular turnout whenever possible is the aim. Indeed, so intense is the commitment that **FofS Terry Witts** has invested in a new, non-flared, track suit.

Sadly we say our goodbyes to **Cpls Baz Roberts, Jock Henderson** and **LCpl Kev Peters**, who leave us on posting. In the same breath, we welcome **SSgt Danny Daniels, Sgts Bob Foreshaw, Pete Furness, LCpl Dinger Bell** and **Tom Fyfe. Cpl Lee Warren** eventually arrived from 1 Sqn and is expected to do well in the cross country team!

Finally, the troop must pass on it's best wishes to **Sig Dave Richardson** and **Helen**, who join the ranks of the pads.

200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 41

We have lost a few members of 'The Old Guard', to be replaced by fresh faces and eager new members. Give it time . . .

November was spent in preparation for the last big inspection by the Sqn OC **Maj C. J. Burton** before his leaving for pastures new somewhere in MOD. We say a sad farewell to him and his wife **Laurette** and family, we say welcome to **Maj D. M. Mills** and his wife **Anne**, who have left the pastures of sunny England for the extremely wet ones of our fair town.

Other farewells include **Sgt Pat Gibney**, and his wife **Lorraine**, to 14 Sig Regt on well deserved promotion to Staff Sergeant. We wish him and his family all the very best. **SSgt Jimmy Stevenson RPC** is off too; a great stalwart of squadron football, we wish him and his wife **Angela** every good fortune in sunny Bicester. Very many thanks for his help with the team.

In the near future we will be saying goodbye to **SSgt Dennis Rutter** and his wife **Wendy**. **SSgt Rutter** is leaving for bleak Blandford on promotion to Warrant Officer 2. We wish the family all the very best and hope to see **Dennis** recover completely from his recent serious illness.

Sgt Chris Breeden REME has left us too, on promotion to Staff Sergeant and is off to sample the delights of Hameln. All the best to him and his wife.

Pte Guy Oxford RPC, has also left. He is off to sample the delights of 'Civ Div' all the very best. We say hello to **Sgts Jim Latimer, Ken Wood REME, Lou Russell RPC, Cpl Taff Francis** and **LCpl Maw REME**.

December saw the unit performing its role as a crack (or cracked?) infantry company, in preparation for site guard. Two weeks training attempted to sharpen up drills practised during the squadrons 'Bash Up' exercises in May and September. Christmas day was spent carrying out a 'Platoon Attack' around the site, a fine appetiser for the Christmas dinner. Thank you to **Cpl Ritchie Bright** and **LCpl Geordie Brown ACC** for the excellent culinary delights during the exercise.

OP BEGGAR
Report by LCpl Nick Mowbry

The Scene, a dark German wood in winter, time 0350 hrs, an armed British patrol is moving slowly and quietly through the trees. To their right, the orange glow from the site. To their left, the empty wood (or is it).

Our week spent on site guard was full of such patrols and OPs from section to platoon level. All were carried out in an operational manner, a fact we were all fully aware of at all times.

These patrols, as well as rotating through the site and the 'infamous' towers led to a full, active, and very tiring seven days. To cap it all, the guard was over Christmas!

However, spirits were kept high in the Squadron's usual cheery way so the week wasn't that bad; in fact rumour has it that we've re-booked early for Christmas next year . . .

4 ARMOURED DIVISION SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS
EXERCISE PIPEDOWN XXIV

Early morning of 9 December saw the departure of the five members of the Squadron Nordic Ski Team to Neustift, in Austria.

Neustift would be the home and training ground for the team for the next 30 days, ready for Ex Pipedown XXIV.

After four weeks hard training, **LCpl 'Coach' Ray Till** had trained the four Novice skiers—**Lt Meers, Cpl 'Dobber' Trengove, LCpl 'Gunny' Bedford** and **Sig 'Sad On' Stevens**—to a championship standard.

On 8 January we arrived in Galtur, the scene for the 4 Armd Div Ski Championships.

After 10 days of pure hard work, the team ended by winning the minor units Nordic trophy along with the minor units combination trophy (with a little help from the Alpine team).

The Nordic trophy had been won by winning the 4 × 10km relay, 4 × 7.5km biatholon and the 15km race. However we only managed a second place behind 211 Sig Sqn in the 30km patrol race.

Overall it was an achievement that surprised us all as it was an unknown team, four of whom were novices.

Roll on next year . . .

ALPINE SKI TEAM

Training for the championships took place at Neustift in Austria. We travelled down on 9 December and spent 30 days training for the championships.

200 Sig Sqn Nordic Team (winners of the 20 Armd Bde Shield for 'Best Minor Unit Military Combination')—setting out on the 30km Patrol Race

Most of the training was done on the Stuble glacier, 18km from the guest house in which we stayed.

The weather was great down in the valley; but as soon as one went onto the glacier 3,000m up, the wind chill factor dragged the temperature down to about minus 25°C. When training, the odd visit to the cafe was essential; on some days it was only possible to get two or three runs in before having to return to the cafe. On one occasion **Sig Morton** was unlucky enough to suffer from frost nip on the end of his nose.

The team itself was very makeshift comprising:-

Sgt 'Jimbo' Latimer, raced before but seven years ago, **Cpl 'Medic' Jeanes**, one Snow Queen, **LCpl 'Dobber' Bremner**, one weeks skiing only, **Sig Morton**, raced before but two seasons ago, **Sig 'Basi' Ashford**, newly fledged instructor; before we knew it the training was over, with no serious injuries apart from **Sig Morton** who tried his hardest not to have to do the downhill. But unluckily his attempt to break his neck, back, wrist, left leg, and ankle came to nothing and he still had to do the downhill.

The championships started on 9 January and lasted until 18 January. The team did quite well in the race considering that this was their first season together.

Placings were:-

4th in the Giant Slalom
5th in the Slalom
6th in the Downhill
Nine minor units completed the events.

We did however manage to win, with the help of the Nordic team, the combined Alpine and Nordic cup.

A thank you to **Sgt Jim Latimer** for the time and effort he put in to training the team. The team is now getting ready for the Corps Championships in April.

HOCKEY TEAM

Due to commitments beyond our control, the hockey team has been unable to play or train for some four months. However on 31 January a game was played against 20 Armd Bde combined REME team. It was expected that the REME would win quite easily. The Squadron assembled, with quite a few making their debut.

The score was quite unexpected:-

200 Sig Sqn 6—REME 2
Scorers were **Cpl Robson** 3, **Sgt Singh** 1, **Cpl Moore** 1, **Sig Ashford** 1.

A well done goes out to **Sig 'Bear' Cairns**, the Squadron goalie, who performed excellently.

The challenge is out to any interested units in the BAOR area . . .

STOP PRESS

Congratulations go out to the following members of the Squadron who have recently married:-

LCpl 'Avo' Avins to **Silke, Sig 'Micky D' Duggan** to **Sharon, Sig 'Scrunger' Lynch** to **Andrea**.

211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 29

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj K. J. Hadfield**
2IC	**Capt M. D. W. Alexander**
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 (FofS) M. W. Thomas**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) M. A. Herbison**
Sqn Clk	**Sgt G. H. Pollard BEM**

WIVES CLUB ROAD SAFETY PRESENTATION

The Squadron training room was recently converted into a cinema for a Road Safety Presentation for the Wives Club delivered by **Sgt Paul Watson** and **WLCpl** (now WCpl) **Angie Pearce** WRMP.

The presentation covered two topics—seatbelts and drinking and driving. In the first part of the presentation the wives were shown a video and the statistics on injuries while not wearing seat belts were read out to them. After this everybody moved outside to have a go on the dreaded Seat Belt Convincer (honest it only goes at 7 MPH). Once everyone (plus a few passers-by) had had a go everybody went back inside for the drink drive presentation. The wives saw another video on the legal implications of drinking and driving.

At the end of the presentation everyone retired to the bar for drinks and a buffet. (Transport was provided to take people home.)

COMMCEN MINDEN

The Commcen has recently been converted to Trend/9 and is now much easier to keep 'up and running'. In and out traffic totals still remain high and keep our two civilian operators **Mrs Kathy Kocinski** and **Mrs Teri Crow** (a new addition to the team) busy during the day and **Sig Scott Leigh, Mark Haskins** and **Mick Hawkins** busy at night and weekends. **Sgt 'Walt' Disney** is at the helm.

SPORT
ORIENTEERING

The Squadron Orienteering team has gone from strength to strength. The season culminated in its achieving the distinction of winning the BAOR Royal Signals Minor Units Orienteering Championships.

The team brushed aside some very strong opposition to win by a handsome margin—this despite some of the regular team members being absent. In the individual competition special mention must be made of **WO2 (YofS) Steve Whytock** who was placed third on the 'C' course and **LCpl Taff Evans** who was runner up on the 'B' course.

CONGRATULATIONS

Sig Mark Sanders and his wife **Hazel** are now the proud parents of **Gary** born on 18 December and **WO2 (YofS) Stephen Whytock** and his wife **Hilary** became parents to **Michael James** on 21 December. **Cpl Ralph Hutton** and **Denise** became the proud parents of a son, also to be called **Ralph** on 12 January. Congratulations to you all!

ARRIVALS AND FAREWELLS

The Squadron would like to extend a warm welcome to **SSgt Gaz Hartin** and his wife **Karen, Cpl Pete** and **Val Farmer, LCpl Bob** and **Janet Downing** and **Sig Jim** 'Quentin' **Swain**.

We also say a sad farewell to **Cpl Geordie** and **Gwen Laverick** who are posted to Berlin (again) and to **LCpl Danny** and **Conny Fagan** and **Sig Sean Maidment** who are all off to civvy street. Best wishes to you all in your new careers.

7 Sig Regt
BFPO 15

RUGBY REPORT
by Lt I. R. Whitehall

The Squad
(In no particular order . . .)

Cpl Nige Roberts
Cpl John Ginty
WO1(RSM) Andy Hickling
Sgt Kev Winkles
Lt Simon Payne
Lt Dave Kenyon
LCpl Dai Bowling
Cfn Si Peart
Cpl Tony Burton
Cpl Kenny Anderson
Sgt Bob Snow
Cpl Si Norris
LCpl Jock Campbell
Cpl Zoo Williams
LCpl Martin Tombs
Cpl Jamie Alleyne
Cpl Kev Pettit
Cpl Ian Stollard
Sig Frank Woods
WO2(FofS) Gig Plumb
Cpl Archie Fulton
Lt Ian Whitehall
Sig Bill Hayley
LCpl Greg Harwood
LCpl Stuart Leadbetter
SSgt Ched Keats
LCpl Carl Murr
LCpl Neil Furnival

SWEDEN

The 1988/89 rugby season began in style with the Squad boarding a coach for Stockholm where we were to represent BAOR in a celebrity tournament in aid of cancer research. The tournament was also aimed at promoting rugby in Sweden where it is very much a minority sport. The teams involved in the competition were the Swedish national team, an International Select XV, the Swedish Exiles RFC and ourselves.

We drove through the night to Stockholm, breakfasted at McDonald's, and located our hotel. This task took some time as every other hotel seemed to share the name 'Scandic.' We spent a restful day before attending a cocktail party at the British Embassy. We were then driven in an Old London double decker bus owned by Lipton's Tea, one of the tournament sponsors, to the centre of Stockholm where the celebrations continued late into the night.

It was a tired and haggard 7 Sig Regt team that ran out on the Saturday afternoon to face the Swedish Exiles RFC. We needed to start up quickly against a team which had obviously prepared well and had been to bed early on the previous evening. We eventually won a very hard fought game and this earned us a match against the International Select XV on the following day.

We were not over optimistic about our chances of success against a team containing many capped players. Enthusiasts examining the team photograph will be able to understand the reasons for our trepidation. In the event we were thrashed 86—0 but considered ourselves privileged to have played against such first class opposition.

We attended a farewell banquet after the match and then reluctantly boarded the coach for the 18 hour trip back to Herford. We took with us the memories of a wonderful trip.

On tour in Sweden with some well known faces

WALES

On 16 September the rugby squad embarked on a two week tour of South Wales. Over the fortnight we made 8 KAPE (keep the army in the public eye) visits to schools, town centres, holiday camps and shows. In addition we played five games of rugby against local sides which in themselves proved to be excellent KAPE events. We beat Barry, British Steel and Pontardulais but, not surprisingly, lost to Bridgend and Pontypool.

The weather in Wales was (and apparently always is!) appalling. We suffered days of torrential rain but this did not deter Beastmaster **Hickling** from cramming the few hours we had to ourselves with tortuous training schedules and marathon length runs. As a consequence we returned to Herford flu ridden and very tired but we knew even then that the hard games and the training would stand us in good stead for the BAOR season.

WO2 (FofS) Gig Plumb chatting to the locals in Newport, Wales

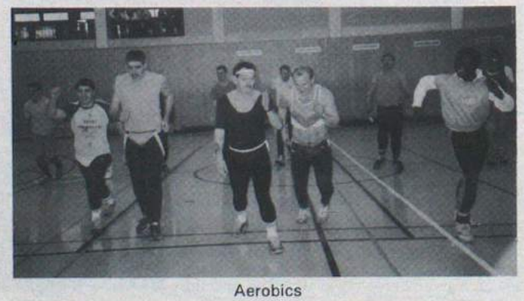
BAOR RUGBY

Our return from Wales coincided with the arrival of our new CO. **Lt Col Hussey** was keen for the Regiment to win the army cup so it was decided to form the Fatigues and Rugby Tp in order to achieve the aim with minimum disruption to the Squadrons. The first round of the Army cup was on 5 October against 71 Aircraft Wksps whom we comfortably beat. This meant a trip to Berlin for the next successful round against 1 Black Watch followed by a three week wait for the next cup match. During this period we had a problem finding suitable opposition in spite of the efforts of our long suffering fixtures secretary **SSgt S. Anderson**. Eventually however, we obtained a fixture against RAF(G) which we were pleased to win by the narrow margin of 22—21.

Due to the strenuous efforts of **WO1 (RSM) Hickling** and **QMSI Warburton** our standards of fitness and rugby skills steadily increased through the course of the season. The indoor assault course was particularly severe and was loathed by all. On the lighter side we participated in aerobics classes and our antics had to be seen to be believed. The second row and the No 8 were particularly impressive, bringing their total lack of co-ordination to this delicate regime.

WO2 (FofS) Plumb had taken over as manager of the rugby club bar and shop at the start of the season and this side of the club was now running very smoothly indeed. We had branched into club T-Shirts in every shade imaginable from dark blue to shocking pink. Needless to say the backs bought pink!

We played HQ 1 BR Corps in the third round of the cup on 5 November and won convincingly. This match was notable for the


Aerobics

return of **Andy Hickling** who Captained the side for the rest of the season. We had to wait over a month for our next cup game. During this period we beat the REME Corps side in a friendly game and 3 Royal Anglian in the 4 Armd Div final which eased the waiting. Eventually we played the quarter final on 6 December followed by the semifinal three days later.

THE BAOR FINAL

We played 22 Sig Regt in an all-Signals final at Mansergh barracks in Gutersloh on 14 December. It was a typical cup final fraught with nervous tension but we gained the upper hand early in the game and despite exerting substantial pressure, 22 Sig Regt never really looked like catching us. Late in the game we scored two quick tires to make the game safe. Victory was a double celebration for **WO1 (RSM) Hickling** as **Maj Gen Davies** commissioned him on the sideline after the game. It was a great relief for all to win but our sights had always been set on the final in the UK in April and we all knew there was still one game to go before the real celebrations could begin.

FUTURE EVENTS

We hope to spend a fortnight in England during March as a Squad preparing for the final. Only by playing a decent level of rugby in the UK will we be good enough to win in Aldershot on 5 April 1989. And after the final? Well, Ex Flying Falcon starts on 9 April.

7 Sig Regt's first try in the BAOR final against 22 Sig Regt

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

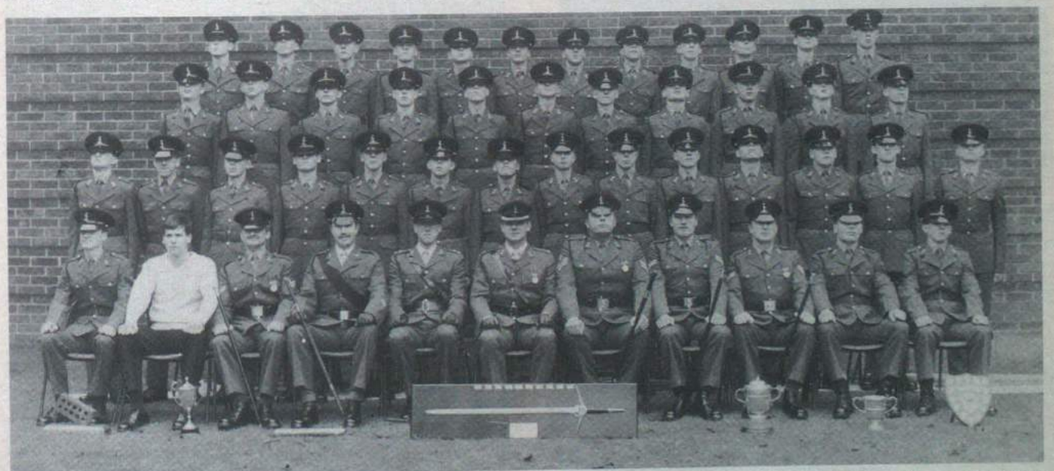
BATTLEAXE TROOP
PERSONALITIES
Lt John Vlasto
Sgt Dave Henry
Cpl Cas Castro
Cpl Eddie Edwards

BATTLECAMP

Battlecamp is the culmination of much of the Junior's six months training and as such was anticipated eagerly by some and apprehensively by others. Perhaps the toughest part was an early morning NBC attack with simulated casualties followed by a crash out in CEFO and full NBC kit. This left some struggling, but a challenging and hard exercise requiring all the knowledge gained in the preceding months and maximum effort ensured a tired but very satisfield Troop returned to camp on the Friday. Battlecamp was a great success and a fitting climax to the field training. Many thanks to **Cpl Mick Pegg** from the armoury who joined us as a section Corporal and helped make the exercise so worthwhile.

PASS OFF PARADE

In total contrast, the following week was taken up rehearsing for the Pass Off Parade on Friday 16 December. It went very smoothly. The Inspecting Officer was **Maj Gen C. N. Last OBE**, a former Royal Signals junior soldier. In his speech before the prizegiving he offered much valuable advice to the new soldiers. The prize winners were:-


Rear Rank (Left to Right); McLaughlin, Chapman, Styring, Newton, Tomkinson, Morgan, Pickett, Garcia, Hendry, Paterson, Lythe and Collins
Third Rank (Left to Right): Rowe, Jenkins, Slater, Marsh, Sinclair, Smith, Hughes, Castile, Fraser, Pearce and Copp
Second Rank (Left to Right): Roberts, A. M. Watson, Hunter, Dixon-Dawson, Gibben, Bankier, P. A. Evans, Campbell, D. O. Watson, Rudman, G. S. Evans, Thomas, Grimes and JLCpl Bracegirdle
Front Rank (Left to Right): JLCpl Gingell, Sig Brennan, Cpl Tranter, WO2 (SSM) G. P. Bohanan, Troop OC Lt J. Vlasto, OC 3 Sqn Maj S. J. Smith, Sgt Henry, Cpls Heathcote, Edwards, JCpl Stephenson and JLCpl Shaw

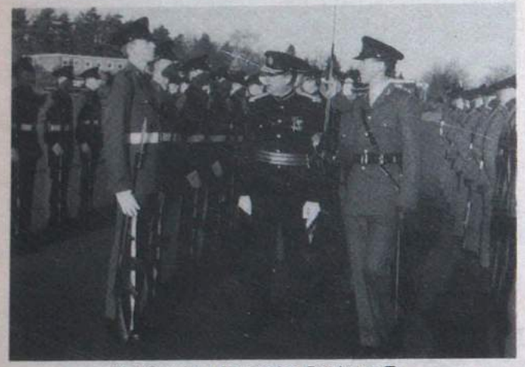
Best Section	1 Section—**Cpl Edwards** and **JLCpl Bracegirdle**
Best Junior Soldier	**JSgt Stephenson**
Best Endeavour	**JSig 'Stig' Roberts**
Best Shot	**JSig Grimes**

Education Prizes

Communication Skills	**JSgt Stephenson**
Map Reading	**JSig Jenkins**
Military Calculations	**JSig Fraser**
Orientation for Service	**JSig Rowe**
Best Overall	**JSig Rowe**

NEW INTAKE

Battleaxe Tp reformed again on Monday 9 January with an intake of 50.



Maj Gen Last inspecting Battleaxe Tp

'Does your mother know you read this sort of stuff?'

Maj Gen Last plants a tree

FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

We have said farewell to **Cpl Tony Tranter** who has moved down the corridor to Ulster Tp. He has been training junior soldiers for seven years, four of them at Ouston, and his experience is a great loss to the Troop.

In his place we welcome **Cpl Cas Castro**, whose instructional experience consists of colloquial Spanish—i zue?

2 TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp OC	**Lt Nick Walker**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Scott Sherrard/ Sgt Neil Coatsworth**
Tp Cpls	**Cpl Stu Conway**
	Pte Plevin
	Chris Hymas/Doc Savage
	John Laffey/Les Stimson

Adult Recruit Course 8808

Best Recruit	:	**Sig Hurst**
Best Shot	:	**Sig Cartwright**
Best Endeavour	:	**Sig Francis**

Friday 2 December saw 2 Troop end their nine weeks recruit course with a Pass Off Parade. The 28 strong Troop were inspected, together with 5 Troop, by **Col C. T. Garton** the Commandant of the Army Apprentices College Harrogate. He was very complimentary on the standard of turnout and the quality of the drill.

The highlights of the course included the second exercise, conducted in 18in of snow, in which **Sig Porg Cairney** disappeared completely on several occasions. The charity bed push was a great success raising almost £700 which was presented to the Special Care Baby Unit at the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton. Then followed an end-of-course party.

Sig Potts lost for words as Col C. T. Garton asks about the Troop Staff

Col Garton, Reviewing Officer accompanied by CO, Lt Col Collyer, Capt Harris, Parade Commander and OC 2 Troop, Lt Walker

During the course there were several changes to the Troop permanent staff—**Sgt Scott Sherrard** left for 4 Troop, shortly followed by **Cpl Chris Hymas**. Congratulations are in order to **Cpl John Laffey** who left on promotion to take up the reigns of 5 Troop. The Troop extends a warm welcome to **Sgt Neil Coatsworth** from 7 Sig Regt, **Cpl Les Stimson** transferred from 5 Troop and **Cpl Joe Savage** who arrived from 14 Sig Regt. The permanent staff, both new and old, wish Adult Recruit Course 8808 the very best of luck in their careers in the Corps.

3 SQUADRON IRON TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Lt A. J. Fletcher
Sgt A. J. Barry
Cpl I. Goodson
Cpl C. R. Dear
Cpl M. L. McLeish

January saw **Sgt 'Stretch' Barry** on his Skill-at-Arms Course which will ensure that he works for his living when he gets back in February. In the mean time **Cpl 'Trip Switch' Goodson** is standing in for him and wonders sometimes if he is coming or going.

The Troop with atts and dets to Kohima and Ulster Tp, commonly known as the ski team, deployed on Ex Snow Mercury to Tomintoul, Scotland. Due to lack of snow they found out what else Scotland has to offer which included good outdoor pursuits such as orienteering (the Colonel's wife will never be the same again) hill walking, rock climbing and abseiling.

We look forward to the last five weeks of training before we start all over again. Such is life as the Troop Commander always says.

Congratulations to **Lt Andy Fletcher** and his wife **Alison** on the birth of their son, **Angus**, on 27 December.

5 TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp OC	**WO1 Jones**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Laffey**
Tp Cpls	**Cpl Swan**
	Cpl Crawford
	Cpl Snell
	Cpl Holland

Winter arrived early in Catterick, (surprise, surprise) just in time in fact, for Recruit Course 8808's Ex Final Fling. The highlight of the exercise was **Sgt Laffey**, he who must be obeyed, bogging his landrover in up to the axles. As can be imagined, the Troop stood around, stony faced, offering sensible advice and cursing the fact none of them had a camera on hand.

The Troop had an excellent pass off and we wish them all the best in their future careers. **Cpl Swan** (Best Section Trophy) and **Cpl Snell** move on, **Cpl Hornby** is posted in and **Cpl Strudwick** has returned from Ex Long Look (New Zealand). We look forward to welcoming our newest future Royal Signals soldiers.

Photo by Joseph Krieger

Cpl Swan receiving, Best Section Trophy yet again

13 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

MOROCCO BACKSTOP

13 Sig Regt expedition to the High Atlas region of Morocco.

Team composition:-

Capt Neal Yeoell (OIC)	**Sgt Nick Ranier (JSMEL(S), 2IC)**
Sgt Kev Rhodes (Medic)	**Cpl Ian Evans (QM)**
Cpl Steve Powell	**LCpl Ian McDowall (Dog Spotter)**
LCpl Colin Fraser (VM)	**LCpl Rob Cheeseman (Diarist)**
Cpl Chris Thompson	**Sig Dave Gough (Photographer)**

Morocco is traversed by the several approximately parallel chains of the Atlas mountains from ENE to WSW. The central part of these chains is the region known as the High Atlas wherein lay our exercise location, a 30km long section known as the Toubkal Massif, probably the best touring and cross-country wilderness within easy reach of Europe. It was ideal for our purposes. Our aims were threefold; to scale Jebel Toubkal (4,167m), the highest mountain in North Africa, to undertake high-level trekking, and to participate in a wild dog survey for the National Geographic Association (NGA).

The expedition commenced with us setting out from Birgelen shortly after 0800 hrs on 12 October 1988. We arrived in Rabat 56 hours later having crossed France and Spain, ferried over the Straits of Gibraltar from Algeciras to Ceuta and covered a considerable length of the Moroccan Atlantic coastline. The night was spent in Rabat to stretch very cramped limbs and rest the by now very tired teams of drivers.

Early on 15 October, the party left for Casablanca some two hours further down the coast. Here supplies were bought, and the opportunity to sight-see around this famous and surprisingly cosmopolitan city was not wasted. With **LCpl Colin Fraser** having entertained the millionaire guests of the Casablanca Hyatt Hotel to his practised 'Chopsticks' routine on the Grand Piano it was generally felt that it was time to move on. The rest of that night was spent in a campsite, away from all musical instruments, further down the coastal road.

16 October was spent travelling to Imlil, a small village at the foothills of the Toubkal Massif and an ideal base for the first two phases. These phases incorporated the ascent of Jebel Toubkal the first walking tour. Arriving in the rain we moved straight into the CAF (Club Alpin de Francaise) hut where we prepared ourselves and our equipment for the following day. Most had a restless night with our thoughts focused on the mountains.

'Oh my God', and with this fearful cry from **Cpl Steve Powell** we awoke to find out what the problem was. One look through the window and all was revealed, snow had completely shrouded the mountains. How this might alter our plans was hard to say, but we had suitable clothing so we set out that morning as planned on the six hour haul up to the Neltner hut at the base of Mt Toubkal (3,207m). The fine weather of the morning soon turned to rain in the afternoon, by which time **Sig Dave Gough** and **Sgt Kevin Rhodes** had swallowed all pride and 'sold' their loads to Berber tribesmen, who inhabit the mountains. Incredibly strong and fit they soon moved ahead of the group, embarassingly so as they were only half our size. We passed the last village and continued up the valley and were able to see the rain and snow which made the narrow track quite treacherous. Eventually, late that afternoon, a very tired party arrived at the hut for a good meal and nights sleep prior to our summit attempt.

Again **Cpl Steve Powell** was up early but this time offered only cries of delight. No wonder; blue skies and an emerging sun cast a hopeful light on our climb and by 0815 hrs we were on our way up the South Cwm. **Capt Neal Yeoell** initially leading off at a steady pace was replaced by **Sgt Nick Ranier** after an hour, to lead the difficult section up to the head of the Cwm. Avoiding the heavily drifted snow which had earlier forced groups off the mountain, good progress was made and after three hours we were at the head of the Cwm and at the bottom of the final 500m scramble to the top. Tired from kicking steps for two hours, **Sgt Nick Ranier** offered the final lead to **Cpl Ian Evans**, the team mountain goat, and we were at the final ridge approach in 20 minutes! **Sgt Nick Ranier** resumed the lead and the party made it to the top in 4 hrs 15 mins, a very good time for a European party. The group took a quick round of pictures and headed back down again, arriving back at the hut six and a half hours after starting off.

19 October and a change of plan. The track to our next location was blocked due to heavily drifted snow so it was decided to head to

Oukaimeden, the start point for our second trek. With this alteration we adjusted the mountain programme by extending it to six days, still giving us nine days in the mountains. With the weather still fine the party descended to Imlil, straight onto the transport and with one vehicle going via Marrakech (70km away) for further supplies we all headed to the CAF Hut at Oukaimeden. Driving through the clouds giving us 20m visibility made the trip rather hazardous, but the drivers, particularly our wild dog spotter, **LCpl Ian McDowall**, who hadn't seen a wild chicken, both did us all proud.

The next day with the cloud cleared and in brilliant sunshine, we began the six day expedition. The first two days were simple enough, just pure physical effort, then came our arrival in Setti Fatma and the dreaded mules. It seemed such an innocuous comment from **Capt Neal Yeoell** 'let's take mules for a change.' 'Great idea', we thought, 'It'll make a pleasant change from walking uphill.' Four hours after setting out on that morning of 22 October we arrived at the village of Timichi quite shaken. We were in agony doing the splits on their very wide backs, they terrified us by walking so close to the edge of the narrow paths overlooking 200m plus drops. At Timichi we parted company with the mules and immediately began a steep ascent out of the Ourika valley.

Over the next three days we climbed in and out of steep-sided valleys moving from one small Berber village to the next, and after nine days walking, it was a pleased group that walked into Oukaimeden on the afternoon of 25 October. By that evening we were in Marakech for a brief spell of R & R.

Throughout the next day we enjoyed the sights and sounds of this city, particularly the Medina where all the markets are to be found. **LCpl Rob Cheesemen** and **Cpl Chris Thompson** surpassed us all with the amount of souvenirs they bought, but somehow we managed to fit it all into the already packed vehicles for the long journey home.

Setting out on 27 October we retraced our route across Europe and it was just outside of Lyon that we had our first mechanical problem. The Sherpa's engine burst into flames, three hours later with **LCpl Colin Fraser** having successfully replaced all the melted rubber piping with bits stolen from everywhere, we were on our way again. Unfortunately the last few hundred miles had to be done at 40mph, but at 2000 hrs on 30 October we arrived safely back at Birgelen.

TRANS-SWITZERLAND TREK

A party from 3 Sqn 13 Sig Regt recently returned from Switzerland having completed a trek from the borders of Liechtenstein to Montreaux and Lake Geneva along the Alpine Pass Route. Apart from the trekking, various elements of the group managed a trip to the extensive caves of St Beatus (a hermit monk), a journey on Europe's highest railway up the Jungfrau mountain, visits to Thun and Grindelwald and the use of the very wide range of facilities laid on by **Sgt Caldicott** RAF, at the Base Camp at Interlaken.

Those taking part were:-

WO2 Kevin Mulloy—Expedition Leader
SSgt Steve Dorman—2IC and Treasurer
Sgt Des Caldicott (26 SU)—SNCO IC Base Camp
Sgt Neville Greevy
Cpl Guy Wesley—MT NCO
Cpl Mike Beckett (2 Sqn, 13 Sig Regt)—Trek Leader
Cpl Taff Cottle
Cpl Paul Duddy
Cpl Larry Lambert
Cpl Jim Peterken—French Translator
LCpl Geoff Couch
LCpl Paul Heeks
LCpl John McConnon

In the course of completing the trek along this most demanding route the participants climbed in excess of 50,000ft and descended some 52,000ft before catching sight of Lake Geneva, 250km west from the start point.

Highlights included the ascent of Hohturli (9,300ft above sea level), circumnavigating the glacier below Blumisalp and the traverse of the Oeschinensee valley where time appears to have stood still for millions of years. Also worthy of note is the beauty of the Bernese Oberland, the friendliness of fellow trekkers of all nationalities, and the peace and tranquility of the upper Alpine meadows.

There was so much to see and do, hang-gliding and parachuting seemed a commonplace activity in many a Bernese valley; whilst a drink of mint tea in a Swiss Apline Club Mountain Hut remains a privilege to be enjoyed by the few, and then only after the dignity of much honest toil. **SSgt Steve Dorman**, in order to amuse his fellow travellers, allowed a herd of mountain goats to bite chunks out of him, whilst **Cpl Jim Peterken**, who has a good eye and nose for food of any description, tracked down fresh raspberries in the middle of an Apline wood in the French-speaking canton of Vaux, near the Col de Jable. Everyone clearly got his just dessert!

L to R: LCpls John McConnon and Larry Lambert don wet weather clothing as the weather closes in

There are so many vivid memories to savour, but many of them are summed up by the words of Psalm 66 verse 5 which are carved on a rock high up amongst the Bernese Alps at more or less the mid point of the Alpine Pass Route:-

'Kommet her und sehet an die Werke Gottes, der so wunderbar ist!'
'Come ye here and gaze upon the work of God, for it is wonderful!'

No man that stands beside the rock could possibly disagree.

MOENCHENGLADBACH IMM 1988

Team: **LCpl Karen Stickland (Team Leader)**
LCpl Linda Brooking
LCpl Sue Sharkey
Pte Dawn Lewis

'What are you doing on Saturday girls?' was the question asked a week before the Moenchengladbach IMM. Saturday 10 September saw four bright and cheerful WRAC's set off towards Moenchengladbach to spend the day running about the countryside, recognising armoured vehicles and aircraft, throwing grenades and saving lives with first aid before putting their own at risk on the assault course. They fired German pistols, skulked in the undergrowth, did more running and put their lives at risk once again on and over a river.

They came neither first nor second but should have been awarded a prize for 'good spirits in the face of adversity.'

L to R: LCpl Linda Brooking, Pte Dawn Lewis, LCpls Karen Stickland and Sue Sharkey

TM TROOP
PERSONALITIES

TOT	**Maj Bryan Maltby**
FofS 1	**WO1 Tony McMahon**
FofS 2	**SSgt Ian Stewart**
NCO IC Radio	**SSgt Chris Skelton**
NCO IC TE	**SSgt Tom Delaney**
NCO IC RE	**Sgt Chris Ellis**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Sam Coster**

After a hectic few months due to the high turnover of Troop members, life in the Troop is returning to a more acceptable level of

controlled chaos. Over the last few months we have lost, on posting, some of the more infamous characters within the Troop and gained some rather dubious new faces. On the departures side we bid a fond farewell to both our FofS **WO1 Stan 'The Man' Grimmitt** who is off to Northern Ireland and his partner in crime **SSgt Jim 'Scouse' Waterson** on his posting to Hong Kong (at last!).

From Northern Ireland we welcome a new FofS, **WO1 Tony McMahon** and from Blandford we say hello also to our FofS, **Ian Stewart**. We hope they and their families enjoy their tour here.

No list of new arrivals would be complete without saying a big hello and welcome to **Andy 'dues out' Gemmell** and **Cpls Taff Evans, Taff Thomas REME, Julie Holder** and **Paul 'Stores Accountant' Culley**. Also, congratulations to **SSgt Tom 'Uncle Tom' Delaney** and **Cpl Taff Thomas** on the presentation of their LS & GC medals.

On the Regimental sporting front, TM Tp has once again been taking an active interest. Not only did we provide at least the usual 75% of the HQ Sqn teams in the Colonel's Cup competition, but we've also managed to win the plate trophy in the Regimental Seven-a-Side Rugby and reach the semi-finals in the Hockey and Soccer competitions. All we need now is a Regimental Basketball tournament so we can wheel out our secret weapon, the world's tallest TOT **Maj Bryan 'Stretch' Maltby**.

One of our innovations was to organise an inter departmental sports competition. This was welcomed by the Troop, however nobody could have forseen the amazing transformation of our civvy element. Radio Workshops were the unlucky team to fall victims to the Steve Brothers; **Steve Martin** and **Steve Bullock.**

B TROOP TRAINING DAY (PRE EXERCISE)
PERSONALITIES

OC Tp	**Lt Neil Longley**
OC B Watch	**WO2 Dave Kent**
OC D Watch	**SSgt Dave Smy**
SSgt D Watch	**SSgt Steve Shannon**

Preparatory training for the Regimental Exercise started with a bang for B Troop. An 0800 hrs start saw the 'you can't see me suits' flood into the Gym for some intense weapon training which included SMG, SLR and LMG. **Sgt Frankie Millington** showed his instructional ability when confronted with **Sig Byrnes**—a master of the SLR.

A final competition, run by **SSgt Dave Smy** proved that the morning's training had been useful and **Sig Firth** clinched victory and a well deserved prize. The morning could not have been complete without the cry 'What are bayonets for?' as the Troop indulged in some hectic bayonet training under the watchful eye of **Sgt Sullivan**. With grace and vigour, and with the aid of glasses, **Cpl Broome** showed that he had done it all before.

The afternoon was much more sedate, with **Sgts Glen Cuthbertson** and **Moye** demonstrating their knowledge of voice procedure. A comprehensive lesson in BATCO was conducted by **Lt Longley** which completed a hard but rewarding days training.

Sadly the Troop must say good-bye to some key figures who have moved on. We wish them all the best of luck: **WO2 Dave Randall, Sgt Rich Maddock** and **Cpl Trev Broome.**

1 SQUADRON
THE SOLDIER'S DINNER

After the Regimental exercise 1 Sqn decided to hold an all ranks dinner. Even though most of the Squadron had gone straight from exercise into work it was well attended by all ranks.

The dinner was held in the Regimental restaurant and, although only consisting of a basic fish and chip menu, was excellently presented. The CO permitted the bar to be open throughout the meal and after two days in the field the Squadron was able to enjoy a beer.

The dinner was constructive as well as enjoyable and due to the relaxed atmosphere at the dinner, many points and ideas for future exercises were put forward. The junior ranks had the chance to chat and put questions to the senior ranks in a more informal manner than usual. Many good points were raised and it is hoped that these will be put into practice in the next exercise.

O TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Les Rix**
Front Office	**WO1 (YofS) Tony Reynolds**
	SSgt (YofS) Paul Barrett
A Shift Supvr	**Sgt Dave Piggott**
B Shift Supvr	**Sgt Peter Garside**
C Shift Supvr	**Sgt Dougie Wright**
D Shift Supvr	**Cpl Rosco Tanner**

The Troop welcomes the following new members: **WO1 (YofS) Tony Reynolds, SSgt (YofS) Paul Barrett, Cpl Joy Shelmerdine, LCpls Ginge Mitchell** and **Nige Goodwin.**

And says farewell to: **SSgt (YofS) Wilf Wedge**, on promotion, to RSRE Malvern, **Sgt Cliff Knighton** and **LCpl Jock Ramsdale** to civvie street.

The Troop has had a busy sporting calendar over the last couple of months. The seven-a-side football competition was played on a league basis with the two top teams from each league going through to the finals. The Troop team was drawn in a strong league consisting of RHQ, 1 Sqn SHQ, TM Tp, Officers' Mess and O Troop. All the games were well contested and with one win and a draw the team just missed out on making the finals. Goals for the Troop came from **Sig Gaz Shirley** (top scorer), **Cpl Shaun Curley, LCpl Mark Vaughan** and **Mr Paul Walledge**. There were also good goalkeeping performances from **Cpl 'Rosco' Tanner** and **Sig Cooper.**

This year's Regimental cross country took place on a wet and windy day over a six mile course. Troop members figured prominently in the make up of the 1 Sqn teams with **Cpl Shaun Curley, LCpl Mark Vaughan** and **Sig Gaz Shirley** running for the A team and **LCpls Dave Kirk** and **Mick Madden** running for the B team. An excellent effort was put in by all runners and 1 Sqn (A) were narrowly beaten into 2nd place by 3 Sqn (A). Congratulations to **Capt Les Rix** on winning the Veterens' event.

The Troop's hockey team put up some stirring performances but was lacking some key players for the early matches of the inter-troop hockey competition. Although failing to qualify there were good individual performances from **LCpl Carole Booth, Pte Dawn Lewis** and **LCpl Ginge Mitchell.**

CONGRATULATIONS

LCpl and **Mrs Kirk** on the birth of a daughter **Kathryn. LCpl Mick Madden** on his marriage to **Andrea** and **LCpl Clive Ireland** on his marriage to **Vicky.**

14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 23

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Eddie Kellett**
SSM	**WO2 Tony Lunney**
MT WO	**WO2 Rod Pylee**
SQMS	**SSgt Norman Yarwood**
HQ MT Sgt	**Sgt Pete Waugh**
Unit POL/BFG	**Sgt Al Hunter**

EXERCISE IRON HAMMER

WO2 (SSM) Tony Lunney managed to win the Gold Blanket Award and **Pte Phil Lowndes** ACC ensured that everyone knew that he had arrived!

SSgt (SQMS) Norman Yarwood pampered A2 Ech and others with coffee and cream buns every afternoon. We have never had so many visitors at A2 Ech before! The birthday boys on exercise were **WO2 (MTWO) Rod Pylee, LCpls Baz Carmichael, Pete Casson** and **Sig Gary Parkes. LCpl Pete Casson** celebrating his 21st, chose to instruct members of A2 Ech on how to cam up the natural way ie using mud, while **Sgt Dave Graves RAMC** taught A2 Ech First Aid under NBC conditions.

Capt Keith Leslie REME OC LAD set an example by getting bogged in, and like good soldiers, **Cpl Martin Bibby, LCpl Ray Russell** (Recovery Mech) and **Cpl John Keith** followed suit, **Sgts Stu Cameron** and **Fritz O'Neill** managed to keep their boots clean working in the CP. **WO1 (ASM) Jim McFarlane** managed to find a missing landrover 10 days after the exercise finished—was 5 Armd Wksp trying to sell it!

The Squadron (A2 Ech) deployed to its initial location on 11 November. The first 48 hours were spent refurbishing Whisky Tp, which was suffering from seven days in the field, in order that it could take part in the following two weeks. Our 'Baby Foreman' **SSgt Nigel Cullen** was heard to groan 'Why me?—look at my boots, they're dirty!', on many occasions in the first week. But, what do you expect when it's taken 14 years to get him on exercise!

We moved south for the second week. Don't believe what they say about the weather improving as you move south. We went into heavy downpours of rain and heavy falls of snow within 72 hours. Luckily it cleared after three days as **Maj Eddie Kellett**, OC was heard telephoning for white cam nets—who thought they were only for decorating functions? Our new TOT, **Capt Paul Cross**, disappeared to Celle on Week Two. He said he had to attend a 'meeting' but we believe that it was for a rest as he, like **FofS Nigel Cullen**, has led a very sheltered life.

Maj Kellett is rumoured to have had an enjoyable exercise breaking in his new staff, **Capt Cross, WO1 (FofS) Martin, SSgt (FofS) Cullen, WO1 (ASM) Jim McFarlance, WO2 (SSM) Lunney, SSgt 'Norman' Yarwood** and last, but not least, **Sgt Al Hunter**.

PS: Yes it is true A2 Ech were given a 'march out' inspection by the owner of the Rittergut—no, the OC didn't enjoy it!

Driving Course 2188
Sgt 'Tally' Talbot with some of the instructors and successful students from Regimental Driving Training Course 2188

MT DEPT
DRIVING COURSE 2188

Sgt Keith Talbot ran a very successful driver training course last October before leaving us for sunny Cyprus. The pass rate was 100%—why was this one so successful? I think it was the last challenge he left for his successor **Sgt Pete Waugh.**

CO's CUP

The CO's Cup, one of the big events of our annual calender, when HQ Sqn takes time to challenge the other Squadrons for the 'Glory'. This, therefore, meant from the OC Sqn downwards 'Training for the 17½ mile bash with full kit'.

HQ Sqn entered 7 of the 28 items that started and as usual showed that they are good competitors, coming a close second to 1 Sqn. HQ Sqn had three teams in the first places. Third was TM Tp lead by **SSgt (FofS) Nigel Cullen**, fifth **SSgt Steve Watson REME** and sixth MT Tp lead by **Sgt Al Hunter**.

FAREWELLS

We bid a fond farewell to **Sgt Keith Talbot** and his wife **Alison. Sgt Talbot** has been with the Regiment for five years, this and Cyprus, we think, are the only postings he has ever had. He must have a contact in the Record Office. We say goodbye to **Cpl Gary (PRI) Little** and his wife **Louise**—we hope you enjoy the UK. The PRI driving school would like its car back!

HELLOS

We welcome **Sgt Pete Waugh** and his wife **Janet** and congratulate him on his promotion. **Sgt Waugh** has been posted in from TM Tp—is he trying to break **Sgt Talbot**'s record? We also welcome **Sgt Alan Hunter** and his wife **Carol** who chose to come to sunny Celle. We say 'Hello' to **Sig Paul Grimes** from 11 Sig Regt, who has managed to find the NAAFI and show **LCpl Pete Casson** the way to Langeleben.

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate **Sig Gary 'Gaz' Parkes** on his marriage to **Pte Michelle Collyer** (28 Sig Regt, V Troop).

Also the following members of HQ Sqn on their promotion and wish them luck for the future, **Sgts Bob King, John Keith, George Lazenby, Cpls Charlie Brown, Andy Mairs** and **LCpl 'Gaz' Parkes.**

QM TECH DEPT
by Sig Dave Alsop

FAREWELLS

We have seen a few departures recently and more are to follow. We bid farewell to **Sgt Brian Donegan**, who has taken his talents down South to the Falkland Islands for a short period before moving on to the Army Apprentices College. We wish him all the best. **Sig Ian Bain** has left us for 8 Sig Regt on his B1 upgrading. From there he will go to 2 Inf Div and Sig Regt. We wish him and his wife **Chris** a fond farewell.

ARRIVALS

We welcome the new Quartermaster **Maj Andy Boyle** and his wife **Rachel**. We hope he enjoys his second tour here. **Mr Robby Gypps** has moved over to us from the FATSO department to take over the running of the R&I.

The work load has been so intense lately that **RQMS WO2 Pete Woodward**, hasn't had time to go fishing. Everyone seems to be away at once. **LCpl Murray Walker** on his Pre-Det Comds, **LCpl Randy Crawford** on Assistant NBC Instructors course and **Sig Brian Parry** on leave. The only people left to hold the fort are **LCpl Colin Rich** and **Sig 'Geordie' Alsop**. We also have **Mr Alec McMinn**, who is trying to get everyone to take up knitting so he can sell us wool.

TM TROOP
by WO2 Bob Hamilton
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt (TOT) P. G. Cross**
FofS1	**WO1 P. Martin**
FofS2	**WO1 D. Wild**
FofS3	**WO2 R. Hamilton**
FofS4	**SSgt N. Cullen**
R SSgt	**SSgt M. Holland**
TE SSgt	**SSgt R. Woodfine**

Since Ex Iron Hammer the Regiment has had a fairly quiet time and was able to concentrate on 'in house training' such as the CO's Cup. This put a tremendous strain on the resources of TM Tp, whose maintenance programme was geared to take place between exercises.

With such a large group we inevitably have a large turn over and this period has been no exception. We say a fond farewell to **SSgt Dick Woodfine** (is there no life without LOA) to 2 Div Sig Regt, **Sgt Kevin Daniels** on promotion to Staff Sergeant heading for 4 Div Sig Regt, **Sgt Iain McNelly** striving to become an FofS, **Cpl Mark Appleby** to his T1 course, **Cpl Andy Forbes** to 8 Sig Regt and **Cpl Smalley REME** who has decided to cross the paymaster's palm with silver.

We say 'Hello' to **WO2 (FofS) Bob Hamilton, SSgt Mike Laybourn, LCpl** (is this another Leslie?) **Crowther**, joining his brother and **Cpl Andy Wood REME**.

It is difficult to decide whether it is 'Hello' or 'Goodbye' to **Cpl Bob King** who arrived in November (nobody's sure just when), went on a five week education course for his EPC, joined in on the grant and is posted to who knows where (we think records do) via Blandford in February. We look forward to meeting him when he comes back in six months time.

November/December saw the arrival of **2Lts Malmo Tore** and **Gronhaug Vigdis** from the Norwegian Army on attachment for a specialist course. This led to many varied discussions in the rest room at coffee break ranging from how to stop your masts freezing in the severe cold, to what do you do for that long three month period when it never gets light? (by the way, one was male and one was female).

CO's CUP

The CO's Cup took the form of a 17½ mile bash in full kit with various military stands along the way. TM Tp provided two of the seven teams put in by HQ Sqn which were ably led by **SSgt (FofS) Cullen** and **SSgt Watson.** The teams were the first two home for HQ Sqn, with an incredible third and fifth in the Regiment, allowing the Squadron to be runners up in the overall competition.

Maj Eddie Kellett leads the Training run for CO's Cup

SSgt (FofS) Nige Cullen receiving Runners-up Trophy for CO's Cup from Brig T. I. M. Waugh

Sig Logan receiving his medal from Brig T. I. M. Waugh

FIELD STATION LANGELEBEN
by WO1 Neil Mapp

On 3 November **SSgt Ted Roberts** was presented with the LS & GC by **Brig H. W. R. Pike DSO, MBE** Comd 22 Armd Bde.

On 24 November a combined fire service exercise was held to practise manifold procedures under the watchful eye of the Asst Div Fire Advisor, **Mr Jaques**. All went very well and concluded with a wet debrief.

On 10 December **WO1 Neill Mapp, WO2 Pete Bull** (RA Sigs), **SSgt Ted Roberts** and **Cpl Gary Hukin** took part in the annual Braunschweig Turkey Shoot. Scores on the day were excellent and **Cpl Gary Hukin** came 4th out of 460 competitors. **WO1 Neil Mapp** achieved 12th place (first time in 6 years out of the top 10), and our tame Australian has modestly requested that his score is not disclosed. Suffice to say that his sparrow only weighed . . .

On 14 December the SOinC **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB, MBE**, received a framed photograph of the Field Station during his visit to the Regiment as compensation for not having time to visit us this time round.

On 14 January a dinner was held at Langeleben, when **Cpl Geoff Glover** was dined out. He has been with the Regiment for four years and four months, three years of which have been at Field Station Langeleben. During that time his contribution has been outstanding in and out of working hours. He is posted to Northern Ireland at the end of February. We wish him and his wife, **Susanne**, long and happy days together. All ranks were present at this dinner including the CO **Lt Col J. D. Stokoe MBE** and the opportunity was taken to say farewell to one of our longest serving Royal Air Force friends, **Chief Tech Mick Louth**.

We also welcomed several guests. Some have been in the Regiment for some time but this was their first opportunity to dine at FSL. They were **WO1 (RSM) Pete Aitken, WO1 (YofS) Dave Wild** and both QMs, **Majs Ted Banham** and **Andy Boyle** (welcome back).

As a representative of X-Ray Tp, **SSgt Ellis Page** accepted the Langeleben Troop of the Year plaque 1988 from **Lt Col John Stokoe MBE.** X-Ray Tp only narrowly beat Whisky Tp in the league for the most consistent effort by an EW Tp.

1 SQUADRON—SHQ TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Lugg**
2IC	**Lt Lawrence**
SSM	**WO2 Metcalfe**
SQMS	**SSgt Taylor**
YofS	**SSgt Little**
YofS (Apprentice)	**SSgt Page**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Penn**
MT Heroes	**Cpl Kelly**
	LCpl Proctor
Radio Heroes	**Cpl Walsh**
	LCpl Greenway
	LCpl Taylor
	Sig Warren
SQMS' Slave	**Cpl Joyce**

Over the last couple of months SHQ has lost some personnel of rare 'quality', all will be missed, some more than others. **Maj Hudson** departed to pilot a desk at MOD. **Sgt** (now SSgt) **Duncan Hall**, did a runner to 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. And last, in more ways than one, **Sig 'Cyclops' Norton**, has gone to hire videos at 238 (London) Sig Sqn. We wish them well, and hope to see them posted back here in the not-too-distant future. To pre-empt the occasion, we say our fond farewells to **Cpl 'Wally' Walsh**, who is due to be posted soon to 2 Inf Div and Sig Regt. Good luck, and thanks.

Recent arrivals include **Sgt Penn**, who has a hard act to follow; we're sure he'll do well. Also **'Jaws'**, who is welcomed to the Troop, and has longer to do here than any of the rest of us!

WHISKY TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**2Lt Mutter**
2IC	**WO2 Jock Douglas**
Tp SSgts	**SSgt Tam Mailey**
	SSgt Dave Morrison
Tp Sgts	**Sgt Nick Cable**
	Sgt Colin Cape
	Sgt Chez Mullins

Ex Narrow Gorge proved to be a good warm up for Ex Iron Hammer. **LCpl Kev Jones** and **Sig Steve Tucker** experienced all manner of wildlife including wild dogs, Grunny pigs and lizards

during the three weeks, but they enjoyed generous refreshments from passing Germans.

The Colonel's Cup was held during the first week of December and congratulations are extended to the 1 Sqn team that won so convincingly. The victorious team included four members of Whisky Tp, who were; **Cpls Craig Shrives, Phil Booth, Bob Ackland-Snow** and **LCpl Ted Whichelo**.

Sadly we must say goodbye to **Cpl 'Ernie' Wise** a veteran of the troop, who leaves us for civvy street and university. Also goodbye to **LCpl Dave Bronniman** and wish him all the best at 264 Sig Sqn. Farewell to **Lt Ian Lawrence**, who will be sadly missed as he was an inspiration to all. With the new year came a new Troop OC and we all welcome **2Lt Mutter** to the best troop in the Regiment.

J TROOP 1 SQUADRON

Ex Iron Hammer was both an arduous and a trying exercise for J Troop. The weather contributed towards making the exercise ardous and the experience of the new Troop OC **2Lt Forrest** and **Troop Sgt Steve Barnes** at times made life a little trying for the more experienced members of the troop!

Most of December was spent repairing the damage done during Ex Iron Hammer though the troop did manage to sneak some time off in order to compete in the CO's Cup. All the troop competed well and their fine contribution assisted 1 Sqn's overall victory.

Sadly we have had to say farewell to three much loved members of the troop, **Cpl Nick Turner** who is going to teach recruits at 8 Sig Regt, **Cpl Ted James** who decided he wanted a bit of the quiet life in York and **LCpl Phil Duff** who was dragged away to 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. We would like to welcome **LCpl Rab McLaughlin.**

The troop would also like to congratulate **Sig Maggs** and his wife **Julie** on the arrival of baby **Lee** on 10 November.

X-RAY TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**Capt Simon Purser (who's he?)**
Tp 2IC and Navigator	**WO2 Peter Bull RA Signals**
DF Recce	**SSgt Ellis Page**
Int Supremo	**SSgt Bob Thompson**
Admin	**SSgt Mick Foster**
Tp Mascot	**LCpl R2 Williamson**

There are those who might suggest that the Troop is top-heavy. One glance at the cast list above will surely persuade the cynic that, if anything, we are short of bosses. For example, less than half the Troop recognised the OC when he returned from his latest jaunt, er, course. He has, of course, picked up the reins exactly where he left them . . .

WO2 Pete Bull has continued his German language training and will soon be as incomprehensible in the local language as he is in English. A number of impromptu parties at his MQ have led to his wife, **Mrs Jen Bull**, banning all members of the Troop from her house without an invitation.

The regular reader of these pages will recall our saying farewell to **LCpl Jonathon Wood** in the last issue. Unexpectedly, we find ourselves saying 'hello' to him again. Other arrivals include **Cpl Chas Gilmartin**—who left here almost exactly three years ago, shrieking 'I shall not return!' The Troop says 'hello there' to **Chas** . . . Welcome also, to **Sig Lund**.

A fair number of notable departures have taken place: By the time this goes to Press, we shall have said goodbye to **LCpl Steve 'Duck' Evans** our redoubtable powerman, **Cpl Mark Ozmen**, soon to be the best brickie in the North-West (and incidentally depriving **Sgt Gary Melding** of his right-hand man), **Cpl 'Sting' Ray**, off to try the water in Civdiv and a computer repairman, **Cpl** (now Sgt) **Mark Jordan** (our loss is R Troop's gain), **Sgt Henrik Kiertzner** (rebadging to Muppet) and **LCpl Jonathon Wood** . . . unless he comes back again, of course.

The Troop would also like to show their appreciation for **SSgt Ellis Page**'s recent star performance as Squadron Yeoman. There are those who implied that he could clear the Yeoman's weekly work load over a cup of coffee in half an hour and says more about Yo-people than about **Ellis**.

It is also rumoured that **Ellis** knows a little something why Ex Iron Hammer was so called. The SSM, **WO2 Mal Metcalfe**, is still chuckling about the incident with the sledge-hammer, the cam-net and the casualty ward . . .

STOP PRESS

It now turns out that **Capt Simon Purser** is, in fact, the same person as the **Lt Simon Purser** who some of us remember as commanding the Troop early last year. Congratulations on the promotion and good luck in Kenya. Or Brazil. Or Thailand. Or wherever this year's jaunt, or exercise is.

EXERCISE GONE BUSH 24-29 OCTOBER

The aim of the exercise was to educate the 'Rear Combat Zone' (well 13 Sig Regt) in tactical EW.

The troop set off early on Monday 24 October. After eight hours driving arrived at Mercury Bks 13 Sig Regt, to a rapturous applause of the guard and a damp **SSgt Mick Foster**, who guided us to our demo area.

We were accommodated in the Golf Pavilion in preference to tents on the golf course!

Tuesday and Wednesday were devoted to demos for members of 13 Sig Regt which went very well. A keen interest being shown by all who came to see the troop 'In Action'. The dark hours and the bars in the area never had it so good.

On Thursday the troop was given a guided tour of 13 Sig Regt and a game of hockey was arranged against the all conquering 13 Sig Regt hockey team. With the boys from the 'Black and Green' stuff drawing 2—2 with brilliant goals from **LCpl Mark Smith** and **Sig Rob Atherton** to the delight of the crowd.

After a 'Quick Party' on the Thursday evening we got our heads down and set off on the drive back to Celle. With waves from everyone at 13 Sig Regt and a sob from the bar staff.

2 SQUADRON
SHQ PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj John Steed**
2IC	**Capt Stewart Sharman**
SSM	**WO2 Phil Rumsey BEM**
SQMS	**SSgt Barry Spiers**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Dave Thomas**
MT NCO	**Sgt Jeoff Backhouse**
Sqn Clk	**Sig Jason Ward**

YANKEE TROOP

We have had a few farewell presentations, not least our OC **Lt Whyte** who was sent on his way with little more than a smile. We also said a fond farewell to **Sgt Farmer Vaughan** after his second tour within the Regiment (and he loved every minute). **Sig Cartmell** also left for a better life and took his sleeping bag with him much to the displeasure of **Cpl Mick Main**.

As well as the return of our **SSgt Bob Smith** from his six month's holiday in New Zealand (of which he hasn't yet stopped talking), we must also welcome our two new arrivals to the Troop **LCpls 'Ozzy' Osborn** and **Pickering**.

The Troop entered three teams for the CO's cup with a fair amount of success and a lot more blisters as **Cpl Andy Chubb** was quick to point out.

KILO TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**WO1 Tom Hardingham**
Sgt	**Sgt 'Strings' Stringer**
Cpl	**Cpl Dave George**

The 15½ mile Regimental March and Shoot Competition lay before us, compliments of the CO. Team selection consisted of an 8 mile tab in full CEFO in 1 hour, fortunately for K Troop the eight men who applied did very well, because they were the only eight men we had spare anyway (after other duty commitments). After NBC and First Aid and weighing and checking equipment we were given the best possible (by the Troop OC **WO1 Hardingham**) motivation. (He threatened us with a transfer to Newcastle Utd Football Club first team, if we failed to do well). After a sleepless night (I mean a joke's a joke but Newcastle Utd!), we paraded the next morning at the start point at 0900 hrs raring to go. The march went very well gaining good results in First Aid and NBC but we could have done better with a good command task (done in the dark) and ranges (done with weapons at the firing point which were not zeroed to any particular team). This coupled with two bookings for speeding and jumping a red light marching through Winsen could have put off a lesser team. However we managed a very creditable second place against a 1 Sqn team, with which we were very pleased, as it gave a good indication of troop training standards achieved over 1988. As a reward we were each given a silver medal.

WO2 Phill Rumsey BEM was awarded the LS & GC in December in recognition of 15 years service. Congratulations and well done Sir!

Congratulations to the following on well earned promotions, **LCpl Laverick** to Corporal, **Sig Logan** to Lance Corporal. Well done lads.

Hatches: **LCpl Hoppy** and **Karen Hopwood** a bouncing boy.

Matches: Late hockey result Y Troop 8 Kilo Bassats 2.

Dispatches farewells to **LCpl Berry** off (poached) to Y Troop **Cpls Traynor** and **Wilkinson**—both to 7 Sig Regt. Best of luck **Jim, Scouse** and **Pete** and many thanks for all your efforts.

3 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Lance Byrne**
2IC	**Capt Adrian Campbell Black**
SSM	**WO2 Rick Logan**
YofS	**WO2 Kevin Doyle**
OC Def	**Capt Carl Storey**
OC R Tp	**Capt George Prideaux**
OC O Tp	**Lt Andy White**
OC P Tp	**Lt Richard Lapslie**
OC Z Tp	**SSgt Mick Halford**

POSTINGS IN

LCpls Clark, McKillop, Sig Prince, Cpl Dyson, LCpl Burns and **Sig Smith 601.**

POSTINGS OUT

Cpl Moloney to 30 Sig Regt, **Cpl Hope** to Northern Ireland, **LCpl Gibb** to 1 Inf Bde, **LCpl Duncan** to 3 Inf Bde and **LCpl McKinnon** to 9 Sig Regt.

GENERAL

Another couple of months where most of the officers managed sporting activities. **Capt Campbell-Black** led the Regimental Nordic Ski Team and with him went the following, **Cpls Davies, Gorton, Booth, LCpls McCaughey, Scotson** and **Sig Nesbitt. Capt Campbell-Black, LCpl Scotson** and **Sig Nesbitt** were the three Squadron representatives.

Meanwhile back in the Regiment the Squadron did not win the Colonel's Cup. The Squadron's best team tried hard and had a very respectable time. They included **LCpls Lee Penketh, Viv Prior, Sig Wright, Lammas, Kev Hale, Cpl Taff Allen, LCpl Roy Dowinton** and **Sig Taylor.**

The Squadron helped to provide a rowdy crowd for the 2 R Anglian Regt training. Only five members of the Squadron were used but they did their best to cause 'The Poachers' some bother.

January was a quiet period for the Squadron and with R Troop joining the Squadron it meant a lot of the work was in sorting out their movement and integration.

PRESENTATIONS

On a sunny, fresh November morning the Regiment formed up on the Square as **Brig H. W. R. Pike DSO, MBE** Commander 22 Armd Bde presented eight LS & GC Medals to members of the Regiment. Before the presentation **Brig Pike** inspected the ceremonial barrack guard under the watchful eye of **Sgt Soward**.

The medal recipients were: **WO1 S. M. Henderson BEM, WO2s K. J. Doyle, J. T. Black, SSgts E. W. M. Roberts, S. B. Watson, Sgt K. J. Daniel, Cpls P. Brett** and **P. I. Foster**. **Brig Pike** also presented, on behalf of **Maj Gen R. H. Swinburn** GOC 1 Armd Div, a GOC's commendation to **Mr Paddy O'Flanagan** who has recently retired from the Regiment QM Dept. BAOR Golf Colours to **SSgt Marshall** and **Sig Bain** were also awarded.

Brig H. W. R. Pike inspects ceremonial Barrack Guard

ORIENTEERING SUCCESS

For the second year running the Regimental Orienteering team has won the Royal Signals (BAOR) Major Unit Championships. This year the event was held in the Elmpter Wald opposite RAF Bruggen on 15/16 October 1988. On the Day 2 Relay event, the team won by a convincing margin over its nearest rival, 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. The strength of the team was in its size and in the experience it has built up during 1988, a week-long training camp in Denmark in March and participation in a dozen or so events during the year. The team were runners up in the 1 Armd Div Championship in April and seventh in the BAOR Championships in May. With new talent recently posted in, it is hoped that it will provide a serious challenge to the Royal Artillery this year. Prizes were presented by **Maj Gen P. R. Davies**, Comd Comms BAOR.

Sgt Backhouse has been chosen to run for the Royal Signals BAOR team.

Maj Gen P. R. Davies with LCpl Fee holding the Major Unit Orienteering Trophy

Back Row L to R: Maj Rumford, Lt Dakin, Sgt Backhouse, Lt Col Stokoe, WO2 Douglas and Cpl Kelly
Front Row L to R: SSgt (YofS) Little, WO2 Martin, Cpl Baillie, LCpls Whichelo and Fee
Absent: WO2 (SSM) Logan

16 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

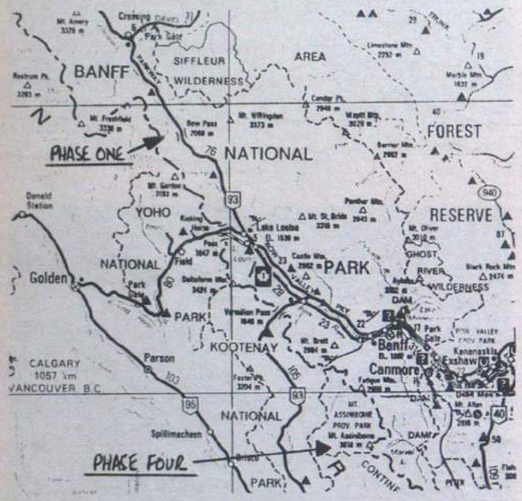
EXERCISE GRIZZLY BACKSTOP

On Sunday 18 September 1988, eight members of 16 Sig Regt set out on the trip of a lifetime. They were embarking on an adventurous training expedition in the Canadian Rocky Mountains for a four week period.

The aim of the expedition was to improve the confidence and leadership qualities of the soldier in terrain not found in central Europe. The expedition was split into four phases, incorporating trekking with packs through Banff National Park, Mt Robson Provincial Park and Mt Assiniboine Provincial Park. The team also experienced Horse trekking in Jasper National Park.

After a couple of administrative days in Calgary, the team moved by hired minibus to Lake Louise in the heart of the Rockies. Whilst staying at a camping ground the team trekked around the picturesque Lake Louise, and visited the famous Chateau situated by the lakeside.

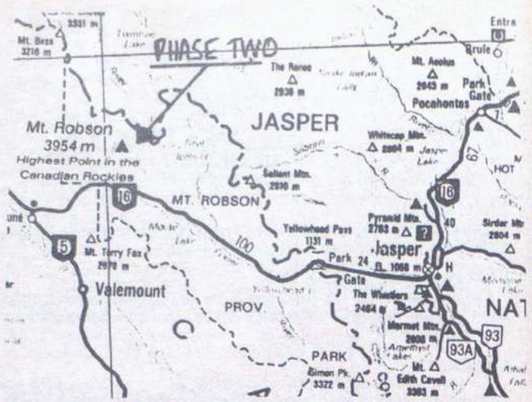
The first phase was spent North of Lake Louise in Bow hut, a small mountaineers' cabin located on the edge of Wapta Glacier at 8,200ft. The trek to the hut was snowy, rocky and hard going as the team followed Bow River upwards. The weather was appalling with strong winds and blizzards on the first full day in the hut. There was a break, however, which allowed the team to climb on to an exposed rocky outcrop above the hut. With the wind driving hard, and at times near white out conditions, the team still managed to pose for a few quick photographs.



At the end of the first three day phase, the team was expecting some awful weather. The next port of call was Jasper, a town to the North of the Rockies, for an admin day. With provisions restocked, the team embarked on phase two in Mt Robson Provincial Park. Mt Robson is the highest peak in the Rockies standing at 3,954m. Due to climatic conditions, the peak is only visible for approximately 30 days a year. Consequently, the general feeling was of cautious optimism to view the summit. The trek to the foot of the mountain took two days climbing up the valley and with worsening weather conditions the party was becoming a little disappointed.

On the third day though the clouds cleared allowing a rare and beautiful view of Mt Robson. It was an awesome sight and a most memorable view. To the left of Mt Robson stood Mt Rearguard, so now with some good weather the team attempted to climb the peak. Unfortunately time was too short to reach the summit, so the group had to turn back. The team took a different route down the mountain, which included a 30m descent of a slate rockface with packs on. Clinging like limpets to the rock, everyone safely reached Berg Lake at the foot of Mt Robson. Despite icebergs floating in the lake **Cpl 'Shuggy' Cowan** could not resist the urge to dive into the freezing water.

Descending Mt Robson, through the Valley of A Thousand Falls, there was a feeling of satisfaction in having experienced something that many mountaineers never achieve.



And now for the latest winter styles from the QM's dept! The team above Bow Hut, Banff National Park

The third phase took the weight off the legs, as the team grasped their reins and mounted their trusty steeds. The location was Timberland Guides and Packers in Jasper National Park. Trying to find the ranch where the team was to stay took one and a half hours driving down tracks more suited to tanks. On arrival the team was met by two cowboys, **Doc** and **Fred**. Although horse trekking was not everyone's cup of tea ('cup of hot steaming coffee' would be more appropriate here), everyone thoroughly enjoyed the break from civilisation. The four days took the team up into the surrounding hills, across fast flowing rivers but also deep into memories of John Wayne movies. Despite **Lt Adrian Clewlow** biting the dust riding bareback, **LCpl Pete Lagden** looking as if he was riding a camel and **Cpl Stevie Barr** turning into a cowboy, the team was sad to leave.

Throughout the expedition regular contact was made with BATU Nordegg, the nearest Army unit to the Rockies. It was through Nordegg that we received the unwelcome news that the flight home had been brought forward three days. A few plans were changed, and the team headed South to Banff for an administrative day before entering Mt Assiniboine Provincial Park.

The final phase was even more spectacular than any so far. The weather had not changed since the first sunny day on Mt Robson, so by now the team was accustomed to the Indian summer temperatures. The trek up to the foot of Mt Assiniboine by Lake Mogog took two days. With temperatures at between 28°C and 30°C during the day the going was hard. The climb through Assiniboine Pass brought us into British Columbia and our first sight of Mt Assiniboine, described as the Matterhorn of the Rockies.

The route was supposed to take the team through Wonder Pass, however, because two bears were feeding on an elk carcass the area had been placed out of bounds. Instead, the team descended via Og Pass, North of Assiniboine Pass.

Everyone was sad to be leaving the Rockies, many knowing that they may not return. However, the views and experiences will never be forgotten.

Everyone agreed that three weeks in the mountains was not long enough, but the aims had been achieved and the expedition had been successful.

All that was left was two days R & R in Calgary . . .

The final phase by Lake Magog, with Mt Assiniboine dominating the background. The team LCpl Pete Lagden, Sig 'Jonno' Johnson, Lt Adrian 'The Boss' Clewlow, Cpls Andy Townsend, Stevie Barr, 'Shuggy' Cowan, Cpl Nick Bell and Sig 'Toby' Fernbank

The magnificent eight (shouldn't that be seven?) Jasper National Park

1 SQUADRON
SHQ
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Elaine Newnham**
AO	**Lt Mandy Tindall**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Sheila Poklekowski**
SQMS	**SSgt Lenny Mills**
Trg SNCO	**SSgt Helen Telford**
Admin Sgt	**Sgt Gill Cross**

The coming of the New Year saw the new OC Sqn, **Maj Elaine Newnham**, well settled in her somewhat 'putrid' office. However, never fear, the SQMS, **SSgt Lenny Mills** took things in hand, along with his trusty storeman, **LCpl Malcolm Brookes**, and a junior PSA 'sniffer' was duly invited to come and 'sniff'. The next morning saw a senior PSA 'sniffer' creeping around the office—is it the carpet, the curtains, or perhaps the walls? A final decision has yet to be reached but we have been reliably informed that the smell will soon be no more.

The Admin Offr, **Lt Mandy Tindall**, started the new year by double hatting in her new permanent role as OC Charlie Tp. Her recent claim to fame was being seen by millions (well perhaps thousands) on SSVC Television winning the WRAC BAOR Cross-Country Championships held at JHQ.

WO2 (SSM) Sheila Poklekowski—try pronouncing that when you've had a few drinks—recently accompanied the 16/28 Sig Regt WRAC Netball Team to Berlin. Congratulations to all the girls who took part—apparently the night life was good too!

Last but no means least is **SSgt Helen Telford**, our Trg SNCO, who keeps disappearing to UK to train with the WRAC Shooting Team—good luck in your forthcoming events.

CHARLIE TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC Tp	**Lt Mandy Tindall**
RR Sgt	**Sgt Norrie Allan**
Exchange Supvr	**FSgt Lenny Weetch**
MT NCO IC	**Cpl Paddy Hodge**

On Monday 16 January 1 Sqn, 16 Sig Regt officially announced the formation of its new troop, Charlie Tp, the Troop, commanded by **Lt Mandy Tindall**, was established as a result of increased Ptarmigan assets. The JHQ Telephone Exchange, supervised by an RAF FSgt, **FSgt Lenny Weetch**, used to be known as X-Ray Tp. This troop has now been disbanded and incorporated into Charlie Tp, along with the Squadron MT and a new section consisting of 6 Radio Relay Dets.

We welcome some recent arrivals to the Exchange, **Cpl Claire Mutter, Ptes Linda Lawrence, Margaret Thomson** and **Trudy Yule** who are all WRAC Switch Board Operators.

Sgt Norrie Allan, the new Radio Relay Troop Sergeant, joins us from 21 Sig Regt—we welcome him and his wife, **Anne**. In no particular order welcome also to the following operators, **Cpl Bob Gregory** and his wife **Jaqueline, LCpls Neil Clarke** and **Tony Hussey** (have you learnt which antennas are on the Tower yet?) and **Sig Dave Garsed, Steve Pengelly, Carl Tucker** and **Tomo Thomson**.

MT, until now run from SHQ by two WRAC Drivers, **LCpl Sandy Borrowdale** and **Pte Liz Swan**, moves over to C Troop and is increased in size. Newcomers are **Cpl Paddy Hodge** and his wife **Hilary** and **LCpl Bruce Findlay**—we congratulate him and his wife **Lyn** on the recent birth of their first child, **Nicola**.

Farewells go to **Sgt Elaine Hunter** (Swbd Op) who left us to go to 242 Sig Sqn in Edinburgh—good luck to her and her 'househusband' **William** and to **Pte Sarah Gibson** who leaves us for Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland.

The Orderly Room has recently been given a facelift after the Chief Clerk, **Cpl Jo Green** persuaded **LCpl Malcolm Brookes** to demolish the counter, much to the annoyance of the SQMS, and replace it with a smaller one—I must say it looks rather good! A new personality has also appeared, **Sgt Gill Cross** joins us from Guildford to fill the vacancy of Admin Sergeant—welcome to 1 Sqn **Gill**.

Lt Mandy Tindall receiving her trophy from Comd (British) RCZ, Brig P. I. Palmer

3 SQUADRON
ALPHA TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp OC	**2Lt Bryan Alderson**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt John 'Mojo' Lewis**

Alpha Tp has recently reformed from an HF Radio Tp into a Trunk Node Tp. To help us carry out our new role, we have a few RTgs and three RR Ops with us. We also have a Node Command and two power vehicles. After working flat-out to prepare our RR vehicles, we then 'lost' to 1 Sqn.

On hearing that a CO's Day was planned for the Squadron, the OC **2Lt Bryan Alderson** immediately applied for a basic German course, conveniently missing the Squadron Militiary Training Week as well.

As it was the first CO's Day since **Lt Col Harper**'s arrival nobody knew quite what to expect. An encouraging start was made when he cancelled the Squadron Parade. However, the Troop was soon brought down to earth when the RTgs were sent on a skills test.

Whilst the rest of the Squadron was running around the assault course, swimming pool and other 'interesting' areas of camp, our very own version of Stock, Aitken and Waterman lead by **Sgt John 'Mojo' Lewis** was tasked to compose a song for the day. Sung to the tune (well almost) of 'What a wonderful world', it went something like this:

Thank you for a wonderful day
We've cleaned the block, swept the streets
The offices are done, Oh how neat
O thank you for a wonderful day
The day started well, cancelled the parade
We all thought we'd got it made
O thank you for a wonderful day
Alpha had Morse send and receive
Delta had Decon with NBC
O thank you for a wonderful day
Fox obliged the RSM, with a kit check in the Gym
Golf had a route card to show us the way
16 to 28 in less than a day
O thank you for a wonderful day
The fitness teams tests have now taken place
now we know who won the race
The day is well on, Oh what pain, we're really thankful it didn't rain
and I said to myself what a wonderful day:

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We would like to welcome the following to the Troop: **Cpl Steve Milburn** all the way from Delta Tp, **Cpl Brian Nevols** ex Golf Tp, **Cpl Miie Wheater** from 7 Sig Regt, **LCpl Ian Pope** from 4 Div and **Sig 'Godders' Godfrey** straight from the factory. Hope you all enjoy your stay.

Farewell and good luck to **Cpl 'Stumpy' Cullen** to spend his last six months in Berlin, **Cpl Dave Purver** HQ Sqn, **LCpls Tony Hussey** and **Olly Oldroyd** both 1 Sqn, **Sig Nobby Clarke** to civvie street, **Sig Ferguson** to 2 Div and last but not least **Sig Green** to 633 Sig Tp.

DELTA TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp OC	**Lt M. (Prince Regent) Prodger**
Tp SSgt	**D. H. (Giz your Troop Funds) Lawrence**
Tech SSgt	**A. (Giz a course) Geddes**
RR	**Sgt S. Ludlam**

Delta Tp finished 1988 by winning the coveted Leicester Trophy Competition. This is a competition in which a team from every troop in the Regiment competes at various sports, football, rugby, tug-of-war, hockey etc. As this is Delta Tp's first year in the Regiment it shows the enthusiasm and spirit of every member.

Between exercises and inspections the Troop did have a Summer Camp in which everyone cycled from Krefeld to Hamburg with various stop off/fall off points en route. The Troop OC found the cycling particularly difficult so he pretended to hurt his knee and had to be casevaced.

FAREWELLS

To: **Cpl Steve Milburn, LCpls Tony Hussey, 'Olli' Oldroyd, Sgt Steven Beswick** and **Sig Peter Durrant**.

BIRTHS

To: **Cpl** and **Mrs Johnstone**—a baby girl.

FOXTROT TROOP
CO'S DAY

The new CO, **Lt Col Chris Harper**, had definitely got a different approach to his Day. F Troop depleted by last minute changes in leave passes managed to parade 17 people for the first of many surprises. Five minutes before a full parade on the square was due, it was cancelled. The OC Troop **Capt Chris Richards** was then seen hot footing it to the CO's Office for orders.

After many cups of coffee and several cigarettes the Troops where set to task. Full SOP 701 check in the Gym with the RSM. No problem. Every colour cotton but green was found. 'Housewives' will never be the same again.

Our next task was setting a snap VCP. Anyone who has visited Bradbury Barracks will know, it is no easy task getting into camp the orthodox way. We captured the leader of the local Hells Angels, **SSgt John Allen** and the CO's wife. The VCP was closed down, to allow enough time for combined assault course competition and for one or two unlucky teams to attempt a river crossing over the swimming pool. The troops were all mixed together for these activities. One of the more memorable statements of the day came from our OC. He was heard to say as he sank up to his neck in the pool 'This is the best way, we're not changing it, Glug! Glug!'.

EXERCISE HIGH TIDE

The Squadron was split into two platoon type Trunk Nodes (less vehicles) and then into three sections each. The exercise was conducted in three phases over the period 23-27 January.

Phase 1 consisted of a number of Military Training Stands.

Phase 2 was conducted by the JNCOs, who taught anti ambush, wood clearance and an IS Exercise.

In Phase 3 we put into action all that we had been taught over the previous two days. We spent two days and two nights dug in around a simulated Trunk Node consisting of two 4 ton trucks. Two attacks by Gazelle and one by a Puma Helicopter tested our anti aircraft drills. After several gound attacks mounted against us by the Admin group we practised Tactical Withdrawal at 0700 hrs Friday morning to a rest area. The whole exercise finished with a 14.5km march back into camp and a weekend off. Thanks Sergeant Major—Good week!

WELCOME

To: **Cpl Rick Greenland, Sig Taff Pengelly** and **Bary Garsed**.

FAREWELL

To: **SSgt Chris Parry-Davies**.

GOLF TROOP
A REPORT ON CO's DAY
by Cpl Fegan

For the benefit of all those unfortunate people who have not yet had the pleasure of participating in one of 16 Sig Regt's CO's Days let me explain: Every six months (or so) the CO stages an in-depth look at each of his Squadrons in turn. The honour of being the first to display their undoubted talents since **Lt Col Harper** arrived were the illustrious 3 Sqn. Obviously it was planned to show how it should be done or not done, as the case may be.

The day consisted of the personnel of the Squadron being tasked with various objectives. Golf Tp was given two tasks.

First the whole troop had the opportunity of presenting our globe trotting vehicles to the LAD who smiled as they tore our mobile homes to shreds. **Cpls Gerry Fegan** and **'Grommett' Owen** were delighted to find themselves in the company of two of our Commcen girls, **Ptes Sharon Neilsen** and **Sarah Crossland**. Whilst LAD did their worst **Sgts Pete Cornes** and **Turfrey** laboured over their task of writing a route card for the phenomenal distance between 16 Sig Regt and 28 Sig Regt.

ASSAULT COURSE AND COMMAND TASK

Secondly the troop was divided into two groups with the first half joining half of the rest of the Squadron on the Assault Course. A well done to **Sgt Glynis Blight** and **Pte Donna Muir**, for their efforts on the walls.

Talking of walls, someone must tell **SSM McCaffery** you don't go through them. The Command Task turned out to be a river crossing over the outdoor swimming pool. Very nice in the middle of January. This was evidently the place to be, where the solution to the problem entailed stripping off and swimming across. **Sgt 'Mal' Turfrey** decided to keep most of his clothes on and soon discovered you can't swim very far in boots. Glug Glug!

2Lt Ward, on attachment to us for the day, deserves a special mention for her quick thinking when she reached the other side.

FOOTNOTE

Capt Richards please note, river crossings are not designed to be done under water on rope bridges.

21 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

THE NIGHT THE EAGLE LANDED
by SSgt C. B. Strefford

Eddy 'The Eagle' Edward paid a flying visit to the RCZ Ski Hut No 43 at Wertach in southern Germany during the Families Christmas Snow Queen.

It all came about when the families on the course decided to attend the International Ski jumping event at Obersdorf on 30 December to give **Eddy** a lot of noisy moral support.

The day was arranged by the Hut Commander **Capt Duncan McCallister** and the Chief Ski Instructor Cpl Nobby Clark and if you have ever been to such an event you will know that the atmosphere was electric all day and there were lots of other attractions ranging from Marching Bavarian bands to Para gliding and hot air balloon demonstrations.

The day however was topped off nicely when **Mr Taff Aldred** and his wife **Annette** and a few others bumped into **Eddy** whilst autograph hunting and got chatting about 'things snowy'.

He (quite unprompted) was kind enough to donate an autographed practice helmet to **Taff's** collection which made his day and then **Eddy** promised to pop into the ski hut later on his way to a Hotel in Garmisch Partenkirchen for the next day's competition on the Ski jump circuit.

Later that evening whilst the duty syndicate was clearing up after the evening meal and **SSgts Carl Strefford** and **John Ibbotson RE** were dealing with the biggest pile of dishes you have ever seen whilst the Cook **LCpl Cathy Richardson** looked on (not really) **Eddy** surprised us all by walking into the hut for a cup of tea. He was gently coaxed into helping with the dishes and fitted out with an apron. He then posed at the sink washing plates for everyone to get a few photographs.

Once the spontaneous kitchen photo call had finished he sat down and wrote an autograph for just about everybody in the Ski Hut (47 students and 20 odd staff). Finally and with writer's cramp he sat down to a glass of orange (he was in training) and a piece of **Cathy**'s quiche to have a well earned rest and a chat. It was a great night, so great infact that when **Capt Duncan McCallister** invited **Eddy** back for our New Year's Eve party, he didn't hesitate to accept.

The RCZ Families Snow Queen 1988 was already a great success, the staff and instructors were first class and if you have ever been to Haus Magnus in Wertach managed by **WO2 Tony Hand** and his wife **Joan** you will already know how beautiful the area is. But the day that 'the Eagle landed' will live long in the mind of everybody and I am sure that we all wish **Eddy** well for 1989 and hope that he does break the British record in the not too distant future.

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt P. A. Hodgkiss**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt V. Bragg**
Tech SSgt	**SSgt N. Killen**

As we move into the 1989 round of exercises, functions and hangovers, it's time to list a few items of Troop news.

Many of our old sweats are leaving for pastures new and we hope they will enjoy their new postings as much as they (who am I trying to kid?) enjoyed this one starting off with **LCpl 'Monty' Montague**, who is leaving 21 Sig Regt for 9 Sig Regt in Cyprus (he must have mates at Manning and Records). Not satisfied with that, **'Monty'** will also be marrying **Lynn**. Next is **Cpl 'Ginge' Burrell** who is heading towards the slightly less glamorous 22 Sig Regt and sunny Lippstadt. **LCpl 'Hutch' Hutchinson** has been lucky enough to win (after considerable effort by friends) a posting to 4 ADSR (nuff said). **LCpl 'Willy' Wilson** confirms his promotion to chief REMF. We all feel the gym staff of 16 Sig Regt will feel proud and privileged to have the fearless athlete and gymnast amongst them. Seriously, good luck **Willy** and family. Last, but by no means slimmest, **Sig** 'Paddy the Sleeper' also known as 'do you want to bet on that?' **Hogg**, who is moving on to the UK and a spell at the School of Signals.

Those of us who remain would like to pass on congratulations to **LCpls 'Dutch' Swain** and **'Tweeky' Tweddle** as they both recently heard the patter of tiny combat boots. Musn't forget our boss; **Capt Hodgkiss** who has been added to the Regiment's list of 'Bean Stealers'.

The 037 escape committee have also been hard at work and at present number the following amongst their ranks; one young **Sig Andy** and **Sig Tim Knowles** not too upset on not joining the RAF Regiment. Finally **Cpl** 'Mac the Medic' **McLennan** has nearly finished all the paperwork and is giving up the joys of line laying and first aiding and is moving into the exciting, thrill—packed world of Sherlock Holmes and Kojak to join that well 'loved' body of men, the Royal Military Police. Well that's it for the moment!

2 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj Tim Gigg**
SSM	**WO2 Pete Bradbury**
YofS	**SSgt Terry McHugh**
FofS	**WO2 Mick Poland**
OC E Tp	**Capt Duncan McAllister**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Ken Counsell**
SNCO's	**Sgt Tony Axten**
	Sgt Chris Davison
OC F Tp	**Capt Mick Stapleton**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Alec Hamilton**
SNCO's	**Sgt Pete Madeloso**
	Sgt Russ Parry
SQMS	**SSgt Dave Kerr**
Sqn Clk	**Cpl Steve James**

The Squadron would like to wish the following members all the best in their new posting; **Sgt John Fradley** and his wife **Sam** who have gone to AAC Harrogate, **Sgt Steve McIntyre** and his wife **Elaine** who have gone to 233 Sig Sqn, **Sgt Derek Smeaton** and his wife **Barbara** who have gone to HQ Sqn, **Sgt Norrie Allan** and his wife **Anne** who have gone to 16 Sig Regt, **Cpl Scouse Renshaw** and **LCpl Ian Hearn** and his wife **Sandra** who have gone to 3 Sqn, **LCpl Mick Gudgin** and his wife **Pauline** who have gone to civvie street, **LCpl Chaz Fisher** and his wife **Sandra** and **Sig Paul Canning** and his wife **Jackie** who have all gone to RHQ and lastly to **Sig John Pilcher** who has gone to civvie street and to **LCpl Ollie Mills** and his wife **Sabina** who have gone to 3 ADSR.

Having lost so many members of the Squadron we would also like to welcome the following and hope they enjoy their stay with us, **Capt Mick Stapleton** and his wife **Maggie, Sgt Russ Parry** and his wife **Denise, Sgt Chris Davison** and his wife **Evangeline, Cpl Steve James, LCpl McCarter, Sig Dick Barton, Andy McMorran, Sgt Bashford** and **Mrs Bashford**.

All the members of 2 Sqn would like to congratulate **Sig John Powell** and his wife **Susanne** on the birth of their baby, **Benjamin** on 23 November and also to the SSM **WO2 Pete Bradbury** on his recent marriage to **Miss Sue Dickinson**.

On 17 November members of 2 Sqn visited 533 Panzer Bn in Duren, the Battalion operates the M48 tank. We were met by the Company Commander, **Capt Bomke** and were shown around the barracks and accommodation. It was interesting to get our hands on the various weapons the Germans use, as well as seeing all the uniforms and kit issued to the soldiers. For dinner we were treated to a first class meal in the Mess. After dinner we were taken to the nearby training area and all experienced a ride in their M48 tank. OC 2 Sqn **Maj Gigg** enjoyed his ride so much that when **Sig Mick Drummand** mounted the tank (as seen in the photo), the OC could be heard in the background shouting 'Get off my little tank'. A great day was had by all and the Squadron looks forward to our hosts visiting Wildenrath at the end of March.

On 15 December E Troop deployed on Ex Happy Hunter. This consisted of a communication skills and map reading exercise. It proved to be a very successful day, the only snag was, our Troop Staff Sergeant, **SSgt Ken Counsell** insisted that 'those mud balls were vehicles again by Friday.' The exercise was organised by **Cpls Steve Dixon** and **Geoff Hodgson**. We look forward to the next navigating exercise when we will stick to the roads, 'honest staff.'

L TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Robin Seaword**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Mick Denny**
Projects	**Sgt Rocky Hudson**
	Sgt Paul Jennings
Maintenance	**Sgt Andy Elliott**
Tech Sp	**Sgt Colin Brown**
	Sgt Tony Conlan
	Sgt Rod Kenna
Tp Clerk	**Fran Busse**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We bid farewell to OC **Capt Bill White** and **Rae**, who have departed for 249 Sig Sqn—our best wishes go with you. Goodbye to **LCpl 'Bonnie' Tyler** and good luck in the land of Keo. **Sig Kev Guest** and **Joe Hathaway** have both left us to start new careers as civilians—may they and their families find success. Finally, good luck to **Cpl Bob Carter** on his move to K Troop after a very short stay with us. **Capt Robin Seaword** takes over as OC Troop and we hope you and your wife **Donna** enjoy your tour with the best Airfield Troop. Welcome to other new members: **Sgt Andy** 'The Board' **Elliott** and wife **Pauline, Cpl Paddy Quee** and wife **Alison, Cpl Jed Carthy, Sig Tony Routledge** and wife **Donna, Sig Scouse Bradley** and wife **Michelle** and, straight from the 'Factory', **Sig Taff Davies.**

CONGRATULATIONS

To **LCpl Paul** and **Carol Cutts** on the birth of their daughter, **Stephanie** and to **Cpl Steve Kemble** on his marriage to **Alison.**

4 SQUADRON SHQ
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Andy Locke**
2IC	**Capt Andy Hickling**
SSM	**WO2 Brian Dalton**
YofS	**WO2 Clive Copestake**
SQMS	**SSgt Phil Clifford**
FofS	**SSgt Dave Stewart**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Colin Riddell**
Tech Sgt	**Sgt Gary Hill**
Clk	**LCpl Colin Philemon**

After our formation a little over two years ago, the time has come for our first major changes in the hierarchy. Firstly, and top of the shop, we bid a sad farewell to **Maj Gordon Trevis** and his wife **Lyn**, after two years with the Squadron. We wish them both bon voyage and every success to **Gordon** in his change of employers.

We welcome **Maj Andy Lock** and his wife **Sandra** from 55 Sqn (V) and hope they have a rewarding and enjoyable tour with us.

Our last 2IC left us in October last year, namely **Capt Bob Lockwood** and his wife **Joan**. They are now safely ensconded at 19 Inf Bde and our new 2IC has just arrived from 7 Sig Regt. A quiet unassuming man, **Capt Andy Hickling**, little known in the Corps, no doubt hopes to make his mark here! We wish him and his wife **Jane** an enjoyable time with the Squadron.

THOMAS THE TRAIN BAR GETS A FACE LIFT
A report from Cpl Hodgson O Troop

It was a damp October morning when Thomas the Train Bar awoke to the sound of heavy trampling feet, hammering and somebody chiselling away at his footplates, 'Whats going on', he asked the nearest sweaty soiled workman. 'Well, it's like this Thomas, the new stationmaster **Lt Col P. Whitemore** has decided your not fit to sit in, never mind eat or drink in, so you're getting spruced up, it's about time don't you think?' Thomas could only think back to his humble beginnings as an old cattle truck parked in a siding on the RAF base in Wildenrath. It was August 1984 when the decision was made to shed his rusty wheeled shell and with a lot of work and a generous Nuffield Trust grant, Thomas the Train's heart was moved to Room 2 Building 147 which was and still is 21 Sig Regt Training Wing. With a start Thomas came back to the present, someone was ripping his skirting boards out! 'I hope you know what your doing?' he asked. 'Of course we do' was the answer, 'we're the best qualified in the Regiment. May I introduce **Cpl Charlie 'Jack Hammer' Hill** (he's got the proper tools and a workbench). **WO2 Brian Dalton** (the only one who's tall enough to paint the ceiling), and **Cpl Ogga Hodgson** (he can order wood, paint and wallpaper in German).' Well with such an array of DIY talent all Thomas could do was put his face in his rustic (cracked) boards and await the results.

And then, after three months of sweat, toil, mishaps, tears, laughter, dodging the DAMA team the day finally arrived. **Brig P. I. Palmer OBE** Commander (BR) RCZ was unveiling a splendid plaque with Thomas's new name, 'The Beaufighter Rooms' on it, it didn't really have any of Thomas's old self there, as he looked around at all his new trimmings, until with a pleased sigh Thomas saw his portrait, created by our famous artist **WO2 (YofS) Clive Copestake**, still in full splendour along his back wall untouched(ish). So although Thomas looked more like the snug social centre he was meant to be and not the clapped out, rusty old railway carriage he was, there was still a reminder of his poor and shoddy beginnings and he was looking forward to treating all ranks and their wives to the pleasant and comfortable surroundings he now finds himself in.

SQUASH

The Regiment's Squash has come on apace in the last three years. In the 1986/87 season we were the runners up in the Rear Combat Zone League 3 and in the 1987/88 season we improved and won the league. Finally this season we are favourites to win the Army RCZ Major Units competition having already beaten 16 Sig Regt and 13 Sig Regt and with only 28 Sig Regt to go. We will then meet Rheindahlen Garrison in the final. The current seeding is as follows: No 1 Seed **Cpl Tom Pollard**, No 2 Seed **Capt Mike Stapleton**, No 3 Seed **Cpl Ray Gradwell**, No 4 Seed **SSgt Alex Hamilton** and No 5 Seed **WO1 (YofS) George McAvoy.**

LCpl Dave Gallagher is posted to the Regiment in May which should further strengthen the team and with the current BAOR Champion and Under 25 Runner Up we are expecting great things of the 1989/90 season. Any budding Squash players would be more than welcome.

Back Row: Maj Gigg, Capt Stapleton, Capt Kendall, SSgt Watkins, WO1 (YofS) McAvoy, Sgt Pollard, Cpl Grodwell
Absent: SSgt Hamilton

ARMY LUGE
Report by Sig Shaun Fardy I Troop

We are currently in the midst of our second very successful season with the Army Luge Team, under the very strict coaching and scrutiny of QMSI (Jim Evans) APTC.

I **Sig Shaun Fardy** and **Sig Craig Fleming** started our Luge career whilst at 16 Sig Regt, but due to the disbandment of the HF Tp at Krefeld we were posted to Wildenrath with high hopes of Olympic selection in 1992.

Last season **Sig Fleming** came third in the BAOR championships at Winterberg, whilst I had come second in the British Novice championships a month earlier in Igis, Austria.

To date this season **Sig Fleming** has come second in the Army championships at Winterberg with myself coming fifth. We are due to compete in the full British championships later this month, once again in Igis.

For those unfamiliar with the sport, it is a fast and hair raising journey down an ice canal, also used by Bobsleighs. We lie on our backs, feet first peering slightly over our chests downwards towards the bottom of the tracks. We reach speeds of up to 85 mph on the fastest part of the course and I myself have had two crashes at over 60 mph.

The sled itself is constructed mainly of fibre glass, with wooden runners (Kufens), the cutting edge is provided by a strip of hardened and very smooth steel which is affixed to the bottom of the runners.

Due to the finances and, indeed, enthusiasm of the current full British National Team, (civilian), it is hoped that the Army team will capture all the places, as the Bobsleighers have done recently, for the 1992 Winter Olympics in Albertville, France. We are really on a high at the moment and find ourselves welcome on the European circuit, and have recently been approached by the Italian National Team, with a view to sharing their coaching staff next season. They are the best team in the world at the moment, this a great honour for us and bodes well for the future of the sport in the Army.

With novices such as our own **LCpl Tony McAleese**, who competed in the Army Novice Championships this year, constantly joining the sport, the final results could be very exciting.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN UPSIDE DOWN SIGGY
From Sgt V. G. Ramsdale

0600 hrs: Reveille. As the sun breaks through the early morning clouds at Sydney International we hurry along to clear customs to start what promises to be the best day of our lives. Through customs and back onto another plane—destination Darwin, land of intense heat and palm trees. 2 Sig Regt is there somewhere on exercise, all the way from Melbourne—they're hosting me on this trip.

With just enough time to see the Regiment deployed in the field, we set off on the drive back to Melbourne—some 4,000kms away. Should only take 90 minutes or so. Down the smart highway to Adelaide and then across and through Victoria.

0840 hrs: Arriving back at Simpson Barracks the boys are tired after a long drive, so we all take time out for the first 'Smoko' of the day. The first of many I may add! After which we spend an hour and a half taking a closer look at the men and equipment at work in their home compound.

1000 hrs: Momo's. There's no NAAFI here, so NAAFI breaks are out. Momo's is the in word, and traditionally tea and pies are taken—seems familiar, drink up and it's out with the sports kit for a drop of Aussie rules, whoops, my mistake. We're off to see a game. Hawthorn vs Carlton. Like Manchester United vs Liverpool they tell me. Played on a cricket pitch with goals, these teams of 18 a side fight regularly, run around madly and occasionally kick 'goals' or 'behinds'. Well that's Australia for you. Just for the record, Hawthorn won by 64 points to 45 and went on to win the Grand Final.

1200 hrs: Moving right along to lunch time, we witness another national institution, the 'barby'. I've never seen so many steaks and they've thrown them on a fire.

1315 hrs: Fire's out and it's all over. So we're off to have a look at Canberra—a purpose built city to house the Nation's Parliament and Civil Service. Centered on a huge lake, the roads and throughfares stretch out like spokes of a wheel, reaching such places as the War Memorial, the National Sports College and Floriac flower gardens. Time moves on and so must we—to Sydney. Home of the Opera House and Harbour Bridge, we're just in time to see **HRH The Prince Andrew** at the Bicentennial Naval celebrations, with warships present from right around the world. *Ark Royal* is there and her Harriers gave a spectacular demonstration to the crowds.

Just a bus ride away is Richmond Airbase, where we witness the largest air show ever in the Southern hemisphere, and after shopping briefly to take photos of the Jenolan Caves in the mountains, we board another plane heading north.

1600 hrs: Brisbane. Sight for World Expo 88—theme, 'Leisure in the Age of Technology'. Noting the six monthly attendance figure of 18 million (Oz's population is 16 million). We nip down the coast to the purpose built sunshine coast, Surfers Paradise is the town to visit—the new top resort in Australia. They even imported the sand on the beach to get the right image for the place.

1800 hrs: Sees us back in Melbourne for the annual running of the Melbourne Cup Handicap—the world's richest handicap race for horses. The whole nation comes to a standstill for one day and people go betting mad. The favourite wins for a change so the punters go off wildly in parties to awake for a fresh day in the morning. All this on a Tuesday.

1930 hrs: Perth. City of millionaires. Situated in Western Australia thousands of kilometers from the other city, Perth offers a haven of peace. Just down the road is Freemantle, Australia's top sailing resort, where, of course, Alan Bond and his team attempted to defend the America's Cup.

2100 hrs: We're in Adelaide, city of churches. Lots of English settle here because of the climate. Very much like home, but a bit warmer and not so wet. Home also to the Australian Grand Prix and we have a few minutes spare just to nip down and see the race around the world's fastest street circuit. The predictable **Alain Prost** wins, **Senna** is second and **Piquet** (defending world champion) must settle for third again after a season of McLaren dominance—they finished one and two in over half the races.

2200 hrs: Dusk is falling but the heat is still quite intense up in North Queensland. We're back amongst the palm trees and mangoes of Cairns, a popular resort with foreign students and travellers—particularly the Swedish. Just up the coast is Port Douglas where England beat Australia so decisively in the inaugural Gold Test.

2300 hrs: We board the plane to take us home again. With a night over in Honolulu and two in South Carolina the trip isn't quite over yet, but we've had four months of fun and sunshine on Ex Long Look 88—all summed up in one day's activities.

Who knows? maybe it will all be possible in one day in the land of the Upside Down Siggy.

22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

THE ROAD TO GLORY

The Regiment which is based in Lippstadt made history on several counts when its Rugby team took to the Mansergh Barracks rugby pitch on Wednesday 14 December to play in the BAOR final. Firstly, the Rugby team had never progressed beyond the quarter finals before. Secondly, there were two Royal Signals sides opposing each other in the final, for the first time ever. Finally there was the coincidence of both sides being captained by their respective RSM's, **WO1 (RSM) Trevor Johnson** for the Regiment and **WO1 (RSM) Andy Hickling** for 7 Sig Regt.

Our road to the final began on a rainy Wednesday afternoon in mid-October. The fixture against 14/20 Hussars was eagerly awaited, but the cavalry side cancelled a mere 30 minutes before kick-off. On to the 3 Div quarter final against the Queen's Lancashire Regt which was played at Lippstadt on 3 November. The icy conditions favoured neither side but despite that, excellent rugby was played. Tries were scored for 22 Sig Regt by lock forward **Capt George Odling**, centre **LCpl Neil Sorley** and winger **SSgt Steve Stevenson**, all of which were unconverted. These tries and three penalty conversions by **Cpl Dai Evans** proved too much for the valiant infanteers. 22 Sig Regt was victorious by 21 points to 16.

The next round saw the Regiment travelling to Munster to play the much fancied Grenadier Guards. The Guards pack, perhaps unsurprisingly, proved to be the largest that our team had encountered. The game was a balanced affair with no quarter given nor expected. It was in the last 20 minutes of the game that our more technical play finally overcame the Grenadier Guards superb fitness.

The Signals side won 12—4, try scorers being fullback **Cpls Jai Tully** with **Dai Evans** converting the try, a penalty and a drop goal.

The Regiment faced another infantry side, 3 Bn The Royal Anglian Regt in the BAOR quarter final. A home fixture for the Signals was played in horrific conditions of snow, slush, mud, wind and rain. Within minutes of kick-off **LCpl Neil Sorley** was taken off the pitch

for treatment to a head wound caused, ironically, by fellow team member hooker **Cpl Mark Anderson**. The weather dictated that it should be a forwards' game, which for most of the time it was. However, cast-iron play from the backs when required ensured two tries, one by **SSgt Steve Stevenson** and **Cpl Dai Evans** who also converted a penalty, 11—0.

With the semi-final draws being announced there was certainly an air of apprehension about meeting last years BAOR cup winners, 21 Engr Regt, a side with a long history of fine rugby. The game was played at Mansergh Barracks, Gutersloh, courtesy of 47 Field Regt RA. 22 Sig Regt dominated the first half spending all but five minutes in the Engineers half. Eventually the pressure forced a mistake from 21 Engr's well drilled pack allowing **SSgt Steve Stevenson** to score in the corner. Other opportunities in the first-half were not fully exploited and the score at half-time remained 4—0.

The Engineers worked well in the second-half using the wind well by kicking for distance. This meant a good deal of hard work from the Signals forwards with rolling mauls playing a great part in the play. After 20 minutes flanker **Sgt Phil Price** broke free and after beating two men passed to his backrow colleague **WO2 (SSM) Keith Leighton** who after selling a dummy outside drove on to score against the run of play. The Engineers came back with some hard rugby and spent a great deal of time on the Signals 5m line before scoring a well deserved try. In the closing minutes after being forced by excellent kicking from fullback **Cpl Jai Tully** and scrum-half **SSgt Nigel Samm**, the Engineers conceded a penalty 5yds in on their 22. **Cpl Dai Evans** stepped up and put the ball between the posts using an upright to assist it. The Signals won 15—7 but knew that they had fine opponents.

The final was played eight days later on the same pitch. 7 Sig Regt elected to kick off with the wind behind them and within minutes had stamped their authority on the game by scoring a penalty and a try. As the game settled down it was apparent that two different styles of play would emerge, 7 Sig distributing the ball to their solid backs, 22 Sig Regt on the other hand would keep the ball close in to the forwards, the pack being heavier than their opponents. The game remained fairly even throughout the first-half with both sides conceding numerous penalties more through technicalities than through foul play.

The second-half began in much the same vein as the first with some good handling from 7 Sig Regt's three quarters only foiled by sound aggressive tackling from 22 Sig Regt. After yet another offside infringement 22 Sig Regt ran the ball to the backs only to be intercepted by **Cpl Williams** who scored between the posts. The game continued at a roaring pace with 7 Sig Regt defending against an onslaught from 22 Sig Regt's hard running pack, however, 7 Sig Regt's backs broke out and scored in the right corner, **Cpl Jamie Allyene** the scorer. 7 Sig Regt won, worthily so, 19—0. The game was a superb demonstration from both sides of skill, fitness, teamwork and individual flair. As a celebratory note **WO1 (RSM) Andy Hickling** was promoted in the field a day early to Lieutenant.

Despite coming runners-up to 7 Sig Regt nothing detracts from the effort made by the 22 Sig Regt squad. Special mention should be made of tight-head prop **Cpl Brian Sherman** who was selected for the BAOR squad. **WO2 (FofS) Terry Waites** and **Cpl Dai Evans** were also selected for BAOR and it can only be a matter of time before **Lt Graham Deans**, former Scotland Youth player, gets his first cap.

Sadly **SSgt Kerwin Gilder** (now WO2 (RQMS)), the inside centre who has represented the Army, and Hong Kong at International level against a full French side, was posted to Hong Kong straight after the final. Despite losing such experience, the squad is fortunate in having young players such as **Cpl Andy Ingham, LCpl Frank Hoggins, Cpl Dennis Johnson** and **2Lt Andy Scott** as recent additions. With coaching and moulding from the experienced squad members they can soon be expected to be taking increasingly more regular team places.

Next season looks set.

On Monday 12 December 1988, six members of 22 Sig Regt were presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by **Brig T. I. M. Waugh MBE**, Comd 1 Sig Bde. The ceremony took place in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, Churchill Barracks. The recipients were: **WO2's (SSM) Mackay, (YofS) Wood, SSgts (FofS) Annetts, Johnson, Samm** and **Sgt Joughin**. The CO, **Lt Col G. J. Barrett**, and the RSM, **WO1 T. Johnson**, were in attendance as were the wives and families of the recipients.

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON
SHQ TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Pete Cain**
2IC	**Lt Dave Lumb**
SSM	**WO2 Mike Duffin**
SQMS	**SSgt Ian Dales**
Clk	**Cpl Steve Blunsden**

The Squadron Commander has had an alarming experience. He had a car alarm installed at a local garage and was alarmed when presented with the bill! **Mr (PRI) W01 Alan Bailey** has now left us for his six months in UK, we wish **Alan** and **Val** the very best in the future and good luck in civvy street.

MT TROOP

The Troop would like to say a farewell to **Lt** and **Mrs Lumb** who are moving onto bigger things, Second in Command of the Squadron (PRI Shop really). We would also like to say a temporary farewell to **SSgt Bridger**, who is off on a four month swan to Sardinia.

Welcome to the Troop to the new MTWO **WO2** and **Mrs Barker**, we hope you enjoy your tour in Lippstadt. We also welcome **LCpl Angus Watt RCT** (not another jock). Finally the saga of **Sig P. J. Taylor**; is he or isn't he (even he doesn't know whether he is coming or going) posted that is . . . If anybody finds out could they let him know . . .

QM'S DEPARTMENT

Maj J. R. Richardson formerly the Quartermaster (A) is now relaxing in a new post in 4 Div, and we all wish him well in his search to find 'slippers olive drab' in the clothing catalogue. To fill the cosy chair left vacant by 'JR', **Maj Ian Buckley** closed his filofax (a heavyweight work of technical reference) and now sits surrounded by the latest in office furniture reading 'compo menus'. To complete the shuffle in command **Maj Bob Mills** and his wife **Sue**, were welcomed to Germany for the very first time!

So now that we are well into 1989 it's hard work as usual for all at the QM's Department.

MIKE TROOP
THE MANAGEMENT

TOT	**Capt (TOT) John Gerrard**
FofS	**WO1 (FofS) Steve Rogers**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Chris Pederick**
I/C Systems	**Sgt Adrian Woodley**
I/C RR	**Sgt Tony Winter**
I/C Test	**Sgt Mick Webb**
WavMan	**Sgt Phil Playford**
URS(T)	**Sgt Bill Trobe RAOC**
Cossor Eng	**Mr Rick Barham**

OPENING OF BATTERY SHOP

Brig T. I. M. Waugh MBE, Comd Comms 1 (Br) Corps opened the new Regimental Battery Shop in Churchill Barracks, at the end of last year.

On the sporting scene, the Mike Tp Superstars competition proved very successful. Run over several months, the sports included canoeing, swimming, javelin, 100m, gym tests, BFT, shooting and cycling. The old and bold led the way, with perhaps the most outstanding single performance coming from the TOT, **Capt John Gerrard**, winning the BFT by minutes. The overall winner was **Sgt Adrian Woodley**, who was presented with the trophy by the RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Johnson**.

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj John McIntyre**
2IC	**Capt Dave Wright**
OC A Tp	**Lt Graham Deans**
OC C Tp	**SSgt John Smith**
OC 656 Sig Tp	**Capt Stuart Hodges**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Scottie Handibode**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Tony Amplett**
SQMS	**SSgt John Gadson**

LADIES CHARITY BFT
Report by Mrs Sue Amplett

On Saturday 26 November 1988 a ladies BFT was organised by **Padre Stephen Robbins** and **WO2 (QMSI) Jeff Archer** to raise money by sponsorship and donations for various charities. Six brave ladies of 1 Sqn puffed and panted their way around the two mile course, all coming in within the allotted times. Special mention should be made of **Mrs Isobel Strefford** who came in fourth out of the 49 ladies running. **Mrs Linda Smith** came in 15th and **Mrs Debbie McLeod** came 28th. The day proved a great success but we all hope it will not become a regular event. Thanks must go to the organisers for their help and to the husbands who baby sat and gave sponsorship monies.

Members of 1 Squadron Ladies BFT
Back Row L to R: Johanna McIntyre, Debbie McLeod, Denise Martin and Sue Amplett
Front Row L to R: Linda Smith and Isobel Strefford

TROOP COMING AND GOINGS
A TROOP

Sig Andy Horkins and family to 233 Sig Sqn (NI), **Sig Martin Duffy** to The White Helmets, **Sig Robert Barnes** to 3 ADSR and **Cpl Dave Worswick** to Civvy Street.

C TROOP

Sgt Steve Strefford and family to AFCENT, **Sig Dean Filer** to 2 Inf Div and **Sig Tyrone Woodward** and family to 21 Sig Regt.

We would like to welcome to the Squadron, **Sgt Pete Duffy** and **Sharon** from 4 ADSR and **Cpl Danny Boland** and **Clair** from 259 Sig Sqn.

SUPERSTARS COMPETITION

The Squadron superstar competition organised by **WO2 (SSM) Scottie Handibode** turned out to be a very closely fought event. Each individual and team had to complete six out of the eight events. They included a march and shoot, orienteering, gym skills tests, swimming, assault course, track events and of course the good old BFT.

In the individual competition **Cpl Terry Fleet** of 656 Sig Tp led the way. Unfortunately for him, due to the work load he could only compete in five events. This gave **Sig Jason Meek** the final honour. **Sig Jason Meek** during the competition had won two events outright, equal first in the BFT and second in the gym tests and he achieved this despite an injury sustained on his Pre-Para course. All taking part were congratulated on a fine competitive performance.

The trophies were presented by **WO2 (SSM) Scottie Handibode**.

RESULTS
TEAM TROPHY

Winners **Cpls Terry Fleet, Neil Cooper** and **LCpl John Wright**. All 656 Sig Tp.

Runners Up **Cpls 'DP' Davidson-Page, Mark Bristow** and **Neil Gigg**.

Winning team score	1,802	points
Runners Up	1,797.3	points

INDIVIDUAL TROPHY

1st	**Sig Jason Meek**	617	points
2nd	**LCpl John Wright**	616.8	points
3rd	**Cpl Mark Bristow**	614	points

2 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Tony Manders**
2IC	**Capt Tim Wadey**
SSM	**WOII Martin Smith**
SQMS	**SSgt Wally Drain**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Pete McInally**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Garry Annetts**
OC D Tp	**Capt Cullum Clark**
OC E Tp	**Lt Tony Urwin**
OC F Tp	**2Lt Mike Stevens**

EXERCISE SNOW QUEEN
10 YEARS IN DIETRICHS

Ten years ago the Regiment was lucky enough to find the Freienhof Rinderle, a Bavarian house in the village of Dietrichs, 4km south of Sonthofen. The owners, **Ricard** and **Maria Rinderle**, agreed to rent the house for the 1978/79 season of Ex Snow Queen. Since then the Regiment has used the house every year, and enjoys a close and friendly relationship with the **Rinderles**. To mark the 10th anniversary this association the CO **Lt Col Jerry Barrett**, presented **Ricard** and **Maria** with an engraved clock. In return the **Rinderles** presented the Regiment with a magnificent, engraved cow bell. We look forward to the next 10 years in Dietrichs, and the cow to go with the bell as promised!

2 SQUADRON
DANISH EXCHANGE VISIT

2 Sqn, 22 Sig Regt recently played host in Lippstadt to a contingent of 40 Danish soldiers from HQ Coy 3 Danish Sig Bn from Frederica between 27 November and 4 December.

Their advance party consisted of 15 runners and admin personnel from Frederica. The runners were running from Frederica, via their German Twin Town, Herford, on to Lippstadt. In Herford the party was given a civic reception in the Town Hall.

On 27 November the party arrived in Lippstadt. The total distance covered by the runners was 900km, completed in a time of 71 hours. After being given time to recover they were hosted by the Officers and SNCO's of 2 Sqn in the Sergeants' Mess.

The 28th saw the four Danes complete a CFT with the rest of the Squadron at 0630 hrs. The rest of the Danish party arrived later that morning.

The week was filled with various activities. One of the highlights was a number of trips to Sennelger ranges. Here they were introduced to the SA80 and urban patrolling techniques. With activities such as the assault course, battle PT, unarmed combat, abseiling and various sports the visitors found themselves with very little free time.

On the Wednesday morning they were given an insight into the Ptarmigan system. Here they had the opportunity to operate and ask questions about various equipments including TII, RR Vehicle, Central and Node Command. Wednesday afternoon provided a novelty for our guests. Rugby isn't played in their Regiment so they insisted that they watched our Regimental team in the quarter final of the BAOR Cup. The Rugby team performed true to form and, to the delight of the Danes, won.

Most of the evenings were filled with a variety of social events which inevitably lasted well into the night. Without a doubt a good time was had by all!

On Saturday night, 3 December, the Danes hosted the Squadron to a Danish night in the Squadron Bar. As befitting on their last night mementos were exchanged and another late night was had by all.

2 Sqn now look forward to a Summer Camp during July in Denmark. We look back on a very successful exchange where a number of friendships have been made and hope will continue to be made in the future.

3 SQUADRON
LUNDENSCHEID PARADE

The parade took place on 7 October 1988, on the main square of the Belgian TTR Regt based in Ludensheid. This year it was a special one to celebrate 25 years of the TTR Regt. It is a multi national parade made up of elements of the Belgian Regiment, a German Signal Troop, two French Troops and a British Troop from this Squadron.

The Squadron's Troop, representing the Regiment was commanded by **Lt Jonathan Fraser**, with **WO2 (SSM) John Mackay** and **Sgt Jimmy McLachlan** on parade. It lasted an hour and was watched by numerous spectators and VIPs. During the parade medals were presented to Belgian soldiers and the Belgian colours were 'Trooped' in much the same way as our own.

4 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Robert Carter**
2IC	**Capt George Odling**
SSM	**WO2 Keith Leighton**
SQMS	**SSgt Clive Sear**
YofS	**SSgt Ron Perry**
AFofS	**SSgt Mick Uttley**
OC J	**2Lt Robert Munro**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Bill Gillhespy**
OC K	**2Lt Andy Scott**
Tp Sgt	**SSgt Mick Brown**
OC L	**Lt Guy Ashton**
Tp Sgt	**SSgt George Burrows**

4 Sqn's contribution to the Regimental Rugby team at the BAOR final included the 2IC and SSM and some other members plus most of the Squadron in support. The Squadron doing things in style, as usual, travelled to the match in a comfortable coach.

CYCLING

Sig Martin Doyle first started cycling seriously when he joined the Army in 1986 by entering a Triathlon event. Having discovered that he enjoyed it he bought his own cycle, a Raleigh Corsa, that he modified to give him a 12 speed racing capability. It was not until 1988 that he entered cycling events again, with Divisional and BAOR Triathlon events where his talent was recognised. Encouraged, he entered the BAOR/RAFG hill climb championships held in the Soest area on Saturday 24 September 1988. Seventh overall, he was the first Army competitor and ahead of some cyclists with considerably more experience. He now looks forward to racing in 1989 determined to improve his position.

CHESSMAN

Sig 'Taff' Herbert played chess before joining the Army in 1984 but did not play again in competition until 1987 when he entered the BFG championships. In 1988 with renewed interest he entered Army and Combined Services tournaments finishing 17th in the Army and 16th in the Combined Services. November 1988 saw his best achievement in the BFG championships at Rheindahlen where he came second.

28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
BFPO 35

RHQ PERSONALITIES

Comd	**Lt Col Brian Chubb**
Dep Comd	**Maj Hugh Goodman**
Adjt	**Capt Andrew Trimble**
AAdjt	**2Lt Jacky Foster**
Ops Offr	**Capt Jack Cowen**
Tech Adjt	**Capt Chris Millard**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Bob O'Hara**
Regt YofS	**WO1 (YofS) Jim Williamson**
Regt FofS	**WO1 (FofS) Pete Johnson**
ORQMS	**WO2 (ORQMS) Chris Martin**
ORS	**Sgt Pete Street**

NEWS FROM REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

We said a sad farewell to the Deputy Commander, **Maj Bob Drake**, who has been posted to Aldershot as OC 251 Sig Sqn. We wish him and his wife **Jackie** all the best in their new unit. In his place we welcome **Maj Hugh Goodman** and his wife **Monica**, who arrived from RARDE.

ROUTINE MATTERS

Congratulations to **Pete Street** who passed his EPC and was promoted to Sergeant. Also, congratulations to **WO1 (FofS) Johnson** on his commissioning

The trend of a healthy RHQ has continued with the whole area being designated a no-smoking zone: a New Year resolution imposed on all by the Adjt, **Capt Andrew Trimble**.

The Regiment returned from Christmas/New Year leave on 3 January. Having enjoyed the usual hectic round of social functions, most people were happy to get back to work and a regular fitness programme! Indeed, 1988 ended with a fun run on the leave handover day and 1989 began with the usual Tuesday morning run at 0730 hrs. Is this to be the trend for 1989?

EXERCISES

Two exercises took place in January. The first was Cactus End, which took place from 9-13 January. This was a Northag Sig Gp (NSG) exercise and took place in barracks. Suddenly the barracks were bustling with German, Belgian, Dutch and American detachments. The other exercise was Ex Canary Caper 1/89, from 30 January to 2 February, on which the whole Regiment deployed to the field location.

VISITS

We have had a number of visitors the last few months, including the Chief of Staff Northag, **Maj Gen J. A. Graf von Kielmansegg**, and Comd Fin BAOR, **Brig P. K. Conibear**. On his visit to the Regiment, Comd NSG, **Col C. A. Barten**, presented LS & GC Medals to five members of the unit: **WO2 (FofS) Paul Wilson, SSgt (YofS) Wally Bacon, SSgt Chris Smithson, Sgt Phillip McSorley** and **Cpl Sandy Bennie**.

Lt Col B. Chubb with the Chief of Staff Northag, Maj Gen Von Kielmansegg

STORMING OF THE GATES

On 3 February the Regiment took part in the local custom of the Storming of the Gates.

Every year, the local town of St Tonis elects a Karneval Prinz and Prinzessin, together with their ministers and guard. Tradition has it that the 'Royal Couple' have the right of access to every household within the bounds of the district during Karneval time, and this tradition has been built up into a small ceremony.

Assisted by an armed guard, the Comd, **Lt Col B. Chubb**, refused access to the Karneval party, who then proceeded to attack the gates with a mock cannon. After some stiff resistance, the defence party, under the command of **WO1 (RSM) O'Hara**, gave ground and the Commander surrendered. The gates were opened and the Commander handed the ceremonial key to the Karneval Prinz. The Karneval party were then escorted to the gym where they were entertained and where local girls performed a dancing display to 'Oompah' music.

Lt Col B. Chubb and WO1 (RSM) O'Hara with the Karnival Prinz and Prinzessin

Sgt Nick Murrell opens the gate to the Karnival Party

1 SQUADRON NEWS
ALPHA TROOP WHO? (OOPS SORRY) FOXTROT TROOP NEWS

Yes at last we've changed: we are now FAB (Foxtrot ex Alpha Switch Bravo). The two Troops in the Squadron have recently changed to Foxtrot and Golf, mainly due to the fact that various parties found Alpha and Bravo too complex for a complex. So now it's more like Crewe station than a Troop Office. All change!

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We've had a fairly quiet time recently, with only a few people coming, and even less going. We say farewell to **Cpl Dave McKinnel** across to Golf Tp (or is it Bravo?); to **Pte Debbie Beams** leaving us to get married; and **Pte Rachel Turner** on posting to NI. Best wishes to you all. We say hello to **Pte Trudi Sloan**, who expects to come to work in a nightie and slippers, **Sig Jock Stirton** who defected from Sp Sqn, and a belated hello to **Cpl Dave Murphy** and **Sig Mick Moore**. We hope you enjoy your penance, sorry, posting.

Congratulations are due to the production teams of: **LCpl Andy Jones** and **Lisa** on the birth of their son **Dean, Cpl Geordie Wightman** and **Lynne** on the birth of their daughter **Kylie** and to **Sig John Morley** and **Tina** on the birth of their daughter **Carris**. We've also had a few promotions recently: **LCpl Anne** (sorry **Pockers**) **Pocklington, Cpls Sean Cook** and **Paul Bridon** (who thought the only sub he was going to see was nuclear).

DETACHMENTS

We have two people detached to Golf Tp for exercise (to sort them out): **Capt Corky** (Aikido) **Corcoran** and **SSgt John Gibson,** who has also moved out of his house and into the Orderly Officer's Bunk.

Finally—Congratulations to **Sgt Geoff Head** who eventually made it to an exercise (even though it was in barracks). Never mind **Geoff**, the first step is always the hardest!

GOLF TROOP NEWS

No news of any great value has happened recently. However, for those of you who sometimes write letters to Bravo Tp, please change the address to Golf Tp. No longer will old and tired people get confused on exercise when we say 'Switch Alpha, Bravo Tp speaking'. All this involved a lot of rubbing out of ink and, of course, a few drinks.

Another cause for celebration has been the promotion to Sergeant for **Dawn Phillips**, who has recently arrived from her T1 course. We would like to congratulate her on her promotion and welcome her and her husband **Andrew** to the Troop.

Other hellos have been for **Cpl Kelly** and **Jacqueline**, who recently arrived from NI, and **LCpl Window** and **Jennifer**. All of them have come for a relaxing and enjoyable tour here at happy 28 Sig Regt. Other recent arrivals have been **WLCpls Goodwin** and **Lumb** plus hubby, as well as **Sgt Wayman** who has been moved from a cushy job with 2 Sqn to do some real work with 1 Sqn.

On a sad note we would like to say goodbye to **Cpl Colin Larrad** and **Claudia**, who have moved to sunnier climes to attend the T1 course in Catterick.

Cpl Stu Gilson is demonstrating how to walk up a pole using only one leg. Looking on in disbelief are the following members of Golf Tp: Sig Ian Botham, Cpl Colin Larrad, Sig 'General' Burke, LCpl Marie Woods and LCpl 'Bubbles' Dickinson

Pleased with her performance WLCpl Dobinson is about to be helped off a 6ft wall by SSgt Chris Smithson and Cpl Colin Larrad

2 SQUADRON NEWS

OSCAR TROOP NEWS

In true Olympian tradition, Oscar Tp has once again trained with 'Spartan' dedication to participate in every Regimental competition. There have been high points—the basketball, and not so high points—(we don't mention them), but we always end up smiling.

We were plunged into the depths of excitement on the return of that wandering swashbuckler **SSgt 'Les' Robinson,** with intrepid stories of his helicopter handling course. **LCpl 'Sluggy' Sloan** also risked life and limb (not his own though) when he selflessly volunteered himself for the 'dog handlers course'. **LCpl Steve Bancroft**'s devotion to his duty was touching, as he put his name forward for the same course. But was the training successful? **LCpl Steve Bancroft** broke one dog and had to sign out another one, and **LCpl 'Sluggy' Sloan** still hasn't managed to get a date with 'Flash', the mascot of 13 (Be) Cie TTr.

The whole of Oscar Tp congratulates **LCpl 'Taff' Burke** for tying the knot, and **Sgt Mark Read** and **SSgt 'Les' Robinson** for giving up the weed.

PAPA TROOP NEWS

The number of farewells said over the last few months far outweighs the number of welcomes (Records please note). **Cpl Dave** (Pyro) **Potter, Sig Woody Woodfine** and **Davey Dougans** have all gone to Northern Ireland, and **Sig Danny Monks** has been posted to 3 Div. Best wishes to them all.

Cpl Steve Tait and **LCpl Daz Mulley**, assisted by their wives, tried to even things up, but produced two girls (one each)—congratulations!

The Troop slibs finally moved back into their own block (renovated after the fire) but the block warming party was considered to be in bad taste.

Papa Tp is now gainfully employed working towards 'Wintex' with all that it entails, whilst the Troop Staff Sergeant, **Joe Harris** (Troop Officer Commanding designate), gets his grey highlights taken out.

The Snow Queen programme is under way, and we can claim our first casualty in the shape of 'Resident Instructor' **Cpl Nick Hawkins**, with a broken thumb.

SUPPORT SQUADRON NEWS

NEWS FROM THE LAD

After a very hectic festive season, we said farewell to the OC, **Capt Mike Law**, and also to **Sgt Jim Lutton** and **Cpl Dave Hughes. Capt Jane Wintermeyer** took over as the OC—we were prepared for a female boss as **Capt Law** had been playing the Dame in the pantomime. **Cpls Done** and **Tyrrell** also joined us.

Cpl Vidler deserves a special mention for helping to raise over DM3000 for Great Ormond Street Hospital Appeal.

The build up for Wintex and the TUV inspection on the fleet of vehicles are now foremost in our priorities, so there is an extremely busy period ahead for the LAD.

MIKE TROOP

It was in a festive spirit that members of Mike Tp held the annual Christmas party for children from the local Helipadagogisches Zentrum, a school specialising in children with special education needs. **Sgt Glen Shipman** helped by **Cpls John Daveron, Dawn Phillips** and **Debbie Riglar** organised the event.

Santa Claus arrived by helicopter with a sackfull of presents and enticed the children into the Regimental Restaurant, where party games were played and sticky buns eaten. The photograph shows Santa Claus meeting the handicapped children after being delivered by helicopter.

Presentation of LS & GC Medals by Comd NSG, Col C. A. Barten
Cpl Sandy Bennie, SSgt (YofS) Wally Bacon, WO2 (FofS) Paul Wilson, SSgt Chris Smithson and Sgt Philip McSorley
Mrs Bennie, Mrs Bacon, Col C. A. Barten, Mrs Smithson and Mrs McSorley

CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME

Krefeld Amateur Theatrical Society (KATS) staged their first pantomime, Aladdin, in early January. It was written by **Mrs Jacqui Cox**, who also played the part of Aladdin, and directed by **Capt MacDonald-Evans**. Leading parts were played by **Sgt Gary Hill RE** (Abanazer), **Sgt Dave Cox** (The Emperor), **Capt Mike Law REME** (The Dame), **Mrs Linda Singleton** (Princess) and **Sgt Chris Hartley** (The Genie). The rest of the pantomime cast was made up of wives and families from the three Regiments in the area: 28 Sig Regt, 16 Sig Regt and 40 Army Engr Sp Gp. The photograph shows the cast line up at the end of the performance.

Don't be disappointed!

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

30 Sig Regt Blandford Camp

1 SQUADRON

With the arrival of **Maj David Tiffin** and his wife **Fiona**, we say hello to our fifth OC in 12 months, and **Capt Andy Allman** says goodbye to POHR. We also say goodbye to **Maj Andy Whiddett** who moves to a higher plane as Regimental Ops Officer.

The year has started with the Squadron dispersing to all corners of the globe. **Capt Pete Smith, Sgt Charlie George** and their crew are spending three months in Norway, while **Sgt Ted Warburton** is enjoying a different climate in Saudi Arabia prior to his posting to the Royal Marines. The remainder of the Squadron is ready to go, where to we are not sure but we are ready!

TRAINING WING

After Battle Camp in November things in the Training Wing settled down for a week or two until thoughts started to turn to the forthcoming festivities. Amongst the many parties that happened one was to say farewell to **Sgt Brian Glover**, our Clerk on detachment from RHQ. He has left us to go to HQ 1 (BR) Corps so he'll need all the luck and best wishes that were proffered.

At the end of last year a lot of hard training was put in. **WO2 (YofS) Harry Brant** and **Sgt Titch Howitson** were seen organising the trade side of life with **Sgt Chalkie Atkins** and **Cpl Mac McLaughlin** being equally busy on the military training.

Congratulations go to **Sgt Chalkie Atkins** who successfully attended a RSSC just before Christmas, and also passed his MofI at Beaconsfield in early January. He says that everything will be fine as long as he doesn't have to teach anything at Warcop!

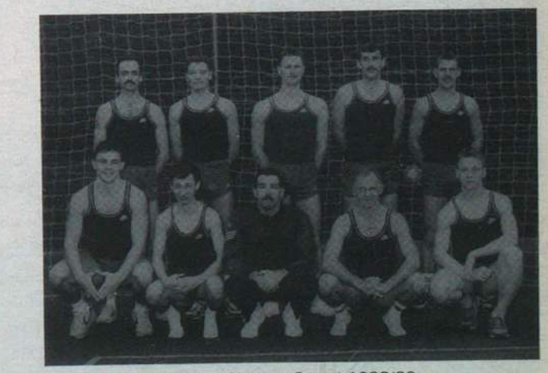
Cpl 'Ollie' Holman was busy up to the end of the year with his cadet visits and training. Now that he has even more detachments to visit, 1989 should be a hectic year for him.

WO2 (YofS) Harry Brant assisted by **Sgt Brian Roxburgh** are sorting out all the post CERC problems seeing who needs what courses for the new trades and ensuring that all the soldiers are happy (or is the Adjutant in disguise). On the military side the continuation courses are being revamped giving more emphasis on First Aid and Method of Instruction. This will ensure that **Sgts Charlie Atkins, Titch Howitson** and **Cpl Mac McLaughlin** won't get too much spare time in this training year.

The OC of the Wing, **Capt Harry Lund**, is still going out on regular BFTs and CFTs but everyone thinks that it is because he enjoys the scenic views as he jogs every day.

CROSS COUNTRY 1988/89

'We've never done it before!' was the cry! Never qualified for the Army Cross Country Championships that is. Not such a great achievement some may think, but when the aim and objective at the start of the season was to do well at the West Area Championships



Cross Country Squad 1988/89
Back Row L to R: LCpl Mick Hughes, Cpl Mick Stanyer, LCpl Gary Leggett, Cpl Ian Campbell and Sgt Andy Foster
Front Row L to R: LCpl Lee Douglas, Sig Tim Holland, SSgt (SSI) Jack Goodwin APTC, Sgt Larry Tulett and Sig Craig Noble (absent LCpl J. Jones)

and to qualify for the Army's, and that aim is achieved, then it is a great achievement, one especially pleasing after the hard work that the Regimental Squad had put in.

It all started in October 1988 with the commencement of a regular daily training schedule, under the guidance of **SSgt (SSI) Jack Goodwin APTC** and **Sgt Larry Tulett**, and up to the end of the year the Squad performed well and produced some good results in the SWDist League. Unfortunately in November due to operational commitments the Squad was unable to train together so it was left to individuals, where self motivation took over and everyone carried on and produced good results.

The West Area Championships were held in January and were hosted by 30 Sig Regt at Blandford Camp. Here the Squad proved that the hard work done in the previous three months had indeed paid off, and they became West Area Major Unit Runners Up to the School of Signals team, consequently putting Blandford Camp on the cross country map. The individual positions were as follows: 8th—**LCpl Lee Douglas**, 9th **LCpl Mick Hughes**, 10th—**Sig Craig Noble**, 14th—**SSgt (SSI) Jack Goodwin APTC**, 15th—**Sig Tim Holland**, 18th—**Sgt Andy Foster**, 23rd **Cpl Mick Stanyer** and 36th—**LCpl Gary Leggett**.

The Squad is now training regularly as a team once again in preparation for the Army Championships at Tweseldown Racecourse, Aldershot.

EXERCISE AUTUMN RELAY

Ex Autumn Relay was a soldier's idea—namely **LCpl Tim McLeod** and grew into an event that was to test the endurance of 12 members of 1 Sqn, 30 Sig Regt. The situation was as follows: 10 of our soldiers were to run Catterick to Blandford Camp in non-stop relays of five miles. This would mean a distance of 313 miles which would be completed in at least 6 × 5 mile legs by each individual. We hoped to cover this distance in 48 hours. Money raised from sponsorship and collection would be donated to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

Proceedings got under way when the lads were handed sponsorship forms and the next thing to be seen was a cloud of dust as all and sundry attacked the task of obtaining promises with verve and enthusiasm. **Cpls Tim Hopkins** and **Phil Anderson** took a day off to make their presence felt in Blandford shops (have you seen the size of **Cpl Hopkins**?) and **Sig Mick Howard** came close to censure for 'collaring anything with pips' in the Steele Block. The biggest complaint came from **LCpl Ian Johnston** who said that getting signatures from the social gathering centres of Blandford was costing him a fortune!

On 7 December the team spent the night with 8 Sig Regt and this gave the opportunity to collect further funds in Catterick. The SSM of 2 Sqn kindly allowed the party to canvas in Catterick. A special mention must be made of an ex-member of 30 Sig Regt, **LCpl Geordie McPhee** (now with 210 Sig Sqn) who led the foray with panache, and a subtle approach.

The following morning saw **Sig Danny Wilson**, the first runner, begin the epic trek. At various points en route members of the team leapt from the vehicles and collected money from passers-by as well as at roadside cafes and, of course, the pubs. At intervals of about 40 miles the running team were met by the patient, smiling faces of **Cpl Phil Anderson** and **Sig Paul Westcott** producing brews and haute cuisine (French for compo) from the back of a Landrover.

Statistically the run was a success with the total time taken being 43 hrs 27 mins, the average mile lasting 8 mins 30 secs. The slowest mile took 11 mins, the fastest 6 mins. The final figure for funds raised has yet to be confirmed but it is estimated that £1,500 approximately has been raised. This amount is indicative of the generosity encountered throughout the run especially from the members of 38 Sig Regt (V) who donated money as well as offering accommodation for the night—a pity we couldn't stop!

The organisers would like to thank all those concerned for the hard work and support given by 30 Sig Regt and the Garrison as a whole, and look forward to presenting a cheque to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in March.

Back Row L to R: Sig Paul Westcott, Cpls Tim Hopkins, George Fisk, Sig Nick Steen, LCpls Paul Johnson, Billy Bingham, Cpls Les Waite and Phil Anderson

Front Row L to R: LCpl Tim McLeod, Sig Danny Wilson, LCpl Ian Johnston and Sig Mick Howard

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V) Glasgow

RHQ MANAGEMENT TEAM

	CURRENT	DESIGNATE/ REPLACEMENT
CO	Lt Col 'Paddy' Hughes	Lt Col M. J. Anderson (April 1989)
2IC	Maj Ron McNaught	Maj Alan Lapsley (February 1989)
Trg Maj	Maj Brian Campbell	
Adjt	Capt Peter Campbell	'Irreplaceable'
QM	Capt John Newman	
RSM	WO1 (RSM) 'Steve' May	WO2 T. A. Mortlock (August 1989)
FofS	WO2 Dave Murray	—
YofS	WO2 Paul Forryan	—
Chief Clerk	SSgt Joe Sharma	(RSMRO please note)
OC HQ Sqn	Capt John Newman	—
Families Officer	Capt John Newman	—
PRI	Capt John Newman	—
OC Squash	Capt John Newman	—
OC Skiing	Capt John Newman	—
OIC Civil Labour	Capt John Newman	—

Readers will have noticed that **Capt John Newman** holds the greatest number of appointments in this very busy unit. We have to record the fact that despite his many 'hats', he still finds time to 'stand in' for the Adjutant, RSM, Chief Clerk, Register Clerk and the Typists. It can be seen we are blessed with a very versitile Officer and we wish to record our thanks to him for all the hard work he puts in.

PS: PB11 please note QM's standing appointments for the future.

QUARTERMASTER DEPARTMENT

WO2 (RQMS) Bob Rack, assisted by **Mr Garry Stein** and **Mr Stuart Anderson** too, must be given a mention for without their dedication the department could not function!

Pipe Maj Ian Mortimer with The Royal Banner

33 Sig Regt (V) Liverpool

On Thursday 13 October 1988 the Regiment had pleasure in welcoming the Mayor of Knowsley, **Councillor P. J. Curran** when he visited the Regimental Headquarters at Huyton accompanied by his daughter-in-law, the Mayoress, **Mrs Curran**. The event took place during the weekly drill night when the majority of TA soldiers were present.

They were met by the CO, **Lt Col David Gardiner**, who briefed them on the role of the Regiment and its organisation. This was followed by a visit around the TA centre where they met numerous members of RHQ and HQ Sqn. A small communication demonstration was given by **Sgt Patterson** and members of 59 Sqn based at Edge Lane. The Mayor, a sapper in World War 2, was extremely interested in the modern equipment and the technical advances made in Army communications in recent years.

During the tour he was invited to fire an SLR with the Hecklerkoch conversion in the miniature range, which he thoroughly enjoyed. The score is a closely guarded secret (but he has requested a return visit to enable him to get more practice!)

He was invited to the Officers' Mess where he was entertained by Officers and SNCOs of the Regiment. His tour was concluded by a visit to the JRC where he met and spoke to all the soldiers.

The Mayor of Knowsley arrives at Huyton and met by the Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major

The Mayor being given some 'handy hints' on SLR by WO1 Tommy Watkinson. The Regimental Sergeant Major and OC HQ Sqn Maj Derek Beckett TD looking on

THE NORTHERN AREA CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 1988

Report by Lt Cathy McGrath—59 Squadron

A small contingent from 59 Sqn made the journey to Catterick to run in the Northern Area Championships on Saturday 3 December 1988. We arrived on the Friday night and quickly made for the NAAFI for refreshments. A disco was in progress, and it was not long before **Sig Steve Barr** was doing 'his own thing' on the dance floor. His appreciative 59 audience applauded loudly when he was awarded an LP record, much to his embarrassment, as the best male disco dancer on the floor. At least we were to take one prize home over the weekend!

Saturday dawned and the ladies prepared for their race. 'Prepared' was perhaps the wrong term to use as **Cpl Eileen Halliday** puffed yet another cigarette, **Pte Linda Roy** tried to stay in bed and **Pte Lesley Machon** took some refreshment. I decided I was dying from a virus and promptly put myself at the bottom of the team finishing order before wheezing into a warm up jog.

The ladies race started about 200yds away from a mud covered hill, estimated to be about one in three gradient. We set off apprehensively, tackled the hill and ploughed through mud, swollen streams and yet more hills to the finish. Much to everyone's surprise, including mine, I finished in 16th position in 19½ minutes, with **Cpl Halliday** in 21st (she must have stopped for a smoke!), **Pte Roy** in 24th and **Pte Machon** gamely coming in 33rd. I just missed qualifying for the TA v Regular Army Championships at Crickhowell, and missed obtaining a 1st Veteran Award only because it did not occur to anyone that a person of my age would be mad enough to enter the race (age not declared).

The men's race 'enjoyed' the same start and the same hill. However, with about 200 entries and some well known county standard runners taking part the race was very competitive. Our first man home was **Cpl Tommy Ryder** in a very creditable 47th place with a time of 43 minutes. Despite losing his shoes in the mud twice he finished fresh and full of running. I wonder what he might achieve with some training? **Cpl Eddie Owings** finished about midway down the field, following a good run, whilst our disco star obviously needed to dance round the course with a personal stereo. Never having run six miles in his life, **Sig Barr** jogged home to our cheers and those of the Liverpool UOTC contingent.

Cpl Tommy Ryder has been selected to run in the TA v Regular Army Championships at Crickhowell in March as an individual runner. We all hope he will gain his TA colours as a result. The 59 Supporters Club will hopefully travel down to support him. Meanwhile, I am busy trying to persuade the organisers to have a Veteran's category next year! (you never know I might win something!)

ROYAL SIGNALS ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS 1988
Report by Lt Andy Payne 80 Squadron Chester

A men's team and a WRAC team from 33 Sig Regt (V) entered the Royal Signals Orienteering Championships, held in Sherwood Forest on 22-23 October. The WRAC team, consisting of **Capt Jean Payne, Lt Cathy McGrath** and **OCdt Vivien Myles,** came second in the WRAC team competition. **Capt Jean Payne** also won the WRAC individual competition. The men's team also came second in the TA team competition with **Lt Andy Payne** winning the individual TA prize. Other team members were **Sgts Steve Kerry, Ken Myerscough, Cpls Ralph Harwood, Tony Wylie** and **Sig Pete Wood**. The teams have shown a steady improvement in their navigational skills and were delighted with their results.

Lt Andy Payne also competed for the TA in the TA v Regular Army Representative Match and gained his TA colours.

Alas no photographs are available, the team member with the camera got lost!

REGIMENTAL DETACHMENT COMMANDERS COURSE

This year's Detachment Commanders Course took place over four weekends in four different locations, Altcar, Weeton, Saighton and Kinmel Park Training Camps, which certainly tested the candidates in their map reading skills.

The course was run under the control of the RSM, **WO1 Neil Brown** who was supported by PS and TA instructors, namely: **Capt Roger Bracey** (TA), **SSgt Trevor Beeley** (PS), **CSgt Phil Daniels** (TA), **Sgts Kenny Almond** (TA), **Eddie Buchanan** (TA), **Cpls Cokey Haynes** (TA) and **Frank Hale** (TA).

The subjects covered were First Aid, Map Reading, Weapon Handling/Firing, Drill, M of I and PT. The course was well attended by soldiers of all four Squadrons and was a mix of male and female candidates.

The fieldcraft this year was taught by **CSgt Phil Daniels** who was formerly in the Staffordshire Regiment; his infantry expertise was invaluable to the course members and gave the subject a new dimension. Phil has now made the right move by transferring to the Corps, and is serving with 42 Sig Sqn in Manchester.

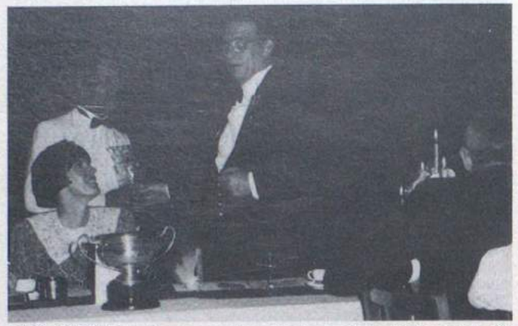
All 16 who attended regularly, passed the course which became very competitive. Top award went to **Pte Carolyn Pritchard WRAC** from 80 Sqn Chester with **LCpl (Spider) Smith** from 42 Sqn Manchester a close runner up.

42 SQUADRON SERGEANTS' CLUB DINNER NIGHT

On the night of 22 October, the Squadron Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Club held a dinner to say goodbye to a number of long-serving and respected Squadron personalities.

Dined out were **Capt Heather Williams TD, WRAC, WO2 (SSM) Tony Byrne BEM, SSgt (SSI) Steve Tuplin** and **Sgt Lynne Slamon WRAC**. On the same night, due to his comparatively short stay with the Regiment, **WO1 (RMTO) Dave Hogben** was both dined in and out and in addition farewell was said to **Lt Gillian Heywood-Bamber WRAC**.

Our best wishes go to them all.



WO2 (SSM) Tony Byrne apprehensively receiving his farewell gift from members of 42 Sig Sqn

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

For those readers of *The Wire* who had the pleasure (or misfortune) of serving with ex regular **SSgt Tommy Smith** might like to know that he has 'not faded away' as old soldiers are supposed to do, but is hiding away as a non regular permanent staff SQMS in 42 Sqn based at Norman Road TAC in Manchester.

Tommy, like most ex Corps members, yearned to return to the fold when an opportunity arose. He did a short spell in civvy street as a 'Kwik Fit Fitter' (you may have seen him dancing on the TV Ad!) However, his legs got too weak for the job so he joined the Manchester UOTC as an RQMS.

Determined to join a Royal Signals unit he managed to convince a selection board that he could do the job of a NRPS SQMS (he possesses a good chat line).

On a more serious note, **Tommy** has a long and notable career with the Corps having enlisted as a boy soldier on 12 March 1953, in Omagh he was posted to 6 Trg Regt in Beverley. On joining man service he trained as a lineman and issued with a horse (whoops!—sorry I got carried away), but later trained and qualified as a Tech Storeman, which was his trade throughout his career. During his 24½ years regular service he was in Singapore, Kenya, Cyprus, BAOR and UK. Whilst in BAOR he won the BAMA Rallying Championships (BAOR) in 1975 and was runner-up the following year. He also represented BAMA (BAOR) on several Scottish rallies. He was awarded his colours for motoring in 1975. **Tommy** is married with two children. His son joined the Army and served with 2 Para but unfortunately was badly wounded at Goose Green during the Falklands Campaign and is unable to continue with his Army career.

For all Corps members who know him, **Tommy** is still as active and talkative as ever and is a cherished member of 42 Sqn and the Regiment.

Tommy (I'm in charge) Smith, projecting a 'busy' image as SQMS (NRPS) 42 Sqn

34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

LORD LIEUTENANT'S CERTIFICATE

Certificates are awarded annually by the Lords Lieutenant of Counties to officers and soldiers of the Reserve Forces for Good Service. The recipients must have not less than seven years outstanding service, be recommended by the Commanding Officer and endorsed by the Chairman of the County committee. We were delighted that four soldiers from this Regiment received the award. They are **Sgt Peter Murphy, LCpls Jimmy Campbell** and **Angela Barnard** in Cleveland and **Cpl David Jackson** in County Durham. Congratulations and well done.

12 SIGNAL BRIGADE (V) PSI CONVENTION

The Regiment administered the PSI Convention held at Catterick on 24 and 25 January for the Regular Officers, Warrant Officers and SNCO Permanent Staff Instructors of 12 Sig Bde. As in previous years is was a valuable exercise in keeping us in touch with developments in the Corps and a chance to meet our opposite numbers in the other Regiments. We were very grateful for the assistance provided by Training Group, 11 Sig Regt and 8 Sig Regt.

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

We begin these notes by looking back to the end of 1988 to record some notable events. On 2 December we had the pleasure of hosting the Signal Officer-in-Chief in the Council House in Birmingham. The dinner was for officers and ladies and we were delighted to have **Col Louden** and the deputy Lord Mayor of Birmingham, **Cllr Martineau**, as honoured guests.

We congratulate **Sgt Geoff Robinson** RAPC (58 Sqn) and **SSgt Alan Hoensch**, PSI (95 Sqn) who received the TA Efficiency Medal and LS & GC respectively from our Honorary Colonel **Col Beatty TD, ADC, DL** on 2 December. Congratulations also to **Capt Fathers** on gaining his majority and to **Cpl Clarke** (89 Sqn) on promotion to Sergeant.

48 (City of Birmingham) Sig Sqn (V) was invited to provide enemy for A Coy, RRF(V), with an element of BUOTC, at a FIBUA weekend held at Longmoor Camp near Aldershot. Needless to say the Squadron jumped in with both feet and weapons swinging, dragged **2Lt Chris Heaton** along for support. Twenty enemy valiantly held off the RRF, culminating in a four hour assault, the linies showed what they were made of when **Cpl Brown** held a house for 45 minutes single-handedly.

A Young Officers' weekend was held at the beginning of January with the aim of preparing them for promotion. At the dinner which was held on the Saturday night we were lucky enough to have **Maj Gen Alexander CB, MBE** at our table. It was a lively evening.

The Officers would like to thank **Capt George Cairns** (PSAO 48 Sqn) for his tireless work on our behalf.

The Regiment has a very busy year head with a Royal Signals Military Tattoo at Drayton Manor Park to organise and other exciting events including Ex Executive Stretch and Summer Camp at Scarborough. Now that the Adjutant, **Capt Suzy Reed**, has returned from her two months(!), skiing with the Army Ladies Ski Team and with the RSM, **WO1 Mick O'Hare** 'fighting' fit, we hope that 1989 will prove a good one for the Regiment.

It was with some trepidation that the Regiment received a new camera and 12 rolls of film from West Midland TAVRA but it was put to immediate use and the following photographs are the result.

Fibua Exercise
L to R: Sig Bellaby LCpl Turner, Cpls Brown, Henry, Sig Chatfield, Nevitt, Finnegan and LCpl McLeod
Sig Mohammed, Willis, LCpls Chapman and Daly

Cpl Mick Clarke and LCpl Graham Back from 89 (Rugby) Sig Sqn (V) enjoying their evening meal on Ex Autumn Lad

2Lt Julian Webb receives the Subaltern's Trophy for the best Subaltern in 11 Sig Bde from the CO, Lt Col David Dobson. His civilian employer Sir Patrick Lawrence and Adjt Capt Suzy Reed were also present

36 Sig Regt (V)
Wanstead

It was a mild evening in January when the bus (sorry the 'coach') arrived to collect us from Cambridge and Wanstead. Certainly no sign of snow, or even cold weather here in UK; would there be any in the French Alps?

Well I'm happy to say that there was some in our resort of Tignes, though not as good as last year. By the end of the week we were well practised in rock hopping with no major accidents (though not quite sure how one of our instructors managed to break his ski when teaching beginners on the nursery slopes!).

One of the best features of the trip was having representatives from all Squadrons in the Regiment as well as members of 56 Sqn. Although we exercise together as a Regiment, it is usually by Squadrons, so old friendships from last year were renewed. There were the terrible two from Norwich: **LCpls Tracy Bacon** and **Sarah Luckin, 'Wingnut' Nichols** and his merry band from Warley. **LCpl Jan Rashid** laughed her way down the slopes as usual and encouraged several members of HQ Squadron to participate.

Pte 'Biscuit' Nesbitt was one of our beginners who was able to tackle the longer slopes by the end of the week in company of **Cpl Alan Bell** and others who had skied before.

Part of the aprés ski attraction was the local sauna to which **Pte Ruth James** and friends repaired after an exhausting day on the slopes.

Special thanks must go to our instructors: **LCpl Tony Waddington** and **Sgt Vince Murphy** who came to us from 19 Bde Sig Sqn and **Bryan Mumford** an ex-member of the Regiment. As the week progressed the groups changed depending on how people progressed with their skiing. It was a fun week and we counted ourselves lucky to have found some snow this winter.

Members of the Regimental Ski Party

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

The first weekend in February saw HQ Sqn on their first outdoor exercise since summer camp. Perhaps not the best time of the year to sleep under bashas. But how lucky we were for it must have been one of the mildest February weekends on record. We arrived at our exercise location in Norfolk soon after lunch and practised camming up correctly, rather than in our own sweet way.

We were surprised to have a visit from a representative of 19 Bde Sig Sqn which was exercising in the same area. We were invited to have a look round their exercise location. It was a great source of interest to all members of the Squadron be they pay clerks, storewomen or technicians. For all of us it was our first sight of Ptarmigan. The technicians obviously found it of great value and were making Euromux comparisons but the other members of the Squadron who provide logistic support found it interesting to see what they were supporting.

Sunday morning began with reveille at 0600 hrs and a three mile run before breakfast; led by **Cpl Pulford** and **Sgt Trevor Bandey**. It gave us an appetite and incentive to learn how to cook on hexamine blocks. Breakfast was followed by more camming instruction and then basic signalling skills. For our experienced readers this may not sound much but for our recruit **WPte Pye** in the pay office it opened up a whole new world.

WRAC

On 11 November the WRAC had one of their rare get togethers to say goodbye to some very old friends. There was **Sgt Cracknell** who was going on to better things in Cambridge with her Methods of Instruction experience (well remembered by many in the Regiment over the years); **Capt Liz Jack** who had produced a 'little' Jack and will be sadly missed as watch-keeper at RCP (as well as being one of our local experts on NBC training); and **Maj Sarah Maude** who for many years has been senior WRAC Officer in the Regiment. She will be missed by her many friends of all ranks and we wish her well in her appointment in 34 Sig Regt (V).

Capt Armstrong presenting farewell gift to Maj Maude

54 (EA) SIGNAL SQUADRON

The venue of Wretham Camp was most suitable for our activities, and we spent a productive Saturday on Thetford Ranges, firing APWT. BFT was also run on the Saturday (before the party: our new PSI, **Sgt Pat Miller** was left in no doubt as to what might otherwise happen!). **Sgt Chris Francis** and his helpers produced a magnificent Christmas feast. Service was provided by the Officers and SNCOs and no piper . . . Our guests included Trg Maj, **Maj Tony Sugdon, RSM, Norman Cawthra, RQMS, Alan Gibbons**. A near disaster caused by the unwillingness to appear of the discotheque was somehow overcome by the PSAO, **Capt Danny Kay**, to whom we all owe thanks for the organisation involved, not only in this matter, but in a host of other things required to make the weekend such a success.

Sunday was spent recovering in a mist of CS gas—(well that's our excuse!) and Resusianni's deep breathing routines! this rounded off a most enjoyable and useful weekend.

The Squadron has also held various fund raising events (I am assured no intimidation prevailed!) for firstly the 'Wishing Well Appeal' £115 was achieved, and secondly for 'Children In Need' £355 was raised. Many thanks to everyone for your generosity.

And now over to **Capt Dave Watson** (Snr) with a special contribution from 706 Tp (who!).

706 Tp has fully recovered from Annual Camp in the depths of South Wales (Sennybridge) and after a quiet Christmas is now busy preparing for the coming months of exercises, inspections and trade training as well as concentrating on recruiting.

Congratulations to **Sgt Helen McFarlane** on her recent promotion and a fond farewell to **Sgt Les Dickinson**, on his retirement and to **SSgt Dave Elborne** on his transfer to SHQ.

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

One would be excused for thinking that with camp and Christmas over a lull would have set in—far from it! The Regiment swung into action with a post camp Officers' Mess Dinner, a Regimental Exercise, a team in Maiden Scurry, Regimental trade training at STC Scarborough, ARU and a Regimental Detachment Comd's course.

OFFICERS MESS DINNER

The Sheffield TAC was transformed once again into a vast banqueting suite as 120 members, honorary members and their guests gathered together. The guests of honour were **Col Geoffrey Norton**, Chairman of Yorkshire and Humberside TAVRA and **Lt Col Roy Bettney**, CO Sheffield UOTC. The Regimental Officers dined out the **Rev Mike Hiles** whose jovial 'preaching' will be missed by all. **Maj Terry Lea** who has long service with the Regiment, commanding two Squadrons during his service; **Maj David Podevin**, the Training Major who reminds us that his tour at Sheffield is the longest single tour in his service. It is perhaps significant that he is not only leaving 38 Sig Regt but also the Army and is settling in Sheffield—so we should continue to see him. We offer our best wishes to them all.

64 SQUADRON—ANNUAL CAMP 1988

Camp started with the arrival of a detachment of 87 Sqn from Nottingham under the command of **SSgt Mick Piechota**. They became an integral part of the Squadron for the Camp, and despite their 'peculiar' accents were soon indistinguishable from the rest of us.

We then moved by road to Halton Camp near Lancaster, where our SQMS **SSgt Dave Burton** and his advance party had done a great job in erecting a tented camp for us. The camp beside the river Lune and the surrounding countryside provided us with an excellent opportunity for both training and relaxation. Our Admin Officer, **Capt 'Johnny Johnson'** was never lost. He could be found in off duty moments casting into the Lune, although the salmon always managed to evade him.

We had a round of visitors, including the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, **Cllr Phyllis Smith**, who, we think, thoroughly enjoyed her stay. The Lady Mayoress was nearly recruited by **SSgts Frank Delez** and **Harry Lomas** following her first attempt at pistol shooting—she put many of the Squadron's crack shots to shame.

The Smoker proved to be an enjoyable event, and **2Lt Ruth Robinson**, posted in from Sheffield UOTC only a week earlier proved her mettle as a member of the Squadron. The Nottingham contingent also proved their worth, completing their acceptance into the fold.

Following the BFT 'measured' by our PTI, **Sgt Mark Gardner** most of the Squadron enjoyed a day off in Blackpool. Unfortunately no-one was able to buy **Mark** a wheel so they could dispute the accuracy of his measurement, so **Sgt Clive Quantick**, our PSI Tech, resorted to checking the course with that well known measuring device—a Clansman antenna!

The young Officers and Officer Cadets at 64 Sqn Camp 2Lt Ruth Robinson, OCdts Aiden Ancil, Alison Burn, Lt Trevor Brocklebank, 2Lt David Tomlinson and Capt David Anson

We then moved on to Ex Northern Crusade, and practised our real role. All went well with good comms, but special mention must be made of the 87 Sqn 'Mouldies' led by **2Lt Dave Tomlinson** who did their 'net extensions' so well, and to the sterling work done by **Sgt Gardner** as 'Mr Fixit' on the admin side of life.

The exercise ended with a tired but more experienced Squadron moving on to our own Ex High Note. **Lt Trevor Brocklebank** and **2Lt Bill Carr** led their respective forces around Catterick Training Area with great gusto, although **LCpl Pete Horton**'s comments when he found himself separated from his Landrover are unprintable!

We finally ended 'in a wood not far from Sheffield' and celebrated the end of a hard but overall fruitful and enjoyable Camp. It was with sadness that we said goodbye to **Sgt Clive Quantick** who left us to do his Staff Sergeants Course before moving on to his Foreman's Course. Best wishes **Clive** and we hope we will see you again before too long.

Following Camp we were pleased to be able to congratulate **Cpl Debbie Ellis** on her marriage, and wish her well in Germany. Congratulations also to **Sgt 'Sam' Abdul Hussein** on his recent wedding.

We have at last completed the Regimental Sports Competitions. **SSgt Dave Burton**'s two Tug-of-War teams were sadly beaten in the finals, as was the Football team, but our successes in Orienteering meant we were just able to beat HQ Sqn to the final honours. It must be said, however, that had we been second to them there would have been satisfaction in knowing the Trophy was in Sheffield.

Finally we have had to say farewell to **Sgt Charlie Hebden**, who leaves us as PSI and the Army on retirement. We wish him well in civilian life.

64 SQUADRON—STOP PRESS

A warm welcome is extended to **Sgt 'Chippy' Wood** who has recently joined 64 Sqn as PSI.

Double congratulations to **SSgt Mark Gardner** on his recent promotion and his award of the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate. This Certificate, which has also been awarded to **Sgt Jim Mees**, is an honour bestowed by the Lord Lieutenant of the County for outstanding services to the TA.

On 24 January Sheffield TAC opened its doors to a number of employers from local businesses to show the benefits of the TA in general and Royal Signals in particular. 64 Sqn, HQ Sqn and LAD gave an excellent display of various skills to an impressed audience—some have since made enquiries about joining!

Rather younger visitors from Clowne Scout Group were given an insight into the world of communications and training with a Sunday morning tour. The visit was a resounding success although a few Sunday lunches were spoiled when the visit over-ran by one and a half hours.

The escorting officer, **Capt Frank Atkins**, has still to explain how his target remained totally intact yet the Scout Leader, who had failed to hit his target all morning, mysteriously put 10 shots in a 2in group on the indoor range when they fired the final rounds together!

93 SQUADRON—ANNUAL CAMP

Week 1 in support of HQ NWDist 6 TAOR Dets including IOM—overseas posting—no duty frees, but, **SSgt Doug Scott** our Senior PSI was lucky with the 'Bandits' on board the ferry.

On Monday 12 September history was made in the DWHQ. We had a commissioning ceremony in the 'Field', so to speak. **WO2 Alan Unwin** had his warrant badge of rank meticulously cut off with a Swiss army knife by the GOC NWDist, **Maj Gen C. T. Shortis CB CBE** who then presented him with his Lieutenants' Slides. **Lt Alan Unwin** who commands 878 Tp and is our NBC expert was most taken aback—he thought he was there to attend a briefing!

Week 2 saw the Squadron at Garelochhead where we practised our leadership, initiative, endurance, military and communications skills, shooting, sailing, orienteering, abseiling together with VRC 311, 312 familiarisation training.

Everyone highly recommended the new radio equipment for its simplicity and clarity. Conrad II has truly been a smash hit with the Squadron.

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

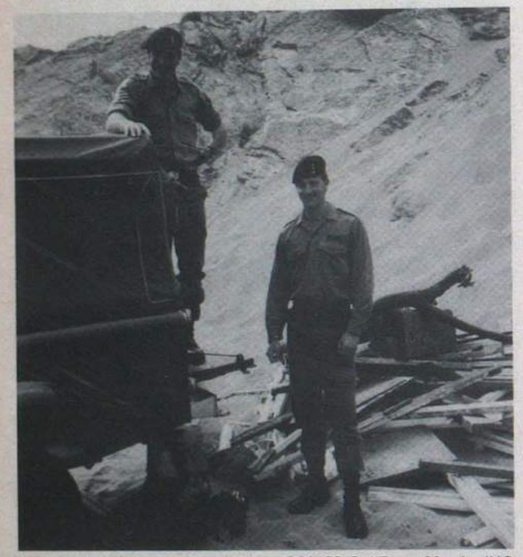
As the four operational Squadrons of the Regiment were involved with their FTX's this year, HQ Sqn, for the first time, spent two weeks of Annual Camp entirely on its own at Garelochhead. The OC, **Maj Frank Kirkham**, chose this location in order to provide the Squadron with an exciting location at which to carry out military and adventure training. It turned out to be ideal except for the weather! **Capt** (now Maj) **Danny Lamerton**, whose majority took effect from the middle of camp, drew up an exacting training programme for the younger members of the Squadron, **WO2 (SSM) David Warburton** organised the WOs and SNCOs to cover the guard duties, cooking, pan-bashing and other admin duties so that the juniors had an uninterrupted course of training. **Capt Colin Slaughter** and **SSgt (SQMS) Barry Pinches** organised the Military Swimming Test at the Faslane Submarine Base and **Sig Graham Blyth** actually learned to swim during the time. **Maj Bob Barnes** taught survival skills in his uniquely

intriguing way and **Capt** (now Maj) **Dennis Trayers** made voice procedure and radio operating more interesting than usual. **Capt Mike Philip**, fresh from his success at the Cambrian Patrol competition, taught patrol procedures on the exercise. **Sgt Bev Connolly** put these lessons to good use as can be seen in the photographs.

After Camp, HQ Sqn did the administration for the Royal Signals Orienteering Championships based at Proteus.

Maj Frank Kirkham handed over the Squadron to **Capt Colin Slaughter** on 1 January 1989 and we wish him well in his new role with Sheffield UOTC.

The Organisers of Royal Signals Orienteering Championships Majs Terry Phillips, David Etherton (again!) with Peter Hubersty and David Olivant of the Nottingham Orienteering Club



'What, all this for the beach party SQMS? Cpl Dave Morritt (HQ Sqn) with Sig Phil Hale of 87 constructing the bonfire

RECRUITING

A Report by Maj Bob Barnes, OC Tactics

Our RSW (Regiment Selection W/E) and RTW (Regiment Training W/E) are still going from strength to strength. The feeling is that we have now got the pitch right although improvements are always being made. The most reassuring thing is that the reports coming back from Catterick are encouraging. The last one, an RTW, was held at Scarborough at the end of November. Due to the shortage of real estate it was necessary to find Training rooms out of Burniston Barracks. A cry for help was sent out and D Coy 2 Bn Yorks which again came up trumps for us with their Brand new Drill Hall at Whitby. We were also very grateful to the Platoon Sergeant, **Sgt R. Cook** who went out of his way to help. Usually we start the day's training with a wake-up run at Scarborough. This is dispensed with, much to the joy of the students until they find out that it is replaced by QDITS. 'Quick dip in the sea'. But with such enthusiasm nothing daunts a TA soldier's 'Get up and go'.

In all a most successful year and credit must be given to the teaching staff who put in so much hard work.

TA Efficiency Medal Recipients at Scarborough
L to R: WO2 (RQMS) Moss Elliott, WO2 (RQMS) Clark-Darby (LS & CG), WO2 (SSM) Dave Warburton, SSgt Anne Legge, Sgt Eric Russell, Cpl Mickey Rooney and Sgt Mini Spinks

Sig Jackson (64 Sqn) receiving his Cambrian March Certificate from the CO, Lt Col S. A. Coltman

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Regimental Dinner
Sgt Charlie Hebden giving his farewell speech, on completion of 22 years in the Corps, flanked by the RSM, CO and Lt (now Capt) Derek Sivell

The CO presenting WO2 (SSM) Jeff Dolan, SSM 93 Sqn, with his Royal Warrant
Why does everyone think it's so hilarious?

The CO opens the Royal Signals Association (Derby Branch) Memorial to those Corps members who fell in the two World Wars, the Falklands Campaign and in Northern Ireland
L to R: Lt Col Steve Coltman (CO), WO2 (Retd) Dot Williams, Capt Ernest Williams and The Rev Spears who conducted the Service

The CO presenting Sgt Heather Kenny (93 Sqn) with the Sivell Trophy, awarded annually to the best young SNCO

DINING OUT LT COL S. A. COLTMAN

The evening of Friday 20 January was the occasion to say farewell to the Commanding Officer when he was dined out in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. He was presented with an item of sturdy garden furniture—does this mean he will be taking gardening leave prior to assuming his new appointment at the Ministry of Defence?

Cpl Wright 64 Sqn (The CO's double and used when it is considered to be too dangerous for the CO to appear personally) demanded to know why there was a function in progress on his badminton court.

At the end of the evening **Lt Col Coltman** presented the Mess with a pair of wine flagons to mark his departure. The RSM, **WO1 Don McLennan** ignored **WO1 (YofS) Bodimeade**'s whispered question 'are they full?'.

71 (Yeo) Sig Regt (V)
Bromley

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS DINNER NIGHT

Venue: Crowborough Training Camp; 28 January.

The dining in of our CO **Lt Col A. P. Verey TD**.
The dining out of our QM **Maj Ron Acott** and the dining out of **Sgt Chris Heyward**.

To the sound of a lone piper the mess assembled, sipping sherry.
'Dinner is served' and some already feeling merry,
But hidden away in the RSM's bunk,
Were four old comrades slowly getting drunk,
Grace was said and we all sat down
Less the RSM who stood and stared with his devious frown,
'Gentlemen' before we commence 'A surprise is in store'
For our Quartermaster, so please open the door.
In through the door came the surprise guests,
Our QM's jaw sank low and he bellowed 'you jest',
Lt Col Fred Orr was the first to emerge
Followed by **Maj Ken Hatfield** who entered with a surge,
Maj Bill Price came in going at full throttle,
And last but not least was **Maj Paddy Stringer**
Still clutching an empty Glenfiddich bottle.

The surprise was clearly seen on **Maj Ron**'s face and after his initial shock we settled down to enjoy a good meal in good company to excellent music. Our President, **WO1 (RSM) Bob McKenzie** welcomed our Commanding Officer into the Sergeants' Mess and our Commander made a sharp and witty reply. We then bade a farewell to **Sgt Chris Heyward** after 22 years service in the Corps.

Rear Row (Left to Right): Lt Cols F. Orr (Retd), A. P. Verey TD, WO1 (RSM) J. R. McKenzie, Majs V. Hayward, (Retd) P. Stringer and K. Hatfield (Retd)
Front Row (Left to Right): Capt (PSAO) J. Esson, Majs (Retd) R. Acott and B. Price

A very successful evening for our Regiment. Special thanks to our Adjt, **Capts Jeremy Wilson, (PSAO) Jim Esson** and our RSM, **WO1 Bob McKenzie**, also to the lads and lasses of 265 (KCLY) Sig Sqn for their hard work.

It then fell to the President to bid farewell to **Maj Ron Acott** who has served for 38 years. We were all sad that the moment had come, but we shall see him again as he has been made an honorary member

of the Mess. A big thank you to our special guests for attending, and to the band of the RA who incidently played our Corps March on the violin so sweetly. The evening was a great success and rumour has it that some saw dawn breaking.

CONGRATULATIONS
To **WO2 (YofS) S. McMahon** on being selected for his WO1. To 265 Sig Sqn on a good run in the TA Football.

BON VOYAGE
To our 2IC, **Maj Acda** who leaves us to Command 38 Sig Regt (V).

WELCOME
Sgt Ginge Robinson from his T1 Course at Catterick.

70 (ESSEX YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON
TROOP PERSONALITIES

OC TAOR Tp	**Lt Paul Wooler**
Troop SSgt	**SSgt Dee Brooking**
Troop Sgt	**Sgt John Bell**
PSI	**Sgt Keith Bolton**

USAF GLOBAL VIII VOLKSMARCH—RAF LAKENHEATH
Saturday 1 October 1988 dawned bright and sunny and the team from 881, 882 and TAOR Tps soon found that warm vehicles were a better place to spend a cold morning than yomping around a 20km route.

With a promise of a 'gong' for all those who completed the march, **Lt Paul Wooler** eventually motivated the team to assemble at the start point and begin the 'fun event'. The team soon split into the 'Whippets' and the 'Wanderers' and began to overtake the earlier starting US Airmen who were out for a stroll.

If motivation was needed the thought of the pub-stop at the halfway point was enough and this was soon reached. **Cpl Mick Fidgeon** and the Whippets decided a quick pint of amber nectar was enough and soon sped off, almost leaving **Pte Terry Jones** behind. Many of the Wanderers decided to take advantage of the new licencing laws and looked set for the afternoon until **SSgts Dee Brooking** and **Mark Bell** spoiled their fun.

On the way back many began to question why they were there, why they were carrying CEFO and why the Army doesn't provide boots with four inch soft rubber soles. Many also proved that the weight of the pack is inversly proportional to the remaining distance and the amount of sweat produced is directly proportional to the speed of the march.

The finish point loomed large in the form of the Rod and Gun Club and soon all were inside making up the lost liquid and proudly displaying the enormous medal to the bemusement of the Club Members who had decided not to march.

The oversized medals commemorated the C-54 Skymaster and the Berlin Airlift and soon requests were flooding in for permission to wear it on Remembrance Day.

Team Leader, **Lt Paul Wooler**, was soon trying to drum up support for next year but stopped when **LCpl Sharon Burton** gave him 10 good reasons why she could find something else to do.

A good day was had by all, but where were 907 Tp!!

The Summer was also a time to say farewell and welcome. Farewell to the PSI, **Sgt Chris Heyward** who leaves the Army soon with the Troop's best wishes for the future. We also say welcome to **Sgt Keith Bolton** and hope we don't drive him too mad in the next couple of years.

Troop **SSgt Bob Lodge** was found guilty at the end of camp court of a variety of charges, including flapping far too often, and was banished to the stores to become SQMS, and we welcome back to Harlow **SSgt Dee Brooking** as his replacement. Congratulations also go to **Sig Mark Middleton** and **Richard Turnham** on their recent promotions.

NEWS FROM THE TROOPS—HARLOW TROOPS
The Summer proved to be a busy time at Harlow for 882 and TAOR Tps and also a time for change. Much of the training centred on preparing for Ex Eastern Shield, Eastern District's Home Defence Exercise, but the Troops also found time to compete in the Champion Detachment Competition.

The competition came to a blazing finale on Hankley Common during the Troop exercise during August.

Many of the Troop remembered the last exercise on Hankley Common (now renamed Ex Fly Swot) and went prepared with truck loads of insect repellant.

Highlight of the exercises was the Platoon Attack at last light against Troop HQ, consisting of **SSgts Dee Brooking, Vic Facinni** (from the Harlow ACF), **Sgt John Bell**, and **Pte Terry Jones**. **Sgt Bell** decided that an aerial view would be best but nearly fell from his nest in the tree when **Cpl Steve Wair** and his fire support section let loose their rounds. The Harlow ACF attached to the Troop firing more blank rounds than they had ever seen in their lives. The Troop Commander, **Lt Paul Wooler** declared the battle a victory but **Pte Terry Jones** swears he shot him at least five times.

The Sunday morning Patrol Competition finished off the Champion Detachment Competition and congratulations to **Cpl Mick Fidgeon** and **LCpl Tony Perry** for leading their Detachment to victory.

Ex Eastern Shield found the Harlow Troops spread all over East Anglia in a variety of locations. It was soon found the best way to judge the popularity of the locations was to enquire as to the standard of the food, and few would argue that Colchester won.

The workload at each location varied and **Sgt John Bell** and **LCpl Mark Middleton** found that 50 games of Backgammon was more boring than lack of traffic.

EMPLOYERS RECEPTION—BEXLEYHEATH TAC
A reception and presentation on the role of the local Reserve Forces was held at our TAC on 29 November 1988.

The hosts were The Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, **Field Marshal Lord Bramall GCB, OBE, MC, JP**, together with the representative Deputy Lieutenant of Bexley, **Mr J. R. French DL**, and his Worship The Mayor of Bexley, **Councillor J. N. Harrington DL** who received the guests. They came from a very wide sphere of Councillors, Rotary Clubs, Youth Leaders, Education Authorities and Business firms locally. After being greeted by their hosts they saw the film 'A Profitable Partnership'.

A series of stands were set up and over a snack and wine the guests toured the displays asking various questions of the soldiers who were representing: 100 (Yeomanry) Field Regt RA, 71 (Yeomanry) Sig Regt, 10 Bn Para Regt, 1/51 (London Scottish) Highland Volunteers, 217 (London) General Hospital RAMC.

The Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, Field Marshal Lord Bramall talking to Cpls Watts and Whitehouse of 265 (KCLY) Sig Sqn (V), Conrad Stand

Photo by courtesy of Kentish Times

News from Squadrons

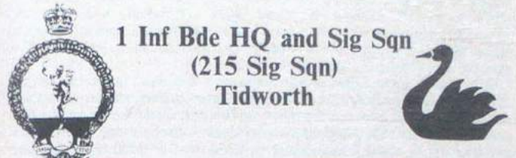
1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215 Sig Sqn) Tidworth

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj A. W. Russ**
2IC	**Capt B. P. Avison**
Adjt	**Maj S. C. Firbank LI**
QM	**Maj S. Hargreaves**
Tfc Offr	**Capt D. I. Gilchrist**
OC A Tp	**Capt M. S. Castle-Smith**
OC B Tp	**Lt I. Hooper**
OC C Tp	**Capt R. G. Mather**
TCO	**Capt K. E. Meakin RCT**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) F. S. Payet**
FofS	**WO1 (FofS) D. C. A. Ellis**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) C. Newby**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt (ORSQMS) D. C. Flynn**

Several 'major' changes have taken place in the Squadron line up for 1989. The Squadron says farewell to **Maj John Ewbank** who leaves after two years in command.

We wish **John** and **Denise** all the best for their tour in PB11 (grovel, grovel). The new OC **Maj Tony Russ** joins us from the MOD and hopefully by the time this goes to print he will have found a quarter in Tidworth. Also new is **WO1 (RSM) Fred Payet** already well known in certain parts of Thetford—just when you thought it was safe to go ba[illegible]n the drill square!



Maj J. K. Ewbank hands over the Squadron to Maj Tony Russ

EXERCISE BLACK CYGNET AND EXERCISE BLACK SWAN
The new year started with two Squadron exercises designed to practise and prove communications, movement and defence drills in the field. Ex Black Cygnet was a Troop level exercise which allowed Troop commands the opportunity of ironing out all those 'technical hitches' away from the eye of the Squadron hierarchy. The exercise was both useful and necessary—Bold Grouse seemed a long time ago. Ex Black Swan was the first real chance for the new Officer Commanding Squadron and Regimental Sergeant Major to observe the unit deployed in the field. With visits by the staff and new Brigadier as well the emphasis was on 'getting it right'. As the Troop recce elements deployed several pertinent questions were asked.

Would OC A deploy to the correct location this time? would Officer Commanding B dissuade the ever reliable **LCpl Black** from a tour of London? ('It's OK Sir I know the route'). Would Officer Commanding C resist the temptation to prove the amphibious qualities of his FFR and would the Troop Commander regret his decision to forsake his ¾ Ton GS vehicle and deploy on a nifty two wheel Armstrong? Fortunately or unfortunately, depending on your view, the answer to all four questions was yes.

By Monday evening all elements had deployed to their initial locations on Stanford Training area and a series of change of commands, moves into hides and subsequent locations followed. With everything running smoothly **WO1 (RSM) Fred Payet** decided to visit the Radio Relay locations. The Regimental Sergeant Major's comment that he had 'sorted them out' raised several eyebrows 'them'—only one had deployed. If any Radio Relay Operators from York are reading—now you know! A return visit from **WO1 (RSM) Jerry Hegarty** caused similar confusion. As he left the location he took, caught on his bumper, a length of D10, attached to which was a roll of D10, attached to which was **LCpl Gary Radcliffe**. C Troop would like him back please. At Brigade Main good use was made of the opportunity to introduce new faces to 'different' equipment. **LCpl Spud Murphy** remained 'psyched out' by the AUTO 40, **Sig Piff Lyons** was 'wound up' about the SPU and **Sig Budgie Falconer** spent several hours instructing **WO2 YofS Chris Newby** on the difference between 'broadcast and intercom'.

Meanwhile Sqn Echelon had their own problems. Evicted from their first location they set up in another only to find further movement made impossible by climatic conditions, in the form of a large bank of 'dark'. Fortunately the problem was anticipated by a 'senior member of Ech' and avoided by moving early.

The exercise culminated with the visit of the new Bde Comd, **Brig J. F. Deverell OBE**. The Commander visited Brigade Main and Tac and HQ FMA. Shortly afterwards a different kind of culmination was exercised by the Combined Troop Hit Squad to celebrate OC B Troop, **Lt Ivan Hooper's** last Brigade exercise. A sumptuous 'feast' consisting of egg specials and various sauces was laid on with 'Blueberet Pie'—a UKMF speciality to follow.

LS & GC PRESENTATION
Congratulations to **Sgt Andy Hunter, Cpl Neil Portlock** and **Cpl 'Rocky' Hilton** pictured here with their families after receiving LS & CG Medals from **Brig Jack Deverell**, Comd UKMF.

Brig J. F. Deverell, Comd UKMF with the medal recipients and their families

ADVENTURE TRAINING
'Escape from Tidworth' remains as popular a pastime as ever, some of the more recent endeavours include:-

EXERCISE AUTUMN WAVE
Ex Autumn Wave originally started life as a two week Troop adventure training exercise within the English Channel, however when the Joint Services Sailing Centre phoned the Officer Commanding Squadron two months before the exercise was due to begin, asking whether we could deliver the boat to Sardinia, we jumped at the chance, with visions of sun drenched beaches, golden tans and some gentle sailing. Little did we realise what Neptune was conjuring up for us . . . !

As the boat, HMSTC *Sabre*, a Nicholson 55' yawl, had recently completed an extended voyage around the world, she had had a minor refit. The first leg of Autumn Wave was therefore limited to the Solent, Cherbourg, Weymouth and Poole, whilst the Skipper **Simon Salter**, ensured that all was well with the boat. The crew, however, was having a mixed variety of emotions. When the leader break of the Starboard watch, **Mark Castle-Smith**, emerged, with his crew, to be greeted with 'the sight' of the entire port watch, led by **Chris Newby**,

leaning over the leeward rail, looking and feeling a shade green it was generally acknowledged as being rough! Such moments, however, were easily forgotten, when visiting the memorable 'Frog and Frigate' pub in Southampton, where any one who would listen, was bombarded with the heroic feats of HMSTC *Sabre* that were shortly to be undertaken on a record breaking round-the-world trip! When HMSTC *Sabre* crew returned to the same pub a week later, and met up with the same company, the boasts and wishful thinking of a week earlier were much regretted!

Taking advantage of a duty free run to Cherbourg—and that's only the Skipper's

Drying out after returning from a F8 in the Channel

Moving well past Portugal with thoughts of Med not far away

Phase two of the exercise started well, the aim being to arrive at Puerto Banus, in Southern Spain by 5 November. Favourable winds made the Skipper decide to cross the Bay of Biscay without the planned stop to Cherbourg. The decision seemed a good one, with excellent progress and steady winds, until we were about 150 miles SSW of Brest, France. Neptune woke, stretched, yawned, saw HMSTC *Sabre* and decided to have some fun. Within half an hour the winds had increased from a steady F4-5 (about 20 knots) to a F10 gusting F11 (up to 63 knots!)

When the engine failed to start, due to a flooded starter motor, all three bilge pumps failed, the batteries started failing, the storm trysail started to tear away from the mast, navigation instruments and radios ceased working, the Skipper decided that someone, somewhere did not like us! A tactical withdrawl to Brest was decided upon, as this was the only certain place where we could find a spare starter motor and put the boat to rights. One week later we left Brest, having worked hard putting the boat to rights. Neptune having had his fun then allowed us a superb sail to Puerto Banus, stopping off only at Bayona and Gibraltar. We arrived with two days to spare, allowing plenty of time to explore the very expensive delights of night-time Puerto Banus. We all learnt a great deal about heavy weather sailing, but secretly wished we could have learnt more about sailing in shorts under a boiling sun in the Med!

Leg 3, in contrast, spent 22 days visiting 14 Ports, all in the Med and ending up in Cagliari, Sardinia. Weather conditions varied from drifting, sunbathing, to one memorable F8-9 sail from Port Soller (Mallorca) to Port Mahon (Menorca). An enjoyable leg which ended by handing over the boat to the RAF to return it to England.

A FEW MEMORABLE QUOTES

Day 1. 'Very buoyant these boats, aren't they?' Anon.

Calm day. 'I could take to this sailing'. **LCpl Sommerville.**

Rough day. 'Let me off this boat'. **LCpl Sommerville.**

Any day. 'I'm only a Signalman, I'm not supposed to know about boats'. Anon.

Two nights after dragging anchor. 'Why do we need an anchor watch anyway?' Anon.

F9 gale. 'Why do we keep sailing up and down, why don't we just stop'. Anon.

In summary, a much enjoyed expedition, which enabled 30 members of the Squadron to experience off shore sailing in all its facets; at times, truly adventurous!

EXERCISE SOLENT SALLY

Ex Solent Sally took SHQ Tp on an Adventure Training Exercise to the briny shores of Southampton water.

We arrived at Netley Sailing Club mid morning of 17 October. Local people walking around the country park looked on in amazement as windsurfers and canoes were unloaded. The locals must have thought that we all should have been at the local Mental Hospital rather than the Sailing Club.

The events kicked off after lunch on the Monday with the canoeists and dinghy sailors taking to the water whilst the windsurfers preferred to stay on dry land until the temperature of the water had been confirmed!

LCpl 'Chippy' Carpenter was the first of the canoeists who, through chattering teeth and shouts of 'capsize', confirmed the water was 'warmish'. However, this assurance that the water was not as cold as it looked still didn't tempt the windsurfers on to the water until the following day.

Canoe Instructor Cpl 'Ginge' McDermott demonstrates the correct way of doing it whilst Cpl 'Bod' Barr contemplates taking his dinghy for 'walkies'!

The next day saw the canoeists set off to explore the river Hamble, and the delights of 'Howards Way' country. They were soon hit by bad weather and had to retreat to the nearest shelter, which just happened to be a pub. Soon the bar was full of intrepid tales (some short, some tall). The senior instructor **QMSI George Bryson** forgot that he had a glass in his hand when he demonstrated 'a slap for support' with a wet result.

Wednesday saw the first clash of the week between the windsurfers and dinghy sailors. We had all been told the 'old rule of the sea' power gives way to sail, but when it's sail against sail who gives way to who? The dinghy sailors had been told to give way to anyone on a starboard tack. However **Cpl Gerry Killeen** was unsure which was port and which was starboard and windsurfer **Capt Dave Gilchrist** was about to find out. Cries of 'give way' were heard from both parties. However, the dinghy sailed by. **Cpls Gerry Killeen** and **'Sammy' Samuel-Camps** appeared not to know how to tackle it. A few seconds later a rather wet traffic officer and crew of the dinghy sailed on shouting 'one down four to go'.

Thursday saw the canoeists set out to cross Southampton water to explore Ashford Creek.

Try as they might they could not coax **QMSI George Bryson** from the safety boat. Once reaching Ashford Creek the canoeists knew that they were on a loser. The tide was going out and the safety boat was in danger of being stranded. With the engine dying a death the QMSI became alarmed at the thought of wading through waist deep mud. However two intrepid heroes were on hand to try and save the day. **Cpls 'Ginge' McDermott** and **'Chippy' Carpenter** paddled back to assist when they heard the engine cough back in to life. 'Crash' the so called safety boat raced off down the creek with the retreating tide leaving two up turned canoes and spluttering canoeists in its wake.

After a somewhat disastrous day the canoeists decided that a 'big finale' was called for. So late afternoon saw the rescue boat with **QMSI 'Pugwash' Bryson** at the helm make its approach to Netley Sailing Club. In its wake were the Royal Signals Waterborne Acrobatics Team (aptly named the 'Purple Helmets' so as not to be confused with another well known Signal unit). During a number of runs past an amazed crowd the team performed a number of death defying stunts including the little known Irish two man pyramid.

Ex Solent Sally saw members of the SHQ Tp have an enjoyable and worthwhile week, and I'm sure that Netley Sailing Club will be visited again in the near future.

EXERCISE WELSH SWAN

Ex Welsh Swan was perhaps a misleading title, for the Annual Squadron Battlecamp. 'Sennybridge in Winter' is a phrase that has been known to strike fear into the hearts of many a brave man, but the sun gods were kind and the expected rain and snow failed to materialise.

The Squadron divided in to four Infantry Platoons, deployed straight from Camp during the night of 7 November to a company defensive position. Many valuable lessons were learned—Q: What's the best way to dig a trench? A: Downwards I think! As the harassing attacks of the Orange forces grew in intensity the company prepared to attack the enemy patrol base and put paid to 'Cousins Marauders' once and for all. The infiltration began on the night of 9 November and culminated with a dawn attack in the face of heavy enemy fire and spectacular 'fireworks'—it was November! Four days of rangework followed, including IBSR, CQB, MMT and live ambush and section attack ranges. Also included was familiarisation with the SA80 and LSW prior to the Squadron's issue with the weapons next year. How the exercise Second in Command's beret came to be a Battle casualty during this Phase is still under investigation.

The week drew to a close with the Turner Trophy competition, a series of Military skills and communications stands. They included NBC, arms cache, line laying AFV recognition, vehicle recovery and under the direction of a suspicious looking partisan, a section ambush. The sting in the tail was provided by the less than dry Sennybridge assault course, which produced some unscheduled duckings of Troop Commanders. The winning section was Charlie One led by **Cpl Niel Starkey**, who was presented with the Turner Trophy by **Col Mike Galloway OBE**, Dep Comd 2 Sig Bde.

WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP

We come from two World Wars, Korea, Kenya, Malaya, Aden, Cyprus, Ulster, The Falklands and all those areas of turmoil where peace must be restored.

Now, disabled and mainly aged, we must look to you for help. Please help by helping our Association.

BLESMA looks after the limbless from all the Services. It helps to overcome the shock of losing arms, or legs or an eye. And, for the severely handicapped, it provides Residential Homes where they can live in peace and dignity.

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THE FIRST STEP
by a recent, young double amputee

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Donations and information: The Chairman, National Appeal Committee, BLESMA, Midland Bank PLC, 60 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9DX

BLESMA
BRITISH LIMBLESS EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj C. L. G. Wright**
2IC/Ops Offr	**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	**2Lt J. J. Cole**
OC M Tp	**WO2 (FofS) P. Gaffney**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) A. K. Harper**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) G. M. McCrindle**
CClk	**SSgt (ORQMS) C. Clark**

SHQ

The New Year marked the start of a new Squadron Orbat and the beginning of a fairly intense workup into the 1989 exercise season.

Alpha and Bravo Tps were allowed to escape the watchful, and ever critical, eyes of the OC and the Ops Team, to exercise initially on their own. The benefits were obvious on the following week's deployment on the Squadron Test Exercise. All of this was brought to the test on the SE District Test Exercise of the Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron on Ex Badree. All performed well and deserved the immediate long weekend which followed. Our thanks to the blokes for their hard work—there is however, always, room for improvement.

With the Squadron hopping from either Op Abogado or Spearhead standby, the possibility of us actually having time to carry out long term planning seems dim. However, we will endeavour to send away as many of the Squadron as possible. The long term forecast at the moment looks bright in patches, with trips available to France, N Africa, Belize, USA and Botswana. There are also the odd cloudy patches with Jocommexs to HMS *Ark Royal* etc. However, as usual, there are some storms approaching, with a plethora of RAAT Tasks and jiff jobs! Not to worry, a long Easter leave is coming up, after which we all start training as a Squadron for the Lanyard Trophy. A hectic period will be had by all!

Lastly, cheers to **SSgt** (now WO2) **Grant Humble** who leaves our Training Wing (after computerising everthing he possibly could) for the SSM job at 244 Sig Sqn (AS). Good luck in your new post, maybe we will still be seeing you on exercise?

A TROOP

OC Tp	**Capt S. R. Workman**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt P. D. Leyman**
OOA RLD	**Sgt R. G. Nixon**
OOA RLD	**Sgt G. K. Cripps**

After Christmas leave the Troop was straight into activity with yet another change of hierarchy before deploying on a Troop warm up exercise prior to the main Squadron Exercise and the Brigade CPX, Ex Badree.

The fastest move of the Headquarters on the Troop exercise was to a hamburger stand when OC A, foolishly, gave his permission to stop for breakfast. The Troop exercise led straight into the Squadron Exercise, which proved good preparation for Ex Badree. A busy time but rumour has it that things will quieten down in 1990. Joke of the month, was asking for sports fees on a Wednesday afternoon!

Welcome back to **Sgt Nixon** (returned from Belize) and **Sgt McGinley** (ex 1 Para R Signals Sgt), just returned from Northern Ireland. Welcome also to **Sig Dick, Cpl Kennedy, Sig Shuck, Johns** who join us from B Tp, and **Sig 'Baldrick' Baldwin** on posting from Catterick.

A fond farewell to **SSgt 'Taff' Leyman** who leaves us at short notice for civvy street, all the best in times ahead. Likewise, cheers to **Sgt Frank Kurthausen** who has swopped with **Sgt McGinley** and is now with 1 Para as R Signals Sgt. A hasty farewell to **Sig McGlashen** to civvy street, but for slightly different reasons.

Congratulations to **Sgt Dick** and **Sig Brown** on successfully completing their jumps course, just the beginning, not the end. Last, but not least, congratulations to **LCpl Corcoran** on his promotion.

B TROOP

OC Tp	**2Lt J. J. Cole**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt F. Hutchinson**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt J. W. O'Driscoll**

1989 has seen the formation of a new Bravo Troop with the necessary re-allocation of radio detachments within the Squadron. The Troop has welcomed the change because it means it will be taking over more of the communications element of the Leading Parachute Battalion Group (LPBG).

The beginning of 1989 has been something of a shock to us with Squadron communication exercises and bergen tabs by the dozen being thrown at us. Whatever happened to the nice slow build up as in days of old? Still, it is all good stuff, especially the bergen tabs, the lads love it, who said masochism is dead in the Airborne Brigade?

On the sporting front the Troop is doing its bit for the Squadron. **Cpls 'Smudge' Smith, Bernie Bernstein** and **Sig Chris Brown** are representing the Squadron at cross country. They helped the team win the South East District Cross Country Championships; well done lads. **Cpl 'Chilly' Chillcot** and **LCpl 'Ez' Ezard** are doing so well at football that they should get their England call up soon, or so **'Chilly'** says.

A sad farewell to former Troop stalwarts. **Cpl Dai Reynolds** has gone to civvy street to make his fortune, **LCpl Taff Thomas** has been posted to 7 Sig Regt, and **LCpl Stig Stanmore** is on resettlement leave getting himself prepared for civilian life. Good luck to all of you.

A quick hello to **2Lt Guy Bennett** who is attached to the Squadron for a few weeks. He has proved to be the worlds leading authority on the 'Elevated Satcom Antenna' after lessons from **Maj Chris Wright**, and, it is not a joke, it worked a treat.

Away from the Troop are **Cpl Nigel Jones** who is in Northern Ireland and **LCpl Olly Oliver** who is roughing it in the Bahamas; all right for some.

Congratulations on the promotions of **LCpls Brown** and **Hails**.

M TROOP

OC Tp	**WO2 (FofS) P. Gaffney**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt J. S. Black**
IC Radio	**Sgt N. Preston**
IC TE	**Sgt J. A. Lockert**

Life in M Troop is as usual, long hours and poor pay. **Sgt Nick Preston** is tearing his hair out with all the pressure and has gone from a level headed young man to an aged gibbering heap. **Cpl Jim Hamill** has almost completed version three of the Ops Monitor Box, he works at a phenomenal rate soldering on at least two wires per hour, keep up the good work, **Jim**.

Well done to **LSgt George Crozier, Cpl Dave Chapman** and **Cpl Matt Wrigley** who passed their T1 entrance exams with good grades. All the hours of chalk and talk with the Foreman paid off, even though it seemed hell at first.

The M Troop gladiators are hard at it representing the Squadron at sport. **WO2 (FofS) Paul Gaffney, Sgt John Black, Cpls Matt Wigley, Kenny Read** and **Andy Paton** playing for the Squadron football team. **Sgt John Black** is our top goal scorer, I wonder how many he would score if he was not always on the treatment bench? **Sgt Nick Preston** and **Cpl 'Porky' Fearn** are training hard for the cross country team, good luck in the Army Championships lads.

Congratulations to **Sig Cuz Currie** whose wife has just given birth to a little boy, looks like lots of sleepless nights and wet nappies. Also congratulations to **Cpls Jerry McGovern** and **Fred Hargreaves** on their recent promotions, hope you pass P Coy this time **Fred**, and a sad farewell to **Cpl Matt Wigley**.

EXERCISE FULL CIRCLE

Ex Full Circle was the OC's opportunity to stand back and let the Troops plan and deploy on exercise, proving to him that Ops and heirarchy are of no consequence. Alas poor Yorrick!

Maj Chris Wright (OC), 2Lt John Cole (OC B Tp), Brig J. O. C. Alexander (Comd 2 Sig Bde)
OC B Tp receives the Inter Troop Comms Shield

Alpha Tp deployed and established a full HF Circle (hence the name of the exercise). However, at their bread and butter, but they failed the VHF Circle. But to Alpha Tp's credit, they won almost all of the other stands/tests (sounds like the Comd's Cup!).

Bravo Tp, on the other hand, scored the reverse of Alpha. It had good VHF but poor HF comms. But, despite losing the majority of the stands/tests, they gained sufficient overall points to pip Alpha to the post.

The presentation of the Inter-Troop Comms Shield was made by Comd 2 Sig Bde whilst he was on his visit. Well done Bravo Tp, let's see if you can repeat this performance next time. Try to get your Execution Paragraph following the Orders Aide Memoire!

FAREWELL TO BRIG D. R. CHAUNDLER OBE

Brig David Chaundler Comd 5 AB Bde was invited to the Squadron to receive a thank you and farewell from his 'Airborne Signallers.' The visit started with the Squadron parading on Arnhem Square for the presentations to **WO2 (YofS) Mac McCrindle** and **SSgt Grant Humble** of their Long Service and Good Conduct medals—for 15 years of undetected crime. Congratulations to both of you.

EXERCISE WINTER WARRIOR

Ex Winter Warrior turned out to be a real treat for four lucky members of the Squadron. **Sigs Kev Hook, Jase Tinnion, Gaz Shuck** and **Pte George Parker RPC** threw away their army greens and dressed themselves in gaudy ski attire for their ski holiday in Wertach, a beautiful village in Bavaria, West Germany.

The first day of skiing turned out to be an eye opener for our keen but green novices with all the students attempting to become downhill racers to the peril of the local German population. The first to come a cropper was **Sig 'Banzi' Tinnion** who was forever using his nose as a snow brake. He was followed closely by **Sig Shuck** who was offput by the fact that he did not have a hand brake to slow himself down, he was soon to learn what his posterior was for.

As the days of tuition passed our young novices progressed well and earned themselves the Bronze Award. The Course finished with the usual slalom race in which **Sig Tinnion** came a respectable fourth.

WO2 (YofS) G. M. McCrindle receives his LS & GC Medal from Comd 5 AB Bde

SSgt G. Humble receives his LS & GC Medal from Comd 5 AB Bde

The Squadron then retired to the Squadron Club to have a drink with the Brigadier and share a few old wartime stories. The Brigadier was asked to award stripes to some of our new promotions, **Cpl Tom Keville, LCpls 'Ikky' Grattrick** and **'Abbo' Welch**. The gathering came to an end with **Maj Chris Wright** and **Cpl 'Smudge' Smith** (the Brigadier's operator) presenting the Brigadier with mementos of his Airborne Signal Squadron.

Cpl Smudge Smith presents Brig Chaundler with a farewell present from the lads

BRIGADE SPORTS WEEK

The Brigade Sports Week in December 1988 can not go down in the annals of the Squadron History as a success, we came second (a 1988 habit!). However when you consider we were on exercise as a Squadron right up to the first event and only lost to the Brigade Logistic Battalion (twice our size) you could be excused for thinking it wasn't a bad effort. Of particular note was the Swimming Competition.

The Brigade Sports Week Swimming Competition took place at Gibraltar Barracks on 7 December. Major and Minor Units took part in the same event with separate races and medals. The Squadron literally threw a team together at the last moment, even the OC **Maj Wright** was volunteered at a moment's notice to complete the team. **LCpl McGovern**, who was a spectator, was given a pair of trunks and won his event (backstroke) convincingly in 'Corps Standard', well done **Jerry**.

The Minor Unit Trophy was won by the Signal Squadron. We won every event except one. We let them have it, as a token gesture! All team members just turned up at a moments notice and swam to their best ability, and in doing so were a credit to themselves and the Unit. Next year the OC wants us to enter the Army competition. A well done to everybody involved.

Back Row L to R: LCpl Woody Wood, Sgt John Lockert, Cpl Q. Rose and LCpl (now Cpl) 'Corps Standard' Gerry McGovern
Front Row L to R: Sig Jonah Jones, Cpls Andy Paton, Smudge Smith and Maj Chris Wright (OC Sqn)

EXERCISE WHITE OUT

Ex White Out was a ski mountaineering expedition to the Austrian Alps with the aim of climbing the Wildspitze using ski mountaineering techniques. Due to the lack of suitably qualified volunteers the aim had to be modified to allow less experienced skiers and novices to come on the expedition. The expedition finally set out with two groups, one of experienced skiers and one of novice skiers, with the flexible aim to trying to get as many expedition members to the top of the Wildspitze as possible. This was to prove a very ambitious aim. The team was as follows:-

Capt Scott Workman, Lt Bobby Thompson, Sgt John Allan, Cpls Kenny Read, M. Henderson, Dave Kennedy, Scott Davidson, LCpls Simon Clark, Ferg Rennie, Nigel Stanmore, Shaun Taylor, Pte Eddy Newell and Alpine Guide **Victor Vivolinie**.

The expedition planning involved co-ordination between JSMTC Silberhutte and the UK Alpine Mountaineering Club and thanks must go to both these organisations for both help and advice in abundance. As with all expeditions the first priority is to work out how you are going to get there and how much it is going to cost. The latter proved a critical factor as no grant was available from Corps funds, due to the lateness of our bid, a point to note for other would-be expedition planners, if you want money from the Corps you must apply at least six months in advance.

It was decided to travel by minibus and HQ 5 AB Bde acquired a mini bus by using a few favours. We are grateful to those concerned and pleased to see the old boy network is still in operation.

Ski mountaineering is a mixture of ski towing and basic mountaineering skills, it requires a proficient level of skiing and the ability to navigate and possibly survive in a winter environment. Skiing in the mountains is a potentially dangerous activity and it is important that any group planning a ski mountaineering trip has a suitably qualified guide and also plans a period of downhill skiing, both to assess the skill of the group and to brush out the cobwebs. This we did, but the weather was to prove the deciding factor.

Having acquired the mini bus we set off on our 18 hour drive to Solden in Austria. Useful tips here are, the Services Travel Centre offers 50% reductions on cross channel ferries for Adventurous Training Expeditions and the AA provide an excellent Route Planner Service and also equipment hire for items such as snow chains, warning triangle etc.

The journey down was long and the mini bus was well loaded. On arrival we moved into our self catering accommodation and set about making contact with the guide and purchasing lift passes to start Phase One of the expedition.

The aim of Phase One was to refresh those who could ski and teach those who could not and also introduce basic ski mountaineering skills, including ski techniques, rescue procedures, survival principles etc. The report from the guide was not good, there had been a lot of fresh snow and the avalanche threat was high. Nevertheless we pressed on with Phase One with enthusiasm and under **Cpl Dave Kennedy**'s direction the novices were soon making steady progress downhill, although not always under control.

Phase One ended with all expedition members having achieved the necessary background skills and skiing ability to take on a trip into the mountain area. However, our efforts were to be thwarted by the weather.

The weather closed in to 'pea soup' conditions with fresh snow and strong winds. The guide advised that we did not attempt to go into the mountain area because of the avalanche threat. We took his advice and waited for the weather to clear. We hoped that in the four days we had remaining a window of opportunity might appear, luck, however, was not on our side.

Despite this last minute disappointment the expedition was a great success. Twelve soldiers spent two weeks in Austria learning the basic skills of ski mountaineering, seven of them had never skied before. The ideal time to attempt a ski mountaineering trip of this nature is in March, when the weather is more settled. However, unit commitments did not allow us to pick our time. In summary, a rewarding and enjoyable time was had by all.

The A Team
L to R: Capt Scott Workman, Cpls Dave Kennedy, Kenny Reid, Sgt John Alan and LCpl Shaun Taylor

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227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT)
BFPO 18

These notes are being written during the aftermath of Carnival, a time when the local population of South Limburg let their hair down and thoroughly enjoy themselves for four days. We, as full members of the community, join in. The whole exercise demands 100% effort as the Dutch really go to town for Carnival. Our *Wire* notes, therefore, are likely to be more incoherent than usual this month.

NATIONAL TROOP

It is therefore an opportunity to put National Tp in the spotlight for a change.

PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn (Part time)	**Maj Brian Robinson**
2IC Sqn/OC Tp	**Capt Carol O'Nians WRAC**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) 'Taff' Williams**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Bill McIntyre**
Trg NCO	**Sgt Mick McDonald**
Pay	**Sgt Andy Pagdin RAPC**
Chief Clerk	**Sgt John Bryant**
MT NCO	**Cpl Dave Tuck**
UAO	**Cpl Keith Townsin**
Store Acct	**Cpl Angus MacPherson**
MT	**LCpl Ivan Gibson**
MT	**LCpl Pete Bird**
MT	**Sig Chris Hunt**
Typist	**Mrs Nikki Oxenham**
Civ Storeman	**Mr Joe Dupont**

Maj Brian Robinson spends a lot of his time trying to keep up with two jobs; he is also Commander AFCENT Alternate War HQ Comms Sqn. He is, of course, looking forward to the cricket season. **Capt O'Nians** continues her pursuit of orienteering. With the aid of her escape committee, she is planning an adventurous training exercise to Sardinia in April—early suntan seekers!

The SSM, **WO2 'Taff' Williams** certainly needs no introduction; he polices the corridors of power when he's not muttering to himself 'I must do something about improving my golf handicap'; he also achieved 13th place in the recent Rhine Army Bowling Championships. **Sgt Andy Pagdin** and **Cpl Keith Townsin** beaver away in the Unit Admin Office. Their efforts do not go unnoticed as they attempt to keep control of PAMPAS before it begins to control them. Andy finds time to represent the RAPC at rugby and orienteering. **Nikki Oxenham** (who is married to a Blue Job, but we don't mind, really) does all our typing including these notes. **Sgt Mick McDonald** has now well and truly got his feet under the table in the Training Office and has found to his cost there is more involved with the job than he bargained for. He also runs the Squadron PRI, but he will leave all this behind him shortly for a holiday at Catterick to attend his RSSSC. We wish him well. **SSgt (SQMS) Bill McIntyre**, since the arrival of his new sidekick, **Cpl Angust MacPherson** has carried out a reorganisation of the SQMS stores and found things we didn't even know we had. At the time of writing **Bill** is laid up for a rest in RAF Hospital Wegberg, being pampered by the nursing staff. We wish him a speedy recovery. **Cpl Dave Tuck**, when not representing the Corps at football, attempts to control his crew of drivers and vehicles. **LCpl Pete Bird** and **Sig Chris Hunt** carry out the details, including the hazardous job of driving the kindergarten bus. **Sig Chris Hunt** has also found time to get married; we wish **Erica** a happy married life, and welcome her to the Squadron. Our best wishes go to **Cpl Dave Tuck** and his family on their posting to the UK. **LCpl Ivan Gibson** has been a real stalwart during his tour with the Troop, both as MT Details NCO and lately as the 'Odd Job Man' around SHQ. Our thanks and best wishes also go to him and his wife, **Caroline** as he embarks on a career in civilian life. We must also not forget the longest serving member of the Squadron, Storeman **Joe Dupont** who soldiers on giving us all the benefit of his local knowledge. We also administer the Postal Staff FPO 18, and we welcome the new Postmaster General Maastricht area, **WO2 Gerry Howell** and his family and hope they enjoy their tour here. He is ably assisted by **Sgt Tony Senior** and **Cpl Rick Ellis**. **Tony Senior** leaves at Easter on promotion to Staff Sergeant and posting to Northern Ireland. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his support and wish him and his family all the best in the future. We wish the departed PMG, **WO2 Geoff Willoughby** all the best in Belize, where he will have arrived by the time this is published.

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

We say farewell to **Sgt Grimsley, LCpl Thomas** and their families on posting; and to **Cpl Cotton** on discharge. We wish them all the very best for the future. We also welcome **Sgts Ley, Strefford, Cpl Bailey, Sig Brady** and **Pigott**; and hope they and their families enjoy their stay.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go to: **WO1 (FofS) Graham Atkinson** on selection for commissioning, **WO2 (FofS) Dave Gorse** on selection for promotion to Warrant Officer 1, **SSgt (YofS) Keith Glasby** on selection for promotion to Warrant Officer 2, **Sgt** and **Mrs Bill McCreath** on the birth of their son **Kyle, Sgt** and **Mrs Chris Harvey** on the birth of their daughter **Hannah** and **Cpl** and **Mrs Nigel Ellery** on the birst of their son **Dennis**.

HQ AFCENT is preparing for Ex 'Wintex'; the HQ will have to rough it in a German holiday camp for the next two weeks!

238 (London) Sig Sqn
Chelsea Barracks

EXERCISE SCOTTISH WARRIOR
by Capt Mike Dunn

Ex Scottish Warrior was planned in September to take place at the end of January when the Cairngorms would be covered in snow, but like all the best laid plans of mice and men it was not to be.

Firstly, thanks to **LCpl Tony Lynch** and **Sig 'Gandhi' Garlick** who we committed to detour to Stirling to pick up our four tonners worth of skis and equipment. Secondly, many thanks to **Pte 'Cyclops' Rowley** for her sporting gesture whilst watching that well known cultural film 9½ Weeks!

The exercise was held together by **Lt Simon Lingard** and **SSgt Pete Keeling**, who provided the Mountain Walking and Top Rope and Abseiling elements of our skiing trip. Other well recced activities included Clay Pigeon shooting where **Pte Sarah Howells** proved she could get her target—no inference intended **Sig 'Stud' Webster**, and pony trekking led by **Sgt Tracy Dodd**.

The most enjoyable element of our skiing exercise was the mountain bike riding. Well, to be precise, I enjoyed watching **Sgts Matthews** and **Hall** falling down the mountain side.

The ice skating revealed the latent talents of **Pte Kay Durrant** and **Sig** 'Primadonna' **Runchman** as a ballet dancer and potential GBH merchant, or should that be the other way round?

No good skiing trip is without its swimming element, a facility used most often by **Ptes Sharpe** and **Webb**.

Finally, special thanks to **Cpl 'Cooky' Shaw** from 31 Sig Regt (V) whose culinary delights rival my originality in nick names!

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

After 24 years service in the Army we bade a fond farewell to **WO2 (YofS) Mal Channing**. We wish you and your wife **Hilary** the very best for the future. Good luck for the future also goes to **Sgt Dougie** and

Leslie Robertson, Cpls Kerry Gill, Steve James, Pte Sharon and **Rick Allmark, Ptes Glynis** and **Adrian Jordan, Helen Russell, Sig John Rawnsley** and **Brian Campbell**, who have all recently left for 'civvy street'.

We welcome our new YofS **WO2 George Ralph** and his wife **Zdenka** and **Sgt Ian** and **Winnie Barnes, Cpls Karla Rayment, Simon Newton, LCpl Mick Plumb, Pte Heather Kilgour, Sigs John Hood, George Norton** and **David** and **Elaine Plunkett**. Finally, congratulations to **Sarah Brown** on her recent promotion to Lance Corporal.

A short rest in the wilderness
Left to Right: Pte Sarah Howells (preparing for the silly hat contest), Sgt Tracy Dodd, Capt Therese Crook, Cpl Mandy Brightwell, Mr Don Hall and Sgt Sheila Welland

Meanwhile inside the hut competitors anxiously await the results of the silly hat contest: *L to R:* Mr Don Hall, Pte Kay Durrant, Pte Sandra Rowley and SSgt Pete Keeling

The Chief Clerk Sgt Keith Hearn relaxing off duty. He tells one of his jokes to LCpl Liz Dickinson

244 Sig Sqn (AS)
RAF, Brize Norton

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Rob Symonds**
2IC	**Capt Tom Pengelley**
OC A Tp	**Lt Graham Neal**
OC B Tp	**Capt Ian Bucklow**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Grant Humble**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) Bob Atkinson**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Keith Pywell**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Mick Howells**
CC	**SSgt (ORSQMS) Terry Morrissey**

BRAVO TROOP
A Note from Cpl Steve Whitworth

Bravo Tp is the UKMF Tp of 244 Sig Sqn which deploys primarily in defence of NATO's north western flank, under the leadership of the Troop Commander **Capt 'Invisible' Bucklow.** To help him in this task he is aided by **SSgt Tony Wise, Sgts 'Spanna' Cooper, Terry Frankel, Sy Owen** and **Ken 'Arry' Barker**.

B Tp or 'Bongo' Tp is an exceptionally busy troop; as well as its UKMF role, it is also heavily involved in Jocomexs, Osexs and Facexs. The latter two being live-flying/firing exercises with the RAF.

As well as painting landrovers, for which we now have a competition going, in rare moments between exercises we usually find ourselves on a 'fun' run, to the amazement of our RAF colleagues in TCW (Tactical Communications Wing) who applaud from the sidelines.

There is a lot of hands-on use of radio equipment within the troop and this offers good experience for those tradesmen remaining in the HF role.

The comradeship in the Troop is very high probably due to the diverse and demanding lives that we lead. The sense of humour never fails even at 0300 hrs on a cold January morning when a Squadron call-out is practised, followed by a CFT at 0600 hrs.

A good exercise usually guarantees a couple of 'cultural' evenings to round it off. On such occasions the true nature of the troop is displayed ('What my round again?') especially in Schleswig-Holstein in Germany or Copenhagen in Denmark not to mention Bardufoss (I said not to mention Bardufoss). It is at times like these being a member of the 'Red Hand Gang' has its advantages.

As I am due posting soon I would just like quickly to mention some of the stalwarts of Bongo Tp but **'Basha' Bishop** has eaten my pen. Nevertheless, I will carry on using blood that I bottled after the shame of nearly severing my thumb on a Compo Tin during Ex Bold Grouse; which was just before I broke my ankle at Otmoor Ranges and everyone was so helpful including **Cpl 'Scouse' Pearson** and **Sig Sy Sweatman** who dismantled my webbing and **LCpls Pete Southern** and **'Scouse' Winckle** who offered to carry my flask whilst I hobbled to the transport.

Congratulations to **Al Robins** and his wife on the birth of their baby son and commiserations to **LCpls 'DC' Lee** and **Barnet Elliot** on the removal of the dartboard due to overuse. But most of all to all of the lads of Bongo Tp, long may you prosper.

PS: Early knock-off Staff?

MT/LAD

The year ended with the last major exercise, Tacommex 11 in November and the OC's Military Training Phase which meant for the newest member of the MT/LAD, **Cfn Garry Paterson**, life in 244 would not be a bed of roses as he is now in full training with the Lanyard Trophy Team.

All hands to the grindstone was the order for the New Year when, once again we prepared for the pre-inspection of vehicles. This meant a lot of hard work for all concerned with cleaning, painting, inspections by Troop and MT/LAD, so by the time the Pre-Team arrived we were ready for anything. A few minor faults were found but the end result was total roadworthiness which meant the hard work was not in vain.

Now the Squadron is preparing for this year's first exercise, Tacommex 2 and the initiation of the new MTO, **SSM Grant Humble** into life with the MT/LAD on exercise. So lads let's be careful to keep up our professionalism.

FAREWELLS

Farewells to **SSM Jim Smiley** and **Sig 'Geordy' Fleming** wishing them the best for the future.

251 Sig Sqn
Aldershot

Friday 13 January was indeed an unlucky date for 251 Sig Sqn. It was the occasion of the dining-out of two of its most respected members, **Maj Martin Wilson-Brown** our Squadron Commander and his wife **Angela**, and also, **Capt Nick Naylor** and his wife **Barbara**. **Maj Wilson-Brown** is going on to greater things as 'Mister' and we all wish him the very best for the future. He commanded the Squadron when it was part of 10 Sig Regt and saw it through the rough passage to become an independent squadron. Prior to the dinner which was held in the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess, **Maj Wilson-Brown** presented a LS & GC medal to **SSgt M. I. Parsons**, our Radio Relay Technician.

Capt Nick Naylor is heading for sunnier climes with 262 Sig Sqn but not before he has completed a tour with JCUFI. The Squadron will miss him. His personality and sporting prowess have been much appreciated.

Also on the move in the near future are **Sgt P. J. Old** to Civvy Street, **LCpl Hindley** to Berlin, **Pte Gilbert** to 233 Sig Sqn, and **Sgt A. M. Rutherford** to 16 Sig Regt. Best wishes to them all.

To conclude, we warmly welcome our new Squadron Commander, **Maj R. G. Drake** and his wife **Jackie** and the family and also our new SOO **Maj George Lile**. We hope they enjoy their tour here in Aldershot.

SSgt M. I. Parsons receives his LS&GS medal from Maj Wilson-Brown

254 Sig Sqn (UNFICYP)
BFPO 567

FAREWELL TO MAJ R. F. RUTHERFORD

We said a sad farewell to **Maj Ruairidh Rutherford**, his wife **Colette** and of course the ever popular **Victoria**. The 'event of passing' was well celebrated by everything from parties to special PT sessions and formal parades. We wish the **Rutherfords** all the very best in sunny Catterick and do not doubt Brigade Headquarters is out every Tuesday and Thursday running up and down Scotton Road (or is it?).

We welcome **Maj Jerry Peck** and **Belinda** to our happy condominium in the Buffer Zone and hope you have a happy tour with the Squadron.

Old and New! Maj R. F. Rutherford hands over to Maj J. G. Peck

COURT AND SOCIAL

December saw the Wire Inn hardly ever closing with Troop functions, Gozomie parties, practice gozomie parties and the amazingly successful Squadron Christmas Draw.

The Christmas Draw, superbly orchestrated by entrepreneur **Sgt Graeme Hossell, Cpl Alan Robson** and their working Committee, took place during December 1988. No-one can remember exactly when. Every member of the Squadron and their wives (even MT Flipcon members) won a prize!

January produced a first for the Wire Inn when **Sgts Stan Holden** and **Dave Hartshorne** were presented with LS & GC Medals by the DACOS, CIS, **Lt Col R. C. A. Thwaites**, Royal Signals who was on a visit to the Squadron. The presentation was made in the presence of all Squadron members and their families.

A recent Games Night against the REME Wksps saw the resurgence of the unique Wire Inn Boat Race where the club is padded with live bodies so that 'participants' don't come to too much harm or demolish the club. Canadian **Cpl Bob Dodds** heads the Kamikaze list.

The club goes from strength to strength with the committees working hard improving, entertaining and squeezing money out of **2IC Capt Charlie** (How much?) **Manning**.

On the Court side, **Capt Herwig Mueller**, our attached Austrian officer, continues to amaze with his excuses for speeding.

LS & GC Presentation in the Wire Inn
Back Row (L-R): Sgt Holden, Lt Col Thwaites, Maj Peck and Sgt Hartshorne
Front Row (L-R): Mrs Audrey Holden, Andrew Hartshorne and Mrs Carolina Hartshorne

PERMANENT STAFF

We say cheerio this month to the Chief Clerk, **Sgt Howard Ripley** who has never been to work on a Wednesday. The Sabbath is for rest and Wednesdays are for golf. We wish him and **Jenny** all the best of luck in their tour with 225 Sig Sqn. We welcome to the team **Sgt Ade Rose** and **Karan** from Germany (unfortunately, he's a golfer too!).

COMMCEN TROOP
by LCpl Charlie White

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Troop would like to welcome the following people to the Troop and hope that they have a successful and happy stay with us: **Cpl Mick Ginty, LCpl Chalkie White, Sig Lee Porter, Dange Davies, Clem Clements, Warty Ward, Paul Ackland** and **Chris Jones**.

The Troop would also like to say farewell to the following people who have left the Troop and hope they have a successful 1989: **Cpl Paul Williams** and his wife **Nicky** and son **Daniel, LCpl Steve Epps, Sig Chris Quinn, Mal McLaren** and **Taff Phillips**. A special mention must go to **Mal McLaren**, who, by the time this issue goes to print, could actually have left the Island.

UNFICYP CROSS COUNTRY

All members of the Troop would like to congratulate **Sig Rog Jolly** on becoming the UNFICYP Cross Country Champion, well done.

ST HILARION TRIP
by Cpl Tony 'Quick Draw' McGaw

On 29 December a few members of Commcen Tp, headed by **WO1 (YofS) Hammett** together with **Cpl QD McGaw, Sig Rog Jolly, Chilly Hanrahan, Taff Phillips, Clem Clements** and **John Harding** were joined by **Cpls Bob Dodds** and **Warren Kohls** of the Canadian Contingent attached to Radio Tp plus the Yeomans two sons, and one of their mates on a trip to St Hilarion Castle, which is not far from Kyrenia. We left the UNPA at 1230 hrs via a quick trip to the NAAFI to pick up some light refreshments and made our way to the castle courtesy of some heroic driving from **Clem**.

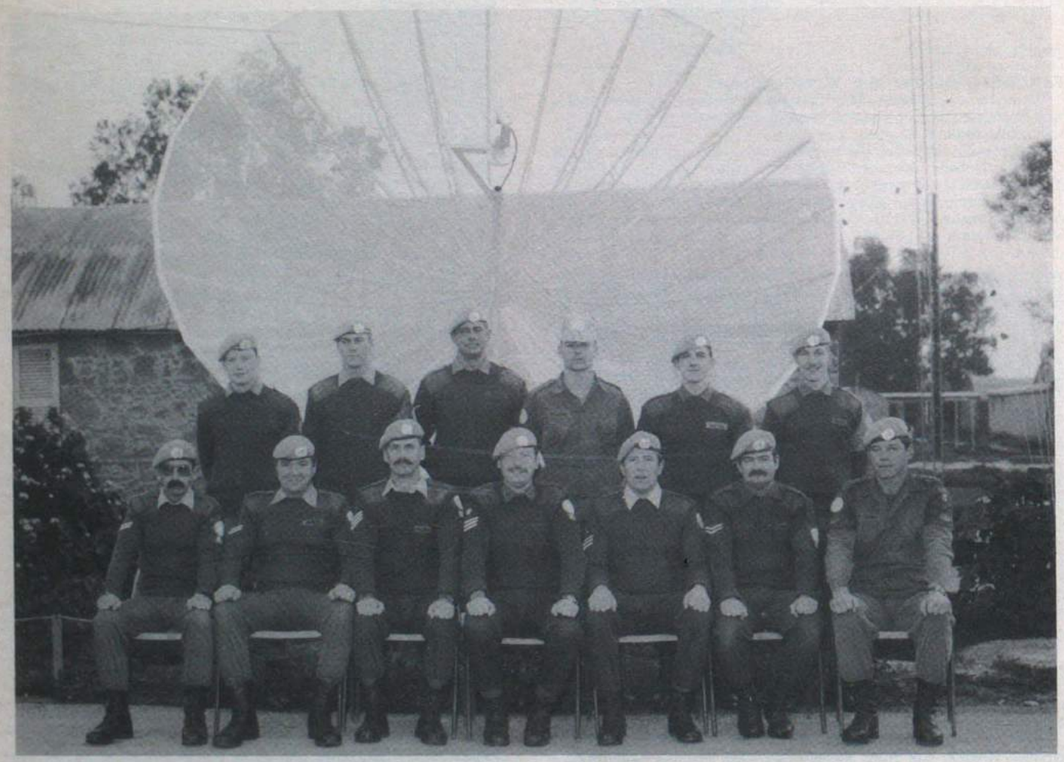
The track which led up to the castle took us past a couple of Turkish Forces bases which were interesting to see. This track though was very narrow and steep to put it mildly and **Clem** chose the ideal bend on which to stall and practice his hill starts.

On reaching the castle we then had to contend with both the weather, which was overcast and windy, plus the hundreds of old stone stairs we discovered we had to climb because the castle is on three levels, guards levels, servants levels and the level where the hierarchy used to live. We managed to drag ourselves up to the top level, even though we spotted a bar on the middle level, but the weather spoilt what would have been a great view. We got our breath back and began the descent, this time paying a short visit to the bar, just to sample the local Effes Beer. The descent of the mountain in **Clem**'s safe hands passed without incident—well, we think it did—the rest of us had our eyes closed, in fact **Clem** probably had his closed as well.

Then it was into Kyrenia itself and after parking up (almost in Kyrenia dock) the Yeoman of Signals put us right on a few points about the local history, so we decided to put him right to a couple of pints and led the way to one of the local bars.

Back on the road and next stop was an open air Tank/Artillery exhibition. As we arrived though, the heavens decided to open. Not to be deterred we took a look around and took a few photographs but the main thing was we took a good soaking.

Next, it was back into the mountain tracks to try and find an English style pub called the 'Crows Nest' which the Yeoman of Signals had heard about. After a great deal of guess work and good fortune we eventually came across the 'Crows Nest', but it just happened to be closed. We had spotted a pub Restaurant on the way up and so decided to go there because by now the hunger pangs had overtaken our fear of **Clem**s driving (and that's hunger).



Tech and Line Tps
Front (L-R): Cpls Crosbie, Norrie, Sgt Holden, SSgt (FofS) Whiteford, Sgt Hossell, Cpl Case and MCpl Corney
Back (L-R): Sig Jones, Lewis, LCpl Skinner, Pte Boucher, Cpls Watson and Evans

Finally, it was back to the UNPA where we arrived at the Wire Inn at around 1930 hrs, everyone had gathered a few souvenirs, received a good soaking, but all agreed that they had a good day out (even **Clem**).

TECH AND LINE TROOP

The Troop celebrated a small victory early in the New Year with the winning of the 'Dash Trophy'. The trophy, introduced only this year is awarded to the winners of the monthly Squadron Mil Skills/Sports Competition and for the first time took the form of a March and Shoot.

Although Commcen Tp won the march with the fastest time beating Tech and Line to a very close second, Tech and Line put in a very good shoot, beating Commcen at the end of the day by just one point.

The team consisted of **Cpl Alfie Norrie, MCpl Bob Corney** (Canadian Signals) **Cpl Phil Case, Sig Steve Lewis, Andy Jones** and **Pte Rocky Boucher** (Canadian Signals).

ARRIVALS

Sgt Peter Hancock and family, **Cpls Phil Case, Evo Evans, Kel Watson, Andy Sutton** and **Dave Adams** (Canadian Signals), **LCpl Taff Skinner, Sig Tosh Pope** and **Thrapper Rapson**.

DEPARTURES

The Troop says Bon Voyage to **Cpls 'H' Glean, Hugh 'Pops' Shotton, Daz 'Master Driver' Bailey, Charlie 'Top of de range' Hanson** and **MCpl Bob Corney** (Canadian Signals), **LCpl 'Bonnie' Tyler, Siggies Andy Jones** and **Steve 'Zippy' Lewis**.

STOP PRESS

Tech and Line has just hammered Commcen Tp again, in a recent bowling match.

Tech and Line 6
Commcen 0

UNFICYP Safe and Skilled Driving. Tech Tp recently came last in the UNFICYP Safe and Skilled Driving practice run from Famagusta to Nicosia. Pictured, we see LCpl Toye's (now convertible) mini-bus after his trip
Footnote: LCpl Toye is safe and in one piece in the UK. (30 Sig Regt please send us someone who can drive)

259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Lynn Relph**
2IC	**Capt Mick Fogg**
QM/OC HQ Tp	**Maj (QM) Colin French**
TOT/OC Epi Tp	**Capt (TOT) Frank Running**
OC Mtn Tp	**Lt Iain Standen**
OC Afd Tp	**Lt Tim Craven**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Tim Wallis**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt (ORSQMS) Clyde Atherley**

FAREWELL AND HELLO

January was 'all change' for 259 Sig Sqn. We said farewell to **Maj Danny McConnell** and his wife **Liz**, we wish them well in their new posting. **Maj McConnell** handed over command of the Squadron to **Maj Lynn Relph**. On the same day we said farewell to **Lt Bill Balding** and **Helen**. A few days later the Quartermaster **Maj Tony Morgan** and **Anne** left us, and we welcomed our new Quartermaster **Maj Colin French**. Later in the month saw the arrival of **Lt Tim Craven** and **Doreen** at Airfield Tp.

PRESENTATION OF KNEELERS

On 27 January 1989 the Squadron presented two kneelers to the Garrison Church Episkopi. The kneelers were hand worked and show the Corps badge and the Squadron title on a background of the Corps colours. They were made by **Mrs Pantelitsa Anastasiou**, the Squadron typist.

Presentation of Kneelers to the Garrison Church
(L-R): Maj Lynn Relph, Mrs Pantelitsa Anastasiou and Lt Col the Rev Robin McDowall

ARMY (CYPRUS) INTER CORPS SQUASH COMPETITION 1989

For the second consecutive year, the Corps (Cyprus) Squash Team, easily won the Army (Cyprus) Inter-Corps Squash Competition.

The competition was staged on the Episkopi Garrison Squash Courts on 26/27 January and included teams from 2 Bn Coldm Gds, RAOC, RE and REME.

Although only five teams entered, the standard of Squash was very high, as some teams included Corps players fresh from the recent Inter-Corps matches in UK.

The Corps team of **Capt Mick Fogg, WO1 (YofS) Nick Hammett, SSgt Clyde Atherley, Sgts Neil Mabbott, Marc Findon** and **Cpl Mitch Ashley** played extremely well to hold off challenges, from the strong Guards and RAOC teams and won seventeen out of a possible twenty games.

Cyprus Inter Corps Squash Champions
Rear (L-R): Sgts Marc Findon, Neil Mabbott and SSgt Clyde Atherley
Front (L-R): Capt Mick Fogg, Cpl Mitch Ashley and WO1 Nick Hammett

AIRFIELD TROOP

OC Tp	**Lt W. S. Balding**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt K. Fitzpatrick**
Line Sgts	**Sgt K. John**
	Sgt T. Nicholas
Tech Sgts	**Sgt G. Renshaw**
	Sgt D. Atkinson

Situated on the southern side of Cyprus on the Akrotiri peninsula lies RAF Akrotiri. This is the home of Airfield Tp, which is mainly a Tele Mech Tp whose task is to supply ground communications in support of the RAF.

VISIT OF 81 SQUADRON (V)

For the last two years 81 Sig Sqn (V) has been assisting us with the various aspects of our work that require large amounts of manpower and expertise, which they make readily available. Most soldiers who serve with 81 Sig Sqn are British Telecom engineers in their civilian role and their knowledge is always welcome and greatly valued by 259 Sig Sqn. We would like to thank all the parties that have visited us for all their hard work in assisting the Troop over the past two years and we look forward to 81 Sqn's visits this year.

The last visit was led by **Capt Bob Manifold** and side kick **SSgt Alan Lockey**. They lived up to their reputation in that they worked extremely hard assisting the Troop with its five year cable enhancement of RAF Akrotiri and maintenance of our Strowger Exchange, which somehow still manages to soldier on despite the ever growing telephone network. It must be said that our visitors did sort out a lot of our more baffling faults and gave our own Techs a bit of an education.

On a lighter note we reveal that one of the party fell for an Airfield Tp con. He was tasked to go to the Troop Stores and fetch a 'Bucket of Dial Tone' which he did and was duly presented with a trophy fitting to the occasion.

TROOP LARKS

Sig 'Rappo' Rapson must be congratulated on passing his AIPT Course, although a return visit to Aldershot is to be arranged to refresh his memory on time and distance.

Our Troop Commander **Lt 'Bill' Balding** is off to 8 Sig Regt to fill a post as Chief Instructor Operator Wing or is it just a guise for a cable recognition course. I quote 'Is that a 50 pr Cable **Cpl Wise**?'—'No Sir, its a hose pipe'. Anyway we wish him well!

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We welcome **Sgt 'Ken' John** who is now giving the younger fraternity the benefit of his years. He must remember that we don't use tin cans and wet string any more.

We also welcome **LCpl 'Spiny' Campbell** and wife **Julie, Cpl 'Pete' Kelly** and wife **Suzanne, Sig 'Dede' Watts, Cecil, 'Hammy' Hamilton, 'Taff' Ingleson** and wife **Jackie, Sgt 'Tony' Pinsent** and wife **Deborah.**

We bid farewell and best wishes to our OC Troop **Lt Bill Balding** and wife **Helen, Sig Neil MacKie** and wife **Ingrid, LCpl 'Danny' Boland** and wife **Clair, Sig 'Taff' Duncan, 'Scoots' Cree, LCpl 'Cas' Cascarino** and wife **Sylvia, Sig Paul Travis** and wife **Anne**, and last but not least **Cpl Bananaman Senior**, on promotion to 262 Sig Sqn.

CONGRATULATIONS

On a baby boy to **LCpl 'Gaz' Cuss** and wife **Dawn**, a baby girl to **Cpl 'Bob' Leyland** and wife **Trudie**, a baby girl to **LCpl 'Danny' Boland** and wife **Clair**, a baby girl to **Sgt Atkinson** and wife **Julie**, a baby boy to **Sig Paul Travis** and wife **Anne**. **Cpl Pete Kelly** and wife **Suzanne** nearly gave us a Christmas baby, however we still rejoiced at a baby boy on the 23 December.

Airfield Troop
Absent on duty. Sgt Nicholas, Cpls Pluskota, Hanson and Sig Dickerson

262 Sig Sqn
BFPO 58

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Nigel Cory**
TOT	**Capt Colin Bachelor**
AO	**Lt Jane Heywood**
SSM	**WO2 Dave Thomas**
YofS	**WO2 Bill Jackson**
FofS	**WO2 Pete White**
SQMS	**SSgt Dave Edgecombe**

HELLOS, GOODBYES AND CONGRATULATIONS

Hellos to **Sgt Keith** and **Alison Talbot, Pte Karen O'Connor** and **Sig Dean Whitworth**.

Goodbye to **Sgt John** and **Cath Taylor** and their family—will Pergamos ever be the same again? Goodbye to **Sgt Bob** and **Evelyn Orchard**. Goodbye and congratulations to **Sig 'Torchy' Wilson** off to Germany on promotion to LCpl, and to **LCpl Dave Giles** to Berlin on promotion to Cpl.

WALKDOWN 1988

To the uninitiated the Walkdown is a gentle Sunday stroll in the Troodos Mountains. For the lucky people who formed the Wombles, the 262 Strollers, Cabbage and Veg and the Blister Brigade it was an 18 mile yomp up and down the more unexplored areas of the Troodos Mountains from Platres to Episkopi. The event started at the crack of dawn and teams of three grasping map, compass and packed lunches set off for Episkopi. The winners finished in under four hours, with the Squadron teams finishing a little later. Good effort and well done to the OC **Maj Nigel Cory**, AO **Lt Jane Heywood, WO2 Pete White, Sgt Chuck Robertson, Cpls Trev Cotter, Pete Harvey, George Stebbing, LCpls Dusty Miller, Fern White, Mick Preston** and **Pte Karen Taylor**. Many thanks to **Sig Wilson** and **Sweeney** who drove the minibuses.

ROCK-CLIMBING

Despite the APTC's thoughts, the rock-climbing in Cyprus is great. Cape Greco provides climbing and abseiling for all abilities and under the watchful eye of **Lt Jane Heywood**, the Squadron is finding a few budding Joe Brown's. To date the stars are **Cpl Nick Smith, LCpl Mick Preston** and **Sig Dean Whitworth**. How about Greece in the summer?

Having a sit-down on the walk-down. *From left to right:* WO2 (FofS) Pete White, Lt Jane Heywood and Sgt Chuck Robertson

Clerk on the Rocks, LCpl Mick Preston on the rocks at Cape Greco

— News from Troops —

608 Sig Tp (SSIT)
BFPO 40

WHERE HAVE ALL THE SOLDIERS GONE?

In the halcyon days of 1986 when DAMA was an Italian expression for mother the 608 Sig Tp was brackets 'Equipment', there were 18 good soldiers and true, commanded by a young Quartermaster.

Their job was to maintain WMR and Repair Pool equipments in RAOC depots. As time passed and the work increased, the depots doubled and the miles to travel were many more. Everyone was happy and content. Then came, 'Lean Look' and now in 1989 brackets 'Equipment' has one Officer and three men. There have been additions, RSIT, AMIS and RSSST (Fwd) and the Troop name has been changed to 608 Sig Tp (SSIT). But the original charter for the unit and the work remain and the verse below, written by **Maj Bob McCusker** RAOC, is dedicated to the lads who where posted out of brackets 'Equipment' and not replaced.

'Troop 608 in Viersen, was small and quite elite
Commanded by a Captain, a nicer chap to meet
Entrusted with the safeguard of electronic things
That sent the voices scurrying throughout the air with wings
A noble band of tradesmen, brave and bright and true
Who when tasked by their superiors knew exactly what to do
Who travelled over Europe, to secret hordes of kit
To ensure that all was working, which was their true remit
Alas, the minds of Masters, somehow became insane
And they civilianised the soldiers for economic gain
And the pennant that flew so proudly, before the unit door
Was at last removed forever, to flutter never more.'

FAREWELLS

We say goodbye to our OC **Capt Mike Stevenson** who fought the good fight. We wish him and **Carol** good luck in 16 Sig Regt. Also to **Cpl Stuart Young** and his wife **Anne**; **Cpl 'Vince' Vincent** and his wife **Liz**; **Cpl John Mahon** and his wife **Irene**; **Sgt Russ Dodd** and **LCpl Bob Mundell**.

REMAINDERS

To the three survivors **SSgt Geoff Douglas-Hiley, Cpl John Hogan** and **Cpl** (I'm posted soon) **Gray**. Keep paddling lads, help is on its way—sometime!

ARRIVAL

A rare occurrence! We welcome our new OC **Maj Tony Morgan** and his wife **Anne**. Hope you get your soldiers back and enjoy your tour.

RSSST (FWD) BFPO 107

Since our last appearance in *The Wire* we have been renamed the Royal Signals System Support Team (Forward), due to the fact that our responsibilities now extend beyond the Ptarmigan and Wavell systems. After long discussions on how we should answer the telephone, we settled for 'System Support', only to find that the rest of BAOR has taken to calling us 'RSSST' (pronounced 'rist'!).

Despite the heavy exercise commitment in the latter months of 1988 several of the team 'escaped' to attend long courses. **SSgt Pete Preen** is now our fully qualified SQMS after five weeks at Blackdown learning how to retain stores on shelves without ever having to sign items out! **WO1 (FofS) Chas Dowie** spent all November at the School of Signals on the Foreman of Signals Refresher course, but came back looking anything but 'refreshed!' Meanwhile **Sgt Scott Steven** is at Catterick on a Staff Sergeants course, after being convinced by his comrades that January/February time really isn't so bad out on the N Yorks Moors!

The relatively quiet weeks leading up to Ex Wintex and Flying Falcon are being put to good use, the Wavell section is running a course for operators in BAOR, with **Sgt Phil Newman** and **Mr Frank Jory** heading the list of instructors; Data section beavers away preparing, amongst other things, yet another version of the Ptarmigan database; and the Ptarmigan section is currently designing a training course for processor technicians in conjunction with TACT.

Speculation and rumours about **Maj Andrew Symmons'** impending posting are rife, he is keen to do an attachment with the Montserrat Defence Force but will be prepared to settle for the School of Signals if this is considered to be more beneficial to the Corps!

633 Sig Tp
BFPO 12

Management Team:
Back Row Left to Right: Sgts Chris Rose, John Marden, Stew Ryder, John Kennedy
Front Row Left to Right: WO2 (YofS) Pete Wykes, WO1 (FofS) Ron Kirkwood, Lt Joe Cooper, Capt Barry Keegan, WO2 (YofS) Dave Bowman, Sgt Bev Beverly
Absent: John Carpanini, SSgt Bob Shortis, Sgt Winter

TROOP PERSONALITIES

Tp OC	**Capt Steve Ardagh-Walter**
FofS	**WO1 Ron Kirkwood**
YofS	**WO2 Pete Wykes**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Bob Shortis**
TQMS	**Sgt John Carpanini**

The Yeoman, **Pete Wykes**, who was co-driving for **Sgt Andy Winter**, was quite disturbed when a quarter ton trailer passed the passenger side of his Rover. 'That looks like our trailer' he said to **Sgt Andy Winter**. 'It is ours Yeoman' **Andy** replied. **Sgt Andy Winter** insists that the pintle pin was put in!

ARRIVALS

The Troop would like to welcome the following:- **Capt Steve Ardagh-Walter, WO2 (YofS) Pete Wykes, Sgt Steve Welding, Cpls Al Dixon, George Best, Chris Mayer, Dutch Holland, Tim Entwhistle, LCpls Bob Hope, Ken Maidment** and **Sig Eddy Postlethwaite**.

A special welcome goes out to **Heather Keegan** who has now joined her husband, **Capt Barry Keegan**.

FAREWELLS

The Troop would like to wish the following Bon Voyage:- **Lt Joe Cooper, WO2 (YofS) Dave Bowman, Cpls Billy Nelson, Andy Fallows, Nick Hipwood, Les Duncan, Sandy Sanderson, LCpl Geordie Embleton, Sig 'Warty' Ward** and **Cloppy Richards.**

INITIAL CONTACT LINK (ICL)

This is a civilian radio set. ICOM 700, that is typically deployed to any area in the Caribbean that requests assistance in relief work from British Forces Belize. An ideal example would have been Jamaica after Hurricane Gilbert devastated the island but the ICL did not deploy due to lack of cargo space. The Troop tries to exercise the det at least once per year and last year the FofS, **WO1 Ron Kirkwood**, decided that taking it to Mexico City and Acapulco would fully test out the equipment and the crew (The FofS being one of the crew!). So he and **Sgt Andy Winter** started to plan the exercise. The new FSO, sorry SO3 Comms, **Capt Barry Keegan**, arrived half way through the planning and proved very helpful in the part of the exercise that required liaising with the British Embassy in Mexico City. There was no shortage of volunteers to be part of the crew even when **Sgt Andy Winter** assured them that it would be hard work! The day before the det was due to leave the exercise was cancelled. Good try, Foreman, and better luck next time!

The Foreman did get a consolation prize in the form of two weeks in the UK. This was supposed to be a working fortnight.

The ICL was eventually deployed to Grand Cayman Islands thanks to **Capt Barry Keegan** and with a little help from the Royal Navy. **Cpl Pete Poulson** and **Cpl Nick Kimber** spent a very enjoyable 10 days cruising the Caribbean and communicating from a sun kissed beach on Grand Cayman.

EXERCISE TOUCAN BLADE

This is the first exercise of the year and has two phases, phase one being Ex Toucan Blade and phase two being Ex Mayan Sword. Toucan Blade is designed to test the defences of Airport Camp (APC) and Mayan Sword is an FTX involving Battle Group South.

For Toucan Blade each unit provides enough manpower to form an infantry platoon which then defends a stretch of the Camp perimeter. This Troop provides 2 Platoon and defends 1km of the Camp's northern perimeter, the platoon HQ being the transmitter site building. The whole Troop is involved, with those not in 2 Platoon working a two way shift in the Commcen and responsible for the defence of the Commcen. During the exercise a live enemy is on the ground, this enemy being provided by the resident Infantry Bn, in this case it was 1st Bn Irish Guards. The exercise was very successful with the enemy being denied access to APC even though they tried very hard!

There were a few humourous moments of which the following are probably the best. **SSgt 'Gunnie' Shortis** on seeing a Puma helicopter flying towards his section ordered his GPMG gunner to engage the aircraft 'and don't forget to lead the target' he shouted. The gunner, **Cpl Wayne Pinhorn**, carried out the orders and loosed off 200 rounds at the incoming helicopter. **'Gunnie' Shortis** was quick to react and phoned the Ops centre to claim his 'Kill.'

'Very good Staff' came the reply 'You have just shot down one of ours!'

With no enemy breakthroughs life in the Commcen had been tedious to say the least and this inactivity had not pleased **Cpl Beach** who was jealous of the Pathetic Sharks, **Cpl Frank Nevens, Andy Fallows** and **John Greenwood**, who were with 2 Platoon and were building up a 'Body count.' **Cpl Beach** finally got his chance for on the morning of the last day the enemy broke through the well defended perimeter and assaulted the Commcen. **Cpl Beach** was seen firing mini flares into the air with one hand and shouting 'Come on make my day!' Unfortunately the umpires did not see fit to grant him any 'Kills.'

The FofS, **Ron Kirkwood**, is certain that it was one of the flares that landed on the roof of the Blackbird Club Attap and burnt it down.

EXERCISE MAYAN SWORD

Phase two of the exercise started with the radio section and the YofS, **Pete Wykes**, leaving by road, on a 10 hour journey to Punta Gorda. One of the FFRs managed to travel nearly a quarter of a mile before it broke down: **Sgt Steve Welding** who arrived in the Troop on 18 January 1989 was given until the Saturday to get acclimatised before he was put aboard HMS *Avenger* carrying all his kit, a UK/PRC 320 and its batteries. He then sailed south to Punta Gorda took part in the exercise beach landings then tabbed 20km through jungle to reach the point where he was to RV with the OC, **Capt Steve Ardagh-Walter**. **Sgt Steve Welding** was not a happy soldier! The exercise was uneventful until the road journey home when the quarter ton trailer that was attached to **Cpl Dillet's** Rover turned over and the chassis separated from the container part of the trailer.

Cpl Al Dixon shows off the growth that has the MO baffled!

Association News

MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY ASSOCIATION

1988 REVIEW

The Spring is always heralded with the Cavalry Memorial Parade and Service in Hyde Park. A very colourful occasion with the Household Cavalry Regt in ceremonial dress, and the splendid plumed uniforms of the cavalry Regimental bands reminiscent of a bygone age. There was a good turnout this year and afterwards 26 members and their friends lunched together at The London Park Hotel.

There followed the Royal Signals Reunion at Blandford. It was a glorious day and the performances by The Royal Signals Band, The White Helmets, and this year, The Blue Helmets, including the one who got away, were thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. A special word of congratulations must go to the Royal Signals Museum who have restored so much of our Regimental Collection and had it on display in time for the reunion.

In June the Association was represented at the TA Federation Annual Parade and Service. Wreaths were laid at the TA Memorial at the Royal Exchange, and the salute was taken by **Col Sir Greville Spratt CBE, JP, DL**, Lord Mayor of London, who afterwards inspected the veterans and spoke to every member on parade. The Memorial Service was held in St Stephen's Wallbrook, followed by luncheon at the Mansion House.

The Regimental Remembrance Service, 'Lafone Day' was held on Sunday 16 October at the Guild Church of St Martin, Ludgate Hill, and in the Crypt at St Paul's Cathedral. The Service was conducted by **The Rev Gordon Watkins**. The Parade Adjutant was **Maj D. H. Manders TD**.

We were heartened to see so many members and their families present with a large contingent from 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V), including many young ladies from the WRAC who are serving with the Squadron.

Although this Service is always a solemn act of Remembrance for those who did not return from the wars, it is also a proud moment in our lives and one of thanksgiving for those who have served, and are serving, with the Middlesex Yeomanry.

The Middlesex Yeomanry Association Band (by kind permission of **Lt Col S. J. Williams MBE, TD**) led the parade to St Paul's Cathedral and played outside the cathedral whilst the wreaths were laid at the Middlesex Yeomanry Memorials in the crypt.

During this ceremony the citation for the award of the Victoria Cross to **Maj A. M. Lafone VC** in October 1917, was read out by **Maj C. Mote**, OC 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V), and wreaths were laid by **Maj R. L. Miller TD**, Chairman of the Association and by **Capt Linda Coe WRAC**, 2IC 47 Sqn.

The 61st Annual Dinner was held on Friday 21 October 1988 at The Duke of York's Headquarters, where 88 members and guests assembled for the reunion. The Chairman was **Maj R. L. Miller TD**.

The Guest of Honour was **Lt Col C. P. Stenning TD**, who, until recently, commanded 31 Sig Regt (V), and has the distinction of being the last Middlesex Yeomanry Officer to serve with the Regiment.

Amongst the guests were **Lt Col L. G. French** CO, 31 Sig Regt (V), **Capt E. Carter TD, WRAC**, and members of the Household Cavalry Regt, The Princess Louise's Kensington Regimental Association, The Inns of Court and City Yeomanry and, **Mr David Greenbrook**, Royal Signals Association.

The guests were welcomed by the President, **Col Sir John Prideaux OBE, TD, DL**, who opened the proceedings by presenting a Middlesex Yeomanry brooch and a bouquet to **Capt Eileen Carter** in appreciation for all that she has done for the Association over many years, with our best wishes for her retirement later in the year. Also, he had a special word of welcome for the large number of members who had served with 305 (Para Bde) Sig Sqn (Middlesex Yeomanry), and to **Ralph Wiseman** who was home from New Zealand on holiday after an absence of over 40 years.

He went on to say how indebted the Association is to the Household Cavalry Regt for allowing us to use their Mess for our regular meetings, and extended a warm welcome to all the guests.

In proposing the toast to the Regiment and Association, **Lt Col**

Stenning said that it was 25 years since he had joined the Middlesex Yeomanry in 'G' Block at The Duke of York's HQ, when **Lt Col S. J. Williams** was commanding the Regiment. He went on to say what a privilege it has been for him to command 31 Sig Regt (V) which still retains the bonds and traditions of the Regiment in 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn. He also touched on the problems of recruiting at the present time and expressed the view that the Association might be able to help create a better understanding by employers who are not familiar with, the need for, an efficient Territorial Army today.

Maj C. Mote gave an interesting talk about the activities of the Squadron throughout the year and was pleased to report that their equipment is now almost on a par with the regular army, and that he was enthusiastic about the future when the existing drill hall will be replaced by a brand new TA Centre.

The evening ended with an appeal by the Vice-Chairman, **George Key**, which raised the magnificent sum of £327 for Association funds. An all time record. Our grateful thanks for the generosity of all who were present. And finally, the Committee would like to thank all members for their support throughout the year, and for making the annual dinner such a memorable occasion.

GUERNSEY BRANCH

Report by Tom Freeman

The annual Christmas dinner was held at L'Ancresse Lodge Hotel (shades of 'Howard's Way!'). Twenty-three members and twenty-eight guests attended the function. Social Secretary **Alf Laine** organised a raffle, well stocked with items donated by members and a cake was auctioned for £20 which was donated to Guernsey Sport for the Disabled. **Alvaro Salazar** presented a Corps badge, etched in glass and mounted on a wooden plinth, which was auctioned for £25, the sum being donated to Association funds.

FAR EAST PRISONERS OF WAR

'And we that are left grow old with the years . . .'.

A Special Service of Remembrance for those who died in captivity in the Far East 1941-45 and since was held on Friday 24 February at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square at 1100 hrs. The service was conducted by **Major Lawrence Smith** (Salvation Army) who served with 196th Field Ambulance RAMC 18th Division; captured at Singapore. The Standard Bearer was **Mr S. R. Pettitt**. Among the very large congregation was **Mr Tom Suiter** a member of Hong Kong Defence Force who served with Royal Signals. Afterwards wreaths were laid at the Cenotaph in Whitehall.

— Sport —

BOARD SAILING

Report by Capt Dave Gilchrist (Secretary)

Boardsailing in the Corps goes from strength to strength and as the new Corps Secretary I am naturally keen that this situation continues. The following report is by way of a brief update on 1988 and a look forward to the current year.

In 1988 the UK Corps Championships were held in June at Lee-on-Solent and was reported in the September issue of *The Wire*. Suffice to say however that 16 Sig Regt not only took the unit team event but also the majority of the individual prizes. The individual results were:-

Lightweight Division
1st **Cpl English** 16 Sig Regt
2nd **Sgt Maher** 16 Sig Regt
3rd **Sgt Chalmers** 646 Sig Tp

Heavyweight Division
1st **Sig Townsend** 16 Sig Regt
2nd **Cpl Dickson** 16 Sig Regt
3rd **LCpl Anderson** 238 Sig Sqn

Due to an unfortunate clash with exercises and other commitments the event was not that well supported. Hopefully this year the numbers can be improved subject to your support.

In BAOR the Corps Championships were held at the Dummersee over the period 21-22 July. The event was well supported with some 45 boardsailors competing in the individual events and 13 unit teams in the inter-unit event. The detailed results are as follows:-

INDIVIDUAL
Lightweight Division
1st **Cpl English** 16 Sig Regt
2nd **Sgt Chalmers** 227 Sig Sqn
3rd **Sgt Maher** 16 Sig Regt

Heavyweight Division
1st **Cpl Dickson** 16 Sig Regt
2nd **Cpl Raine** 3 ADSR
3rd **Sgt Pickersgill** 22 Sig Regt

Superheavyweight Division
1st **SSgt Smith** 22 Sig Regt
2nd = **WO1 (RSM) Bailes** 29 Sig Regt
2nd = **Sig Townsend** 16 Sig Regt

Ladies
1st **WLCpl Mallice** 16 Sig Regt

TEAM
Major Unit
1st 16 Sig Regt (A)
2nd 22 Sig Regt (A)
3rd 7 Sig Regt (A)

Minor Unit
1st 227 Sig Sqn
2nd 29 Sig Regt
3rd 202 Sig Sqn

Finally the BAOR Inter-Corps event was sailed at the Dummersee on 26 October. Regrettably the Corps was narrowly beaten into second place thereby losing the BAOR title won in 1987. The results with points awarded show just how closely the event was:-

1st Royal Engineers	131	points
2nd Royal Signals	136	points
3rd Royal Corps Transport	155¼	points

I am sure that the BAOR boardsailors will do their utmost to return the trophy to its rightful place this year.

Now a look forward to 1989 with confirmed dates and venues as follows:-

10 May	UK REME v Royal Signals	Theale Resovoir
22-23 May	BAOR Royal Signals Championships	Dummersee
8-10 Jun	Royal Signals Championships	Lee-in-Solent
12-13 Jun	4 Div Championships	Dummersee
20-22 Jun	BAOR Championships	Dummersee
22-25 Jun	Army Championships	Lee-on-Solent
17-19 Jul	BFG Championships	Dummersee
25-26 Sep	BAOR Inter-Corps Championships	Dummersee

It is hoped that other UK inter-corps events will follow on from the fixture against the REME on 12 May, and I will be trying to get a team together to represent the Corps in UK. If you are interested, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Full details of all the above will be circulated to all units in due course. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact:-

BAOR Secretary	**Capt Phil Daisey**	Krefeld Mil 329
Corps and UK Secretary	**Capt Dave Gilchrist**	Tidworth Mil 2403

Finally I intend to maintain a simple register of all Corps Boardsailors regardless of their standard. The aim of this listing will be to help identify interest and hopefully put boardsailors in touch with each other on posting. Details of how to join the register will also be circulated to units very shortly, indeed by the time you read this your unit boardsailing representative should be able to advise you.

Good sailing for 1989 and if you're already keen and a competent sailor how about supporting your local representative? If you haven't yet caught 'the bug', but are interested, I'm sure your unit representative will be pleased to hear from you. If by some strange quirk of fate you have no unit rep then contact **Capt Daisey** or me, we will be more than happy to help!

RUGBY

ROYAL SIGNALS V ARMY CATERING CORPS 1 FEBRUARY
ROYAL SIGNALS 67 ACC 6

The weather was unusually warm and calm for Blandford so there was little advantage to either side in winning the toss. The Corps kicked off and made numerous minor errors culminating in the award of a penalty which the 'Chefs' converted to take an early lead. The ACC continued to apply pressure and it took a while for the Corps to settle down. However this situation was forcefully corrected when the Corps won a scrum on the opposition's goal line and in the ensuing attempt to prevent a pushover try the ACC conceded a penalty try. Unfortunately the try was not converted, a 'first' for **Sgt Dean Richardson**. After this the Corps seemed to gain confidence and soon took control of the game. Tries in the first half came from **Cpl 'H' Glean** (2), **Sgt Dean Richardson, Lts Joe Cooper** and **Tony Burgin. Sgt Dean Richardson** managed to convert one try and kick a penalty but the rest of the place kicking was off target.

The second half was continued in the same vein as the Corps scored a further eight tries, only three of which were converted. The scorers were **LCpl Steve Bartliff** (three), **Lts David Jones, Tony Burgin** (two), **Sgt Brian Keevash** and another one for **'H'**. The final score was 67—6 and this must be said to flatter the Corps.

As a commentary on the game it was certainly given more than a sporting chance by a very strong front five who had a good runout against rather weak opposition; they were well supported by a good performance from the back row and all this was finished off well on occasions when the ball was passed quickly to the wings. As a criticism it was still noticeable that the Corps pack was attempting to maul for far too long rather than putting the ball on the ground and driving over to get good possession from the rucks whilst maintaining forward momentum. Perhaps it will come as the team gets together more often and confidence is built amongst the players as they learn to play together and talk to each other in the loose play. Finally, is there a place kicker out there somewhere?

Team: **Cpls Cassidy, Glean, Sgt Cable, Cpl Walker, LCpl Bartliff, Sgt Richardson** (Captain), **Lt Burgin, Sgt Keevash, LCpl Malvern, Sgt Wallace, Lt Egan, Cpl Vowles, Lts Cooper, Davis** and **Capt Jones**.

GOLF

ROYAL SIGNALS GOLFING SOCIETY FIXTURES

MATCHES

Date	Opponents	Venue
Wed 3 May	RAPC	Tyrrells Wood
Tue 23 May	RE	Hankley Common
Thu 1 Jun	HMS Mercury	Isle of Purbeck
Fri 16 Jun	RCT	Blackmoor
Wed 28 Jun	RMAS (1400)	Aldershot
Fri 28 Jul	RA	Berkshire
Thu 3 Aug	REME	Blackmoor
Fri 8 Sep	RAOC	Pannal
Fri 22 Sep	Ironsides	Westhill
Thu 12 Oct	RAMC/RADC	Farnham

MEETINGS

Thu/Fri 20-21 Apr	Corps Spring Meeting	Tracy Park
Mon/Fri 8-12 May	AOGS Meeting	Gullane and Luffness
Mon/Wed 15-17 May	AGA Championships	Royal Lytham St Annes
Thu/Fri 18-19 May	Inter Corps Championships	Royal Lytham St Annes
Fri 16 Jun	RAF Sportsday	RAF Luffenham
Wed/Thu 6-7 Sep	Corps Autumn Meeting	Catterick

Would all Corps Golfers who have not received a copy of the fixture list please inform the Honorary Secretary of their availability to play in the matches and meetings. The Captain will select teams and inform individuals who have been nominated to represent the Corps. (Honorary Secretary is **Maj S. G. Falla**, School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH. Tel: Blandford Mil Ext 2281 or (0258) 52581.

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

Goods Available from the Museum Shop, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH

Any telephone enquiries to Blandford Military (0258 52581) Ext 2248.

	Overseas £	UK £
Ash Tray, glass, blue with gold Corps badge	1.90	2.20
Blazer badge	5.65	6.50
Blazer buttons—large	1.20	1.40
small	1.15	1.30
Book mark	0.45	0.50
Brooch, white with gold Corps Badge	2.40	2.75
Cap Badge	1.75	2.00
Car badge, 2" × 2", silver badge on enamelled Corps colours	3.75	4.30
Clip board with Corps Crest	3.15	3.60
Cocktail mats, set of six, blue acrylic with Corps badge	7.10	8.15
Corps badge, on foil, framed and glazed 11" × 9"	4.90	5.65
Cuff links, shield, gold badge on enamelled Corps colours	5.25	6.00
Identity card holder, gold badge on blue vinyl	0.30	0.35
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
Royal Signals Officer Statuette	41.75	48.00
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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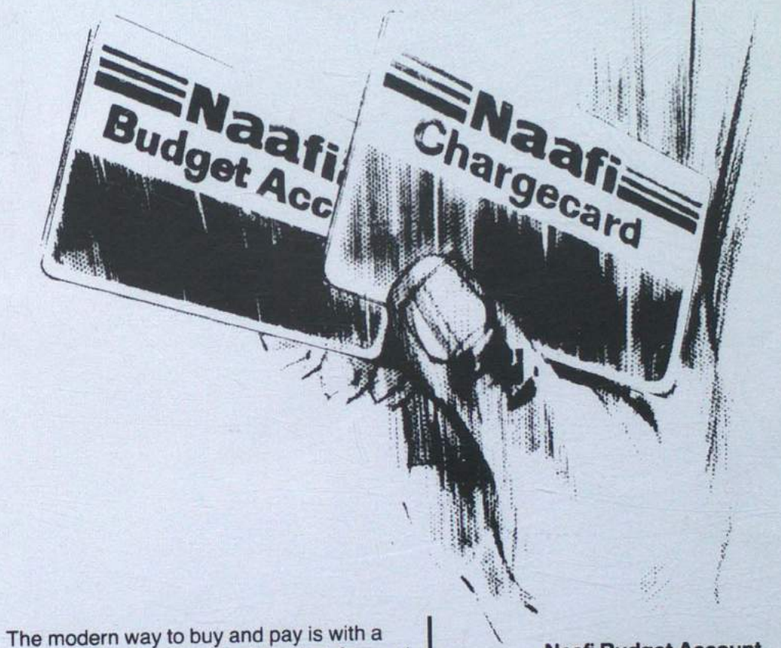

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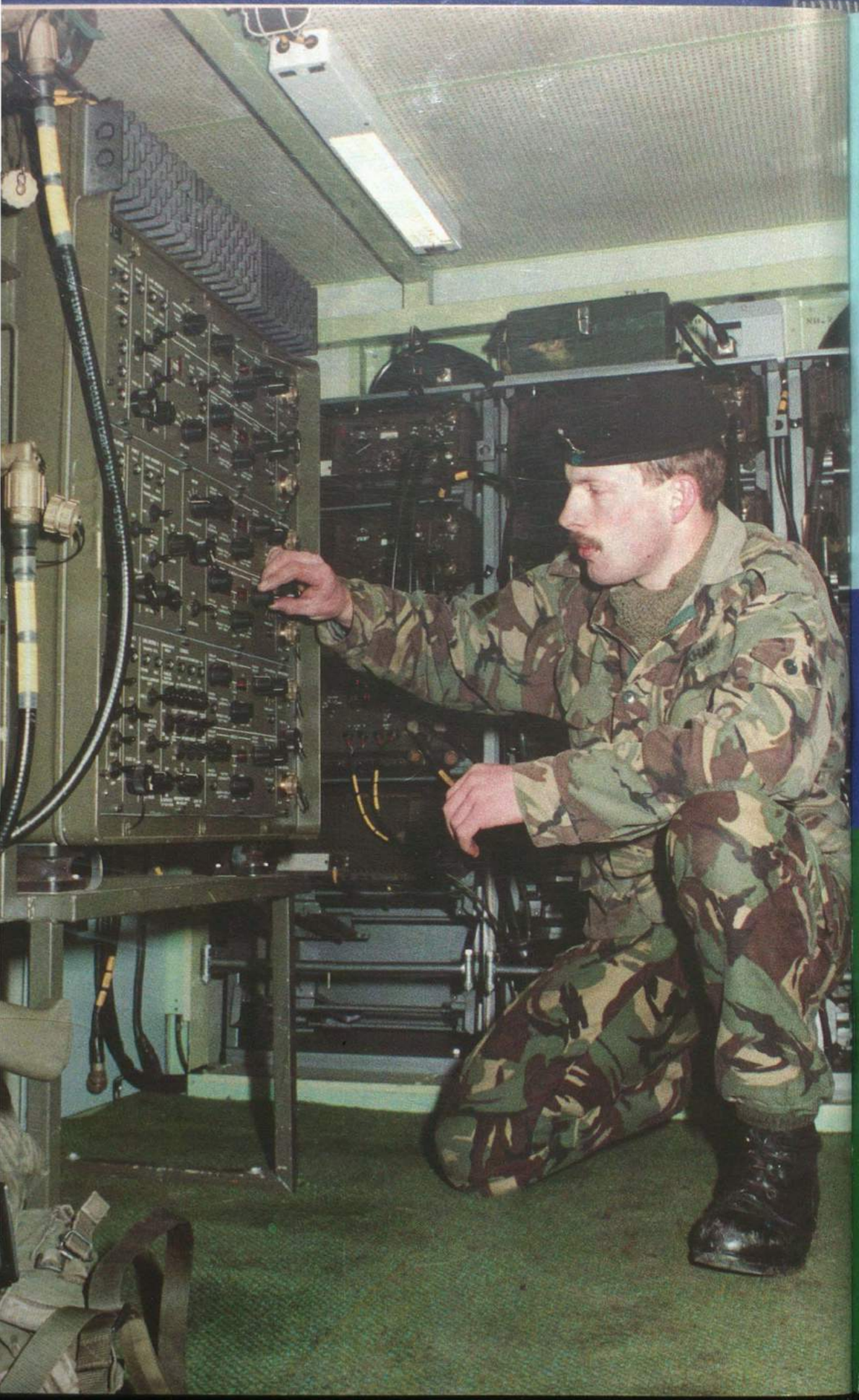

THE wire

The Royal Signals Magazine

May 1989

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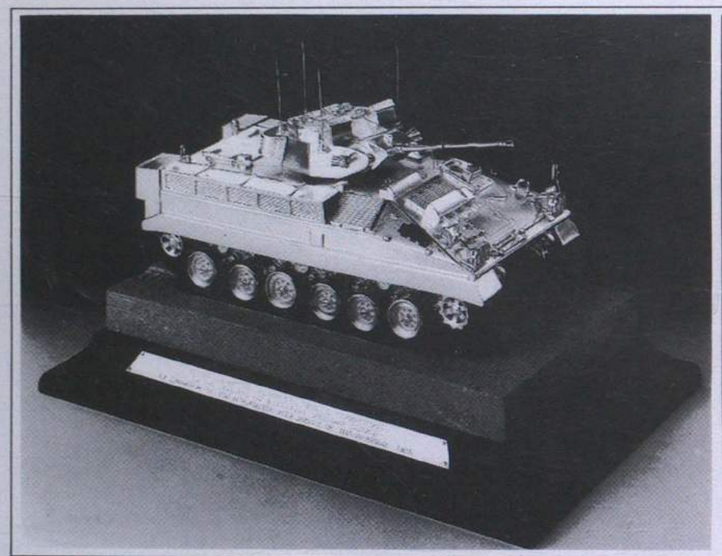

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The Royal Signals Magazine

May 1989 Vol. 43 No: 3

The Wire

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Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs

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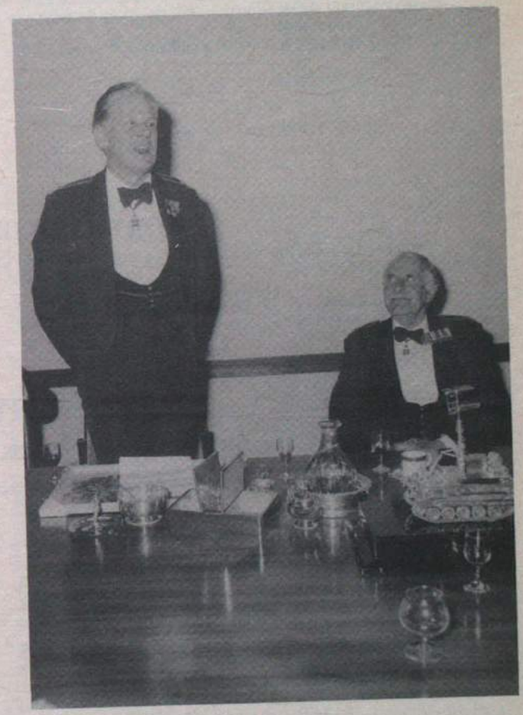
MAJOR GENERAL P. D. ALEXANDER CB, MBE



On 25 April 1989, **Major General P. D. Alexander** handed over as Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army), an appointment he held for nearly three and a half years. He will retire from the Army on 18 June 1989 on completion of 36 years service.

Major General Alexander was commissioned into Royal Signals in 1955. His first tour of duty was in Hong Kong after which he served as a Troop Commander in 26 Signal Regiment (now 11 Signal Regiment), on secondment to the King's African Rifles Signal Squadron and as Adjutant of 1 Signal Regiment in BAOR. After attending the Staff College Camberley in 1965 he was appointed to a General Staff post in the Ministry of Defence in 1966/7, which was followed by the Command of 24 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron in England and in Northern Ireland at the outset of the emergency. After further staff appointments in the Ministry of Defence and attendance at the National Defence College he commanded 1 Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment from 1974 to 1976. He was then promoted Colonel and undertook a further tour in the Ministry of Defence. In 1979 he was promoted to Brigadier and appointed Commander Corps Royal Signals 1 British Corps and in 1982 attended the Royal College of Defence Studies. Thereafter he was appointed Deputy Military Secretary in the Ministry of Defence before assuming the appointment of Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army) in December 1985.

All of us in Royal Signals owe a great deal to **Major General Alexander** for the way in which he sought to bring more closely together all elements of the Corps; the serving and retired, Regular and TA, male and female. He believed strongly that all ranks of the Corps had a life-long commitment to it and both he and his wife **Christine** have been a shining example in this respect.

Major General Paul Alexander took a robust line with those who, without a proper understanding, sought to meddle in the affairs of the Corps but listened carefully to those who argued with logic and sound reasoning.

Major General Alexander was dined-out by the officers at Blandford on 25 April with some 150 officers in attendance. The Master of Signals was in the chair. Afterwards he was towed from the Camp led by the Corps Band and outriders from the White Helmets.

Major General Alexander has been appointed Colonel Commandant and will thus be a member of the Corps Committee. On retirement he is to assume the appointment of Director of Security (Army) and so his presence in Whitehall will continue.

— From our "In" Tray —

MAJOR GENERAL R. F. L. COOK
SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF (ARMY)

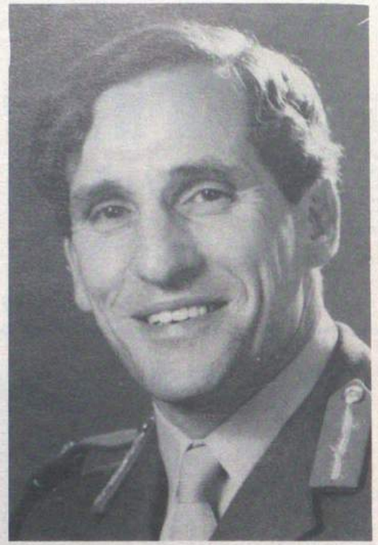
Maj Gen Robert Cook assumed the appointment of Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army) from **Maj Gen Paul Alexander** on 25 April 1989.

Educated at Karachi Grammar School Pakistan, St John's College Southsea and Welbeck College, he joined the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst in 1957 and was commissioned into the Royal Corps of Signals in 1959.

His engineering and professional training continued at the School of Signals and the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, culminating in the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science in Physics in 1962. After a further period in research he gained a Master of Science degree from London University in 1964.

Between 1964-1970 he served with Royal Signals in UK, Germany and Malaya, and in 1973 took command of 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. He commanded 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt from 1978 to 1980 and was appointed Commander Communications 1 (British) Corps and Commander 1 Signal Brigade in 1983. He recently handed over the important international appointment to Secretary to the NATO Military Committee.

Maj Gen Cook is married to **Jilly** and they have three children.



Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook

NORTHERN IRELAND AWARDS

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

OBE
Lt Col M. W. H. Roberts MBE

BEM
SSgt D. Chrystal
SSgt M. A. Finn

THE VITAL LINK

The Story of Royal Signals 1945-1985 by Philip Warner

(340 pages illustrated—pictures and maps)

This important book is a must for all associated with Royal Signals.

The Vital Link examines the variety of tasks carried out world-wide by the Corps and traces the complex developments in techniques, technology and signal tactics since the Second World War. It records the growth of the Corps through the achievements, both personal and professional, of the high quality men and women of the Regular and Territorial Army, who serve in Royal Signals. It is presented in an attractive and enjoyable way as a story rather than a historical record.

Order now by writing to: RHQ Royal Signals, The Vital Link, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD; enclosing a cheque for £18.50 payable to Royal Signals Corps Funds.

OUR COVER PICTURES

Front: Maj Gen P. D. Alexander talks to Namibia via a satellite circuit on his final visit to 30 Sig Regt on 10 April 1989.
Back: Sgt Evans seated in a mine-plated landrover prior to the deployment of 30 Sig Regt elements to the United Nations Transitional Assistance Group (UNTAG) in Namibia.

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE OF THE REGIMENTAL COLONEL

PROJECT MARCH

There is about to be a major change in the process of Army recruit selection. In April 1990, the Army Personnel Selection Centre (APSC) at Sutton Coldfield will be closed as an economy measure, to be replaced by a decentralised computer system. Each High Street Army Careers Information Office (ACIO) will have a computer terminal with access to a central processer which will provide a UK-wide state of applicants, vacancies, and other data. The decentralisation of selection from APSC to ACIOs is codenamed Project March 2.

There has been a trial of March 2 in Western District, in which the computer links have been simulated by telephone and postal communication. The trial showed considerable reduction in the time taken from initial application to final employment allocation. Acknowledged shortcomings are that applicants do not get the experience of staying overnight in a military environment, and they undergo neither the fitness test run nor the centralised chest X-Ray. These deficiencies may be overcome by pre-enlistment visits to training depots, and by extended basic training periods.

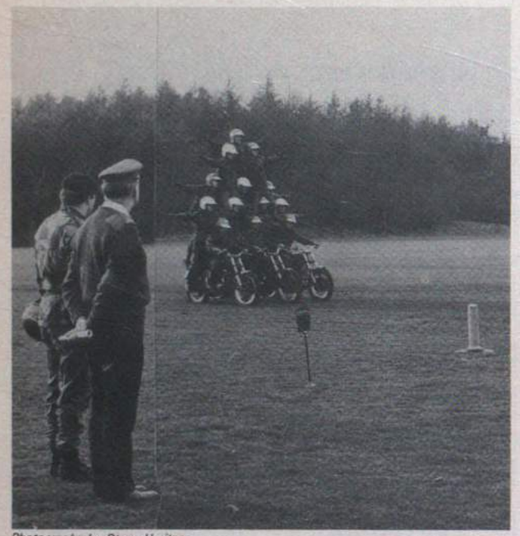
It could be said that now is not the moment to change the Army's method of recruit selection, but that is academic. Fortunately, expectations are that Project March 2 will work well, indeed a number of Army Careers Officers are pressing for the new system to be introduced immediately.

ROYAL SIGNALS RECRUITING AND PUBLICITY EVENTS—1989

JUNE		
1-5	Northern Ireland KAPE	Band
2	Ilkley County Fair	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt RIT
2	Holker Hall	Quicksilver
3	Fleetlands RNAY	5 AB Siq Sqn RIT
3	Amesbury Carnival	30 Sig Regt RIT
3	Lymm Carnival, Warrington	Quicksilver
3-4	Hull Lord Mayors Gala	Trg Gp RIT
4	Northallerton MENCAP Gala	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt RIT
4-9	Weymouth Sea Front	30 Sig Regt RIT
4	Shoeburyness Fayre	19 Inf Bde Sig Sqn RIT
5-9	Pontins Morecambe	Quicksilver
7-11	Cornwall Show	Blue Helmets
8	Kent, Scouts Hulla Baloo	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt RIT
8	Pudsey Show	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt RIT
10-11	Swindon Nostalgia Weekend	30 Sig Regt RIT
10	Bury Lions	White Helmets
10	Barnard Castle, Glaxo	White Helmets, Trg Gp RIT
11	Stevenage Day Organisation	White Helmets
11	Ryedale County Fair	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt RIT
11	Roundhay, Leeds NSPCC Gala	Trg Gp RIT
11-17	Bournemouth Bandstand	Band
12-30	Edinburgh and Dundee KAPE	Quicksilver
13-14	Helston Theme Park	Band, 30 Sig Regt RIT
14	Wathgill CCF Central Camp	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt RIT
15-18	Middlesbough North of England Exhibition	Trg Gp RIT
16-18	The Essex Show	19 Inf Bde and Sig Sqn RIT
16-18	Sennelager, Rhine Army Summer Show	White Helmets, Blue Helmets
17	Exeter, Curry Rival School	30 Sig Regt RIT
17	Haxby Carnival, York	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt RIT
18-23	Paignton Sea Front	30 Sig Regt RIT
20-22	Lincoln Agric Show	White Helmets
20-22	Edinburgh KAPE	Blue Helmets
24	Brighouse Show	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt RIT
24	Colchester Garrison Open Day	19 Inf Bde Sig Sqn RIT
24-25	Exeter Scouts	30 Sig Regt RIT
24-25	Rotherham Tattoo	White Helmets, Blue Helmets, Trg Gp RIT
25	Catterick Racecourse	Blue Helmets
26-29	Dundee KAPE	White Helmets
29	Malton Show	Trg Gp RIT
29	York Garrison Open Day	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt RIT
30-1 July	Freedom of Richmond, Catterick Reunion	White Helmets, Blue Helmets, Trg Gp RIT
JULY		
1-17	SEDist KAPE	3 Armd Div Sig Regt RIT
1	Bramley Carnival	Trg Gp RIT
2	Bromyard Gala	White Helmets
4	Keighley Straw Race	Trg Gp RIT, 49 Sig Sqn (V)
5-7	Bassingbourn Army Exb for Schools	Quicksilver, Trg Gp RIT, Blue Helmets, 19 Inf Bde Sig Sqn RIT
6-10	Plymouth Joint Services Day	30 Sig Regt RIT
7-8	Pudsey Show	Quicksilver
8	Middlesbough Brit Steel Gala	Trg Gp RIT, 90 Sig Sqn (V)
8-9	Cheshire Steam Fair	White Helmets
9	Barnsley Vintage Car Rally	Trg Gp RIT
9	Staines Show	Blue Helmets
10-13	Harrogate Great Yorkshire Show	Quicksilver
11-14	Torbay Carnival	30 Sig Regt RIT
13-15	Kent County Show	White Helmets
14	Wathgill CCF Central Camp	Trg Gp RIT, White Helmets
15	Littlehampton Forces Day	5 AB Sig Sqn RIT
15-17	Wakefield Save the Children Gala	Quicksilver
15	Wetherby High School Gala	Trg Gp RIT
15	Stoke Hill School	30 Sig Regt RIT
15-16	Widnes, Wakefield Halton Show	Blue Helmets
16	RAF Church Fenton SSAFA Air Show	Trg Gp RIT
16	Spilsby Show, Lincs	White Helmets
16-21	Helston Flambards	30 Sig Regt RIT
19	Keighley Show	Quicksilver
20	Cumberland Agric Show	White Helmets
22	Cleveland Show	Quicksilver, Blue Helmets
22	Bristol, British Aero Space	30 Sig Regt RIT
22	Catterick, Save the Children	White Helmets
22	ACC Harrogate, Spectral Vision	White Helmets, Quicksilver, Blue Helmets
22-23	Nostell Priory Show	Trg Gp RIT
23	Wigtownshire Hunt County Fair	White Helmets, Blue Helmets
24-26	Rydale Show (N Yorks)	Quicksilver
26	Devon, Yealmpton Show	White Helmets, 30 Sig Regt RIT
26-27	Weston Air Display	Blue Helmets
27-28	St Helens Show	33 Sig Regt (V)
28-31	Pickering Traction Rally	Quicksilver
29	Imphal Bks, York Kohima Day	Blue Helmets
29	Weston Super Mare ACF Tattoo	30 Sig Regt RIT
30	Torquay Pedal Car Rally	30 Sig Regt RIT
31-6	Inverness KAPE	Band
31-11	Inverness, Aberdeen KAPE	White Helmets, Trg Gp RIT, 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt

The Royal Signals White Helmets

THE BLUE HELMETS
ROYAL SIGNALS PARACHUTE DISPLAY TEAM



Photographs by Steve Heritage

'May I have a go please?'

'Certainly Sir'

The SOinC meets the Blue Helmets *(from the left)*, Capt Malcolm Coupar, the General, the DZ controller LCpl Shane Ackers (feet only), Sgt Steve Whittick, Cpl Steve Hicks, LCpls Dave Chapman and Tony Thompson

An officer who, we have calculated, completed the parachute course before reserve chutes were introduced and who, because in those days subalterns could not afford cars, did his courting on his motorbike, recently said goodbye to the Royal Signals Display Teams. The officer was the SOinC, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB, MBE**.

The General watched the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team preparing for the 1989 Show Season, including 13 'red helmetted' learner riders (by coincidence the Royal Artillery Motor Cycle Team wear identical red helmets). After the White Helmets had completed their practice, the SOinC went over to talk to each of the spectators (members of the Quicksilver Display Team and injured White Helmets).

Just as the SOinC had donned a helmet prior to renewing his acquaintance with a motor cycle, the Royal Signals Blue Helmets Parachute Display Team dropped in to make its farewell. After meeting each of the parachutists, the General was handed an unsilenced, snarling Tiger Twin 750. He showed he had not forgotten anything about riding a motor cycle. He then accepted, with enthusiasm, an invitation to take his place on top of the three bike pyramid. The pyramid proceeded from the Vimy playing fields, down the narrow, winding, hilly road, past TTS, between Vimy A and B, to the RSDT offices. Two seconds after our photograph was taken the order had been given for 'Out' and the General and the six wing men extended their arms horizontally in best display fashion for the ride.

At RSDT offices, as the SOinC handed back the 'borrowed' white helmet it was pointed out to him that his name was on the left hand side and his parachute brevet on the right. It was the Royal Signals Display Teams' way of saying 'Thank you for your enormous interest, encouragement and support of all three Display Teams throughout your time as SOinC.

(Please see 'Situations Vacant' on page 204 for an RO3 appointment with the Royal Signals Display Teams.)

INAUGURATION OF THE SKYNET 4B SATELLITE

The UK's newest military communication satellite was formally taken into use on Wednesday 22 February 1989 by the Minister for Defence Procurement, **The Lord Trefgarne**, making a call over the satellite, using equipment manned by the Royal Signals personnel stationed at the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment Satellite Communication Centre, Defford, Worcestershire. Skynet 4B was launched with the Astra TV Satellite on an Ariane 4 rocket from Kourou, French Guiana in the early hours of Sunday 11 December 1988. Once it had achieved its operating orbit and been fully tested from Defford, it was decided to stage a formal inauguration to make the satellite's entry to operational service.

The inaugural call was made in the morning by the Minister from a modified PSC 505 manpack satellite communication terminal on Horse Guards Parade in London direct through Skynet 4B to a VSC 501 Landrover terminal at RAF Wildenrath, Germany, where it was taken by **2Lt Tony Clark** of 22 Sig Regt and **Flt Lt Richie Gardner** of the RAF Regiment. In the evening the manpack terminal was resited inside the Science Museum in South Kensington for a celebratory reception held by the satellite's manufacturers, British Aerospace and Marconi Space and Defence Systems. During the reception further calls were made by others including the Under Secretary of State for Defence Procurement **The Hon Mr Tim Sainsbury**, the MP for Surrey South West **Mrs Virginia Bottomley**, and the Deputy SOinC **Brig T. H. Wheawell**.

The terminals were prepared and set up by a mixed team of scientists and soldiers from Defford led by **Dr Alan Smith**. They were: **WO2 (FofS) John Scully, Sgt Chris Ward, Cpls Bob Lockeridge** and **Leafy Lane**—London; **Maj Richard Davis, Cpls Denis Fallowfield** and **Paul Bernard**—Wildenrath.

Brig Tom Wheawell, Deputy SOinC, speaks from the Science Museum to Maj Richard Davis in Germany

Cpl Denis Fallowfield in Germany checks the VSC 501's antenna alignment before the inaugural call

SUDAN

'Gentleman, welcome to Khartoum. You have arrived at a very interesting time. There may well be a Military Coup whilst you are here!' With these words the Defence Attache, **Col Robert Carson OBE** (late R Irish) greeted his four visitors from Catterick as they entered the Friendship Palace Hotel. They moved to a small table in a dimly lit corner of the bar where the new arrivals firmly grasped their Moslem standard soft drinks and listened intently as further details of the political situation were unfolded.

The Sudanese Army Commanders had delivered a memorandum to the Prime Minister demanding that he make immediate plans for improvements in certain specific areas. If he failed to do so the Army would no longer accept orders from his government. There were apparently many demands and they included; ending the wasteful meaningless war in the south of Sudan; improving the chaotic political situation; stabilising the economy and production of economic plans; improving the administration of the country and changing Sudan's relationship with certain other countries.

There had been street demonstrations and riots six weeks earlier and a recurrence was considered possible. Trade unions and professional bodies were threatening to strike. There was a very real possibility that the airport would be closed and all foreigners could be confined to their hotels. The situation was indeed 'interesting'. The visitors were stirred but not shaken.

Plans for the visit began in May 1988 in response to a letter from the British Defence Attache Khartoum who said that the Director of the Sudanese Signal Corps had requested British Army advice on various officer and NCO courses at the School of Signals in Khartoum and on technical store keeping procedures in a large new store/workshop which had been donated by the Americans.

The Royal Signals Training Advisory and Control Team (TACT) was consulted and it was agreed that a party of four would visit Khartoum from 13 to 20 September 1988 but the devastating floods in Khartoum during August 1988 caused the postponement of the visit.

In January 1989 the DA met the new Director of the Sudanese Signal Corps. **Maj Gen Hassan El Khalifa**, who confirmed that he would like the visit to go ahead. Plans were reactivated and the TACT team visit was arranged for 22 February to 3 March 1989.

The members of the team were: **Lt Col Keith Ryding**, Team Leader; to advise on the overall training system and officer training. **Maj Terry Lightfoot**, Traffic Officer; to advise on operator training. **Maj John Turner**, Quartermaster; to advise on Stores Accounting procedures. **WO1 (FofS) John McIlree**; to advise on technical repair procedures and technician training.

The team was met on arrival by **Lt Col Hassan Mekki** who acted as escorting officer throughout the visit. Some members of the Corps may remember him as he attended an Overseas Communications Course in 1980/81. In spite of the tense situation mentioned earlier the visitors were given every consideration and treated throughout as guests in an obviously friendly country.

There are many ways in which Royal Signals could help the Sudanese. A full and comprehensive report on the visit was made to the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. It will be interesting to see which of the many recommendations are finally implemented. Whatever the outcome, it was a pleasure to re-establish the links between the Sudanese Signal Corps and Royal Signals. Despite forebodings the team departed from Khartoum Airport very early on the morning of 3 March and returned safely to Catterick.

(Note Jimmy's shorts.)

THOUGHTS OF THE BEST STUDENT 11TH SIGNAL REGIMENT—MARCH 1989

JSig A. P. Marlow—Ulster Troop

'Report to Darlington where you will be met and taken to 11 Sig Regt' were the instructions I received from my local Army Careers Information Office. Knowing little else I got on the train having no idea what to expect except I was now starting my chosen career. I was met at the station and brought to the Regiment where I was put into Ulster Tp.

The first six weeks were the hardest. My memories of that period included learning how to iron my kit and often I wished that my mum was there to do it, and to be a member of and work as part of a team and learn personal discipline, in particular living in a group of about 10 men in one room. After this six week period of basic training we had more responsibility placed on us both as a Troop and as individuals. The Troop staff started to promote room leaders to JNCOs, which caused friction between the lads, resulting in self discipline going out of the window. This led to punishment, until we sparked together again. Once we had done so, I realised that the Army wasn't such a bad place after all and the training seemed to be getting easier. The Troop found that if they worked for the staff then the staff would work for them, rewarding us with an occasional beer or arranging fun activities and competitions against the other troops, including football, rugby and boxing. The sense of adventure, that I had been promised at the recruiting office, was realised by two weeks of external leadership training, which consisted of skiing, caving, abseiling and other adventurous pursuits done both in the Yorkshire Dales and also the Cairngorms.

The military training included all the usual things, NBC, first aid etc, but also included using the FIBUA Training Area. Here we learnt how to defend and assault houses, throwing grenades in, then following through clearing the building room by room. We also used part of the assault course there, going up ropes attached to grappling hooks which we had to throw, then over the roofs of buildings and crawl along through the drains.

All the military skills we had learnt during the 26 weeks of training were tested on the Battle Camp at the end of the course. It was hard but made us realise what being a soldier is all about. I had found NBC training boring but it suddenly became an asset as the cry of 'gas, gas, gas' went up at 0100 hrs as CS gas drifted across our position.

The final week was spent preparing for pass off, no longer working as just a Troop but as a Squadron. This felt funny as up until this point we had been rivals with the other two troops on the parade. Looking back now, having completed it all, the shouting and the pressure were necessary and worthwhile as all those who lasted the course had become good soldiers. I hope I will do as well in my trade training as a Driver Electrician as I have done in Ulster Tp.

JSig A. P. Marlow and his family flanked by the SOinC and Mrs Alexander, after receiving his prize for 'Best Student' 17 March 1989

FAREWELL TO PETER HALSEY

Peter Halsey retired from the appointment of Chief Superintending Instructor of the Trade Training School 8 Sig Regt on 24 February.

Peter was a doyen of the Corps having given service for a period of 46 years. While not claiming a record, this was an outstanding contribution which was terminated solely by the application of the rules which decree that thou shalt not continue beyond the age laid down for retirement.

In 1940 he worked as a Tester and Inspector of Carrier Equipment for the Telephone Manufacturing Company at Footscray. He was then 16 and joined the Home Guard at a time when it really was a Dad's Army. In 1942 he enlisted into the General Service Corps from where he was transferred to Royal Signals. He was trained as a Line Mechanic and became a Lance Corporal 'demonstrator'. The seed of his future was sown.

Posted to 3 Training Regt he was promoted Corporal and then Sergeant. He was re-mustered (nothing has changed!) as a Lineman Mechanic A1 on 26 December 1946—obviously block leave was not then the norm. He was promoted again to Staff Sergeant (SSI) in 1947 and was finally discharged in 1950.

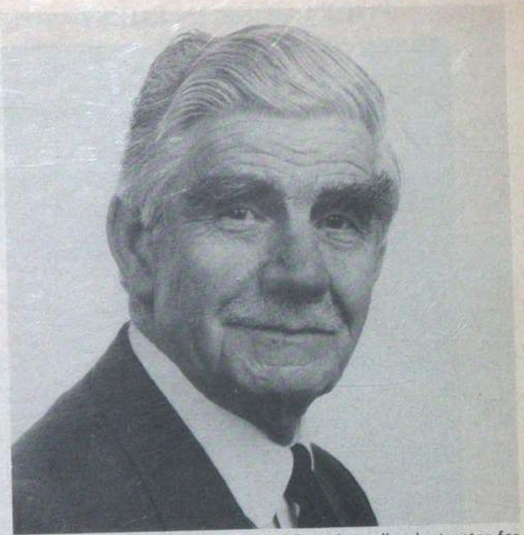
His only recorded misdemeanour was for an incident on 16 November 1944 'when employed as NCO IC the Vegetable Cleaning Squad, he allowed his squad to fall out early'. The charge was laid by one **CSM Taylor** and he was sentenced to be reprimanded. The TTS of course never knocks off early!

Peter joined the Civil Service before his discharge date and became an Instructional Officer on 11 September 1950 in what was later to become 8 Sig Regt. He moved progressively through the Instructor grades becoming the Chief Superintending Instructor in 1972.

Highlights of his nearly 40 years in 8 Sig Regt (and its forbears) were the planning and move of the TTS to its present location and seven months spent in the USA in 1980 to learn the advantages of Fixed Mastery Variable Time (FMVT) instruction, then a new concept of teaching and learning which is now commonplace in Royal Signals and under consideration in other parts of the Army.

In addition to his duties, **Peter** found time to continue his military career in the Territorial Army. Initially he joined the Army Emergency Reserve (AER) in 1954 as a Lieutenant (TOT). As a TA Officer he served in 3 Sig Construction Regt and then 89 Sig Regt. He was promoted Major (TOT) in May 1966. When the AER was reorganised he was posted to 34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V) a Regiment with whom, for the TTS, he forged close links which remain to this day. In 1976 he was promoted Lieutenant Colonel (TOT). He retired from the TA in 1979 having exceeded the permissible age limit! For service in the AER he was awarded the ERD.

As if all this was not enough **Peter** is well known in the world of higher education and has been involved with Darlington Technical College for many years. He taught Maths there during his early years in Catterick. He was also actively involved with City and Guilds and the Business and Technician Education Council where he has assisted in obtaining recognition for some of our courses. With **Maye**, his wife who has also made major contributions to the Regiment, he is involved in a number of societies in Richmond. Indeed we understand he is now on a course to become an official guide for Richmond.



Mr Peter Halsey ERD Retired Chief Superintending Instructor for the Trade Training School, 8 Sig Regt

With Biddy his dog **Peter** has achieved well deserved immortality. They are figures in the picture awarded for A grade or Outstanding Achievement by students; the Ken Howard print of Queen's Avenue.

We calculate that **Peter's** work has influenced some 50,000 regular soldiers training for Royal Signals plus a large but indeterminate number for TA. All will miss his bushy eyebrows, his helpful and constructive attitude, his vast knowledge, his experience and his friendship. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

To mark **Peter Halsey's** long and valued service to Royal Signals, the Corps world wide, both Regular and Territorial, subscribed to provide a fitting gift on the occasion of his retirement.

Most readers will be aware of 'The Mouseman', his superb furniture and the association between his workshop and the Royal Signals Officers' Mess. From Robert Thompson's Mouseman workshop was obtained a unique table in solid English oak carved with the Corps badge and **Peter Halsey's** dates of service 'from all ranks Royal Corps of Signals'. Such was the subscription that an additional standard lamp was added for good measure. Presentation was made by Commander Training Group Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison, **Brig Alan Eastburn** at a dinner in the Officers' Mess on 23 February.

AIDING THE POLICE AT THE M1 AIRCRAFT CRASH

On 8, 9 and 10 January Comms and Sy Gp (UK) provided assistance to Leicestershire Police at the scene of the M1 aircraft crash at Kegworth. A brief outline of the operation follows:-

On 8 January at approximately 2056 hrs Loughborough Police contacted the Guardroom at Garats Hay Barracks and requested assistance at the site of the crash of a Boeing 737 on the M1 motorway at Kegworth. The contact procedure is laid down in the Unit's East Midlands Disaster Plan, which had in fact been practised in November 1988.

At approximately 2125 hrs on 8 January 1989 **Capt Peter Hopkins, Sgt Robert Reid, SSgt David Hoyland** and 60 soldiers, including WRAC, despatched in Unit transport to Kegworth Police Station, the designated Emergency Services RV and Control Point. Simultaneously the Disaster Plan Liaison Officer, **Maj Jack Fiskel**, the Unit 2IC, went directly to the crash site. The main body of soldiers was called forward to the crash site at 2215 hrs and remained on site until approximately 0400 hrs on 9 January. We assisted with an area search for bodies which may have been thrown from the crashed aircraft; maintenance of a cordon around the crash site to prevent unauthorised persons gaining access; assistance in the removal of wreckage and other tasks as required by the emergency services.

The Unit was also involved in follow-up searches on 9 and 10 January, with the aim of finding any aircraft wreckage along the flight path. As a direct result of these searches approximately 100 minute pieces of aircraft engine were recovered near the village of Sutton Bonnington, some four miles from the crash site. Comms and Sy Gp was assisted in this task by a party of Royal Engineers from Waterbeach.

The average age of the soldiers deployed on the night of the crash was between 18 and 19 years. All behaved in the very best traditions of the service and worked with diligence, compassion and good humour, often difficult considering some of the tasks that had to be undertaken.

The contribution made by these young soldiers was recognised by many, not least the Prime Minister, **Mrs Thatcher**, and the Assistant Chief of the General Staff. Letters of congratulations were received from both. The Unit also received signalled congratulations from the GOC Eastern District and personal thanks from a host of others including Government Ministers, the Chairman of British Midland Airways, the Chief Constable of Leicestershire and last, and by no means least, the survivors, many of whom we have since been able to visit in hospital. All expressed their thanks for the help given.

Two members of the Group were selected to meet **HRH The Prince of Wales** when he visited Nottingham to thank those involved.

PORT LODGE IN RHEINDAHLEN RAISING MONEY FOR BLESMA

The CinC BAOR accepts the cheque on behalf of BLESMA with *(Left to Right)* Cpls John Walley RAOC, Colin Bredin, Sgt Frank Roberts, LBdr Des Williams RA and Cpl Jed Durbridge RCT

The Port Lodge in Rheindahlen was formed two years ago and modelled on two similar Royal Signals groups at Catterick and Bulford. Its main aim has been to raise money for BLESMA and this has been successfully achieved. Although not formed entirely of Corps personnel, those who have played an important role in recent activities are: **Sgts 'PJ' Allen** SHAPE, **Steve Welding** 30 Sig Regt, **Cpls 'Mitch' Barr** 8 Sig Regt, **Colin Bredin** 16 Sig Regt, **Paul Hanlon** 21 Sig Regt, **Gordon Mundie** HQ Int and Sy Gp (G), **Gordon Stoneley** AMIS HQ BAOR, **Sig 'Budd' Budding** 16 Sig Regt and **'Chez' Chester** 233 Sig Sqn.

Continued support has also been received from **Capt M. Neville**, 16 Sig Regt who has closely followed progress of all events.

The funds raised will be used by BLESMA in providing continuing rehabilitation training for young servicemen and for the Residential Care of War Widows at the BLESMA Homes at Blackpool and Crieff in Perthshire.

During the last 12 months, Corps personnel serving with JHQ Rheindahlen and the International Military Staff at SHAPE have played a major role in raising money for the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association (BLESMA). Apart from its work on behalf of limbless ex-servicemen and women, BLESMA plays a major role in the counselling and rehabilitation of young servicemen who unfortunately lose limbs either through accidents in the service or through terrorist activity.

At a recent function held at IMS SHAPE on the occasion of the dining out of **Brig R. F. L. Cook** (Signal Officer-in-Chief Designate) a cheque for £4,100 was presented to the Deputy General Secretary of BLESMA, **Lt Col R. R. Holland MBE, BEM**. The following evening, in the presence of **Lt Col Holland**, the Rheindahlen Port Lodge proudly announced that the Lodge had raised DM 11,050 for BLESMA during the last 12 months. On 20 February the CinC BAOR was presented with a cheque for that amount by the Chairman of the Port Lodge, **Sgt Frank Roberts**, currently serving with HQ Int and Sy Gp (G).

ARMY SKIERS AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Great Britain was again represented by soldiers at the Biathlon World Championships this year, when the four skiers selected for the Team were **Cpl Dixon** 35 Engr Regt, **Cpl Carl Davies** 22 Sig Regt, **LCpl Ian Woods** 26 Engr Regt and **Gnr Ben Rex** 19 Fd Regt. They were accompanied by the Team Trainer **Sgt George Cowie** 35 Engr Regt and Team Manager **Capt Mark Hainge RE**. The photograph shows the Team at the World Championships which were held in Feistritz, Austria 5-12 February 1989.

Cpl Dixon, the fastest Biathlon skier in Britain until now, has a serious challenge on his hands. The contender for pole position is recently-promoted **Cpl Carl Davies** from 22 Sig Regt in Lippstadt. The first indication of his growing talent came at the BAOR Championships this year, where he prevented **Cpl Dixon** from making a clean sweep of the Army and National titles by winning the 10km Biathlon Sprint race himself. Since then he has beaten **Cpl Dixon** twice more, both times at the World Championships in Feistritz, Austria by 1 min 19 secs in the 20km and by 1.2 secs in the 10km races.

EXCHANGE TOUR WITH 1 CANADIAN SIGNAL REGIMENT

Report by Capt P. J. Grogan

Having been in the 1st Canadian Sig Regt (1 CSR) as the Royal Signals Exchange Officer for nearly three years now, I feel morally obliged to write a note for *The Wire*.

Two Royal Signals officers are stationed here in Kingston; **Maj John Burnage** who is with the Canadian Forces School of Communications and Electronics (CFSCE) and I am with 1 CSR.

On the military side, 1 CSR is the only regimental sized signal Unit in the Canadian Armed Forces. Its peacetime strength is approximately 550 all ranks, and it is twinned with 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in Verden. The similarity between the two regiments ends there, as due to their dispersion across Canada there are no brigade signal squadrons under command of the Regiment, nor is there a full alternate headquarters as we have with Oscar and Papa Access Nodes and Headquarters, but rather a step up facility. Unlike our own Divisional Signal Regiments, 1 CSR has a dedicated EW squadron, which supports it.

As anyone who has been to BATUS at Suffield will know it is difficult to accurately portray the size of Canada, but in general terms Units frequently operate on exercise 500 miles away from base, which inevitably creates a few more logistic and movement problems than a move from Herford to Hameln! Every two years, all of the Units and Brigades within Canada gather for a large divisional concentration, known as the 'Rendezvous' series of exercises. These are held in Wainwright, Alberta, which is also the location of another smaller British Training Unit. These exercises are similar to the Spearpoint and Lionheart series, but the logistics become even more acute. In the case of 1 CSR, our movement is by rail for the vehicles and by air for the men. The air flight takes four and a half hours, whilst the train takes five days to cover the 2,300 miles from Kingston! This is about the same as going on exercise to Moscow from London!

Kingston is a beautiful town with a population of about 65,000 people. Perfectly placed for travel, sports and shopping, it is situated on Lake Ontario's northern shore and is central to the big three Eastern cities: Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa, Canada's capital city. Just across the Saint Lawrence river is the USA, which we can get to in half an hour, and see from our kitchen window during the winter months! Lake Ontario itself boasts some of the best freshwater sailing in the world, interesting scuba diving, and every other conceivable water sport, whilst the winter offers skating, skiing and other frozen sports, including ice hockey.

There is an unwritten ritual in Canada that every exchange officer must take part in one full game of ice hockey, especially if he has never skated before! My baptism of fire came last year in a game versus the Sergeants' Mess, whilst **John Burnages'** came this winter in a 'friendly' between the School and the Regiment! We were both totally useless!

Winters get bitterly cold here, and whilst this is our third winter, the coldest it has ever been was −60 degrees Centigrade, with the wind chill factor. The compensation for this is the excellent summer temperatures of mid 30's to low 40's. This is great for bronzing and B-B-Qs, but the humidity is often around the 90% mark, which makes life significantly more uncomfortable. Fortunately, nearly all of the regiment's exercises are in the winter, spring and fall, leaving the summers free for block leave and annual personnel rotation. The bad side to this is that it can be a little cold sleeping out in minus 60! The Royal Signals Winter Warfare course in Norway was worth its weight in gold prior to coming out here!

There are many similarities between our own Army and the Canadian forces. Until 20 years ago, the rank structure was the same, as was the basic way the army functioned and was organised. The Royal Canadian Corps of Signals was rightly proud to be the Senior Signal Corps, being formed after the Boer War in November 1903 by **Maj Bruce Carruthers**. In the 1960's, the three services were unified by **Pierre Trudeau**, and many of the old traditions and ranks disappeared, being replaced by a common rank system and uniform for the Army, Navy and Air Force. The Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, which served the Army, became the Communications and Electronics Branch, and encompasses all three services.

SPORTS

On the sporting side, I have experienced many new and crazy sports: skidooing, broomball, ice hockey, and white water rafting being but a few. Skidooing needs the least amount of effort, but costs the most, as it is done on a single track powered sledge, which is capable of speeds of 80km per hour cross country. This may sound quite tame, but when you are only 18in above the snow, and don't quite know where all the wire fences are, it can be a little nerve racking! Broomball is similar to ice hockey, and is played with special suction shoes rather than skates, and a 'broom' rather than a hockey stick. As with ice hockey, you have to get fully padded up, and the ice feels like concrete the 20th time you fall on it! At least you can stand up more easily than on skates.

In closing, life here is different, and certainly not a 'swan', but it is great fun despite the isolation from UK. Both BDLS and Signals 31 keep us well informed on all military and Corps matters, whilst visitors to Canada such as the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock**, and the then Commandant of the School of Signals, **Brig A. H. Boyle** and his wife **Anne**, also gave us updates on Corps policy etc.

Capt Grogan assumes command at 1 Sqn. The CO oversees the passing of the pennant from the outgoing OC, Maj Bostwick, to Capt Grogan

The Divisional Radio Park or village deployed for a CPX in Wainwright, Alberta. Note the dust!

Due to the severe winters, maintenance bays are spacious and have built in fume extractors. An LAD paradise

Tayforth Universities Officer Training Corps

Officer IC Signals Wing: 2Lt J. M. L. Watling
Signals PSI: WO2 Dave Chrystal

Despite all views to the contrary, life, civilisation and UOTC Signal Wings in particular, do exist north of the border. And this Englishman, about to end his four year sentence consigned to a University in the wilderness of Fife can confirm signalling in Tayforth has progressed beyond using semaphore, smoke signals and bagpipes to communicate.

The two major events of the winter season were the Royal Signals weekend at Catterick and the winter Signals Cadre at Barry Buddon.

The UOTC visit to Catterick was very interesting for Officer Cadets who, throughout their UOTC career, had been led to believe that British Army communications involved something only slightly larger than a walkie-talkie. The guided tour around the Ptarmigan Training School was excellent as was the chance, on the Saturday afternoon to see the communications for a brigade actually being set up in the field. The party on the Saturday evening (an essential part of all UOTC training) had the desired effect. I quote from the Officer Cadet's report on the following day: 'The following morning dawned bright and clear; but we didn't'!

And the stands, on the Sunday, varied as they were, were extremely enlightening. Despite the five hour journey from Dundee all who attended felt that the visit had been thoroughly enjoyable and very well organised. I would like to thank **Maj Tiffin**, 8 Sig Regt and all those involved for an excellent weekend.

The Signals Cadre, Winter '89, took place at the bleak 'holiday camp' by the North sea known as Barry Buddon and was run in conjunction with Tayforth's Recruits Cadre. The aim was to bring 15 MTQ 2 and CMT OCdts up to Class 2 Unit Signals Qualification. A nigh impossible task in four days, one would have thought. Yet miracles were achieved.

Thanks to our Signals PSI at that time, **WO2 Duncan Macallister**, we had managed to amass from Local TA Units, five FFR landrovers, telephones, switchboards and lots of other equipment for the OCdts to use. We were also joined by our new Signals PSI **WO2 Dave Chrystal** who gave up part of his leave in order to see how the strange world of UOTC signalling functioned. The illusion that this Cadre was going to be a 'Cushy Number' was quickly shattered as Officer Cadets, on the first day, made the quantum leap from PRC 351 to FFR Vehicle installations and Electronic Warfare. By the end of the second day they had been shown the principles of Antenna Theory and had even put up their very own half-wave dipole. The exercise that evening, allowed them to be let loose in the FFR Landrovers around the uncharted wilds of Barry Buddon and Dundee. Despite the fact that a certain Officer Cadet's driving delayed the second phase of the exercise (I would like to thank our Armoured Recce Troop for the loan of a tow rope) a good time was had by all. And judging by the litter extracted from the landrovers at endex most people had achieved the non-exercise mission of recceing for a 'Big-Mac and Fries'.

The tests on the Saturday and Sunday achieved mixed results, due to the lack of time which we had for the whole cadre. However work was halted on the Saturday evening for the serious part of the cadre, the farewell dinner and party for **WO2 Duncan Macallister** and his wife. It is a credit to his stamina that he was vertical the following morning in time to see that all kit was packed away tidily for the end of the cadre. Sunday saw the final tests and the results. Congratulations to **OCdt Kevin Struthers** who obtained the highest passmark of the cadre.

We bid a fond farewell to **WO2 Duncan Macallister** Tayforth's Signals PSI from 1986 to 1989. His sterling work, not only on the Signals side, within Tayforth (his comment about needing a hat stand for the different number of 'hats' he wore was justly apt) was indispensible, while his reassuring words of: 'There's no need for panic', as the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse were about to descend on various OTC events will be remembered always. I hope he enjoys his new challenge of an Armoured Signal Squadron. We welcome our new Signals PSI **WO2 Dave Chrystal**. Despite now having to tackle such obscure Signals subjects as Batco and Voice Procedure, he has been quick to find his feet and, is braving the hockey field against a pack of vicious attacking, stick-wielding Officer Cadets and even more ferocious Women Officer Cadets, to organise the Unit sports teams. It is clear that much is in store for the Signals wing.

Next term sees the continuation of our Wednesday afternoon specialist Signals training and we hope to send a team 'down south' (into foreign territory) to take part in the UOTC Signals Competition at Blandford. Hope to see you all there!

Rag Tag and Bobtail
The girls who made the Signal Cadre happen *(Left to Right)* OCdt Helen Pitt, JUO Jackie Lockhart and JUO Sonya Summersgill

'I'm certain it goes this way'
Officer Cadets *(Left to Right):* Jackie Eaton, Tessa Ashworth, Fiona McKinnon and Rachel Graham

Close Supervision
2Lt Watling on the right shows OCdt Campbell the way

REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

From: Lt Col G. S. 'Pat' Massey, Army Football Association PRO

Sgt A. **'Sandy' Brown** (238 Sig Sqn), **Cpl A. 'Alan' Higgins** (210 Sig Sqn) and **Cpl S. 'Steve' Welsh** (School of Signals) all played in the Combined Services side which won the Kentish Cup for the first time since 1984. The Services beat the Belgian Armed Forces by four goals to one (27 April) before travelling to Holland, on 2 May, where they beat the Dutch Armed Forces, at Vlissingen, by the only goal of the match. **Sgt Brown** and **Cpl Higgins** were in the Army side which earlier beat the Royal Navy, by four goals to one, in the South West Counties Championship Final (April 13)—**Cpls Welsh** and **A. 'Robbo' Robinson** (both School of Signals) were not available for selection for this tie which was played at the home of Royal Navy football in Portsmouth.

CUP FOOTBALL

On Wednesday 19 April, the School of Signals two year run of Army Challenge Cup success came to a dramatic end when they were soundly beaten, by the British Army of the Rhine Champions 10 Regt RCT, in the Army Challenge Cup Final. For the first 20 minutes, the School of Signals set the pace and looked capable of retaining the coveted trophy they so deservedly won in the Army Football Association Centenary Year. They were on the receiving end of a harsh penalty decision and trailed by a single goal at the interval break. In the second half, however, their defence was systematically taken part and, in the end, they went down by five goals to nil which was the biggest margin of defeat since the 1949 Final Tie.

The one trophy to elude the School of Signals, in its all-conquering year of Army Cup success in 1988, was the NAAFI Jubilee Cup. Although they won both their games in this competition last May, it's goals that count in the 'Jubilee', and, the Royal Navy Cup Winners HMS *Sultan*, beaten by the Blandford side by two goals to nil, scored four times against the RAF Cup Winners RAF Locking to edge out the School who had earlier beaten RAF Locking by one goal to nil.

Representing the Army FA for a second time this year, in the Jubilee Cup, the School lost the opening match, a 'home' tie , to RAF Wyton by three goals to one (4 May 1989). Any hopes of winning this trophy must have been seriously dented with this result. HMS *Sultan*, defending the trophy as Royal Navy Cup Winners, will take a lot of beating on their Gosport Stadium, and, RAF Wyton, who will enjoy the luxury of playing the final game, against HMS *Sultan*, on their own patch, must now be favourites to win the competition.

Some Other Sporting Events

One of the teams from 31 Sig Regt (V) that took part in the Courage Trophy Competition who caught the eye of the Times photographer. Left to Right: LCpls Diane Evans, Carol Green, Pte Colleen Hickey—47 Sqn. Of the 33 competing teams 47 Sqn male team, led by Lt Fraser Skirrow came fifth

Photo Courtesy of Times Newspapers Ltd

Cpl Andy Brown (22SR) in action in the Army Championship Slalom Race at Les Menuires in France

Col P. B. Webster presents Sig 'Bonny' Boniface with his Corps Colours for canoeing. Sig Boniface is undergoing training in 8 Sig Regt, and has had a good year in his sport. We wish him every success in the future

— Movements —

Officers

APRIL 1989

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col G. A. Allen	HQ NEDist R & L Staff
Lt Col M. J. Anderson	32 Sig Regt (V)
Lt Col A. J. Murray	School of Signals
Lt Col R. J. Skaife	Bristol University OTC
Lt Col A. M. Wallace	13 Sig Regt
Maj J. R. S. Amberton	40 Sig Regt (V)
Maj R. W. Blum	School of Signals
Maj G. J. Cary	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj P. H. Eaton	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj A. H. G. Elford	39 Sig Regt (V)
Maj N. C. Fairley	HQ 1 BR Corps
Maj T. J. Gigg	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj D. A. Hargreaves	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj A. J. Hutt	244 Sig Sqn
Maj M. Lithgow	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj P. L. Maloney	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj A. D. J. McVeigh	DSS (AD)
Maj M. N. Robinson	11 Sig Regt
Maj R. J. G. Rumford	DSS (AD)
Maj M. K. Stretch	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj R. D. Symonds	Joint Force HQ PPG
Maj R. G. Thomas	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj M. F. Tucker	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt E. A. Davis	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt I. L. Dudding	35 Sig Regt (V)
Capt G. A. James	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt A. E. Kendall	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt W. M. Rattray	SANGCOM
Capt J. E. Richardson	249 Sig Sqn
Capt P. C. Smurthwaite	DGEME (AE)
Lt M. G. Billingham	1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Lt N. R. N. Caleb	201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn

MAY 1989

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col R. C. Boulter	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
Lt Col C. J. Burton	MGO Sec (PE)(AE)
Lt Col S. A. Coltman	DGPS (A)
Lt Col J. H. Roberts	NACISA
Lt Col J. F. Storr	School of Signals
Lt Col D. J. Walden	SHAPE (BAE)
Maj R. F. Binham	608 Sig Tp
Maj G. A. Carmichael	239 Sig Sqn
Maj N. J. Cory	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj I. R. Grant	2 Inf Div HQ (Fwd)
Maj C. N. Lightfoot	8 Sig Regt
Maj M. A. Rough	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Maj A. H. Symmons	School of Signals
Maj C. R. Treeby	JCUFI
Capt J. Aspinall	5 AB Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Capt W. S. Balding	TACT
Capt J. A. Floyd	JCUFI
Capt D. C. A. Ellis	JCUFI
Capt T. J. Friend	16 Sig Regt
Capt J. F. Hanifin	233 Sig Sqn
Capt A. G. Hooley	Berlin Sig Regt
Capt C. R. King	21 Sig Regt
Capt C. J. Manning	11 Sig Regt
Capt J. H. R. Morley-Kirk	2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt N. Patton	HQ NI
Capt L. Rix	SANGCOM
Capt K. E. Russell	38 Sig Regt (V)
Capt T. C. Wadey	3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Capt D. Weir	22 Sig Regt
Capt S. P. Windsor-Brown	7 Sig Regt
Lt J. D. Carr	11 Ord Bn (EOD)
Lt G. Deans	9 Sig Regt
Lt N. C. Mapp	13 Sig Regt
Lt D. C. Marsden	7 Sig Regt
Lt A. F. McBain	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt R. J. White	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)

TECHNICAL AUTHORSHIP

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THE COLLEGE OF TECHNICAL AUTHORSHIP, PO BOX 7, CHEADLE, CHESHIRE SK8 3BY.

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WOs and SNCOs

APRIL 1989

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
AWO1 J. J. Ashwell	21 Sig Regt
AWO1 M. A. Granitza	5 AB Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
AWO1 W. Kirk	22 Sig Regt
AWO1 C. A. Maycock	16 Sig Regt
AWO1 (FofS) T. J. Sharp	1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
AWO1 G. E. Cook	31 Sig Regt (V)
AWO2 (YofS) P. M. Curley	7 Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) I. Lake	HQ Trg Gp R Signals
AWO2 (FofS) W. D. Taylor	608 Sig Tp
SSgt J. K. Letts	8 Sig Regt
SSgt N. March	259 Sig Sqn
SSgt C. S. Parry-Davies	QG Sig Regt
SSgt R. Snape	28 Sig Regt
SSgt N. W. Terry	8 Sig Regt
ASSgt P. F. Flintham	HQ AFNorth (BAE)
ASSgt J. E. Miller	30 Sig Regt
ASSgt (FofS) M. C. Milne	233 Sig Sqn
ASSgt S. R. Rofe	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
ASSgt M. A. Simcox	2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt
ASSgt (FofS) J. Whitmore	School of Signals
Sgt P. M. Boon	16 Sig Regt
Sgt J. G. Fisher	HQ 2 Sig Bde
Sgt T. C. Frankel	Berlin Sig Regt
Sgt P. Hannan	14 Sig Regt
Sgt D. A. Hartshorne	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt S. Hill	School of Signals
Sgt J. R. Hollingsworth	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt P. A. Horton	244 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. W. E. Hutchinson	21 Sig Regt
Sgt R. W. Oakley	21 Sig Regt
Sgt P. A. Paine	641 Sig Tp
Sgt R. Paterson	2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt H. J. Ripley	255 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. M. Rutherford	16 Sig Regt
Sgt L. M. Thorton-Granville	BR Contingent UNFICYP (Sp Regt)
Sgt P. G. Weaver	JSSU Falklands
Sgt J. M. Webb	School of Signals.
Sgt M. Webb	FSS Mormond Hill
ASgt S. Coburn	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
ASgt B. C. Foster	8 Sig Regt
ASgt W. O. McPhee	AA Coll Harrogate
ASgt A. S. Thompson	14 Sig Regt
ASgt M. D. Walker	249 Sig Sqn

MAY 1989

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
AWO1 (FofS) A. J. Brend	22 Sig Regt
AWO2 (FofS) T. J. Prince	633 Sig Tp
SSgt C. M. Atherley	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
SSgt D. A. Davidson	14 Sig Regt
SSgt A. Fiddes	244 Sig Sqn
SSgt R. Habergham	Depot Tp, 11 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) I. S. Horton	Int & Sy Gp
SSgt K. P. Jones	7 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) P. McGiveron	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
SSgt S. J. O'Dare	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
SSgt D. W. Smith	Depot Tp, 11 Sig Regt
SSgt P. Yeoman	13 Sig Regt
ASSgt (FofS) J. L. Andrews	608 Sig Tp
ASSgt A. N. J. Ashwell	13 Sig Regt
ASSgt (FofS) R. J. Baldwin	2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt
ASSgt (FofS) G. Blondel	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
ASSgt D. J. Butler	14 Sig Regt
ASSgt A. R. Dengate	13 Sig Regt
ASSgt (FofS) M. J. Drake	13 Sig Regt
ASSgt (FofS) G. M. Edwards	9 Sig Regt
ASSgt P. S. Farmer	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
ASSgt P. D. Gilbert	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
ASSgt F. A. C. Lindsay	13 Sig Regt
ASSgt (FofS) J. J. Newsome	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
ASSgt (FofS) I. C. Rowe	16 Sig Regt
ASSgt A. E. Snowdon	14 Sig Regt
ASSgt (FofS) W. M. R. Whitehead	21 Sig Regt
ASSgt (FofS) J. Whitmore	School of Signals
ASSgt (FofS) S. A. Wilks	21 Sig Regt
ASSgt S. E. Woolard	14 Sig Regt
Sgt J. P. Bennet	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt I. Beverley	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt A. B. Cooper	9 Sig Regt
Sgt G. K. Cripps	31 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt P. N. Dawson	1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt B. Donegan	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt M. R. Egan	608 Sig Tp
Sgt C. P. Gill	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Hanlon	5 AB Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt P. C. Hilton	608 Sig Tp
Sgt J. A. Honeyman	13 Sig Regt
Sgt P. B. Jobling	28 Sig Regt
Sgt J. V. Kennedy	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt S. K. King	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. Newman	ACIO Nottingham
Sgt D. J. Pocock	641 Sig Tp
Sgt J. P. Paine	HQNI
Sgt J. Reid	40 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt K. Robinson	30 Sig Regt
Sgt P. B. Szeremeta	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt E. Warburton	RM Cdo Trg Cen Lympstone
Sgt P. A. Wright	30 Sig Regt
ASgt P. W. Ledger	ACIO Southend
ASgt R. M. Webb	71 Sig Regt (V)

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during March 1989:-

RSA Lincoln	£ 60.00
RSA Harrogate	£ 50.00
In memory of Maj G. M. Allan	£ 50.00
RSA Bedford	£ 25.00
RSA Cotswolds	£ 20.00
Certa Cito Lodge	£ 10.00
P. Pettigrew	£ 8.75
Misc	£ 4.11
	£227.86

The following donations were gratefully received during April 1989:-

From the estate of A. E. A. D. Stead	£500.00
In memory of Maj G. M. Allan	£100.00
Bristol RSA	£100.00
Brighton RSA	£ 60.00
Liverpool RSA	£ 28.80
In memory of Lt Col R. J. K. Fenton	£ 5.50
D. W. L. Crisp	£ 2.00
Misc	£ 11.26
	£807.56

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.

EX-SERVICE 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.

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 70 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.

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 from 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.

NOTICES

DEATHS

Allan—Maj G. M. Allan—died 30 November 1988.
Barlow—Capt F. E. G. Barlow—died 5 December 1988.
Bourne—Capt (Hon Maj) A. J. Bourne—died 26 May 1988.
Bruce—Dvr S. E. Bruce—served 1939-45—died 12 January 1989.
Cherry—Maj D. R. Cherry—died 18 March 1989.
Cutter—ex Cpl E. J. Cutter—served 1939-46—died 6 November 1988.
Danby—Col C. C. Danby OBE—served 1925-1953—died 11 March 1989.
Davies—Sig A. P. Davies—1989—died 11 April 1989.
Elliot—Cpl G. Elliot—served 1983-1989—died 31 March 1989.
Jerram—Maj F. R. Jerram—died 24 November 1988.
Laity—Dvr T. W. Laity—served 1939-46—died 17 March 1989.
Latter—ex Sig F. C. Latter—served 1933-46—died 3 May 1989.
Lovegrove—Col S. J. Lovegrove TD—served 1931-56—died 28 April 1989.
McLeish—Cpl M. L. McLeish—served 1979-1989—died 31 March 1989.
Meredith—Lt (Hon Capt) A. F. Meredith—died 30 October 1988.
Morrill—Capt G. E. Morrill—served 1948-78—died 26 March 1989.
Payne—Maj C. G. Payne—served 1930-1946—died 3 May 1989.
Shaw—Maj C. J. Shaw—died 2 September 1988.
Starr—Col G. H. Starr CBE—served 1934-1966—died April 1989.
Sykes—Brig W. A. Sykes—served 1941-1978—died 6 May 1989.
Weightman—ex Dvr C. Weightman—served 1942-45—died 18 February 1989.
Young—Capt C. E. Young—died 9 March 1989.

OBITUARIES

Bondin—ex SSgt S. Bondin—Saviour 'Sam' Bondin died suddenly in April 1989. He served in the Corps from 1963-1985 and then worked as a Storeman in Central Ordnance Depot Donnington, his latter months with COD Sig Tp. **Sammy** will be missed by all those who knew him. Our deepest sympathy goes to **Pat**.

Engering—Mrs Lesley and daughter **Kirsty Engering**. It is with deep regret that we record the deaths of **Lesley** and **Kirsty**, the wife and daughter of **Sgt P. Engering** (ASMT Leconfield) as a result of a traffic accident. Very many friends in the Corps, some of whom had travelled from Germany, attended the funeral at Leconfield.

Fill—Mrs Grace Fill. It is with regret that we announce the death of **Mrs Grace Fill** wife of the late **Maj William Fill** who passed away on Monday 20 March 1989.

Harriman—ex Sgt J. Harriman MM. It is with regret that we publish the death of **Sgt J. Harriman** which occurred on 1 April 1989. A life member of Leeds Branch RSA he will be much missed by his friends. We offer our condolences to his wife **Joy** and the family. **Sgt Harriman**'s son, **SSgt C. Harrison** is Drum Major in the Corps Band.

Neil—Sgt R. Neil. It is with great sadness that we report the death of **Sgt Rab Neil**. He died in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary after a short illness.

As a Corporal he was the only Powerman on location at 52 Bde HQ during Ex Bonnie Dundee and he single-handedly, powered the whole Brigade area. Units coming into the location looking for field lighting or power for their kettle would be told 'see **Cpl Neil**' and **Cpl Neil** came up with the power. At the end of Ex Bonnie Dundee **Cpl Neil** was promoted to Sergeant in recognition of his excellent work during the exercise. **Rab Neil** will be greatly missed by all the Regiment as a competent and hardworking soldier and a good friend and colleague.

CORPS DATES

CORPS LUNCHEON
The luncheon will be held at the Headquarters Mess, Royal Signals, Blandford Camp, on Saturday, 17 June 1989 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.

ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER
The AGM will be held at 1800 hrs on Friday 20 October at the Crown Hotel in Blandford. All present and past members of the Corps are invited to attend. It will be followed by the Annual Dinner. For any further information contact **Lt Col K. Powell** at the School of Signals, Blandford Mil or (0258) 52581 Ex 2269.

FREEDOM OF ENTRY TO THE LONDON BOROUGH OF REDBRIDGE
A Parade to mark the Freedom of Entry to the London Borough of Redbridge to 36 Sig Regt (V) will take place on Saturday 24 June. The Corps Band will lead the Parade.

HM THE QUEEN'S GARDEN PARTY AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Our Colonel-in-Chief **HRH The Princess Royal GCVO** may attend the Garden Party on Tuesday 11 July 1989.

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

Ex **Sgt Terry McHugh** who served with 19 Air Formation Sig Regt at RAF Changi from 1959 to 1962 would be very pleased to hear from those who served with him. Please get in touch with him care of his son, **SSgt (YofS) T. A. McHugh**, 2 Sqn, 21 Sig Regt, BFPO 42.

A HOLIDAY IN PRESTATYN?
Ex **WO1 R. V. Marris** who served in the Corps from 1939-64 was RSM at 9 Sig Regt prior to leaving the army. He has recently spent a holiday in Famugusta, this time, as the guest of the present RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Peter Doherty. Mr Marris** is now the proprietor of St Edward's Guest House at 69 Marine Road, Prestatyn, Clwyd LL19 7HQ (Tel: 07456-3994). Members of the Corps are assured of a warm welcome. (See 9 Sig Regt contribution.)

WALL PLAQUES
Capt (Retd) G. Park is trying to complete a collection of wall plaques of units in which he served to display in the bar of his guest house. If anyone can supply any of them he would be very pleased to hear from you.

Egypt Comd Sig Regt, 3 LofC Sig Regt, 11 Armd Div Sig Regt, 2 Press Comms Sig Regt, 252 Sig Sqn (Hong Kong), 4 Sig Regt and 5 Sig Regt.

Please contact him at Pottergate Guest House, 4 Pottergate, North Yorkshire DL10 4AB. Telephone: (0748) 3826.

REUNION

KOHIMA CELEBRATIONS
Veterans of 2 Div may wish to know that the annual Kohima Celebrations will take place at Imphal Barracks, York on 29-30 July. A comprehensive programme has been planned and will include:

SATURDAY 29 JULY
Informal Salad Lunch—Matters and updating in the Sig Regt by the Commanding Officer; Garrison Open Day—Including Arena Displays and Old Comrades' Party—Including Supper.

SUNDAY 30 JULY
Open Air Service at the 2 Div War Memorial in the grounds of York Minister; Old Comrades' March Past outside the Minister and Curry Lunch.

Veterans who have not yet been contacted are invited to contact the Adjutant of 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt at the following address for full details of the programme and arrangements. Please write as soon as possible and certainly no later than 2 June. The address is: Adjutant, 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt, Imphal Bks, Fulford Road, York YO1 4AU

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 appoximately £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.

CALLING ALL WIRELESS OPERATORS
All Wireless Operators who served with GHQ Sig Regt FARELF in Singapore from September 1945, are invited to contact **Dickie Ockenden**, 3 Haffenden Road, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6QD (Tel: 058 06 3045), with a view to arranging a reunion.

HORA HENA AND EKALA
A reunion has been arranged for 15 September at the Belmont Hotel, Leicester. It is hoped that as many as possible of those who served at Hora Hena or Ekala between 1944 and 1949 will be able to be present. All particulars can be obtained from **Harry Moore**, 1 Blue Granite Park, The Green, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire LE12 7AG or by telephone (0533) 375423. Do come!

THE 25TH REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY 1947-1984
The fourth reunion of 25th (two five) Regt RA is to take place on Sunday 16 June 1989 at 'The Waggon Lines', Larkhill, Salisbury, Wilts by kind permission of the Commanding Officer, 14th Field Regt Royal Artillery.

All ex-members, irrespective of cap badge, their wives, families and friends are most welcome. Further details for those not on the mailing list can be had from: **Len Haddow**, 'Oaktrees', 11 Chapel Lane, Hempstead, Gillingham, Kent ME7 3TD. Tel: 0634 388156.

CORPS SWIMMING

From Capt J. R. Wallace—Corps Secretary
The Corps has only one Annual Fixture for Swimming and Water Polo, that being the event which takes place as part of the multi-sport fixture against the Royal Air Force Signal Support Command.

This year's fixture will take place at RAF Luffenham on Friday 16 June.

It is hoped to assemble the team at either Catterick or AA Coll Harrogate on Monday 12 June in order that some team training may take place.

All keen swimmers/water polo players whether based in UK or BAOR are urged to contact the Corps Secretary: **Capt J. R. Wallace**, Bradley Squadron, Army Apprentices College, Harrogate HG3 2SE. Tel: Harrogate Mil 8330/8331 as soon as possible.

It should be noted that cash is available to defray the cost of travel for UK and BAOR personnel selected to represent the Corps.

War Widows Association

of Great Britain

Service of Thanksgiving commemorating the men who gave their lives for this country, especially those who have no known grave

at

St Clement Dane's Church, London

11.00 am Sunday 25 June 1989

Service to be conducted by
Rev M. J. Stokes QHC RAF
Resident Chaplain
Preacher — Rev Michael Henry,
Chaplain of the Fleet

Tickets from:
Mrs P. Glidewell
5 Linden Court, Linden Road,
Bedford MK40 2DG
(SAE please)

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF AIRBORNE FORCES

The aim of the Golden Jubilee is that all those who served in Airborne Signals celebrate this anniversary, that a permanent memorial should be set up, and that funds should be raised to cover these as well as boosting the Airborne Charities.

You will know that the Airborne Museums at Aldershot and Normandy are for Airborne Forces as a whole. But you may not know that The Airborne Forces Security Fund is able to assist any Airborne or ex-Airborne soldier or his dependants, even though other benevolent funds may be involved.

Our main concern in the Security Fund is that the 1990s will show a threefold increase in the demands for money. The Controller of the Security Fund has done a first stage projection which shows a considerable increase in demands on the Fund in the 1990s as those of the wartime group reach their 80s.

If you wish to take part in the 50th Anniversary celebrations either for the very special Airborne Forces Day on 7 July 1990 in Aldershot, or at one of the Regional Open Days that are being held in other parts of the UK, you should contact the Administrative Officer at 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Arnhem Barracks, Montgomery Lines, ALDERSHOT, Hampshire GU11 2AU.

FINANCIAL PLANNING

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

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

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

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SITUATIONS VACANT

VACANCY FOR A RETIRED OFFICER GRADE 3 IN ROYAL SIGNALS MANNING AND RECORD OFFICE

A vacancy exists now for a RO3.

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, in fact, Glasgow has changed dramatically over the last few years. Last year it was the home of the British Garden Festival, the most successful so far and is now preparing for the European City of Culture for 1990. There are many things to do in and around the city. Glasgow affords quick and easy access to the coast and highlands. The city centre has many more 'green areas' and superb shopping facilities which are improving daily, and, of course, there are the Highlands and Islands on the doorstep, Glasgow is booming and is a nice place to live. Applications should be made to MOD(CM(A)2), Lacon House, Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8RY.

ROYAL SIGNALS DISPLAY TEAMS—RO3 APPOINTMENT

There is a vacancy for the RO3 appointment of Administrative Officer (AO) in the Royal Signals Display Team (RSDT) at Catterick.

The RSDT consist of the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team (the White Helmets commanded by a Captain); the Royal Signals Quicksilver Team commanded by a Captain and the Royal Signals Freefall Parachute Display team (the Blue Helmets).

The AO appointment has recently been held by **Lt Col F. C. Lockwood OBE**. It requires a retired Royal Signals officer with up to date knowledge of the Corps' communications and the new trade structure. He is responsible to OC RSDT for all aspects of the Teams' administration, including the maintenance of their accounts and preparation for audit.

He deputises for OC RSDT, in his frequent absences, in all matters except discipline. He assists the OC with operational planning and co-ordinates the programmes for all three teams.

There is a requirement for the AO to liaise with staff at District HQ and with civilian entertainment agencies.

Additional details can be obtained by telephone from OC RSDT on Catterick Mil (0748 832521) Ex 2666.

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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 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.

LETTERS

From: Lt Col W. R. Clare

Dear Sir

I shall be leaving the Army shortly and I felt that I should like to send a message to my many friends of all ranks with whom I have served. It seemed to me that *The Wire* was the ideal medium to reach as many as possible.

I should particularly like to thank all those with whom I have worked for their tolerance, advice and friendship which has made the last 25 years so memorable and so much fun. It would not be possible to single out individuals, but I have gained something from each one, TA and Regular alike.

May I therefore wish you every success and good fortune. I have left my address with RHQ in case anyone wishes to keep in touch..

Yours sincerely
Rodney Clare

School of Signals
Blandford Camp DT11 8RH

From: Sig Thornton

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express serious concern at the standards set by the two Royal Signals personnel featured on the front cover of the March issue of *The Wire*.

I attended a Basic Signalling Course in December and one of the points brought out on the course was that you should never be in contact with a vehicle and the ground if that vehicle is connected to a power supply. The two soldiers, one a Major, are clearly in contact with the vehicle and the ground. Are we to assume from this that they have not attended a Basic Signalling Course?

Yours faithfully,
Sig Thornton

Delta Tp
3 Sqn
8 Sig Regt

The letter above from ***Sig Thornton*** *seemed to me to raise a query on a, literally, vital subject and so to obtain the technically correct answer to* ***Sig Thornton's*** *observation it was referred to the OC Trade Training School 8 Sig Regt. His reply is reproduced in the next column.*

I too commend ***Sig Thornton*** *for taking the trouble to let us have his observation on our cover photo in the March* Wire. *It is heartening to know—from an editorial point of view—that our efforts are so well scrutinised—Editor.*

From: Lt Col J. C. Young

Dear Sir,

The correct drill for entering and leaving vehicles connected to an AC power source is:

Before entering, brush an exposed metal surface lightly with the **back of the hand.** A current which is dangerous will then make itself felt, but the fingers will not be cramped around the contact.

When leaving, jump out or jump off the lowest step and break all contact before touching the ground.

Assuming therefore that the officer and soldier in the photo have done the 'back of hand' test, they have complied with the necessary precautions. The test will have proved that the Electric Shock Protection Unit is working and they are protected.

Well spotted **Sig Thornton.** Observation and an enquiring mind are qualities to be encouraged.

Trade Training School
8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

Yours faithfully,
J. C. Young

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.

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.

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REPORT FROM ULSTER

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

The SOinC with Comd Comms Lt Col Steve Siddall, OC Sqn Maj Steve Johns and Rover Group prior to departing for Belfast

VISIT OF SIGNAL-OFFICER-IN-CHIEF
MAJ GEN P. D. ALEXANDER CB, MBE

On a murky day in March, the 13th to be precise, the farewell visit of the SOinC took place. The Squadron had prepared itself under the eagle eye of the 2IC **Capt Paul Ford**. It was the first operational tasking for the recently installed Squadron Commander **Maj Steve Johns**.

On arrival the General went upstairs to meet the hierarchy of the Squadron over a cup of coffee. The schedule firmly out of the window, he proceeded to visit the Systems Control. After an in-depth brief by the shift supervisor **Cpl Rob Hood**, he chatted happily with other members of Communication Tp. From there, it was straight through to the Brigade Headquarters and out again. The next stop was a visit to TM Tp workshops at which **Sgt Carl Shead** threw a well rehearsed and brilliantly acted speech on manpower and commitments. The General now with his ears bent discussed the radio problems with other members of the Troop. **SSgt Mick Partridge** gave his usual 'spiel' on heli-tele and the problems with its deployment. The SOinC then left SHQ and was met by **Cpl 'Scouse' Wharton** and the merry men of the Comd's Rover Group who explained how difficult it was to fit in all the sport these days!

Professionally escorted by APV to RUC Woodbourne, **Gen Alexander** was shown some of the expert technical work in the shape of the joint Army/Police Operations Room. It so happened that a 39 Bde technical maintenance team led by **Cpl Les Dawson** was on hand to give expert guidance. 3 Para rear link—**Sgt Dave Keevash**—was prepared to give his detailed knowledge of Cougarnet but was surprised to find himself talking about Army rugby to the SOinC.

After speaking to other members of the Corps the SOinC was taken by APV back to Lisburn. On arrival he was presented with a print of the River Lagan by **Cpl 'Scouse' Wharton**. All members of the Squadron wish the General the very best of luck in the future.

Maj Steve Johns introduces WO1 (RSM) Melville to the SOinC, on the left Comd Comms Lt Col Steve Siddall

HANDOVER OF SQUADRON COMMANDER

We are now under new management! The second week in March saw the handover between Squadron Commanders. The new OC **Maj Steve** 'let's go for a run' **Johns** was treated to a whistle stop tour of his new domain by the soon to be relieved—in more ways than one—**Maj -Hugh Hancock. Maj Hancock** is off to the great 'tower of babble' (MOD) to join the 'pin stripe brigade'. Happy commuting.

The handover consisted of the usual series of thrilling events; on the agenda was a discussion with each head of department about why their department was the most important, and why they should each have ten more men. The MTWO, **WO2** 'you owe me a 10 pack' **Philp** (RCT) thinks he won that round. (But, of course, we know differently!) **Cpl** 'stiff' **Corpse** delivered his rendition of the Syscon brief and **Cpl Andy** 'I'm going to Hong Kong' **Burdge** confused the whole day with his description of AMS commcen circuits.

Meanwhile, **Maj Hancock** was being removed from the Squadron in some very suspect MT. In good MT tradition—it broke down! **LCpl Rab Allan** was heard crying, 'I checked it this morning, Sir'. Hands up if you've heard that before. Just for your diary, the date was 10 March, Comic Relief Day. Purely coincidental, but nonetheless appropriate.

Life was now settled down to a quiet, staid existence of ten periods of PT each week and several parades for good measure. The Administration Officer **Capt Ivan Patrick** (RE) claims he's too old for this, and many others wish they were!

TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE TROOP

Capt Alistair Beard

Once again it has been a case of much work and no play; even the Squadron's elite rugby side has suffered the loss of several vital TM Tp members. The Troop has been engaged on matters of 'vital operational importance' for most of the time, however the occasional respite and social gathering has not been neglected.

The normal ongoing preventative maintenance has had to take second priority with the amount of commitments undertaken by the Troop. Ops Rooms have been redesigned by the elusive **SSgt 'I'll never get any leave' Couston** and much digging and wallowing around in mud has been carried out by **Cpls Gordon Donald, Les Dawson** and **'JJ' Whitty.**

The new mast has arrived at the back of the Squadron and the only thing it appears to be doing is interrupting the OC's parade. Riggers **LCpl Tim Jones** and **Cpl 'Rusty' Stephenson** did not look totally impressed as the gallant PSA contractors pieced together the metal strips like some kind of jigsaw. In anticipation of the mast being ready, the duty vehicles have been removed more times than the 2IC has been skiing this year! (no that can't be possible!)

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Riggers at 'play'—Fort Whiterock February 1989

The BRB cable tidying programme is initially complete thanks to those illustrious workers **Cpl Vince** 'Red Nose' **MacNaught, Cpls 'Stig' Richards** and **'Mac' McGowan.**

Sgt Shead has now found a new vocation in life (apart from being a FofS), that is being employed as a Cougar ¼ wavelength VHF antenna! It is also rumoured that his uniform fits better as well.

Cpl 'Snogie' Hughes is still mothering his favourite talkthrough—Brian—and was actually spotted near its location with a box of Cosifit nappies!

Cpl 'Dill' Dillon is now only nine months late with the intercomm at the Maze Prison but with his silky skills the project has now become less of a disaster and more of an enigma!

Cpl 'Lucan' Burgess has actually been spotted at work, but doing what we are not sure. Apart from the hard work, TM Tp is in good shape!

TRAINING

Despite the amount of work we have managed to get the obligatory training done. Careers courses have not been neglected either. **Sgts BJ Finnister** and **Dave Harris** are currently being beasted around on the RSSSC. **Cpl John Ramsdale** has been successful on his RSDCC as was **Sig Mick May** on his riggers course.

COURT AND SOCIAL

Red Nose Day did not go by unnoticed and a charity function organised by the Troop was held in the Horseshoe Club. Some excellent entertainment was witnessed including the Foreman of Signals, **WO2 Russ Moren**, lying in a bath of baked beans! Congratulations to **Cpl Brown** on his recent marriage to **Jane**, and to **Sig 'Young' Dutton** on his engagement. **Cpl Stephenson** and **LCpl Gash** are new arrivals and we wish them a happy tour. **Cpl** 'handbrake' **Whitty** is back in charge of the white Bedford and **LCpl 'Stig' Richards** has a car for sale, complete with red nose and all four hubcaps!

Keep your unit notes

SHORT!

225 Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Hugh Bardell**
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 had a turbulent time in the Province since the last *Wire* article. The previous OC **Maj Jim Heck** and **Cpl Russ Clarke** were both involved in the M1 British Midland air crash. We wish them a speedy recovery and hope to see them both fit again in the not too distant future.

DEPARTURES

Sadly we say goodbye to **Sgts Mark Hardy, Oscar Clarkson, Jock Dengate, Cpl Dek Painter, LCpls Nobby Clark, Dick Munson, Paul Sellick, Ian Wade, Pip Giddings** and **Sig Weasel Campbell.**

ARRIVALS

We welcome the new OC **Maj Hugh Bardell, Sgts Andy Hilton, Steve Thompson, Dave Roberts, Nev Fear, Graham Richmond, Bob Hodgson, WCpl Liz Johnson, LCpl Mick Church, Sig Bob Hollamby** and **'Wardy' Ward.**

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go to **Cpl** and **Mrs Riley** who produced a baby girl on the night of the Pond Park Bomb (no jokes please). **Sgt** and **Mrs John Smith** have just produced a baby boy. Well done. Congratulations also to **Mrs Anne Clay** who received a CBFC Commendation for all her sterling work whilst in Cyprus. Congratulations also to **Sgts Clive Ward, Gav Jones, Paul Humphriss** and **Robin Hood** on their promotions.

VOLLEYBALL

At the end of last year the Squadron Volleyball team travelled to Aldergrove to compete in the NI League Play-off, to determine the champions for 1988. After a shaky start the team knuckled down and were soon dominating the game and won the league taking the title for 1988. In January the team was back at Aldergrove for the NI elimination championships, with the winning team going forward to represent NI at the UKLF finals later in the year. The team won comfortably despite injury to the team captain, **Sgt John Wheater.** Even the last match against 176 Provost Coy RMP was won easily despite 'threats' from the bench of 'tyre tread checks' and 'hope your car tax is up to date'. Not only had the team won the entire competition but they managed not to drop a single set throughout. Now we are in full training for the UKLF Championships in April in Aldershot, just in case we meet some stiffer opposition!

BADMINTON

Despite having only seven girls in the Squadron we enter most sporting competitions. In January Badminton fever hit the ladies. The first competition was the Women's Services Inter-Unit Championships. After a hard match against 3 UDR the result was a tie so it was decided to choose the winning team on points scored. 225 were elected winners and a thrilled **Cpl Lorna Proctor** proudly held the trophy aloft. However the win was short lived. The points were re-counted and victory went to the UDR. Bad luck girls. The next competition was the Northern Ireland Championships and although our teams did their very best we returned home without a medal in sight. Still, better luck next time.

SOCIAL

February saw the Garrison Sergeants' Mess Quiz night and six dedicated members taking part. With searching questions such as 'for how many months of the year does a dormouse hibernate?' the team had their work cut out! However, it soon become clear that the competiton was between the Squadron team (Vacant Lot) and an RAPC team (The Counters). It was declared a tight finish but 'Vacant Lot' won by one point. Congratulations to **Sgt Nick Armer, WO2** and **Mrs Dave McNulty, Sgts Andy Hilton, Ian Woodcock** and **Colin Ibberson.**

233 Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Mrs Parker,** wife of **Cpl Parker,** on receiving the GOC's Commendation for her action during the Pond Park incident.

Mrs Parker (left) and Mrs McCusker (Lisburn Garrison RPC Defence Platoon) with the GOC NI, Lt Gen Sir John Waters

THE MCKELVIE SQUASH COMPETITION

by SSgt Maddison, Tech Tp

'Hello Staff what Sport are your running?' asked the 2IC. 'Volleyball', I promptly replied. 'Oh good . . . **Maj Vannan** tells me that you play squash, is that right?' 'Yes Sir', I replied. Suddenly by the glint in his eyes I realised I had made a terrible mistake. Not two seconds later I found out just how bad it was going to be.

'Right then, you can organise the Squadron McKelvie Squash Competition, can't you?' and promptly marched out without waiting for a reply. This was on Friday 3 March. Later that day I asked, 'On what day do you want this competition run?'. '15 March is free in my diary Staff, that will do nicely, don't you think . . . good that's settled then'.

After pressing three volunteers to mark for us, letters were sent to all five Troops, Admin, Commcen, India, Romeo and Tech, courts were booked for the day, score charts made up: I sat back thinking that all I had to do was wait for the Troops to put in the team lists, enter them on the cards and off we go.

'Oi . . . what's all this, one officer/WO and a Senior NCO in the team then eh? We can't possibly do that'.

'All our Senior NCOs are on leave in hospital on that day'. 'You deliberately picked that day coz you knew our best players would be away didn't you?'. 'You've rigged this so that you can win haven't you?'. The phone never stopped all day. 'You've only given us ten days notice, that's not fair'. So we had a conflab and the rules were changed to suit just about everyone.

At 0900 hrs on 15 March, six gladiators prepared to do battle of the yellow spot ball. Pencils were sharpened and the referees called out those immortal words 'First game, love all, play'. The competition had begun.

'Where's the No 5 from Admin Tp?'. 'Don't know, maybe he's held up somewhere, play the No 4 instead.'

As the day went on there were some spectacular games. There were some stunned people. There were some happy people. What was obvious was that everyone was putting in at least 200% effort; but where's the No 4 from Admin Tp? Where's the No 3 from Admin Tp? The Admin Tp unstoppables had become the Admin Tp invisibles.

By lunch time it was becoming obvious by the results coming in that Tech Tp was in a fairly strong position. No 5 **WO2 (FofS) Billy Hughes** won his three matches. So did No 4 **Sandy Sanderson**. The No 3 **Cpl Mal Pryke** got the shock of his life when he lost 3—2 to **WLCpl Baughan** of the Commcen Team. He was heard to mutter as he came off the court, 'Boy am I going to get hassle for this'. He was right. **Cpl 'Chalkie'** (I must stop doing drop shots) **White** won his three games. So did **SSgt Ralph** (down the sidewalls) **Maddison.**

But where was Admin Tp? It transpires that they were all called out on detail just before the start of the Competition which was unfortunate for them, but lucky for some of the rest of the competitors.

When the points were sorted out the results checked the placings were as follows:-

1st	Tech Tp	61 points
2nd	Romeo Tp	34 points
3rd	India Tp	27 points
4th	Commcen Tp	18 points
5th	Admin Tp	0 points

Well done everyone that took part. Special thanks go to **WO2 Bassett, SSgt Milligan** and **WO2 Gorden** (who nearly lost their voices) after refereeing 60 matches.

INTER UNIT QUIZ NIGHT

On Saturday 4 March, the Squadron played host to an Inter Squadron Quiz Night with teams from the Squadron, 40 Sig Regt (V), 225 Sig Sqn and Comms Branch, HQNI. The Squadron team consisted of the OC **Maj Corbet, Sgt Ian McAlroy, Cpl Dave Grant** and **WLCpl Thompson**. The Quizmaster **SSgt Arbuckle** then started the competition with 225 Sig Sqn up against 40 Sig Regt (V). 225 emerged as the winners in a good humoured battle. The next heat was between 233 and Comms Branch: **Cpl Dave Grant** had warmed up for the event by running a half marathon earlier that day. Claims that **Maj Corbet**'s buzzer was 'fixed' were brushed aside and our neighbours 225 came out on top.

A quick stop for 'nourishment for the brain cells' (Bass/Tennents) and then Comms Branch and 40 'slugged it out' for last place. The 'Wooden Spoon' went to 40 Sig Regt who claimed they were jet-lagged? The final was to be between 233 and our neighbours 225.

The first couple of rounds were fairly even until the 'Buzzer Rounds', where once again **Maj 'Fingers' Corbet** demonstrated his prowess. In the end 233 were comfortable winners.

A good night's fun was had by all who attended and we hope that the other Corps Units in the Province will take part in the next one to be held later in the year.

COMMCEN TROOP

January is normally a busy month but it became even more hectic with internal changes within the Squadron. **Capt Hindle** is now firmly in 'The Chair' and **SSgt 'Taff' Carr** is now safely behind 'that door'. Before giving space to all of the contributors from within the Troop, a quick mention of the fact that four members of the Troop received their LS & GC Medals from the SOinC **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB, MBE** on his farewell tour of the Province. The recipients were: **WO1 (YofS) R. L. Secker, SSgts A. Arbuckle, A. Carr** and **Sgt L. Thornton-Granville**, another little statistic, the last three were all in basic training together, is this some sort of record?

COMIC RELIEF

Commcen Tp decided to raise as much as possible for Comic Relief. Organised by **LCpl Chris Adams** with help from **Cpl J. P. Partridge, LCpl Dave Potter, WLCpls Lisa Cook, Sandy Sockett, Ptes Julie Granger, Tracey Perkins** and **Lisa Ingham**. It started with a hint by our notorious **SSgt Archie Arbuckle. Cpl J. P. Partridge** and **LCpl Chris Adams** turned an otherwise normal Squadron hockey team into a fun day out for the family. Sporting red noses and fancy dress (helped along with suitable refreshments) and a guest appearance from 'Croc' of the Pink Windmill **(LCpl Dave Potter)** the Gang raised the incredible sum of £210.

Pte Julie Granger collecting for Comic Relief

A few days later, looking like Hawaian refugees the **'Adams** Family' refused entry to the rush hour drivers unless they donated to this worthwhile cause and little less than an hour managed to increase the amount to £356.89.

A magnificent effort and a big thank you to all those who helped. We would like to thank all of those who contributed and to **Mr R. Thompson** of Oxfam (Northern Ireland) for accepting the cheque from the Squadron on behalf of Comic Relief 1989.

DRIVELLINGS FROM THE 'CRYPT'

KRYPTONITES

SSgt 'Taff' Carr	Chief Kryptonite
LCpl Lisa Cook	Chief Kryptodamsel
LCpl Chris Adams	Chief A Shift
LCpl Vinnie Tipple	Chief B Shift
LCpl 'Murg' Murgatroyd	Chief C Shift
LCpl Paul Weston	Chief Kryptodrifter

For those of us in the know, becoming 'Krypto Trained' can be a shock to the system, whereby all logical thought processes go by the board. Therefore, let's start by saying farewell and good luck to **SSgt Norrie Clanachan** who leaves us on promotion to Civ Div—Let's be careful out there.

An item of utmost importance for soldiers everywhere, **LCpl 'Murg' Murgatroyd** has re-written the Army Leave Manual and for the past three months has been carrying out 'User Trials'. Come back soon, or at least send us a postcard so we know what it's like.

Welcome back to **SSgt 'Taff' Carr** after a 14 month holiday in Trg Wing, and welcome to **LCpl Lisa Cook**. Although she's deny it, she obviously decided that the rigours of the 'Krypt' were too much for her and took an extended leave in BMH Woolwich, get better soon—the 'brew' roster has gone for a ball of chalk.

Life here goes on much the same as ever, the Boss pops in now and again for the old cup of sugar, he used to send the Yeoman of Signals but we soon wised up to that.

A hearty 'well done' to **LCpl Chris Adams** for his money raising efforts in aid of Comic Relief. Mention must also be made of **LCpl 'Vinnie' Tripple**'s efforts in relieving the stresses put on all the Garrison's Corporals and below by giving up his spare time to 'Stag on'.

FROM THE CAVE

Our 'Leader' has taken a sideways move to Comms Branch, HQNI. It dosen't make things any quieter here, it just means we see less of him. His presence is still felt!

We welcome into our midst **Cpl 'Jules' Williams** from the Commcen, to take over the job of Cougar Manager from **Cpl J. P. Partridge**, who leaves us in April for the sunnier climate of Hong Kong. The best of luck to you both.

EXCHANGE NEWS

Surprise, surprise, hello from the little 'Dungeon' at the back, Oops, I mean the Telephone Exchange.

Boy, have we been busy for the last couple of months!, what with people coming and going here, there and everywhere, it's been 'Clapham Junction'. Sadly we say a fond farewell to our very own 'Top Cat' **(Pte Tracey Cooper)** who's gone to chase penguins in the Falkland Islands. We also say goodbye to **Cpl Alison Davis**, on promotion, to Edinburgh, enjoy the Haggis **Ali**!

Then there's our very own **Cpl Helen Cliffe**, but soon to be **Ms Cliffe** who is going to seek her fortune in fantastic Florida, USA. Don't forget your friends **Helen**. Lastly but by no means least, we say goodbye to **LCpl Thomas**, otherwise known as Rhiannon, (probably spelt wrong, you try it!). She's going home to her own lovely 'Hitech' flat in the land of the Haggis.

We would like to say a 'Big Hello' and thank you, to the new Troop Comd, **Capt J. Hindle**, who has been a great help to the exchange already, for which we are very appreciative. Hello to **Cpl Caroline Crossley** who has arrived from Edinburgh and also to **Pte Rachel Turner** who comes to us from 28 Sig Regt. We also welcome our new Admin Officer **Lt McFall WRAC** who met most of the girls at a dinner we held.

Congratulations to our own **Pte 'Dizzy' Tracy Perkins** who was amongst the fund raisers for Comic Relief. In the hockey match which was staged for it a couple of members of the exchange had to contribute rather heavily as all fouls had to be paid for. Never mind **Ptes Field** and **Smith**, it was for a good cause.

Lastly, congratulations to **Pte** Oops **LCpl Tracylee Denton** on her recent promotion—well done **Tracy**.

C SHIFT

THE YEAR SO FAR

We seem to get through a lot of DSOs compared with the rest of the shifts, they all want a go at taking the best shift. (That's our excuse anyway, and we're sticking to it). We lost **LCpl Cook** to the depths of the Crypto Office and after a fortnight of sitting round in there she was carted off to BMH Woolwich with Crypto Syndrome (bad back) or in layman's terms, sitting down back.

We've said a quick hello and goodbye to **Sgt Gibson** and we hope to keep the other two new arrivals to our shift for a bit longer, **WLCpl Baughan**, and **Cpl/Sgt Barnard** (Congrats Sarge).

INDIA TROOP

VICTOR SECTION

A warm welcome to **LCpl 'Sid' Siddans** from 238 London Sig Sqn and **SSgt Dave Matthews** who joins the workers from Tp HQ as part of a manpower re-shuffle. Hello also to **LCpl Mick Howard** from 3 Armd Div to join his brother **Sgt Phil**. Get your heels together **Mick**!

Congratulations to **Sig 'Benny' Benson** and **Karen** on their recent marriage. Welcome aboard **Karen**, hope you can put up with him!

The Inter-Troop Squash Competition found us putting up a brave fight to come a creditable third, then we discovered one of the other teams had a Corps player! Well done everyone.

WHISKY SECTION

'*Wire* notes to the Officer Commanding in 20 minutes, OK.' No problem . . . take a deep breath and here we go.

Hello to **LCpl Karen Chester** and her dog called 'Deefer' (honestly). Deefer dog, geddit? Congratulations to **Pte Sue Stanford** on her promotion to LCpl and to the squash players on the fight well fought but Victor have probably mentioned that . . . we were in it too!

Red Nose day was fun and profitable for the good cause. A good time was had by all and we had a photo taken wearing our red noses, beside our trusty red van, there is a 'blue' version as well but we won't go into that.

Yeoman Smith has a new car. The local dealer knows it well! Say no more . . . Well that's about it from us, 'till next time. Bye!'.

TECH TROOP

This has been a good month for Tech Tp. A month that has seen: **SSgts Sandy Sanderson** and **Willy Ironside** selected for promotion to WO2. **Sandy** is taking over as SSM 1 Sqn, 11 Sig Regt and we now wait with bated breath to see who is going to get our beloved **Willy** . . .

It has seen **Cpl Bill Owen** become **Sgt Bill Owen** and the perennial Signalman **Mac McIntyre** become **LCpl McIntyre**. (This has made his father, **Sgt McIntyre** very proud).

It has also been a month that saw **Sgts Dave Ball** and **'Fez' Newell** con the TOT out of three weeks straight leave. In an attempt to prevent him changing his mind, they kept on the move . . . Greece . . . Singapore . . . Australia . . . Hawaii . . . Disneyland . . . They nearly found work in Disneyland now that Mickey Mouse and Goofy are getting on a bit! In between this work and leisure routine that he has set up **Dave Ball** appears to have squeezed in a successful attempt at the Foremans entrance examination. We shall see . . . **Dave** boy . . . we shall see.

O yes, and we did some work as well.

RADIO SECTION

Pathfinder here! Now listen. These car fits have got to stop! If you treat your car properly there is no reason why it should not grow up normally . . . like **Cpl Mal Pryke** over there . . . and never have another fit! I am off shortly to attend selection for the real Army, you know the one that does all the sport you see in the adverts . . .

SYSTEMS SECTION

The return of **Dave** and **'Fez'** (or did we get Mickey and Goofy . . .?) has seen the section return to full strength. This of course allows the Foreman of Signals to heap losts more work on us. **FofS Billy Hughes** is encouraging us all to smoke more because he needs the fag packets to draw on and explain what he means. Very hi-tech is the Foreman!

Syscon is to move! Well it's been where it is now for nearly two years so it is time to move. The selected spot is the place where it was two years ago or at least so we are informed by **SSgt 'Willy'** (the wire) **Ironside** who was in systems during one of his previous incarnations. Well at least we know it will fit!

TELEMECH SECTION

The section has been kept very busy during the last few months with new installation work taking up almost as much time as rigging.

It did not, however, prevent another good man from biting the dust! Yes, sad to report but **LCpl Jim Kerr** got married. Well you can't be happly all your life can you?

Another sad note is the imminent loss of **Cpl John Jolly**, our resident Radio Technician. He is off to Belize and TI entrance examinations and that sort of thing. We welcome his replacement **Cpl Fred Threadgold** who we know will live up to the standards set by **John**.

FRT SECTION

Welcome to two new Sgts . . . **Sgt Pete Murray**, the new workshop D. J. Prettier than Anne Nightingale . . . but not much! And **Sgt Bill Owen**. Sadly (chuckle, chuckle) we say farewell to **Cpl 'Dicky' Dickinson** who has taken his skills to Systems Section.

One last thing we've got a gofer! Mr R&I is **LCpl 'Rambo' Johnston**. It's great to have you around kid! Go and make twelve coffees, five with sugar . . .

FAREWELL LUNCH TO SSGT CLANACHAN AND SGT SHORTER

Friday 3 March was a sad day for 233 Sig Sqn. For it was on that day that we bade farewell to **SSgt Norrie Clanachan** and **Sgt John Shorter**, both 'retiring' after 22 years service.

This auspicious occasion was marked by a Squadron Lunch, given by all available SNCOs from 233 Sig Sqn (and a few guests from 225 Sig Sqn) and held in the Lisburn Garrison Sergeants' Mess. After an excellent lunch of Chicken A'La Something and after hearing their characters being completely assassinated, we retired to the bar.

WO2 (RQMS) Henderson looks on enviously as SSgt Clanachan receives his farewell present from WO2 (SSM) Watson

WO2 (SSM) Watson and Sgt Shorter concentrating hard being the last two in the game of 'Pass the Parcel'

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

After being considerably short staffed for some time it makes a pleasant change to report that new arrivals have exceeded departures!

We wish **Sgt Del East** and **Sue** all the best at 7 Sig Regt.

A trio of Troop Sergeants have been posted in, **Sgt Jim Harris** who joins us from the rear link detachment of 1 RGJ via the All-Arms Drill Wing, **Sgt Danny O'Brien** from sunny Cyprus and **Sgt Pete Wood** all the way from 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt in York. We wish you and your families an enjoyable tour.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Two second term apprentices have recently been presented with the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award. **AT Mark Morgan** and **AT Kevin Eaves** are to be congratulated on winning this coveted award.

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Winners ATs Mark Morgan and Kevin Eaves

SPORT

A special mention must go to **AT Mark Parr** who represented the Army Rugby Colts in their 4—0 win over the Royal Navy and **AT LCpl Chris Youles** who captained the College Team in the Army Basketball Championships and scored 58 points in the final, but, even so, came second!

RED NOSE DAY 2

On Friday 10 March 1989 the Squadron held a 'Thoroughly Embarrassing Drill Parade'. To mark the occasion Apprentices and Permanent Staff alike joined in—all in fancy dress! Definitely a sight for sore eyes.

The Russ Abbot lookalike, Maj Gus Boag, presents the winning prize to the 'elephant'

A number of jokes (some good, some terrible!) were told and a cash prize was awarded to the best dressed apprentices. This was won by **AT LCpls Chris Youles** and **Nige Eccles** dressed up as an elephant! The primary aim of the day was of course to raise money for charity, so, as we go to print and with more monies still to come in, in excess of £400 has been raised so far for Comic Relief.

PENNEY SQUADRON

Due to the absence of a Recruit Tp this term, life seemed a little quiet in the Squadron, but somewhere in the corridors of the Squadron accommodation something mysterious was happening. A member of the PS and several ATs were seen scurrying about like rats preparing their lair for the cold dark nights that lay ahead. What was going on?

THE PENNEY CLUBROOM
Report by AT Sgt Kyle Manns

By 30 January 1989 the question had been answered. The Penney Room, as it was formerly known, had received a major refit. This formidable task had been undertaken by the Apprentices under the supervision of **Sgt 'Zac' Wright**. The transformation from Penney Room to the Penney Clubroom, as it is now known is quite remarkable. The room has a new carpet and new curtains and has been redecorated throughout, there is new lighting, and more power sockets. It has new furniture, pictures, plants, a new TV and video, table football, pool table, darts board and trivia quiz machine installed. All this provides for a very pleasant and relaxing atmosphere, where both ATs and PS can enjoy themselves. Funding for all the work came from Squadron funds and it seems this was a wise investment as the Clubroom has been well supported since its opening. At the present moment there is a table football league underway with **Sgts 'Zac' Wright** and **Jeff Watts** blasting away all opposition and looking set to take the title. Other competitions are in the pipeline and it looks as though Summer term will be busy. The Penney Clubroom is a credit to the Squadron and to all who were involved in creating it. They were **'Zac' Wright, 'Mo' Morris, Rob Cunnion, Justin Seaborn, 'Stevo' Stephenson, Lee Burke, Jason Dawson, 'Ginge' Gluba, Paul Coop, Gray Kendall, Allan Elderbrant, Phil Walton, 'Mac' MacDonald** and **Neil Slater**. Well done all.

QUARTER GUARD

The beginning of February saw the farewell visit to the College by the SOinC **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB, MBE**. Penney Sqn had been selected, at random by the computer, to form the Guard and the honour had fallen on 87C Linguists. **AT Sgt Rob Jones, AT Cpl Ashley Chadwick, AT LCpl Pete Zambuni, ATs Mark Bloom, Steve Hill, Matthew Twilley, Jason Thomas** and **'Gibbo' Gibbons** spent most of their spare time before the visit polishing kit and taking part in rehearsals and dress rehearsals, under the careful guidance of **WO2 (CSM) Mal Pearson** Gren Gds. The day arrived and so did the SOinC. The Guard was inspected and congratulated on its turnout and drill. After the photocall everyone went their separate ways except **AT LCpl Zambuni** who liked it in the sentry box so much that he missed his lunch. 1515 hrs arrived and that was the cue for the Guard to turn out for the departure of the SOinC.

The SOinC talks to the Guard

Lt Mark Finneran and Sgt Mick Roe with Rawson Recruit Tp

RAWSON SQUADRON
INTER RECRUIT DRILL COMPETITION

The last event in the Recruit Inter-Troop Competitions is always the drill. This is fought for with enthusiasm, not only by the Recruits but by the Drill Sergeants too. This prestigious competition brings many a Troop Sergeant to his knees, with his honour and reputation at stake in view of the whole College.

Three Troops took part from Bradley, Scott and Rawson Sqn's with an inspection phase and a drill phase. The inspection, conducted by **WO2 (CSM) Mal Pearson** Gren Gds from Penney Sqn, was won outright by the Rawson Sqn Recruits but the actual drill phase was very close. All three Troops, under the inspecting eye of the College Adjutant and RSM made some errors. However, once the points were added up, and after a nervous wait for the results, the Recruit Troop of Rawson Sqn was declared the winner. A special mention to the Troop Sergeant, **Sgt Mick Roe** for his efforts and also to the Squadron Commander, **Maj Brian Harrison**, for his joke before the start of competition.

CHAMPION RECRUIT TROOP

Every term the Recruit Troops battle it out on the sports field to earn the title 'Champion Recruit Troop'. The intake of 89A, split into the three Recruit Troops held some surprises that led to fierce competition and good results.

Six sports were fought for, with Bradley Sqn winning Rugby and Volleyball, Rawson Sqn winning the Football and Swimming, and last, but not least, Scott Sqn winning the Cross Country and Hockey so the deciding factors were the second and third placing attained by the Troops. Once the points were added up, purely by chance, first position was shared by both Bradley and Rawson with the Scott recruits coming a close second. Finally, disregarding the actual sporting events, the competition also served the purpose of installing a sense of team work and Squadron pride which was apparent from day one, with spectators such as **WO2 (SSM) Gordon Townsley** jumping up and down waving his Rawson sweatshirt in the air when Rawson won the football.

BRADLEY SQUADRON

For the last 15 months the Squadron Sergeant Major has been **WO2 Neil Crockett** Scots Guards.

A man of infinitely dry humour, born no doubt of necessity being a 'Scouser', he recently left us to become RQMS in his Battalion.

As guest of honour he was dined out in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess at a function attended by all Bradley Sqn Permanent Staff and their wives.

As usual on such occasions, farewell mementoes were exchanged. Some very good (and true) things were said about him and in reply he recited two poems. One of them was of a parochial nature and this would not be of interest to the readers of this magazine but the other is of a more general nature.

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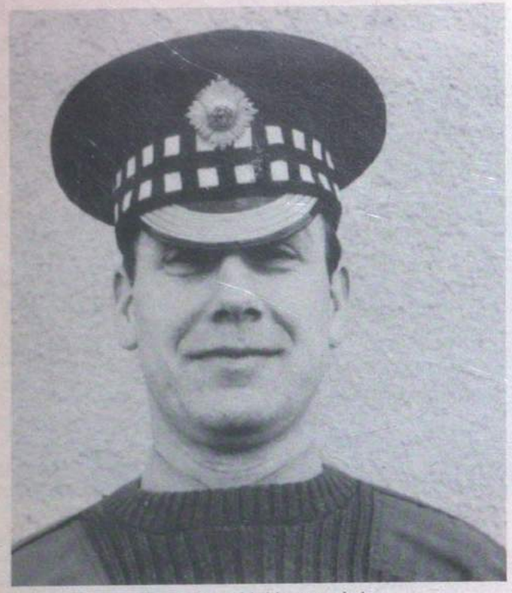


The author with his poem below

Now heed my words 'You've lost your name!
'Explain that Sir, is it a game?'
'We're talking trouble—252,
Something or nothing, it still means you!'
Tall Scots Guards in days gone by,
Couldn't read and write and that is why
Brass nameplates on their kit they wear,
Scruffy? 'Sergeant, take that name—there!
A story from the mists of time, so
points to note!—a little rhyme.

The Scots Guards formed in '42'
Thats '16' type, Och Aye—the Noo!
In all that time we did not need
Our names upon our chest to read
We are switched on, our names we know
'Cos if we don't, it is a blow
We're brought up short for errors made,
for dirty kit, for things mislaid.
We're told 'You've done it—Take the blame'
In other words, 'You've lost your name!'

Scots Guards are sent to Harrogate,
(Company Sgt Majors to be accurate,)
With Royal Signals I soldiered on,
Junior Leaders, Bradley Squad-ron,
On arrival at this windy camp
behold the weather cold and damp,
The strangest people—I'll name a few.
Foremen, Handbags and Lineys too,
No clue had I what these things meant,
A Signals Phrase Book was cash well spent.

Their names upon their chests they wear
and if they enter the devil's lair,
I find this helps me in my task
Because their names I need not ask.
Quadrant Troop with dirty kit,
Lightning Troop, they are unfit,
The dirty boots of Rapier,
Or long haired louts of Whitespear.
And so, my boys, its not a game
Now heed my words 'You've lost your name!'.

An enlarged version of this now hangs for posterity in Bradley Sqn.

In turn we welcome **WO2 Dave Morcom** Scots Guards who will be well known to many in the Corps, who may have had the pleasure of his instruction, in the past, at the All-Arms Drill Wing, Pirbright . . .

EXERCISE SNOWSCAPE AUSTRIA 1989 (C'MON EVERYBODY)

On 17 February 20 Junior Leaders, led by **Maj David Pugh DWR** set out on the trip of a lifetime. The destination Austria, and the picturesque villege of Hippach, situated in the valley between assorted ski slopes and surrounding mountains.

Travelling started at the crack of dawn and in 26 hours took in the M1, Dover and the Channel, the garlic fields of France, sprout fields of Belgium and the sausage plantations of Germany—can Lunn Poly beat this?

The week of skiing started on a bright and crisp morning mainly due to **JLs Johnny Spall** and **Kiv MacIver**'s choice of luminous clothing. The party split into novices and upgraders with **JL Cpl Davidge** and **JL Gary West** proving experience is only taken on ability to ski, not stop. The limelight for the day, however, was stolen by the gymnastic falls of **JLs 'Fishy' Fisher** and **Paul Drury**.

The remainder of the week passed in a flash of snow spray with many a sore head and bottom being nursed. The ski team was selected, and congratulations to **JL West, Davidge, Richard Cocks** and **Scott Toombes**. It was with much regret that we waved goodbye to **Ingrid** (didn't I mention her?) and Austria. Altogether a very good week with everyone learning a lot about how to ski or fall over dramatically.

SUB AQUA HOBBY RED SEA EXPEDITION

The College's most adventurous hobby has had a good season. After a relatively small intake of novice divers we have spent much of our energy in pushing the existing novice divers through sports divers training and beyond. Several trips to the excellent St Abbs site on Scotland's East coast and more notably our trip to Oban have helped us achieve this aim. Diving last term reached its pinnacle when **AT LCpl Lee Burke** and **AT Kevin Wakeford** successfully completed one week in the Red Sea. Here is their account:

'Lee Burke and I flew out of Heathrow on 10 December with a party of Officer Cadets from RMA Sandhurst and our expedition leader **Lt Stevens** (RN) bound for the Royal Diving Centre, Aqaba Jordan. Qualifications in the group were diverse, but we had been more than adequately trained for our role.

The dive site was 10 miles from our excellent accommodation at the four star Alcazar Hotel with its excellent food. We were to experience some stunning under water scenery.

Visibility on the dives was unequalled compared to the familiar 'sand pit' dives of the UK coasts and it was almost possible when sitting on the bows of a burned out oil tanker in 25m of water to see the barnacles on her stern! Our hired equipment seemed well used and our wet suits thin, but the temperature was so warm that we no longer needed our 18mm thick suits normally used in the UK's most forbidding quarries and coves.

The Red Sea is an underwater photographer's paradise and it is impossible to do full justice to our expedition here. Amongst the friendly hand-feeding Parrot fish and Butterfly fish, it was hard to capture a picture of the thigh-sized razor-toothed Moray Eel snaking by as we finned quickly in a tactical lateral. Our thanks to all the organisers for our best dive experience to date.'

THE SERGEANTS' MESS

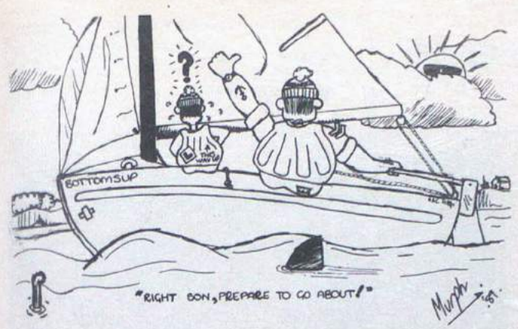
The Sergeants' Mess had every intention of Spring Term being a quiet period after the Christmas period, but this was not to be.

We celebrated Burn's Night in the traditional manner. We dined in the new Commandant, **Col K. P. Burke** in the traditional way, had a Grand Charity Dinner to raise money for the Margaret White Appeal with Bernard Manning keeping all 204 present in stitches, a Fancy Dress Night, Warrant Officers' Dinner, Guest Night with Ladies, Ladies Dinner Night and two Families Lunches, not forgetting the Stovies that were served every Friday evening, in all a very full and good term's entertainment.

Our thanks to the Entertainment Committee from Rawson Sqn and the PMC **WO2 (SSM) Gordon Townsley** and PEC **SSgt (YofS) Graham Easton**.

SAILING

Throughout the winter odd sounds have been heard coming from the Dinghy Sailing workshop. At last, on 8 March, newly titivated. the College's colourful collection of Enterprises was moved down to Ripon Sailing Club ready for the start of the season. Several shivering geese, wondering whether North Yorkshire wasn't so different from Siberia after all, looked on.



Well to cut a long story short we had our first sail. A toe strap pulled out, and anyone who knows a bit about dinghy sailing may well realise the implications of that. Luckily the helmsman concerned didn't vanish backwards over the side of the boat (much to the relief of the two beginners with him!). With the agility born of a healthy fear of cold water, the said helmsman managed to stay aboard.

AT Stephen George managed to get wet, but then that's **George** for you. Even Technicians can't walk on water!

The rest I leave to your imagination. The scene is familiar to many members of the happy band of Apprentices' College sailors, both past and present. All I ask is, 'Is the Royal Corps of Signals ready for such Sailing Scaleys?' Probably not but, they are here to stay!

THE MILITARY TRAINING TROOP

'A change is as good as a rest' may hold true in some cases, but with the new Military Training Programme produced by the OC, **Capt Gordon Halewood** R Anglian now in full swing there will be little time for rest. The time gained will be put to better use in turning out a more professional soldier than before.

To list the many changes would be tedious but it is worth mentioning a couple of them. Starting with the YW Defence exercise. Those who remember the old Defence exercise will know that the whole time was spent constructing a Battle trench to stage 3; not so anymore. Additions now include a First Aid and NBC phase, Fieldcraft, Map Reading, Patrolling, Tactics and Orders.

The end of the exercise should see some very tired but satisfied soldiers and that includes the Instructors.

The Skills-at-Arms exercise will involve firing a variety of weapons in realistic settings. The ranges used will include CQB's, IBSR's, Jungle Lanes and an LMG Defence range. The emphasis being very much on serious training coupled with excitement and dare it be said—fun!

Moving on to the personalities in the Troop, it is with regret that we say farewell to **Sgt Pete Kingston** who leaves us for civvy street after spending eight and a half years at the College. **Pete** will be best remembered for his charity work, PS training and his work with the Cadets. In fact a member of the Troop, remembers **Pete** as an Instructor when he was just starting his career as a member of Bradley Sqn.

Another departure was that of **Cpl 'Taff' Roderick** to 2 Inf Div at York. **Taff** was a popular instructor. We wish him well.

In their places we welcome two new faces, **Sgt Ken Fudge** from 3ADSR and **Sgt Dave Whitaker** who joins us from 249 Sig Sqn and is the second member of the Troop trained in Artic Warfare. Other new arrivals closer to home are **SSgt 'Dickie' Bird** who arrived on promotion all the way from Scott Sqn, to take up the post of SSI and **Sgt Bob Witherstone** who has made the slightly longer trip from Rawson Sqn. A hearty welcome to them all.

Somehow, work tends to get in the way of sporting activities; nevertheless, some members have represented the College at sport notably football, which, perhaps by coincidence, is run by none other than the OC.

Now a thank you to all the Troop Commanders and Sergeants who have ably assisted us over the last year in such an enthusiastic manner, particularly on the ranges. Long may this partnership continue.

It should be said that there is no truth in the rumour that is circulating that two WRAC Education Officers, who have often been seen on Military Training are transferring to the Troop as instructors. Having witnessed their performances, on the range, they would more than hold their own!

IMPERIAL SERVICE MEDAL

Mr Charles Edward Allan joined the Army Apprentices' College Harrogate on 18 June 1962. He had previously served 13 years in the Royal Marines. During his time at the College he was employed as a Physical Training Instructor responsible for the training of Apprentices and Junior Leaders in the gymnasium, swimming pool and sports field. His particular forte was Squash.

On 20 June 1988 **Mr Charles Allan** retired after 28 years at the College. He and his wife continue to live in Harrogate. In recognition of his services to the Army Apprentices College he has been awarded the Imperial Service Medal.

Comdt, Col K. P. Burke, presents Mr Allan with his Imperial Service Medal

VISIT BY SOinC (US ARMY)

The College was honoured when the **Maj Gen L. M. Childs,** SOinC (US Army) visited in March. He participated in an Officers' Mess Games Night playing for a local US forces team against our local MOD branch and the Mess team. The next morning he toured the College and was especially interested in talking to the Apprentices.

Question: What do you technicians think of Ptarmigan?
Answer: We do not see Ptarmigan until we leave the College in June!

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.

Comms & Sy Gp (UK)

As the newly 'appointed' scribe I had of course been primed with all the old jokes relating to the assignment, ie—'obtaining material is more a case of "ead-itting" than editing' which was one of the better efforts and at least printable. I feared the worst but undeterred started advertising for suitable material and gained some response. Encouraged by this I took an even more positive approach and surprise after a few frantic, almost threatening phone calls, it became apparent that people were only too happy to contribute. Amazing what a little persuasion and a lot of flattery can achieve.

Our contribution covers the usual update on arrivals and departures to the Group, the sports page covering our achievements so far this season together with a more detailed 'Soccer Scene', and a report on the recent visit of Comd 54 Inf Bde. In addition we have an account of the Unit's contribution in assisting the emergency services at the scene of the recent civil airliner crash at Kegworth and on a more humorous note 'A day in the life of an unsuspecting Company Sergeant Major.'

UNIT DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

We have seen the departure of several Unit personalities, notably the CO **Lt Col Robin Eccles**. We bid him and his wife **Marianne** a fond farewell and offer our best wishes for the future.

The scribe has gone, long live the scribe—alas we must also bid farewell to **Maj 'Alf' Cooper**, long time entrepreneur, cornet player, financial adviser, agony uncle and scribe who leaves the Unit and the Army on retirement after 35 years service. His long association with the Unit will not be completely severed however as he has settled in the area. All his colleagues and friends wish him and his wife **Jane** a long, healthy and happy retirement.

'GARATS HAY REVISITED'

We extend a very warm welcome to our new CO **Lt Col J. R. Berry** and his wife **Maggs** and hope their tour in the heart of the Leicestershire countryside proves to be a happy and satisfying one. I should stress that the Colonel is no stranger to the Unit having first experienced its delights as a Private soldier in 1962.

Is this unique I wonder, a Private soldier returning to Command the Unit where he first served? Irrespective, what better advertisement or encouragement could one offer to our young tradesmen at the very start of their careers?

GROUP SPORTS SCENE

On the sporting scene the Group has a very good reputation, particularly within Eastern District. The record of achievement for the 1988/89 season supports this and reflects the efforts of our soldiers and WRAC who are keenly encouraged to participate at all levels.

Runners-up Eastern District Athletics, Champions Eastern District Minor Unit Swimming, Champions Easter District Inter Unit Water Polo, Champions Eastern District Inter Unit Cricket, Champions Royal Signals Athletics—The Morrison Cup, Champions Zone A Swimming, Winners RSSAM ARA Match 4 Association Cup (Rifle)—Minor Unit, Winners RSSAM Rifle Team Match ARA Match 2 Roupell Cup—Minor Unit, Runners-up RSSAM Minor Unit, Champions Womens Royal Signals Inter Unit Orienteering Championships, Champions Junior Royal Signals Inter Unit Orienteering Championships, Runners-up Mens Royal Signals Inter Unit Orienteering Championships, Winners Eastern District Orienteering League, Winners Eastern District Inter Unit Soccer Championships and Runners-up Eastern District Cross Country League.

Our congratulations to all team members for their outstanding efforts and thanks to all our erstwhile supporters.

THE SOCCER SCENE

So far this season the Group team under the watchful eye of **Maj Ian Henderson** and the firm grip of team manager **SSgt 'Jock' Robertson** has aquitted itself extremely well. In the Eastern District Competition the Group won the Minor Units Cup (Yet Again), beating 8 Fd Wksp 2—1 in the final. This victory put the team through to the UK quarter finals where it was drawn against last years Army Minor Unit Champions, PCD Millhill. The final result in this round was only decided after two very keenly contested matches, both requiring extra time. Eventually Millhill settled the contest running out 2—1 winners against an 'Off form' Group side. However a gallant effort it was and we look forward to next years competition.

In the Lincolnshire (services) Division 2 the team leads the table having played eight, won six and drawn two. With two games in hand over our nearest rivals we are confident we can maintain this position.

Back Row (L to R): WO2 Hutchins, Cpl Simmons, SSgt Robertson, Sgt Jezzard, Cpl Robinson, Sgts Sinnet and Webb
Front Row (L to R): Sgt Russell, Sig Barber, SSgt Small, Cpl Sullivan, SSgt Young, Sgt Corner and WO2 Urquhart
Absent: LCpl Martin Goodhand, Sig Wells and Benson

Sadly we say farewell to some staunch team members, they are namely: **SSgt Steve Young** (team Captain) who leaves us on posting as Warrant Officer 2, congratulations and good luck, **Sgt 'Jezz'** (Back Pass) **Jezzard, Sgt Steve Webb** and **LCpl Martin Goodhand** (The Keeper?) all move off to sunny climes and finally farewell to **Sig Chris Wells** and **Neil Benson**. Thanks for your skills? and dedication over the past few seasons and thanks also to your wives/girlfriends for their support.

VISIT BY COMMANDER 54 INFANTRY BRIGADE

Having recently assumed the appointment, the Comd 54 Inf Bde **Brig N. J. Ridley OBE** accompanied by his Chief of Staff **Maj R. H. T. Aitken RRW** paid his initial visit to the Group on Friday 3 March.

The welcoming party consisting of the Commanding Officer, the 2IC **Maj W. J. L. Fiskel**, the Adjt **Capt R. J. Sheldon** and **WO1 (RSM) S. R. Kent** looked resplendent in anticipation of the Group photograph that was to follow. In actual fact the few moments it took to 'pose' was probably the only time the Commander was stationary during the whole visit.

Following presentations from **Col P. Goldney** and the Commanding Officer the Brigadier was escorted on a tour of the Group which included 3 Coy (Trg), where the Commander had the opportunity to speak to trade trainees undergoing a variety of courses and 2 Coy which included the Operations Pl, Special Task Detachment and Special Projects Agency. Having completed the 'Tour' the Commander presented LS&GC Medals to the following:- **SSgts K. L. Bennet, D. J. Regan ACC, P. Williams** and **Cpl A. P. Humphrey**.

The formal presentation was followed by a brief visit to the Sergeants' Mess during which time he met the families of the medal recipients. **Brig Ridley** joined the officers of the Group for lunch in the recently refurbished Officers' Mess. Hopefully the Commander had an interesting and enjoyable day.

Front Row (L to R): Maj R. H. T. Aitken RRW, Brig N. J. Ridley and Lt Col J. R. Berry
Back Row (L to R): WO1 (RSM) S. R. Kent, Maj W. J. L. Fiskel and Capt R. J. Sheldon

OPERATIONS PLATOON—2 COMPANY PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt P. Westwell**
Op SWO	**WO1 J. D. Carr**
Std WO	**WO2 R. Simpson**
PLt Sgt	**Sgt J. M. Bell**

We begin with saying farewell to **Capt P. Westwell** off to earn his fortune in civvy street, **WO2 P. Lang** off to yet another tour in Cyprus, **Sgt Billy Corner** to Harrogate and last but not least **Sgt Paul Noble** to the Leicestershire Constabulary. A warm welcome to **WO2 Bob Simpson, Sgts Tigger Howarth, 'Tee' Moroney, Cpls Mick Harman, Larry Newell, LCpls George Cox, Moffet** and **Sig John Akesson**. There are many more and we wish you all well with your tour in the Platoon.

The gods have been very kind to the Platoon with promotions in all departments this year. We congratulate **WO1 John Carr** on his selection for commissioning in the not too distant future, **SSgt Steve Young** on pre selection to Warrant Officer 2, **Sgt Rose Amy** on pre selection for Staff Sergeant, **Sgt John Bell** on pre selection for Staff Sergeant and **Sgts Mick Purnell** and **'Kav' Kavanagh** on their recent promotions.

On the sporting scene the Platoon has shown its teeth in the group Basketball competition, finishing a very creditable third place in what turned out to be a very close and fiercely contested competition. The Platoon fishing team consisting of **Sgt John Bell** and **Cpl Graham Davies** battled the elements in a recent CO's Angling competition; out of twelve anglers only three managed to catch any fish. The best catch of the day going to the Group HQ team with over 151lb of Carp. Needless to say our team finished joint last with dry nets.

The Group Golf tournament winkled out a few budding Sandy Lyles, with the Platoon team almost making a clean sweep of the days trophies. Eventual winners of the team competition were **WO1 John Carr, SSgt Steve Young** and **Cpl John Sullivan** who also picked up the individual trophy in the pairs competition. **Capt Peter Westwell** on his debut managed two rounds in 200 strokes and picked up the trophy for the most golf played, the prize being a ball collector, a most useful item after his two rounds; he was last seen in the bunker at the 18th smoking a Hamlet.

EXERCISE AT LEEK

16-18 of November saw the Platoon deploy to Leek training area to do a little map reading and hill walking. The advance party of **WO2 Pete Lang, SSgts 'Taff' Williams, Steve Young** and **Sgt John Bell** arrived to sort out the accommodation only to find that the previous occupants had set fire to the main rest room causing severe damage and rendering it uninhabitable. After unloading the stores we managed to fit everyone into another room of the building.

Once the main party arrived the kitchen was put in order **Sgt Keith Roberts** who fed us well for the duration of the exercise. The late night egg burgers prepared by **Capt Westwell** went down a treat after a hard day's walking. The weather was very unkind to us mainly thick fog and driving rain but this did not deter some walkers. **WO2 Pete Lang, SSgt** (Pathfinder) **Small, SSgt Steve Young, Sgt John Bell** and **Sig John Akesson** took to the hills and had a really enjoyable day's walking over the crags. It should be noted that **SSgt Eddie Small** carried the map the whole way, try using it next time **Eddie**, we should reach our destination quicker! Other members of the party spent the day visiting the Wedgewood and Royal Doulton Potteries.

Finally three members of the Platoon have been awarded the LS&GC Medal. Our congratulations to **WO2 Pete Lang, SSgt Benny Bennett** and **Cpl Alan Humphrey**, all medals were suitably dunked.

COMIC RELIEF

With a trainee population of around 150 young students all attuned to current affairs, it was not surprising that the 'Buzz-words' around the Group during the first few days of March were 'Red Nose Day'. Of course after all the media coverage one would have had to be from another galaxy not to realise Comic Relief was approaching again. The question was how can we take full advantage of the circumstances and raise money for this very worthwhile charity whilst still maintaining a degree of military decorum? Run a raffle—not very original on the face of it; but select prizes with a guaranteed appeal to any normal, ambitious young soldier—namely the opportunity to become either: CO, RSM, CSM or ASI for the day—and you are guaranteed a good response. In the event the response was little short of overwhelming, obviously fed by an unquenchable thirst for power.

The whole Group (mainly young soldiers drooling in anticipation) paraded at 1630 hrs on 9 March to witness the CO make the draw. Amid cheers of encouragement and cries of dismay the following lucky five were duly 'preselected for promotion' and presented with their new insignia:-

CO (Comic Relief)	**Sig McColl**
RSM (Comic Relief)	**Cpl Desborough**
CSM 2 Coy (Comic Relief)	**Cpl Barrow**
CSM 3 Coy (Trg) (Comic Relief)	**Sig Probert**
ASI R Wing (Comic Relief)	**Sig Quigley**

Immediately following the ceremony the celebrities were whisked away to Group HQ to be briefed on their appointments and responsibilities for the following day.

Although they were chaperoned by the true incumbents for most of the day (no doubt to protect the innocent from persecution) it did not deter them from exacting maximum benefit and all agreed it had been an enjoyable and valuable experience. Sadly all good things must come to an end and with reluctance the mantle of responsibility was returned and our erstwhile five reverted to the rank and file, **Sig McColl** stating he hoped it wouldn't be too long before he regained his appointment as a Lieutenant Colonel or else he'd forget everything he'd learned.

Finally the CO presented each with a Plaque, made and suitably engraved by our Special Projects Agency, as a memento of their day. The event raised £480 for charity. Well done one and all.

The gang of five outside Group Headquarters after their 'Special to Role' brief
Back Row (L to R): Sig Probert, CSM 3 Coy (Comic Relief) and Sig Quigley, ASI R Wing (Comic Relief)
Front Row (L to R): Cpl Desborough RSM (Comic Relief), Sig McColl CO (Comic Relief) and Cpl Barrow, CSM 2 Coy (Comic Relief)

COMIC RELIEF—CSM FOR A DAY

by Sig M. A. Probert

What's the easiest way to get promotion in this man's Army?

Easy—Win a raffle. From Signalman to Sergeant Major in one easy bound, and it only cost 50p. That, along with four other prizes were won in a raffle held in aid of Comic Relief.

Sadly the promotion lasted for only one day. However in that short time I managed to gaol three people, have lunch in the Sergeants' Mess (no expense spared—beans on toast) and together with the ASI (Comic Relief) Radio Wing managed to raise, ably assisted by the rank and file of Radio Wing, £60 for Comic Relief.

On a more serious note I attended a lecture on Physical Training Techniques—Russian Style, presented by **LCpl Bell**. I also attended an OC's O Group and took part in the promotion ceremony of a number of Tele Op (Linguists).

In addition I had to carry out all the routine tasks our Company Sergeant Major would be expected to do in an average day. This was not as easy as I imagined. All in all it turned out to be a fun day for everyone involved in the activities and an enjoyable but valuable experience for myself.

CONGRATULATIONS

Sig James Haig. He was recently presented with his Gold Award in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. This took place at St James' Palace in London.

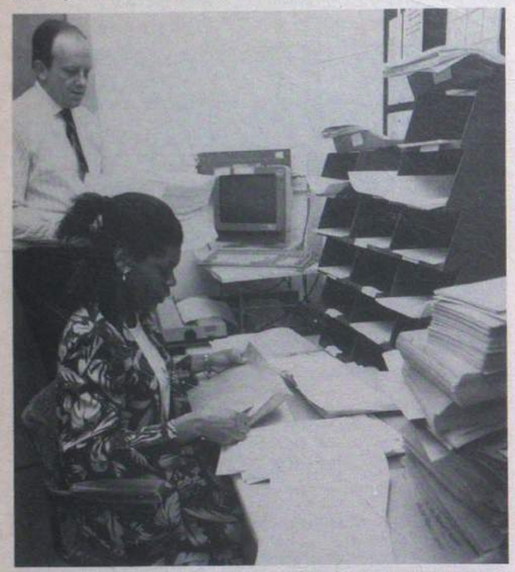
To gain his Gold Award he served in the Territorial Army prior to joining the Regular Army. He became a Martial Arts enthusiast, an expert pistol shot and completed a strenuous 50 mile, four day expedition in the Lake District in very rainy conditions.

Ministy of Defence
Whitehall

INAUGURATION OF A NEW ARRIVAL

We are pleased to announce a 'clerical advance' into the 20th Century. In last year's article we reported the number of issue orders that had to be processed. Until recently, once they came off the computer—some 1,000 plus Issue Orders per week—it was a case of separating, checking, folding and inserting each into an envelope, all by hand. Then came the addressing and franking of envelopes.

Our new 'Inserter' now takes the output from the computer, reads, cuts, folds, inserts, seals and then franks the envelope. Mrs Valerie Thompson the Administrative Officer who has had this tedious task for the last few months is delighted with the new technology. She has naturally been made Chief Operator and Technician.



Before: Yet another pile of Issue Orders from Maj David Lawson for Mrs Valerie Thompson to process

After: Mrs Valerie Thompson thankfully demonstrates the Inserter to the SOinC(A), Maj Gen P. D. Alexander, watched by Col Sigs 36 Col Hamish Mackinlay, Maj David Lawson and Lt Col Mike Martin

HQ SE District
Aldershot

We are quite proud to announce that after much effort, pleading with PB11 for postings to 'unusual places' and other subtleties too numerous to mention, the Corps is now in complete control of HQ South East District.

The group of stalwarts who have achieved this are: **Col (Retd) J. A. Massey MBE**—G3 (Mob). He is *the* expert on mobilisation and grown up staff officers have been known to grovel before his desk to beg enlightenment on this subject which, until their posting to Aldershot, they thought was something QMs left in a locked store. **Col Jim** is truly a remarkable man and he will be sorely missed when he retires later this year.

Lt Col (Retd) A. M. P. Howie—Comms. Doing quite nicely thank you. All the telephones work and every officer seems to have one at least—and some more than others! His requests for additional funding for whichever projects he is working on are masterpieces which have been known to bring tears to the eyes of senior officers and civil servants.

Maj (Retd) J. Welch—Comms (Tels). **John** has just left us on retirement and we wish him all the best for the future.

Lt Col (Retd) N. A. Vandyck—G2 (Sy). He is, of course, well placed to carry out the duties of any good security advisor—by saying frequently: 'Have you a need to know? I can't discuss this openly. Has this room been swept? My Clerk is sick. Because she's off I can't find the file. Have you got my file? I sent you a brief on this subject.' These, and many more, have assured him of a place in all our hearts.

Maj W. G. Lidster BEM—PPG-J6. **Bill** has a full part to play in our JFHQ Staff, which some wag has nicknamed the 'Permanent Play Group'. His job description is a joy to behold and has been copied by other staff officers to show as an example of what can be done between the hours of ? to ?.

Maj I. R. C. Brown—G3 (O&D/Ops). The 'Broon' is of course running the G3 side of life and despite being surrounded by Infantry types continues to wield influence in the corridors of power. He is currently under the apprehension that he is off to Hong Kong this year—well that's what he tells everyone he meets. We hope he gets what he deserves!

Maj L. A. Jeffery—G1/G4 (Ops/Coord). **Len** is doing his usual 12-14 hrs a day and has to be reminded constantly what day it is as he has a habit of forgetting. He's the only man we know who was told to go home by the Brigadier who gave him a map and reminded him of his wife's name! And you should see his diary!—Yucchh.

Well that's the gang—all doing our bit!

From *(Left to Right):* Lt Col (Retd) N. A. Vandyck, Maj W. G. Lidster, Maj L. A. Jeffery, Lt Col (Retd) A. M. P. Howie, Maj I. R. C. Brown, Col (Retd) J. A. Massey and Maj (Retd) J. Welch

HQ Queen's Gurkha Signals
BFPO 1

HQ SQN PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Ken Davies Stewart**
SQGO	**Capt Indrabahadur Adhikari**
GQM	**Capt Narbahadur Pun**
RQMS	**WO2 Steve Dunlin**
YofS	**WO2 Phil White**
SSM	**WO2 Phatik Kumar Rai**

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

There have been quite a few comings and goings of late and we would like to welcome the following to HQ Sqn. **WO2 (RQMS) Steve Dunlin** and his wife **Denise, WO2 Phil White** and his family, and **Sgt Trev Wright** and his family. 'Good-byes' follow and we wish **WO2 (RQMS) Steve McKechnie** and his wife **Chris** all the best in 16 Sig Regt. **Sgt Pete Callery** and his family have gone to Northern Ireland and we wish them good luck in their new posting.

GSM'S FAREWELL

HQ Sqn would also like to say farewell to **GSM 'Paddy' Crabtree**. He took his future into his own hands and successfully applied for a commission in the Royal Pioneer Corps. After so many years in the Corps he will be much missed. We wish him and his family well for the future. Taking over from him is **WO1 Mick Pawlak** formerly RSM of the School of Signals Blandford. We wish him and his wife **Jenny** a good tour.

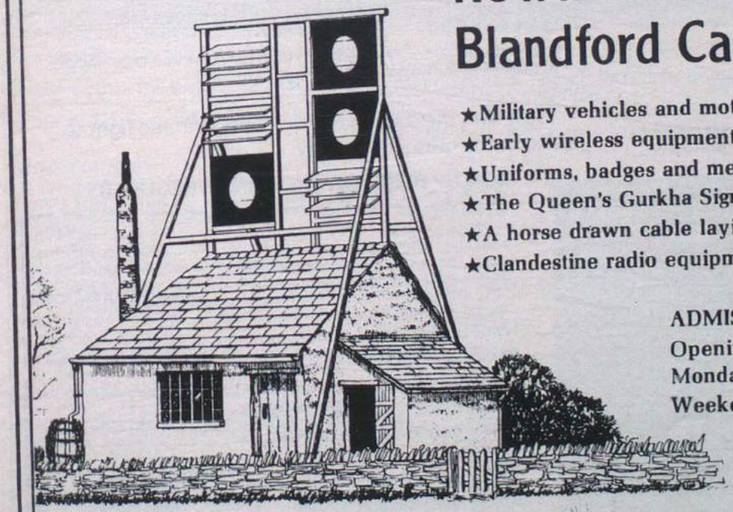
TRAILWALKER '88

The biggest event that has happened over the past couple of months was our involvement in the organisation of Ex Trailwalker. This event has grown annually from what was originally just a sponsored walk for military teams to an event which involves military and civilian organisations. The object of the exercise is to traverse the 100km Maclehose Trail in 48 hours. This is no easy feat. The terrain is very hilly and the weather can vary from very hot and humid to cold and wet in a matter of hours because of the monsoons that hit Hong Kong at this time of year. To illustrate how the event has grown, in 1981 the very first walk raised HK$80,000; in 1986 the Hong Kong Bank became major sponsors of this event and, as a result, HK$900,000 was raised last year. This money is donated to various local charities and also to Oxfam. That is the history, now to the event. This year saw yet another record broken with some 228 teams of four entering, with more civilian participation. Overall control and organisation was in the hands of the 2IC, **Maj Ian Noble** who for weeks prior to the event could be seen running around with folders in one hand and paracetamol in the other. A very famous local film personality **Jackie Chan** kindly agreed to start the event and this proved an added attraction. The weather was deteriorating with 'Typhoon Ruby' causing incessant rain and high winds. Not a good omen! The teams got off but unfortunately the weather brought its problems and one competitor had to be flown out by helicopter suffering from exposure before he had reached the second checkpoint. Despite this the course record was broken again by a team from 31 GTR who managed to complete the course in 13 hrs and 48 mins. Others took somewhat longer but that didn't matter. The aim was to finish and, by doing so, raise money for the needy. To all those competitors that did this, (including a team from HQ Sqn headed by the SQGO) congratulations are in order for completing the course in such adverse conditions. Hopefully we have gone through the HK$1,000,000 barrier this year.

HELPFUL SOLDIER?

A true story from Ex Border City which is a local IS Exercise here in Hong Kong. An IED was found, the area was cordoned off by troops, and rubber cones were placed around the device for identification. ATO was called in and he sent in his remote control robot. As the device approached the cones, there appeared from nowhere a young soldier who 'thoughtfully' moved the cones out of the way to enable the robot to get through!

ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM
Blandford Camp, Dorset



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★Early wireless equipment.
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★A horse drawn cable laying wagon.
★Clandestine radio equipment from World War II.

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Artist's impression of the early 19th Century Admiralty shutter telegraph relay station built on the site of Blandford Camp 1806-1825

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Oxfam works with poor people in their struggle against hunger, disease, exploitation and poverty in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East through relief, development, research overseas and public education at home.

School of Signals
Blandford Camp
Dorset

Back Row: Cpl Mark Neish, LCpl Fred Taylor, Sgts Mike Milne, 'Herley' Herbert, Sig Steve Towers, SSgt Phil Abbott, Sgts Steve Wardle, Dave Alexander, Capt Jim Wood

Front Row: Capt Phil Brown, LCpl Steve Lambert, WO1 (RSM) D. A. Hogben, WO2 John Smith, Lt Col Stutchbury, Lt Comd Brian Davis, Capt Nick Bateson

Absent from photograph: Sgt Steve Ible (detached Berlin), LCpl Colin Wolfendale (detached Hong Kong), LCpl Duncan Ledger (Course Catterick), LCpl Andy Thompson (Course Catterick)

CROSS COUNTRY

This season has been a successful one for the Regimental Cross Country Team. Of the 10 races held in the South West District league, the team has won two and been second in four giving them an overall final position of second.

The Regimental team won the Western Area Championships held at Blandford on Wednesday 11 January, thereby ensuring their entry to the Army Championships at Aldershot on 1 February 1989 where, unfortunately due to courses and injury, we could only finish in 10th place. Some of the more notable individual performances gained during the season are:-

Lt Comd Brian Davis RN	— 7th in the League and Garrison Champion
LCpl Steve Lambert	— 8th in the League and Regimental Sportsman of the Year
Capt Nick Bateson	— 15th in the League
WO2 John Smith	— 3rd Veteran in the League

CPD'S CHARITY PROJECT

A cheque for £75 was recently presented to the Treasurer of the League of Friends Blandford Hospital by members of Communication Projects Division. The money had been raised by a team led by **Cpl Roger Philp,** with **Maj Nick Thompson, SSgt Graham Alexander REME** and **Sig Graham Goodall.** They took part in the Shillingstone to Blandford Raft Race in the summer and raised, by sponsorship, a total of £766, all given to various charities in Blandford.

Cpl Roger Philp presents cheque to Lt Col (Retd) R. O. Taylor Blandford League of Friends
Others present were SSgt (Art Tels) Graham Alexander REME, Maj Nick Thompson and Col (Retd) F. K. Pike

THE CORPS ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The nightmare of last year's bid by the School of Signals to become the major unit Corps Champions still haunted a couple of the old campaigners. So it was with some trepidation that **WO2 (FofS) Lew Lawton** led his new look squad to this year's competition, held in North Nottinghamshire from 22/23 October 1988, to capture that coveted prize.

The Championships, administered this year by 38 Sig Regt (V), last two days. The first day sees the individual race where the best three times on an A and B course from each unit are used in conjunction with the relay times of the second day, to determine the overall winners. Two, three-man relay teams do separate courses where the consequences of a mispunch by any one runner means disqualification for the whole team.

Clipstone Wood was the setting for day one. Course planners, from Nottingham Orienteering Club, had been up since dawn distributing the controls, the weather was behaving itself and the conditions were perfect. The courses were technically easy and the vast number of forest tracks made for extremely fast times. **Capt Nick Bateson** took full advantage of Clipstone's motorway grid system to record the fastest time on the 8km A course to become the individual Corps Champion. **Capt Phil Brown** (former coach of the new Champion) was third and **WO2 Lew Lawton** chose the right day to have his good run of the season to become runner up in the M35 class. Had it not been for the devastating news of **Lew Lawton**'s thermos flask breaking (probably the largest flask known to man), or the worry of his mislaying the entire teams' control cards, **Lew** may well have become the M35 Champion. On the 6km B course, **Capt Jim Wood**, a new recruit, had the quickest time. Excellent runs also by **Sgt Dave Alexander, Capt Simon Green** and another new recruit, **Capt Alex Patterson**, helped to steer the team into first position, with a 27 minute advantage over their nearest rivals, 30 Sig Regt.

By far the most exacting test taken by all teams, on day two, was finding Bestwood Lodge, the venue for the relays. The courses in contrast to day one, were shorter and more intricate. All competitors were compelled to go through a manned control in full view of the spectators, thus giving teams the opportunity to encourage their runners or otherwise. As far as the Regimental team was concerned, a steady run by each runner was all that was required. In fact, the team had the quickest combined relay time to increase further their lead and become the major unit Champions.

It was a fitting tribute to the team captain, **WO2 Lew Lawton**, a stalwart orienteerer, that he should bring the trophy back to the School of Signals, in this his last season with the team. He is soon to depart to Shetland, where, no doubt, his enthusiasm for the sport will affect many islanders.

Capt Nick Bateson with Capt Phil Brown ready to run in Clipstone Forest

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM

The Corps Museum is now firmly established on the tourist map of Southern England and the number of visitors attending the Museum has greatly increased and is still increasing.

Unfortunately the Museum is not open at weekends which means that many would-be-visitors are turned away.

To help overcome this problem a voluntary society, 'Friends of The Royal Signals Museum', was established in 1987 whose members agree to man the Museum shop and supervise visitors during the weekends between May and September.

Interested volunteers can also help in Research, Cataloguing, Preservation and identifying objects.

This scheme worked very well in 1988 but unfortunately a number of Friends have been forced to pull out this year and we need some new recruits to take their place.

Any member, or wife, who is interested in helping the Corps Museum are asked to contact: **Maj (Retd) Leslie Taylor MBE**, Secretary, Friends of The Royal Signals Museum, c/o The Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Dorset, DT11 8RH.

News from Regiments

Berlin Sig Regt
BFPO 45

VISIT OF COMD COMMS BAOR

Maj Gen P. R. Davies visited the Regiment and 3 Sqn, 13 Sig Regt on 15 and 16 March. His visit started with an inspection of the Quarter Guard which met him outside Regimental Headquarters. Commanded by **Sgt Blakley**, the Guard deserves congratulation on a high standard of turnout.

A buffet lunch was served in the Headquarters Sergeants' Mess prior to which **Maj Gen Davies** presented LS & GC Medals including one to **Cpl Kimberley** from 1 Sqn.

Quarter Guard

LS&GC Presentation

1 SQUADRON

CADRE COURSE 1/89

In March, the Squadron ran a Cadre Course for Signalmen and Lance Corporals. The aim was to develop leadership during an arduous week of military training. The 12 strong course assembled at 0700 hrs on 13 March. After a quick BFT to warm up, the students were launched into intensive training in NBC, first aid, weapon handling, map reading and the delivery of orders. This initial phase of the exercise ended with drill teaching practices on Tuesday afternoon.

Wednesday morning saw the course deployed on Ruhleben Ranges firing APWT on SLR and SMG. Comd Comms BAOR was an enthusiastic spectator as they tackled the confidence course.

On Wednesday afternoon, the course deployed on Ex Bailey's Bash, a tactics exercise run by **WO2 (SSM) Bailey** and OC Brigade Tp, **Lt L. D. McCourt**. Split into two sections, the students were given the task of navigating round four stands under the supervision of experienced pathfinders **SSgt Clarke** and **SSgt (SQMS) Thomas**. The exercise continued throughout the night and ended with a dawn attack on the First Aid Post where the SSM was resting his eyes.

On the final morning, the pace continued with an eight mile CFT to Ruhleben Fighting City where the climax of the week was an Urban Assault Course. After a long, hard week this was a real test of fitness and humour. **LCpl Morris'** expression as he emerges from the final drain cover just about summed it up.

Prizes were presented by the OC, **Maj C. C. McColville** to the best section and the best student who was **Sig Groves** of Sector Tp.

SECTOR TROOP

Sector Tp has a number of roles in Berlin and some of them are highlighted here. The Troop is commanded by **WO2 (YofS) Colvin**, ably assisted by **SSgt Clarke**. Sector is a large Troop of about 40 men and women but is widely spread. The farthest flung members are detached to Commcen Helmstedt and before we go any further, a word from **Sig 'Sprog' Aggar** (asides from the Squadron censor): **'Cpl 'Bob' Booth** and I run this very small Commcen, working a shift of 48 hrs on and 48 hrs off (sob, hard done by, sob). We spend a little time in the Commcen as we spend the rest of our days help the RMP (with their enquiries?). The RMP Company here is about strong with a few attachments. We singlies enjoy the small townsh of Helmstedt with its two discos and handful of pubs. There is also no shortage of young frauleins with whom to spend your time (any grannies for **Bob**?) and we enjoy the occasional wild mess meetings and call-outs. This sums up life at Helmstedt in a short and sweet way'.

The Troop also mans Commcen Berlin which is supervised by **Sgt 'Invisible Man' Squires**. The Commcen staff is learning to live with the Automatic Message Handling Switch which intruded into their lives last year. The concensus of opinion is that it is good at reducing certain parts of their workload but, in the middle of a 'teething problem', mutters have been heard about bringing back carrier pigeons.

Another recent addition to the Commcen has been **WPte Speakman** (should that not be speak-person?); we hope you enjoy your stay.

Sector Tp also has the job of providing British Sector Headquarters in the field and this was practised during Ex Diamond Triad in February. Such exercises are few and far between but thanks to lots of hard work by the Troop, Diamond Triad was a great success. Valued assistance was given by 30 Sig Regt who used Bruin to simulate secure telephones. We are still waiting for Satcom so this was simulated on the exercise by our HF rear link detachments.

SATCOM STOP PRESS

LCpl 'Chalky' White and **Sig Dave Wilson** are, at this very moment, delivering the first VRC501 terminal from UK to SHAPE for trials. Watch this space.

Finally from Sector Tp, on 31 March, **Sig Farrell** was married to **Miss Julie Wright**. Warmest congratulations from everyone in the Squadron.

MORE ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Welcome to **Sig Marston** and **Sig Dixon** taken into service in Brigade Tp from the production line at Catterick. Welcome also to **Cpl Giles** from 262 Sig Sqn and to **Cpl 'Sleepy' Barber** from 8 Sig Regt.

Farewell and all the best to **Sig 'Rob' Price**, gone to pastures new in Civvy Street.

1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 32

1 Sqn make a lone stand against invaders from Plant Plessey

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

RHQ

It has been a time of change here in Verden. Everyone was sad to see the **2IC Maj Nigel Fairley** leave and we wish him all the luck in the future. On the arrivals front we have **2Lt Robert Meinertzhagen**, who is straight from the factory and is settling into the job of Assistant Adjutant. Congratulations are in order to **Sgt Brookes** who has passed his staffy's course and is shortly to be posted to Northern Ireland on promotion.

In HQ Sqn we welcome **Maj John Walsh** R Anglian and his wife and we hope they will settle in quickly. Amongst all this turmoil we still have **Sgt Guiney** as the Provost Sergeant; he has been here for six years and is still carrying out his duties with legendary efficiency.

BADMINTON

Once again the Regiment has had a very successful Badminton season. Having reached the final of the Divisional Inter-Unit Knockout Competition for the fourth year running we were confident that the trophy could be regained. The final was played at Caithness Barracks on Friday 10 March.

The opponents, 40 Fd Regt RA put up a very strong challenge but on the day the Regimental team produced consistent form resulting in a 9—0 win.

The BAOR finals took place at Dusseldorf on Wednesday 22 March. The team unfortunately had been depleted due to course and leave commitments. Despite this a good match was enjoyed against 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. However the final result saw 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt deservedly through the semi-finals.

REGIMENTAL RUNNING TEAM

On 25 January the team sailed from Hamburg to compete in the Army Cross-Country Championships. Morale was high, and the team was feeling confident. The pre-race training continued at Blandford Camp. On Wednesday 1 February we left for Tweseldown and met all the other teams bargain hunting in Aldershot! **Sgt Bill Bailey** was less interested in bargains and more interested in getting **Sgt Dave Gill** a pair of spikes!

The race got off to a good start with a packed field of runners. The spectators were provided with a running commentary (No pun intended!) although **LCpl Mark Vile** was announced as being a member of 21 Sig Regt! The final positions were:-

LCpl Mark Vile	2nd
Sgt Jeff Martin	6th
Sgt Bill Bailey	14th
Maj Richard Hezlet RH	18th
Sgt Dave Gill	47th
Cpl Andy Kennedy	32nd
LCpl Tim Withers	34th
Cpl Sid Perks	58th
Sig Frank Boyle	102nd
Sig Jock Conlon	106th

The team result was a win for the Regiment with 1st PWO second. **Sgt Jeff Martin** and **LCpl Mark Vile** were selected to run for the Army in the Inter Service race.

Immediately after the race the team said good-bye to **LCpl Nick Withers** who is off to join 30 Sig Regt, we wish him all the best in his new post and thanks for all the races, **Nick**.

Since then the team has added another 'scalp' to its collection by winning the 7/22 Armd Bde Cross Country Major Units Championship. **Sgt Bill Bailey** won the Individual Championship and, **WO1 Ian Murray** took second position in the over 35's. The team result took a total of 19 runners to achieve throughout the season. Thanks to all of those who made this League Championship ours!

1 SQUADRON

The Squadron is nearing the end of the hectic start-of-year exercise season. During the last two months we have participated in two Regimental and two Divisional exercises, as well as fitting in a Site Guard.

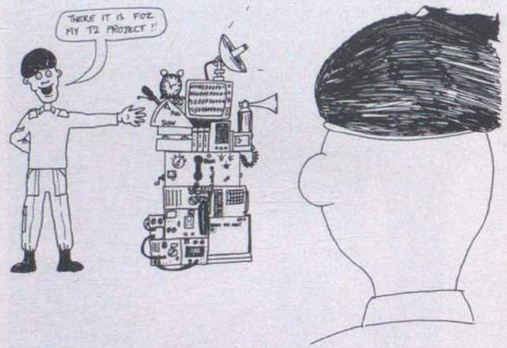
SITE GUARD

In early March the Squadron deployed on Site Guard under the watchful eye of our Guard Commander **Capt Al McPhee**. The week passed uneventfully, despite **Lt Simon Hutchinson** being 'overflown by six Migs' and having three 'contacts' (later attributed to local farmers and twigs breaking). **Lt Alan Blackwell**'s platoon won the award for best camouflaged section when **Cpl 'Willie' Rushton**'s section deposited branches and grass liberally around the rest room.

SQUADRON COMMAND TROOP

The new year saw **Cpl Parkinson** promoted to Sergeant and placed in charge of the civvies in the workshops; namely, **Cpl 'Dayglo' Peplow, Cpl 'Nige-Mansell' Crabtree, Sig Flood** (has anyone seen him? . . .) and finally **LCpl 'Woolly' Woolridge.**

Congratulations are in order for **Sgt Paul Shenton** on his promotion to Staff Sergeant, and we hope you enjoy yourself in sunny 7 Sig Regt.



EAGLE (ECHO) TROOP

Ex Morning Glory will remain memorable due to the efficiency of **Sig 'Chippy' Wood**'s detachment's anti-OC defences. This consisted of a set of pivoting steps which catapulted **2Lt Ian Walton** into oblivion. Ex Hard Fist followed, which was static for most of us. However, **Cpl Kev Twigger** and **Sig Sam Brownlee** were required to move once or twice: there was never any problem finding them as there was always a trail of personal items left along the route by **Cpl Twigger**.

Ex Highland Malt II passed with few incidents, though the Troop OC decided to take the long distance, scenic route back home, resulting in the purchase of many beers!

FALCON (FOXTROT) TROOP

This year started off with a bang with a Site Guard over New Year. This was followed by another one in March (we did the last one so well!). On Ex Highland Malt II we lost a radio relay truck, plus crew. However, they were found many hours later fast asleep in a Police station: 'But Staff, everybody legged it without me!'.

We say farewell to **LCpl Robin White** and wife **Linda** to 7 Sig Regt and **Sig 'Tucks' Tucker** to 16 Sig Regt, and hellos to **LCpl 'Wiggy' Wigmore** and **Sig Ben Reynolds**. Finally, congratulations to **Sig 'Ninja' Ainger** on his promotion to Lance Corporal and to **Sgt Bill Bailey** on turning up to work in uniform.

KESTREL (GOLF) TROOP

In the first two months of the year the Troop has lived up to its motto 'Holding the First Division Together'. Ex Morning Glory was an opportunity for the Troop OC, **Lt Alan Blackwell** and Troop SSgt, **SSgt Neil Ardern**, to see the reaction of the Troop under attack. A thunderflash in the Switch gave **Cpl Ric Owen** a chance to practise his

Sig Dave Tucker digs in in double time

IA and bolt the door immediately afterwards.

During Ex Highland Malt II the two Central crews decided they wanted more attention. **Cpl Willie Scoots** proved that a track needs to be wider than the vehicle if it is not to fall down the hill: the Troop OC and **Cfn Gibson** practiced their recovery techniques whilst **Cpl Scoots** and **LCpl 'Flash' Gordon** won the Golden Blanket award. Meanwhile **Sig Dave Tucker,** not to be outdone, decided to dig in. Unfortunately he forgot you have to be able to get the vehicle out afterwards.

Sig (yet another Scouse) **Holdsworth** has recently joined the Troop and **LCpl Campbell** has been getting his wife (recent acquisition) to sew his tape (even more recent acquisition) on to his uniform. Finally, whilst the rest of us have been working **LCpls Brian Young** and **Dave Ramsay** have gained the Ex Snow Queen 'windswept and interesting' look.

HAWK (HOTEL) TROOP

Once again the month has been dominated by exercises leaving very little time for rest and recuperation, although for some Snow Queen has been a welcome break. Morning Glory was soon followed by Ex Hard Fist, renamed 'Hard Luck'; at least we did not have any deer to contend with this time. ('RSM could you please call a vet, we have a deer caught up in some guy ropes': **SSgt Bradshaw**). OSC thought it was a feeble excuse, but at least we tried. With Ex Hard Luck out of the way it was straight into Site Guard training, which hit the Troop hard, but at least it gave **SSgt Sullivan** the chance to get his remaining 14 days leave in.

We are now looking forward to Ex Flying Falcon, well at least it gives **Sig Brown** and **LCpl Lawlor** the chance to familiarise themselves with Ptarmigan. On a serious note our best wishes to **LCpl Robbie Alward** and **Cpl Sean Littlefield** who have recently left us, and a warm welcome to **LCpl Traynor** and **Sig Botham**; no he does not play cricket. Also the Troop sends its congratulations to **LCpl Barnes** on his recent betrothal to **Angelica.**

2 SQUADRON

Once again another busy period in the life of 2 Sqn with men and equipment being despatched far and wide to meet our many commitments.

The main exercise during the period was a Regimental Ex Highland Malt II this being a full deployment during the period 13-16 March.

The exercise started well with both 2 and 3 Sqns reaching the initial locations South of Hildeshiem without significant mishap, however there was a different story concerning the rear party.

Capt John Stuart, on his last exercise as OC Papa Tp, found most of the keys for his vehicles but the crews were a different matter, a wait of some three hours did nothing to improve his sense of humour. Rumour has it that **Cpl Kev McHugh** has voluntarily withdrawn from the All Arms Navigation Course and has now applied for a vacancy for the LRRPG's next course we wish him luck.

For once **SSgt (YofS) Guy Benson**'s ability to hover at altitude proved very useful as we had to clamber to perilous heights to mount our antennas. The exercise took us on to new ground in the Braunschweig area and having turned up at the required grid reference the Squadron was met by **Capt Allister** (Don't worry of course it will fit) **Harwell** the new recce officer and amazingly most of it did fit—just.

Our new SSM **WO2 Mick Comber** paid us a courtesy call during the exercise and judging by his initial reaction things could be extremely interesting during the next few years.

NOTES FROM THE TECHS

The last couple of months has seen a few changes in our small band of technicans. We have had to say farewell to **Cpl Al Gane** and wife **Kay** off to Belize and also to **Sgt Phil Cox**, wife **Sara** and family off to sunny Cyprus, **Phil** drove to Cyprus from Verden and judging from the postcards that kept arriving it was an interesting journey. Welcome back also to **SSgt (FofS) Mick Tucker** who managed to miss the exercise to go sailing Canaries Isles to Gibraltar; arduous adventure training indeed.

Congratulations to **LCpl Mark Hitchins** who gets married on 8 April, we understand that he is spending his honeymoon in the Flying Falcon area.

STOP PRESS

Goodbye to **LCpl Al Townsend** off to 7 Bde, Hello to **Cpl Clogg** and family.

HELLO'S AND GOODBYES

The Squadron would like to say goodbye to **Maj Paul** and **Jo Eaton** and family who are off to Staff College. **Capt John** and **Lou Stuart** and family off to JDSC and finally **WO2 (SSM) Jeff** and **Chris Ashwell** and family off to 21 Sig Regt we wish them all the best.

That means that we now have a new management team and so we welcome **Maj Geoff** and **Ann Cary** and new OC our**WO2 (SSM) Mick** and **Lisa Comber** and family and we hope you have a enjoyable tour with the Squadron.

EXERCISE MEDCHASE LEG 16

by SSgt Mick Tucker

Some six months after first applying for a place on Ex Medchase the day had finally arrived when I was to report to Gatwick Airport prior to flying out to Lanzarote to join HMSTC *Sabre* a Nicholson 55. I had been selected as a watchleader on Leg 16 which was from the Canary Islands to Gibraltar.

The crew assembled at Gatwick and we then flew out to Lanzarote on a scheduled Air Europe Flight landing at Arricife airport, after a journey of some four hours, it was then on by taxi to join *Sabre* which was moored just outside town.

The first night was spent in a local hostelry introducing ourselves and finding out a little about each other and planning our strategy for the fortnight that we were to be aboard.

The breakdown of the crew showed how widespread the selection for Medchase is, ours consisted of five Royal Navy and seven Army personnel with ranks ranging from Captain Royal Navy and Lieutenant Colonel REME to Private.

It was decided that our itinerary would be a short trip first down to the island of Fuerteventura to familiarise everybody with the workings of the boat and then to head North East for Rabat in Morocco, Cadiz and Estepona in Spain and finally Gibraltar; it was not to be, but at this stage we had no idea of what lay ahead.

The first part of the trip down to Fuerteventura passed off without mishap and everybody settled in well and after a short stay at Puerto Del Castillio we set sail again for Morocco. The wind unfortunately was from the North East which made for an uncomfortable start to the journey, however with three reefs in the main sail and the No 1 jib up we were making progress. Just after 2000 hrs disaster struck because with what sounded like a gun shot the bottle screw which holds the forestay to the bow of the boat parted freeing the forestay and foresail, which soon wraped itself around the shrouds, and in turn endangered the stability of the main mast. Emergency running repairs were quickly effected and we headed for the nearest port which was Puerto Del Rosario. Upon reflection we were extremely lucky not to lose the main mast.

The following day more permanent repairs were made, first of all the skipper did a mast inspection, from the only place possible—the top of the mast, and then the three engineers and one shipwright who were part of the crew set about working out how the boat could be repaired so that we could resume our journey. The solution was relatively simple; mind you with so much experience on board it's not surprising, it involved removing part of one of the backstays to enable us to replace the bottlescrew on the forestay and replace the missing backstay with a length of anchor chain.

Repairs completed we set sail once again heading North East a day late and confident that we could keep to our itinerary but we were thwarted once again. The wind which had been force four now increased to force seven gusting to eight with a 12-14ft swell and the going became more difficult and progress painfully slow. In one eight hour period we covered only 15 miles. This was to last for four days and with each passing hour our hopes of keeping to our schedule diminished. For some of the crew the journey was extremely uncomfortable as they were severely affected by the conditions. We had to heave to for dinner on the first three days, our only respite from the crashing conditions. Day five and the winds abated slightly, by this time though our chances of visiting Morocco had gone and we now concentrated on getting to Cadiz but with each update on the chart that too looked improbable. In the end we had to settle for Gibraltar as our next and last port of call because not only was time against us but as we had only provisioned the boat for five days and we were now well into our sixth day at sea we were having to break into the emergency rations on board: who said that compo wasn't nice.

Skipper Andy Ritche inspects the mast

The crew: *(Left to Right)*: CPO Andy Ritche, Skipper; Lt Col Alister Campbell REME, Mate 1; Lt Cmdr John Meakin RN, Mate 2; Lt Mike Sothcott RN, Watchleader; LMER Alan McKinnon, Electrician; Sgt Martin Earp, Engineer; LCpl Heather Hyrons, Purser; Capt Roger Sharp RN, Watchleader; OCdt Belinda Selly, Doctor; SSgt Mick Tucker, Watchleader; Pte Steve Jones, Electrician; Pte Pete Brown, Engineer

Finally after eight days at sea we berthed alongside the customs post in Gibraltar. We now had three days in which to unwind before flying back to the UK. We had sailed a total of 1,056 miles in all weather conditions and although we didn't visit any of the more exotic destinations the experience gained was invaluable. I for one will be looking for the next DCI on Medchase 90.

3 SQUADRON

The Squadron recently welcomed its new OC **Maj Scott Ewing** and his wife **Nicky**. He has stepped into the hot seat left vacant by the departure of **Maj Brian Scott-Morton** on his posting to Comms Branch 1(BR) Corps.

NEWS FROM LINE TROOP

The Troop has been inundated with new arrivals. **LCpls Allister Morton, Keith Brodie, Tim Cox, Sig 'Richie' Craven** and **Tony Caprio**. They all seem to be settling in nicely.

We have been involved with providing support for training for units about to go on roulement tours to Northern Ireland.

OSCAR TROOP

We all knew 1989 was going to be a busy year, but Oscar has done an excellent job and taken the bit between its teeth.

We welcome **Cpl** 'them ain't sunglasses' **Robertson, LCpl Dobson** and **Sig Jarvis**. However we have to say farewell to **LCpl Brett** 'the most balding man in NATO' **Cowley** and newly promoted **LCpl Jonnie Hart**.

The usual banter is swapped between ourselves and Papa Tp of 2 Sqn. We seem to have come to the amicable arrangement whereby they hold Main and we hold the Communications!

A recent Troop outing saw the Troop OC **2Lt Mark Roberts** proving that he could organise the proverbial in a brewery, but couldn't organise himself to be part of it!

NOVEMBER TROOP

As always the ever reliable Sys 13 has been well travelled in the last few months. On top if its usual commitments it has supported the Brigade and Battle Group Trainer at Sennelager. **Cpl 'Spike' Sharp** has been with the vehicle so long now that he has been put on the CES!

Our last three exercises have been very successful. We didn't however take out Thomas the Tank Engine! He stayed in his shed until the SSAFA fair on 18 March. He was heard on BFBS on the Glen Mansel show and helped raise money for SSAFA. He was driven most ably by **LCpl Ian Watson** and **LCpl 'Fagsy' Fallows**. Also helping to raise money was the 2IC Sqn, **Capt Nevil Thompson** and his wife **Rebecca** who, with the help of Cossack and Lord entertained many of the little people with pony rides.

Lt Andy Addison has taken over as Troop IC and is looking forward to working with the Troop.

Rebecca Thompson and Lord

TM/SHQ TROOP

Not too much has happened since our last contribution except that two of the singlies have decided to get married! All members of the Troop pass on their congratulations to **Cpl Rich Cove** on his forthcoming marriage to **Caroline** in August and to **Cpl Ian Middlemiss** who has decided to take the plunge with **Karen** but hasn't fixed a date yet. It has been a unique couple of months as we've have not had any members of the Troop posted out, but welcome to **Cpl Rich Cove** and **LCpl Phil Bruce**, and wish them an enjoyable tour here.

201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn BFPO 30

No 'gentle slide' into 1989, as the exercise season took its full grip. Our recent Ex Highland Malt in March enabled the SSM **'Tommo' Tomlinson** and **Sgt Steve Somers** to demonstrate their prowess in recce.

SSgt Pete Smith of 'Petes Videos' took the opportunity to display his skills as a cameraman producing a video of the Squadron on exercise. An impressive home made film was the result. Someone actually claimed to have seen 'half-man, half-sleeping bag', **SSgt (FofS) Jay Allen** up and working, but the cameraman had neither the patience nor the amount of film to record it!

Charity events were popular in this period. The 'Stags' Rugby Club, under the admirable direction of **Sgt Tim Wells RAPC** and **Cpl Steve Hartland** managed to push a bed around Hohne Garrison and in the process raised DM700 in aid of Hannover BMH Patients Welfare Fund.

SSgt 'Big D' Donovan REME decided the time was right for a sponsored slim and at present has lost 2 stones and resembles a mere shadow of his former self.

SPORT

The Squadron has yet again been very busy both in the individual and team events. Congratulations go to **Sig Mick Turnbull** on winning the 65kg category at the UK Army Judo Championships in Aldershot. We wish him all the best as he now goes forward to represent the Army in the Inter Services Championships at the beginning of May.

Commiserations to **Cpl 'Spike' Forbes** and **Sig 'Chelsea' Bristow** as they fought valiantly in the BAOR Individual Boxing Championships only to be defeated by the eventual winner in their respective weights.

With the Cross-Country season coming to a close the team has managed to record some memorable victories, not least as Minor Unit Winners of the 7/22 Brigade League and the 22 Brigade Championship.

Unfortunately we were unable to field our strongest team in the Royal Signals (BAOR) Cross-Country Championships but with a makeshift team we still managed to achieve a creditable fourth place.

At a slightly lower level the Inter Troop Orienteering Competition was held last month with SHQ narrowly beating Bravo Tp in the team event. In the individual event, **Sig 'Asterix' Gaul** was first, defeating **Cpl Dave Bousfield** in a close run contest, by virtue of having visited one more check point.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Over the last couple of months the Squadron has had a major turnover.

Firstly we send our congratulations to **WO2 (YofS) Mick Boxall** on finally taking the plunge and getting married. We wish **Sue** and **Mick** the best of luck in the future and hope their tour in Sunny Hohne is a pleasant one. Also congratulations to **Sig 'Mitch'** and **Claudia Mitchell** on their new venture into married life.

The Squadron has said goodbye to **SSgt (SQMS) 'Q' Riley** and **Freda** who are posted to Loughborough on promotion, and welcome his replacement **SSgt (SQMS) Dave Cox** and his wife **Jacqueline**. Our fond farewells also go to **Sgt Gus** (SLJS) **Murray** and **Gale** as he moves to Northern Ireland, **Cpl 'Corky' Corkett** and **LCpls Dave Neary, 'Mac' McGuckien, Steve Tindal, 'DM' Davies Morris, 'Dobbo' Dobson** and finally **Sig Steve Simpson** and **Pete Smith**.

Good luck in 'Civvy Street' to **LCpls Kitson, Webb** and **Hooper**.

We welcome **2Lt Mike Rogers** fresh from his Troop Commanders Course as he becomes the new OC Bravo Tp—does this mean that his Troop 'Staffy' **Dave Showell** will be spending even more time on the golf course!

We also extend a warm welcome to **Cpl Taylor, LCpls Watkinson, McKittrick** and **Dickinson, Sig Booker, Gipson, Benn** and **Ptes Courtney, Boardman** and **McNeil**.

Lastly congratulations to **SSM 'Tommo' Tomlinson**'s impending promotion to WO1 and also to newly promoted **LCpls Jeff Winder** and **Allan Henderson**.

207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn BFPO 37

GENERAL

The Squadron has just completed a busy post New Year phase and is building up to the really busy Spring period. Time has whizzed by with five exercises and visits from both RSIT and the PRE Team. In between the Squadron has still managed to find time to gain glory on the Sports Field. The Hockey team winning the Brigade Indoor Championships and narrowly losing in the Quarter Finals of the BAOR Minor Units Cup.

The football team has won through to the final of the Comd Comms Cup.

The Basketball team comfortably won the Regimental Page Trophy competition.

The Cross Country team, not to be outdone, has won the Brigade Championship, again.

STOP PRESS

The Cross Country team has just come second in the Royal Signals BAOR Championships.

EXERCISE SIAMESE DIAMOND

In July of this year eight intrepid members of this Squadron will attempt to canoe 450 miles down the River Mae Nam Wah in the remote tropical rain forests of Thailand. Obviously for an adventure of this magnitude much prior planning and preparation is necessary.

Some of the team: Sgt Andy Bailey ACE (Andy's Capsize Eqpt), Sig (let's go up it) Gibson, Lt (I hate canoeing) Hudson, Sig (Glug, Glug) Westerman and LCpl (I'm happier underwater) Legg
The team has been training every weekend in the substantially colder water found in North West Germany

SHQ

Welcome to **Cpl Clive Dedman** and **Tina, LCpl 'Dougie' O'Neil** and **Tracy**, and also **WO2 (YofS) Willy Riding** and **Jenny**. We hope their stay in Soltau will be as much fun for them as it was for those who have just left: **WO2 (YofS) Mick Drake** (to AAC at Harrogate), **Cpl 'Deano' Haynes** (to 30 Sig Regt) and **Cpl Norrie Small** (to the MOD). We wish them all the best.

Congratulations to **Cpl (FT) Faizey** and **LCpl (BJ) Spencer** on their recent promotions.

The Troop, meanwhile, eagerly awaits the return of **SSgt 'Dot Cotton' Wright** to see if the wonders of modern medical science have cured him, and **Capt Hugh Mullan** from wherever he's gone this time.

A TROOP

Goodbye and good luck to **LCpl Norrie Crook** and **Nicola** to 2 Div.

Welcome to **Sig 'Chalky' White**.

Finally we wish speedy recoveries to **Cpl 'Dusty' Miller** after his operation and **LCpl Trev Legg** after his injury sustained during his RSDCC.

B TROOP

Farewell to the H's: **LCpl Steve Hope** to forge a new life out West, **Cpl Chris Hollingsworth** to Catterick and **LCpl Paul Hogg** to 249.

Welcome to **Cpl 'Ferret' Cox, Cpl 'Corky' Corkett, LCpl 'Gucks' McGuckien, LCpl Tony Fitches** from 7 Sig Regt and **Sig Paul Partington** the very last lineman to be trained as such.

Congratulations to **LCpl Seth Mulligan** and **Cpl Corkett** on their recent promotions and to **SSgt Kev Lodge** on his imminent promotion.

Also congratulations to **Cpl 'Chippy' Chapman** for firstly completing his RMS III recently (he's just itching to vaccinate the Siamese Diamond team) and secondly on his recent appearance on the back page of *The Wire*.

212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 36

OSCAR TROOP

Although this has been a relatively quiet period for the Troop, there are some noteworthy events that have taken place.

Firstly, we would all like to congratulate **Sgt Andy Millard** on his recent promotion and also on his successful completion of the preliminary Yeomans selection rounds.

In the second weekend of March, Oscar Tp threw a Troop party which turned out to be almost a Squadron party once everyone had arrived with their guests. The theme was 'Gangsters and Molls' and at least five people dressed up for it, which is quite good considering there were only 60 people present! Despite this everyone had a very good time which was evident from the fragile bodies seen wandering around the next day!

We have recently come off Highland Malt 2 where we have at last assumed the role of Senior Troop in the Squadron since we now also take Main HQ. 212 Sig Sqn communications have benefited greatly from this change and we all look forward to Flying Falcon to further prove our mettle!

PAPA TROOP

After joining Papa Tp in August 1988, I have already come across a few inspections. Then just after Ex Morning Glory, there was talk of PRE and RSIT. After being briefed by the Troop Commander, **Lt Hill** and Troop Staff Sergeant, **SSgt Jones**, it occurred to me that a lot of work was needed over the weeks to follow.

To other people in the Troop such as **Cpls 'Taff' Walters, 'Jock' Laird** and **'Si' Fell** this was nothing new, so we went to work on our wagons. Unfortunately we had an exercise near the end of February. Det Comd **LCpl Tony Brook** and I finished Ex Wintex two days before RSIT began, but we were still inspected!

Working hard during the days and at nights we managed to get our vehicle up to a good standard. RSIT came and went with a good report for the Troop. With relief that RSIT over, we enjoyed a celebration. Next came PRE which covered various installations in the vehicle, this was to be done after Ex Highland Malt 2.

The exercise passed and cleaning of equipments began. Cleaning was done outside for a change, unusual for Osnatraz! My Det Comd was now on leave and had left me in charge!! PRE came round and was completed with success, well, only a year to wait to do it again!

We say goodbye to **Sig John Fairley** who is off to the Falkland Islands. Hello to **Sig 'Brummie' Brandrick** and **George Quar** who arrived recently. Congratulations to **Sig 'Locky' Lockwood** who got married earlier in the year, also to **Sig 'Skegsy' Carroll** and **'Steve' Girling** on posting to 5 AB Bde in May. Finally a quick mention for the rest of the lads in the Troop. **LCpls Chris Birch, 'Taff' Doughty, 'Sammy' Wright, Paul Norris** and **'Jase' Barsley. Sig Paul Hornsby, 'Ob' O'Brien, 'Jock' McKinnie, Kev Blake** and **'Spaceman' Byrom** all valued members. Well that's it from me, I'll be off now to load the wagon for Ex Flying Falcon. Cheers!

What a Life . . . they build us heated garages then make us work outside

SPORTS

BOXING

212 Sig Sqn sent Cpl **'Rocky' Ferrer** as a dark horse to the BAOR Individual Boxing Championships held in Berlin between 7 and 12 March. **Cpl Ferrer** met one of the hot favourites in the competition at the Light/Middleweight category and enthralled us with an epic fight. After three rounds of toe to toe fighting **Cpl Ferrer** lost the decision, the bonus for **Cpl Ferrer** was that his opponent went on to win a further two fights and gained a place in the BAOR Finals, so he came away in real terms as a winner.

FOOTBALL

After a disappointing start to the season the Squadron football team has stepped up a gear and started to play some excellent football with a tally of 20 goals in 4 matches. The most exciting game was the semi-final of the Commanders Cup versus 211 Sig Sqn which finished in a 3—3 draw thanks to two well struck penalties by **Cpl Dave Revell** and a superb solo effort by **Sig 'Fletch' Fletcher** who ran round three players in the box and struck the ball past a diving and beaten keeper, by all accounts the replay should be a thriller in a home venue (Quebec Barracks) on a date to be decided. However credit must go to **Sgt Deary** a new arrival who has lifted the football team to unprecedented heights.

RUGBY

The Osnabruck sevens were held on 8 March at Quebec Barracks. The Squadron entered two sides, hoping to emulate the success we had in the Odense sevens in Denmark earlier in the season.

After a first round loss to 23 Engr Regt we easily disposed of 1 RGJ to earn a semi-final place. We drew our old enemy 12 Armd Wksp and after full-time we were holding our own at 0—0. Sudden death then prevailed with 12 Armd snatching victory. Never mind, a good day's rugby was had by all!

PS. Best not to mention our B sides results.

SHOOTING

On the night of 22 March the Squadron held a Shooting match against the local German civilian Shooting Club with which it has always had close ties, **SSgts Kevin Jones** and **Ray Bray** shoot with the club on the German circuit.

The Squadron OC **Maj Hugh Colborn** welcomed the Shooting Club to Quebec Barracks, before the evenings festivities commenced.

The Squadron and Atter Club provided three teams of five people, all teams being mixed male and female. The first round was civilian .22 rifles firing at 30m. Each team member fired five rounds at their targets, the Squadron quickly fell behind on this discipline due to the great experience and practice of the German team. At the end of the round the scores were Sqn 384—Atter 483. The best scores for the Squadron coming from **Cpl Simon Fell** and **Mrs Jane Jones**.

The second round commenced with all firers using Heckler & Kock conversion SLR's. The Squadron team quickly caught up the points they were trailing behind, with good shooting by **SSgt Ray Bray** and **Mrs Tina Strachen**. At the end of the round the Squadron team had gone into the lead by 50 points, thereby winning the shoot.

The night's festivities commenced in the Squadron club, **Maj Hugh Colborn** thanked the Atter Club for a pleasant night's shooting and presented the team captain with a pewter 432. On behalf of the Squadron thanks **SSgt Kev Jones** for organising a very good shooting match and social function.

Cpl 'Spike' Forbes takes the first bout in the BAOR Individual's Boxing Championships

Oscar Tp—fine bunch of . . . er . . . men

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2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
York

REGIMENTAL SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS
JUDO

For the first time the Regiment entered a team for the Novice Judo Championships held at Aldershot and won a Bronze Medal. The team consisted of: **Cpls Rowe**—LAD, **Harris**—HQ Sqn and **Sig Rodgers**—1 Sqn. With further guidance from **SSI Holden** medal prospects were good for the Individual Championship but, unfortunately, due to exercise commitments, only **Cpl Harris** was free to enter. He fought well and won a further Silver Medal. In the Intermediate Championships **Cpl Grigg** from the Headquarters fought well in a very high class of competition to win a Bronze Medal.

SWIMMING

The Regiment held an Inter-Squadron Competition in preparation for the Inter Unit Team Championships. 210 Sig Sqn was invited along and started out as favourites. To the surprise of a lot of people the Regiment turned out some new stars, one of which was none other that the CO's driver, **LCpl Craig Davies** who was just beaten by the superior fitness of **SSgt Graham Butler**. As expected 210 Sig Sqn won the competition, closely followed by HQ Sqn. We are contemplating changing their role from 24 (Airmob) to 24 (Aqua) Sqn!

SQUASH

A very big congratulations to the squash team for winning the UK Army Cup against SEE Arborfield. The team has now qualified for the 'Army's' in BAOR on 15 April. They have also won the NEDist Championships. The teams seem to be going from strength to strength and we hope it will continue into the next season.

RUGBY

The Rugby team have done exceedingly well this year getting through to the NW/NEDist Cup Final. Despite an excellent game we lost 14—15 to 3 LI.

BASKETBALL

The Regimental Basketball team, which was resurrected for the 1988/89 season, has just completed a successful season. They have become the champions of NEDist losing only 2 games throughout the season. A notable achievement considering all games were played away from home. Players who have represented the Regiment are **Capts Dave Hornsby, Nick Metcalfe, WO2 (SSM) Harrison, SSgt (YofS) Phil Carroll, Cpls 'Dobb' Dobson, Phil Winter, LCpls Steve Bartliff, Pte Curtis, Vince Key** and **Phil Smith.**

AN OC'S LOT IS SUCH A HAPPY ONE
Dedicated to Maj Hargreaves—Ex OC 1 Sqn

'A Policeman's Lot is Not a Happy One'—(with apologies to Gilbert and Sullivan)

He's the Officer Commanding the First Squadron (the First Squadron)
And **Maj David Hargreaves** is his name
You will never ever see him with a sad on (with a sad on)
But he'd greet you all with Hi-ya just the same
On his Amstrad hours a day he's always playing (always playing)
Off the printer postings in and out they run
As he puts them in our pigeon holes he's saying (he is saying)
Oh an OC's lot is such a happy one.

Chorus

Now on exercise he really is the master (is the master)
On Ptarmigan he's secondary to none
But his singing it is really a disaster (a disaster)
As he clears the back of OSC in one
Oh our laughter we with difficulty smother (we do smother)
As we rush out through the door into the sun
And take one consideration with another (with another)
Oh an OC's lot is such a happy one.

Chorus

Oh he loves his Am-dram and his Choral singing (choral singing)
To the Sergeant Major one pound we must pay
In the pit up front the orchestra is tuning (and re-tuning)
Oh for goodness sake shut them up for good we pray
Now the heckling from all sides it is coming (it is coming)
Then a prop falls but the show it must go on
There is David in his tights he looks quite stunning (looks quite stunning)
Oh an OC's lot is such a happy one.

Chorus

But unfortunately he must leave us early (leave us early)
And in Liverpool must stop off on the way
He will have to learn new words like 'skirts and turkey' (skirts and turkey)
And the multitude of other things they say
Then in April he is going to Staff College (to Staff College)
For two years it's really going to be fun
As they stuff his head with loads of useless knowledge (useless knowledge)
Oh an OC's lot is such a happy one.

RADIO TROOP—THE TUFTY CLUB'S ANSWER TO JUDGE DREDD
by 2Lt Norris

After a quick trip to Beaconsfield to do my 'righting' course, OC Radio Tp (hitherto known as Balders) has been tasked to 'right' a few notes for the *Wireless* Magazine.

Commanding the 'Crack, Elite' soldiers of the Troop, from the 'Crack, Elite Fighting Force' 2 Inf Div Sig Regt, is a pressure job. But less of me and more of the lads, who come first.

It has been, to use a *Wire* phrase, 'a busy period' for the Troop. Since August the Troop has rarely exercised in its SOP role, but has frequently exercised. We started on the NATO Military Committee's Demonstration providing a few Troop members to help with the VHF and HF communications. Balders and Bunny, the infamous RADCON Team, were split up (probably a good move)—Balders went to Gate Guard.

Then as half the Squadron went on Op Cutter the Troop provided VHF comms for a static Hicon on Ex Northern Crusade. The Rebro's were the core of the Troop's commitment. They believed at first that static meant STATIC. However, after moving several times and having locations stretching from Sheffield to Otterburn, **Cpl 'Scouse' Owen** was heard to say: 'Gosh Sir, this isn't quite what I thought it would be' (or words to that effect!). However, yet again, the Rebros performed magnificently and were kept in food and newspapers by **SSgt 'GGB' Macrorie.**

The Troop then turned round and split into sections for Battle Camp. An interesting time was had by all and a few surprises occurred. All the Troop performed well and some excelled. The 10 Mile 'ish' March and Shoot in particular showed the grit of many a man as the conditions closed in. However, even experience does not guarantee a smooth passage, as **Sgt** 'I would walk 500 miles' **McCue** showed as he relaxed at the end of the march. He sat down abruptly and started talking gibberish.

The biggest test for the Troop en-masse was Ex Key Panther. This exercise was as per SOPs with a few 'funnies' thrown in to keep us on our toes. It has to be said that the Troop performed to an excellent standard—'What's new Sir?', and all continued to smile even when the chips were really down. One Rebro was forced to move three times in one night. **Cpl 'Taff' Roderick** and **LCpl 'Cloud' Nelson** could well have been forgiven for having all their Teddies and Rattles in the corner, but no—they soldiered on.

After the second move and set-up the gruesome twosome were given, 'Prepare to Move'. **LCpl 'Cloud' Nelson** called 'O' on the Sigs Engr and said: 'Can you confirm that this callsign is moving again?, Over.' 'Yes. Over.' 'Roger. Thank you for your very kind assistance. Out!'

Experience showed through again, as the Rebro Commanders taught their signalmen the ropes, apparently!

Between four Commanders there is a combined age of 166—every exercise makes me glad of the experience. **Cpls 'Scouse' Owen, 'Benny' Whelan, 'Taff' Roderick** and **'Doc' Johnson** were ably backed up by a real youngster **LCpl 'Jack' Turner.**

Getting away from the Rebros to the Troops other main role, the VIP Rover Group, life was not quite in 'Swan City' as perhaps the lads had hoped. The GOC's Tac HQ, after the initial demonstration to the staff, was dispersed to key positions to act mainly as SCRA Terminals and monitors for the Div VHF and HF Comd nets for key personnel.

NCO IC Tac **Cpl 'Chippy' Wood** who is usually the Driver/Operator for the General, had to make do with only a Lieutenant Colonel this time—the CO! 'Chippy's Taxi' yet again proved useful, the CO moved around the countryside spoiling Subalterns days all round. The CO usually debriefed the Subaltern concerned (and they were concerned!) on the use of White Light, and then returned their heads.

Tac and other LO vehicles were all heavily used and the soldiers involved gained a lot more operating experience than on the usual BAOR SOP deployments. Even **LCpl 'Geordie' Robinson**, the Troop pessimist, was quite happy. The end of the exercise was celebrated with a repeat of the drama 'The GOC's Egg', with Tac in a starring role.

A busy period for the Troop but a lot has been gained and rust removed, even if the lads have not spotted it yet. I must, personally, thank the Troop for its efforts and for helping prevent me from dropping myself in it!

ROUND UP

The usual 'hellos' and 'goodbyes' are in order. We say goodbye to **WO2 Harburn** on his departure to civvy street. He threatens to come back (probably to beast us around in the gym). **WO2 Cook** has also gone to greater things as has **WO2 Maclean.**

Capt Richardson departs to Bulford and 249 Sqn, after completing JDSC.

Having said goodbye, we now say hello to **Capt Holliday** (OC P Tp) and **WO2 Cory** (SSM 1 Sqn) who have joined us just in time for 'Falcon'.

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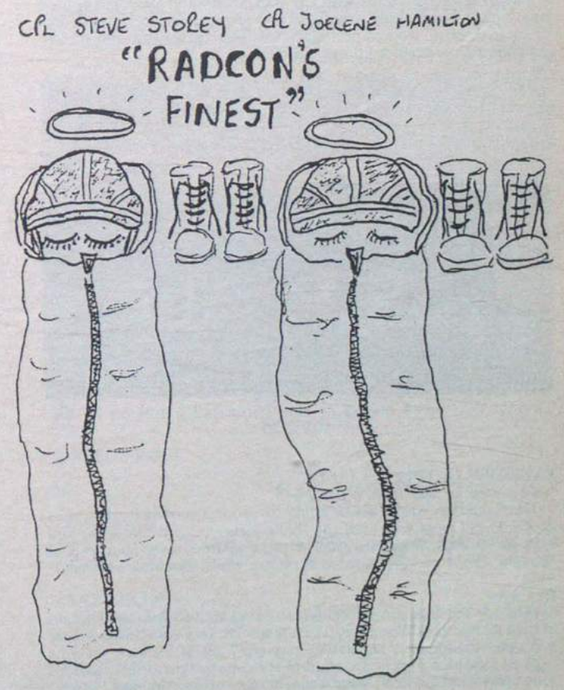
PAPA TROOP IN THE FIELD



210 (24 Airmob Bde) Sig Sqn
Catterick

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Robert Baxter**
2IC	**Capt Adam Hearn**
AO	**Capt Mick Besant**
OC Comms Troop	**Lt Richard Rands**
SSM	**WO2 Trevor Jones**
YofS	**WO2 Douggie Mac Taggart**
FofS	**SSgt Russ Lifton**
SQMS	**SSgt Graham Butler**
CC	**SSgt Glen Brook**

Firstly congratulations to **Capt Mick Besant** upon his selection for a Quartermaster Commission.

The Squadron *Wire* Notes Editor (alias the 2IC) is now offering you his last set of notes ever, which will be rather different from previous ones. **Capt Adam Hearn** has been preparing for civilian life and has been absent from the Squadron for most of this report period. He has therefore had to believe the content of the articles submitted by the Troops!

EXERCISE ICED GRYPHON

This was a manpack radio exercise in the wilds of Scotland, based at the Fort William TA Centre and took place from 13-18 February. Various mountains were climbed in appalling weather conditions, and a lot was learnt about the poor performance of service issue waterproofs (very good for keeping the water in once it has soaked you through). Whilst all this was going on Comms Tp established a short haul HF link from Fort William to Catterick. Space being at a premium it was decided to rig a dipole between a tree and a convenient mast by the TA Centre. The dipole was cut to length for 7 MHz, and even worked at the actual operating frequency of 5.2 MHz! Comms Tp then decided to experiment. **Cpl Rab Arthur** and **Dave Ruane** used anything and everything, from D10 and cooking pots to carving forks stuck in trees; all worked perfectly. Next exercise they are going to try Satcom with a dustbin lid and tinfoil.

One of the teams during a radio controlled patrol on Ex Iced Gryphon

EXERCISE GRYPHONS LIFT

This exercise was from 6-10 March.

The Squadron was lifted by Chinook around various landing sites on CTA. All went well until the Radio Relay vehicle landed on and kept on sinking. Bogged in it had to be guarded overnight by **Cpl 'Budgie' Finch** and **Sig Gordon Strachan** whilst awaiting recovery.

Day Two

Now for the Squadron abseilers, a Puma arrived for the task and in they all bundled. The despatchers were our very own SSM and the helicopter loadmaster. **Sig Radley** received a bit of a shock when he realised that he was not connected to the rope in the normal fashion. This was sorted out and things went smoothly after that. **Cpl 'Paddy' Rice** and the Line Section wrapped Shaiba Training Area in D10 laid from a Lynx and the new SCRA trailer was successfully under-slung and flown forward.

Day Three

This involved more abseiling, this time from 180ft and with two new despatchers, **Sgt Terry Gigg** and **Cpl Dave Ruane**. The OC Squadron even managed to find time for a descent, well done Sir! We now have six more qualified abseilers.

Day Four

This was the start of the exercise phase. An HQ was to be flown to Otterburn Training Area. The LS Team were **Lt Richie Rands, Sgt Terry Gigg, Cpls 'Rab' Arthur, Al Pilcher, 'Scouse' Barker** and **LCpl 'Jabba' Hewitt**. We flew forward in our own private Lynx, set up and waited for the first load. The Chinook crew decided that it would be a good game to try and land the under-slung load on top of the marshalling team. Once everything was into the landing site the brigade HQ was set up and communications established. After a meal we packed up and returned by road to Catterick.

Day Five

Today saw the OC, AO, OC Troop, SSM, **Sgts Gigg, Bevan** and some other abseilers take a Puma into York, abseil on to the square, and collect money for red nose day. On their return the squadron paraded just in time to see **Cpl Ruane** abseil into Gaza Barracks and be thrown into the pond for his birthday, Happy Birthday **Dave**!

EXERCISE GRYPHON'S GOBLET

This was a staff exercise in the Catterick training area from 20-22 March designed to show the new members of the Brigade HQ how the Squadron works in the field and to practise battle procedure.

Monday saw Hawk setting up an HQ in the Squadron conference room for Startex. Excon was established in the vehicle garages and the Rebros and the Trunk Node deployed to the training area.

On Tuesday Kestrel flew on to the training area and was joined by the Staff who all spent a cold night in Yorkshire fighting a battle in Germany.

On Wednesday Hawk flew in storm force winds to Feldom training area, the Staff passed command to the newly established HQ and Endex was called. Everyone returned to camp where the vehicles were turned round ready for our next deployment; a short, but very valuable, exercise.

EXERCISE DRESS REHEARSAL

This was the Squadron training camp for the Lanyard Trophy Competition. The first day saw an early road move to Browndown Camp in Gosport. On arrival we flung ourselves into a brisk seven mile run to familiarise everyone with the local area.

Day two began at 0600 hrs with yet another run. After breakfast we set off on our first leg of the South Downs Way. The team had hoped for a pleasant Sunday stroll of about 15 miles, **Lt Rands** had different

Cpl Danny Thornton refusing to buy a round

ideas and set a very fast pace. Everyone was so tired that they only managed an odd beer before bed.

Day three was much the same as day two, with **Sig Bob Armstrong** volunteering for any camp duty to avoid further training. Day four found us bumping into a group of Wrens walking a similar route. We reluctantly overtook them and continued on our way, only to meet the same group several check points later. They accused us of following them, not realising we had done an extra five miles on a different route. This was the high point of the day and nearly the high point of the exercise. It was surpassed by **Cpl Dan** 'the man' **Thornton** offering to buy a round. Most of the team turned out to witness this event but were sadly dissappointed, closing time came and went and no round was bought.

SQUADRON FOOTBALL

After the best start in four seasons the Squadron now finds itself in the all too familiar position of supporting the rest of the League.

The season started with some good performances and the Squadron second in the League with statistics of three won, one lost. That has now developed into three won, two drawn and six lost. There were excellent performances from **Sgt 'Rover' Gigg, Cpls 'Cossy' Costello** and **Rab Arthur**.

It must also be said that the goal keeping performance has greatly improved since **Cpl Terry** 'the Cat' **Cole** has changed from wearing binos to contact lenses, he can now actually see the ball. We would like to extend a warm welcome to **Lt Richie Rands, Cpls 'Chippy' Pomfret** and **'Geordie' Howe** who have arrived just in time to help us in our customary battle to avoid relegation to Division 2.

SUPPORT TROOP NEWS

TM TROOP

Farewell to **Cpl Nick Stapleton**, off to 8 Sig Regt for his T1 upgrading. Welcome to **Sgt Steve Slade** and a fond farewell to **Sgt Tony Heaton**.

MT/POWER

Farewell and congratulations to **Sgt Jim Patterson**, selected for promotion to Staff Sergeant. Welcome to **Cpls Murray** and **'Chippy' Pomfret**. Also congratulations to **Cpl George Clark** and **Audrey** on the birth of their son **Lee**.

LOOK FORWARD

The Brigade is hosting a visit by **Gen Henning von Ondarza**, Chief of the German General Staff this week. The Squadron is, of course, involved in providing the field HQ; another little task to keep us busy before the highlight of the year . . . Ex Flying Falcon, a report on that next time.

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 114

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Capt Len Carr**
OC C Tp	**Lt Lance Mitchell**
OC D Tp	**SSgt Graham Guy**
OC E Tp	**2Lt David Kinnaird**
OC F Tp	**Lt Patrick Evans**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Geordie Dobson**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Steve Bibby**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Joe Murray**
SQMS	**SSgt Ian Brereton**

January saw the departure of the OC, **Maj Harry Ross**, who left the shores of the Mohnesee for the banks of the Mersey. All of the Squadron extend their best wishes to him and his wife **Linda** as they settle into a very different life in Liverpool. The reins of command are now firmly in the hands of **Capt Len Carr** who has let his Machiavellian tendencies run wild, much to the dismay of his subalterns, who all had visions of an easy life!

Goodbye and good luck to **Sig Lee Sharp**, now a White Helmet, to **LCpl Mick Howard** who joins his brother in Northern Ireland, to **WPte Rachel Church** now married and to **Cpl Nutley** and **Sig Warmington** both posted. 'Iron Division' welcomes **LCpl Curtis, Sig Wright, Hughes, 'Nathan' Ruff** and **Eades** all now happily ensconced in Echo Tp!

There was little rest after Ex Iron Hammer, all Troops participating in Ex Sharp Ledge immediately afterwards. D Troop, enjoyed a happy sojourn to the Bielefeld ridge where they encountered some of the coldest conditions ever experienced by their stoic leader **SSgt 'Scotty' Gillham**. **Sig 'Gaz' Greaves** enjoyed his 21st Birthday party.

On a more serious note, our thoughts are with **Sig Stephen Andrews** who is still in hospital in the UK. We all offer him our best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery—D Troop needs you for RSIT!

There is continuous emphasis on preparation of the vehicles and equipment of what is a busy exercise year. Work has been interspersed with a programme of different events, notably the Saturday rugby fixtures over the Winter period organised by **Sgt Al Tye** and his trusty sidekick **Cpl Eddie Leek**.

2Lt Kinnaird boosted his popularity by setting a delightful night orienteering course. An event almost universally hated by all participants, but especially so by **Sig Greaves** whose choice words of criticism neatly summed up what he thought of being in the middle of a wood in the middle of the night in the pouring rain. The event was won by **Cpl O'Brien's** team which covered the 13km in just under two hours. A special mention to **WPte Brown** who won a special prize for getting wet. The SSM, not to be outdone, devised his own day of torture entitled the Nanda Prasi Rai Military Skills Competition. All the old favourites were there, NBC, first-aid, .22 shooting and of course, an 11km run! The eventual winners were **Lt Mitchell's** C Troop. Well done, and in front of the Commanding Officer too!

Other sporting achievements . . . **Sgt Scott** first in the Regimental X-Country, **SSgt 'Geordie' Wandless** representing the Regiment at Badminton when nearly at pension point, **Sgt Swithenbank, Lt Kinnaird, Sgts Skelton, Walker** and **LCpl Whiting** all for Hockey. **Sgts Joe Cox, Shirley, SSgt Ian Brereton, Sgt Ron Brent** and **Cpl 'Jacko' Jackson** all for football and lastly **Sig Nathan Ruff** (lineman) who jetted back to the UK to represent the Regiment at the Army Chess Championship—he came third!

All hands are now preparing for, checking for, and dreading the imminent Ex Flying Falcon, that also happens to coincide with the arrival of the new OC, **Maj R. G. Thomas** who comes from UKLF. He joins an understrength, overstretched but amazingly happy Squadron!

PS: Congratulations to **WO2 (SSM) Dobson** on his promotion to WO1.

2 SQUADRON HIERARCHY

OC	**Maj Goodfellow**
2IC	**Capt Rodgers**
SSM	**WO2 Wise**
YofS	**SSgt S. D. Potterton**
FofS	**SSgt W. Gray**
TANGO TROOP	
OC	**Capt Rodgers**
2IC	**Sgt McGoff**
OSCAR TROOP	
OC	**Capt O. Connor**
2IC	**SSgt T. Jenkins**
ROMEO TROOP	
OC	**2Lt Baker**
2IC	**SSgt T. G. Cakebread**

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **LCpls Garbett** and **Cooney** on their selections to full Cpl technicians.

FAREWELLS

Sig Thompson and wife **Uschi** and family who leave for 22 Sig Regt at the end of Ex Flying Falcon.

WELCOME

Sgt Gerry McGoff and family who join us from Sandhurst.

2 SQUADRON

Exercises proper commenced in January with Ex First Foray. This little number was primarily a staff tent, aimed at 'the new bugs' in Divisional HQ, who used our deployment as a chance to see what a Divisional HQ in the field looks like. First Foray lasted for three days, a not interminable time, but enough for the cobwebs in the machine to be blown free.

February provided much needed time to crack the mandatory training commitment. The day to day burden of intensive training was punctuated by another crash out in preparation for 'ORT'. The end of February saw the Squadron taking part in the Regimental 'Skill-at-Arms meet', where we came fourth equal.

Finally into March, another quiet month featuring of note 'Red Tricorn 1', which instead of being a field exercise was a highly valued training week, giving us all a chance to improve our knowledge and skills in communications and 'NBC'.

3 SQUADRON

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Bob Brannigan**
2IC	**Capt Mike Shaw**
OC P Tp	**2Lt Neil Fraser**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Ray Spencer**
OC N Tp	**2Lt Howard Hughes**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Les Allen**
SSM	**WO2 Billy Haslam**
SQMS	**SSgt John Burgess**
YofS	**SSgt Andy Campbell**
FofS	**SSgt Steve Driver**
Sup Tp SSgt	**SSgt Tony Williams**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Steve Driver RCT**

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

The past couple of months have seen a great many comings and goings. Details are: **Cpl Chris Collin** to 39 Bde, **LCpl 'Wiggy' Wigmore** to 1 Armd Div, **Cpl Alan Keers** to 7 Sig Regt, **LCpl Geoff Howe** to 28 Sig Regt, **LCpl 'Scully' Freeman** to 1 Inf Bde, **Cpl Craig Wright** to run his own local hostelry, **Sig Willie Whitelaw** to the White Helmets. Welcomes to **2Lt Howard Hughes, LCpl Duff, Sig Chambers, LCpl McCarter, Sig McLaughlin, LCpl Griffin, Sig Brown** and **LCpl Burke.**

CROSS COUNTRY

The Regimental Cross Country team has enjoyed another successful season, led once again by **WO2 (QSMI) Jim Wood.** Hard on his heels were quite a few of the Squadron's whippets, namely: **Sgts Lee Keily, Ray Taylor, Cpl Les Crawford, Sig 'Gaz' Love, LCpl Stu Gibbs** and **Sig 'Chaz' Chambers,** all of whom sauntered home in the first 25 runners of the Inter Squadron Cross Country Competition held in early March. Unfortunately their fleetness of foot could not be matched by the remainder of the pack and we graciously accepted the single point left available to us.

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Sig Dave Tivey and SSgt Ray Spencer connecting the aircraft to the vehicle

REGIMENTAL SAAM

In weather conditions more suited to the South Atlantic, the Squadron Shooting Team came runners-up to HQ Sqn. Notable performances worthy of mention were **Cpls Alan Keers** and **Craig Wright,** runners-up in the LMG Match: **LCpl Rick Nolan,** second in the SMG Match: **LCpl 'Woodie' Wood** in the Roupell Cup. The Falling Plate Competition as ever was very tight; **Cpl Kev Jarvis, LCpls 'Woodie' Wood, Rick Nolan** and **WO2 (SSM) Billy Haslam** showing accurate firepower to the guest team, the Commanding Officer's team, and 204 Sig Sqn before bowing out gracefully in the semi final.

BAMA RALLYING EXERCISE SPRING FOIL

This 200 mile navigational Rally took place in the Paderborn area in late March, run by Herford Motor Sports Club for BAMA BAOR. The Squadron entered two Rovers crewed by **Cpl Alan Keers** (Dvr) and **Sig Mike Phipps** (Nav), **Sig Bobby Moore** (Dvr) and **WO2 (SSM) Billy Haslam** (Nav). The latter, taking part in their second rally were now familiar with the format and jargon of the event: cutting and running, PC's, MTC's, SC's, OTL etc. A thoroughly rewarding exercise of good training value, **Sig Moore** and the SSM finishing fourth in their class and picking up their first trophy of the season.

CHILDREN IN NEED

Over the last four years, **Cpl Billy Mill** has devoted a lot of his spare time to helping these children in various aspects, be it sponsored runs or taking them away on adventure weekends. Salamanca Barracks was chosen as the venue in March. Ably assisted by **LCpl 'Scully' Freeman** (SSVC TV Fame), **Cpl Les Crawford** and **LCpl Stu Gibbs,** he set about providing a varied programme for twelve children. Activities included .22 shooting under the watchful eye of **SSgt Les Allen** and some of November Tp. Potted sports: Kugelbahn, Abseiling, Swimming, Pony Treking (Chief Jockey **Sgt Ray Taylor**), and Canoeing. The week ended with a successful Games Night.

STOP PRESS

At the time of going to print, **Capt Mike Shaw** will be busy reading comics and training manuals at JDSC, fully preparing him for next year's Panto season. Buried somewhere deep in the Demographic Trough will be **SSgt (YofS) Andy Campbell** on Kape Tour seeking out soldiers of tomorrow and potential Yeopersons, as they may be called by then. Enjoy yourselves while it lasts—Vogelsang awaits!

202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 16

POSTING OUT

Sgts Foster, Webb, Reid, Cpl Tierney, Sig Marvel and **Palmer.**

POSTING IN

Sgts Norris, Stokes, Farrington, Horne, LCpl Heathcote, Sig Carrick, Morgan, Boase and **Wicks.**

It has been a hectic training period for the Squadron covering the trade skills and the mandatory tests. Combined with this have been the usual sporting fixtures, a short exercise and RSIT making sure that everyone has been kept busy.

VISIT BY COMD COMMS BRIG T. I. M. WAUGH

Brig Waugh visited the Squadron on the day of the Inter Troop Military Skills Competition organised in the form of a March and Shoot/Patrol Race. The sections, led by the Squadron JNCOs, passed through a series of stands where they encountered tasks to be completed before they moved. **Sgt Rob Horne** was in charge of the first stand which was a combined MT/NBC stand. The sections had to complete a wheel change in full noddy suits. In this way no one started the race too cool, calm or comfortable. **Cpl Jim Knight** made his first command decision by leaving **Sig Dick Whitaker** on the track while the rest changed the wheel. **Sig Whitaker,** ever eager to assist, took it upon himself to join his group but was told peremptorily that he was getting in the way and to go away.

An explosion followed by agonised wails introduced the next stand; first aid run by **Sgt John Webb.** The gatekeeper some 5 yds or so away from the stand looked bemused at the proceedings as the victims of a booby trap were unceremoniously patched up by the enthusiastic sections. To give their makeshift stretchers a decent trial **Cpl 'Smudge' Smithson** was asked to lend his weight as the casualty; a task to which he was eminently suited. As he said afterwards, ironically: 'I ended up with more injuries than they were meant to be treating me for'.

Since the SHQ sections would be at a distinct disadvantage when they reached stand number three, communications, run by **Sgt John Prowse** it was decided that they should have a crash course in the 351 and BATCO the previous day. It seemed that this instruction was too good as the stand was actually won by the LAD section run by **Cpl 'Scouse' Hoprey** much to the chagrin of the Troops.

Having completed the thinking for this part of the competition it was now time for the graft. From the communcations stand the sections moved along a tank track. Knee deep sandy ruts full of rainwater were not the only hazard as exercising Dutch APCs thundered past. From here it was on to the assault course where **SSgt Kevin Nelson** and **LCpl Sean Wilkinson** were putting all their efforts into encouraging the teams on their way round. Rather than the usual hop from obstacle to obstacle this course was so devised as to have at least 100m between obstacles across the sandy terrain. **LCpl Martin Heathcote** landed with a thud in the reverse spreadeagle off the first structure but got up again undeterred. **Cfn 'Paddy' Perry** was left with shredded beltloops on his trousers as **Cpl 'Mitch' Mitchell** hauled him indelicately through a window.

Sig 'Brummie' Palmer completes the thinking part

From here the sections were bussed by 4 tonner to the ranges where **SSgt Nigel Sloane** had an improvised defensive position. The Section Commander was responsible for the construction and control of the position before and during enemy attack. The last section to come through was watched by all as they needed only an average score on the range to win the compeition. Unfortunately **Sgt 'Gaz' King** had a stoppage and so Rhine 3 failed to beat Rhine 1.

Brig Waugh had patiently waited for the last section to finish (somewhat behind schedule) and then gave out the prizes to the Troops.

The other remarkable aspect of the day was the fact that **Sgt Charlie Foster** was seen in a uniform other than barrack dress and here is photographic evidence that he does have a set of combats.

Sgt Charlie Foster in fact ran the stats tent and produced the following results: first Rhine 1 **Cpl Tiereny, Sig Battison, Dawson** and **Wilkinson.**

A familiar face in unfamiliar surroundings

LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

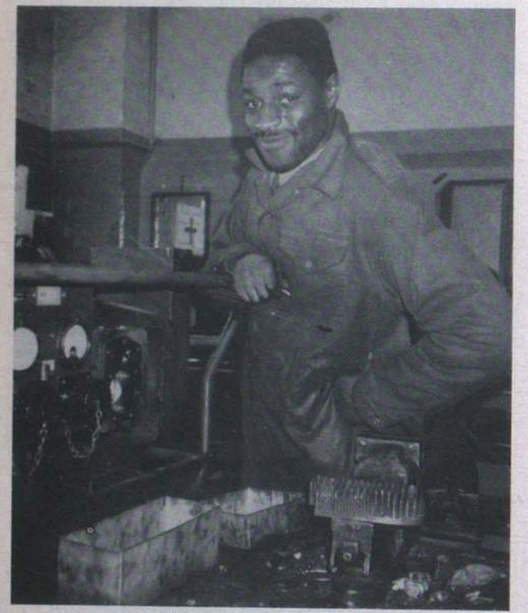
Sgt John Webb was given the chest expansion he has eagerly awaited when **Brig Grant,** Paderborn Garrison Commander, pinned the Long Service and Good Conduct medal on it. After a parade and march past the Squadron celebrated in the usual fashion at the Medical Centre afterwards for their annual injections with some areas already numb to the pain. It was the new Sergeant Major **WO2 Duncan McAllister's** first chance to really grip the Squadron on his patch.

Sgt John Webb's chest expansion

EXERCISE TAURUS THUNDER

Although the 48 hours exercise only ran over the weekend 18-20 March the preparation started on the previous Wednesday when the vehicles had to be loaded on to the train at Paderborn. On the Saturday we rose at 0500 hrs so that we would be at the railhead by the time they arrived at Bergen and from where it was a short journey to the location. The 2IC **Capt Mark Eaton** had also valiantly risen at an unearthly hour to meet us but was quick to leave once the site commanders had been briefed. Once the bulk of the work had been done the powerman **LCpl Errol Rickets** was responsible for ensuring that we had power by which to watch the final matches in the five nations rugby. Needless to say **Sig 'Taff' Jones** was delighted by the result of the England-Wales match. His glee was not met with much warmth by the rest of the audience. Meanwhile **Cpl 'Spider' Webb** did battle with his chess computer and **Sgt 'Geordie' Gray** did battle with the strip lights in his new SQMS role. The staff arrived on Sunday but by the time they had sorted out where they were sleeping it was Monday and time for them all to go again.

There was the opportunity for a band of the more inquisitive soldiers to visit a gun battery while it was firing. We suddenly realised the true meaning of shell-shocked as we felt the blast and recoil. We then visited the impact area but the 'enemy' were still too far away for us to see much effect other than plumes of smoke appearing sporadically in the distance and to hear the corresponding thumps a couple of seconds later.



LCpl Errol Ricketts style power

REGIMENTAL SAAM

SSgt Nigel Sloane had the shooting team for its training sessions but could only get a 25m range as so many other units have higher priority. From last season's team a couple of diehards **Cpls Ian Clements** and **Dave Gosney** remained and new experience emerged too in the shape of **Sgt Alan Speight** with a record of having been to Bisley (and **Cpl Dave Bartlett**). The rest of the team including **Capt Lyndon Campbell-Black, Sig 'Roddy' Needham, LCpls Martin Heathcote** and **Dave Pook** were not very experienced at all and this was eventually to tell. The team had a day or so on the competition range itself to practise and this proved very valuable. The weather, however, was so cold and wet that the firers could not even feel the trigger after firing their first few shots. The competition days were slightly, but not much, warmer but this did not really improve our shooting. The pistol team did, however, meet with success largely due to the fact that they had in the semi-final drawn the lane in which the targets fell whether hit or not. In the final the team unfortunately drew the wrong lane but the technical problems had been smoothed out by then and with some sharp shooting from **SSgt Nigel Sloane, Cpl Dave Bartlet** and **Capt Lyndon Campbell-Black** the plates fell in our favour and we at least had one trophy for our efforts.

MEDICAL ARU—7 MARCH

There was plenty of blood and guts on the training day for the Medical ARU, both real and artificial. **SSgt Nigel Sloan** ran the day and after some theory and gruesome videos the Squadron moved on to practical training **Sig 'Roddy' Needham** particularly enjoyed being checked for broken bones and **Cpl Paul Emmerson**, suffering from acute burns found himself with a bowl of icy water dumped on the blistered skin. As he gasped for breath he explained that the water was meant to be applied using the sponge provided. The day was a success however and the Squadron became patient hungry over the following few days as everyone became medical predators, waiting for the slightest accident.

SPORT

The Squadron has been as active on the sports pitch as everywhere else. In the hockey the team unfortunately lost to 5 Heavy Regt and with it dashed their hopes of the league title. The Cross Country team fared better coming third in the Minor Unit Winter League and winning the Royal Signals Competition with notable performances from the whole team but particularly by **Cpl 'Jock' Castle**, the OC **Maj Jo Fletcher** and the boy wonder **Sig Andy Dawson**. The 2IC **Capt Mark Eaton** joined the team too. The rugby team arranged a 'soft' fixture against the LAD of 3RHA but discovered that most of the best rugby players were housed in the LAD. **Capt Lyndon Campbell-Black** was knocked out early in the second half and was heard to say: 'I think I'm all right to play on', as he collapsed for the second time. Needless to say he wasn't.

202 Sqn Cross Country Team

204 Sig Sqn (4 Armd Bde) BFPO 17

CADRE COURSE

In order to prepare some of our junior NCOs for their forthcoming RSDCC, this Squadron ran a cadre course from 20-24 Feburary 1989.

Four days of classroom work concentrating on the basic subjects of First Aid, NBC, Weapon handling and tactics were put into practice by a one day exercise on the Dorbaum Training Area on the Friday.

Each member of the section was given a command task throughout the day and they were all tested on skills such as section in defence, section attacks, battlefield First Aid and NBC drills. The Squadron Pioneer Defence Section led by **Sgt Keith Andrews** provided the enemy throughout the day and valuable training was achieved by all.

Section Comd Cpl Seymour briefing his 2IC, LCpl 'Jimbo' Hawkins prior to one of the section attacks. WO2 (SSM) Saveall takes notes

Students, enemy, and DS all get together at the end of an enjoyable day out

BED PUSH

After a fire had destroyed innumerable welfare items at BMH Munster just before Christmas, this Squadron decided to organise a sponsored Bed Push to raise sufficient funds to pay for such items as TVs, videos, radios, etc.

The idea was first constructed by **Mrs Kim Andrews**, the wife of **Sgt Keith Andrews**, our defence section SNCO. The task of organising the event, fell into the capable hands of **WO2 (SSM) Saveall.**

Teams from all over Munster Garrison were invited to attend and everyone taking part thoroughly enjoyed the whole day.

The course consisted of six gruelling circuits of York Barracks with four obstacles to be negotiated on each lap. After a very competitive race between the seven teams, the Sqn Comd presented a well earned crate of beer to the winning team. D Sqn 14/20 Kings Hussars, (204 Sig Sqn was a close second). The Squadron's ladies team were presented with two bottles of champagne for being the best dressed team.

206 (6 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn BFPO 106

PERSONALITIES	
OC Sqn	Maj John Thomas MBE
2IC	Capt Viv Thatcher
OC A Troop	Lt Ian Birleson
OC B Troop	Capt Jim Morley-Kirk
SSM	WO2 McAleer
YofS	WO2 Parry
FofS	SSgt Newsome
SQMS	SSgt Treen
ORS	Sgt Glossop

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

Welcome to the following personnel who have recently joined our ranks: **SSgt (FofS) Newsome, Dvr Martyn, Sig Lightfoot, Hughes, LCpl Wood, Sig Beeching, LCpl Tyrrell, Cfn Henry, Sig Robinson** and **LCpl Walton**. We wish farewell and good luck to four of our number who have decided the grass is greener in civvy street, namely **Cpl Gosling, Sig Shand, Yeates** and **Hilson**. All the best in your new careers. Finally farewell to **Sig Chandler** who left us for Northern Ireland, we hope you enjoy your tour with 8 Inf Bde.

FAMILY MATTERS

Congratulations to **SSgt Tony Talbott** and **Sig Wilson** on the birth of their sons. Congratulations to **Sig Gore** who has got married. We wish him and his wife **Rosy** a long and happy marriage.

PROMOTIONS

At long last we are able to congratulate **Sgt Roy Boulton** on his promotion to Staff Sergeant; well done.

CHANGES

The Squadron would like to take this opportunity to welcome **Maj John Thomas** as our new Sqn Comd and **Lt Ian Birleson** as OC A Troop.

GENERAL

The racing skis were put away as prospect of a sports afternoon at Winterburg faded. This is for all except **Cpl Jon Farnell-ski**, who was last seen heading for the blue beyond somewhere in Bavaria.

With Ex Flying Falcon put back, the only exercise planned (apart from an abundance of cross country runs and BFTs) for the period, Ex Red Tricorn, was sadly cancelled. Skill-at-Arms, military training and sports have kept us busy. With May in sight, and Spring already with us, it's roll on Summer . . .

SKILL-AT-ARMS

On 1 March the Squadron Shooting Team descended on Haltern Ranges for the Regimental SAAM. The match was spread over two days with the Roupell SMG and LMG matches on day one and the section shoot, pistol match and falling plate on day two. SLR firers from the Squadron took part in the Roupell with our best score (24) coming from **WO2 (SSM) McAleer**. After some high hopes at the start of the shoot we slipped to fourth place by the end of the morning. In the SMG Match the Squadron had a chance to hold on to the best individual SMG title, won last year by **Sig Chris Scales.** True to form, we won again this year, **Sgt Gordon Smith REME** taking the title with a score of 111.

We entered three LMG pairs for the LMG Match and our B Class team of **Sig Nigel Boucher** and **Addison** won the best B Class pair, with a score that equalled the A Class winners.

For the Section shoot we had a particularly strong team, which scored 106 points, the highest of the day. Unfortunately, we managed to pick up 90 penalty points, taking us from first to last place!

The pistol shoot was a fast, all action match. The team **Maj Thomas, Capt Morley-Kirk, WO2 McAleer** and **Sgt Smith** didn't manage to hit many clays, but did get its photo in the Forces Echo.

The Falling Plate was the finale of the two day competition, to be run on a knockout basis. Our team of four firers **WO2 McAleer, Cpls Bishop, Martin** and **Sig Boucher** were all hyped up and raring to go. In the first round we got a Bye, but in the second round we drew the hot favourites, HQ Sqn.

The whistle sounded and we were off. We were first to the firing point and first to open fire, but we knocked down the last of our plates a split second after HQ Sqn. What made it really hard to bear was that the SSM had a stoppage and only got off three rounds! Although at the end of the SAAM the results didn't show it, we had a very good team in the making. We looked forward to the Div SAAM.

3 DIV SAAM

A team of five men went forward to the Div SAAM, **WO2 (SSM) McAleer, Sgt Smith, Cpls Bishop, Lyon** and **Martin**. We had a thoroughly enjoyable week's shooting with a very creditable fourth position. Notable performances were in the LMG Match and Fire Team Match, with third and fourth placings respectively.

3 ARMD DIV HALF MARATHON LEAGUE

On Friday 17 February at Salamanca Barracks, ten members of the Squadron entered the first race of the 3 Armd Div Half Marathon League. The weather conditions were slightly cold but the rain held off promising some fast timings. The OC, **Maj Thomas** and **WO2 Frank McAleer** saw us off on our gruelling task. The course was fairly flat but a few small hills were encountered. It was well marked and the water stations were plentiful. One unsuspecting marker ended up providing a snack for **Sig 'Taff' Boucher** who decided he was a bit peckish on the way round; possibly that was a good excuse for the position he finished in! A good run was had by all and a few comments like 'when's the next one?' and 'never again', were heard in the gymnasium afterwards. The Squadron ended with their A Team coming an overall 4th in the Minor Units League, B Team 9th and the C Team 17th. Well done to all runners. Particular credit goes to **Sig Daz Carr** and **Jimmy Shand** who were our first two home. Also a word for **Cpl Danny Nicol** who just 'keeps on running'.

FISHING NEWS

On Sunday 19 March, members of the Squadron fished a match against the Mohnetal Angling Club, together with members of the Soest Otters Fishing Club. After an early start the day turned out to be a disappointment as only about ten fish were caught. Many different methods and baits were used but the fish just didn't want to know. The final results were Soest Otters in first and third place, with **SSgt Roy Boulton** taking the third place trophy, well done. Unfortunately, **Cpl John McBride** and **Sig Chris Scales** ended the day with dry nets, unlucky lads.

The Squadron anglers are all looking forward to the BAOR Championships, the first match being on 9 April in Holland. It is hoped that now the fine weather is arriving that the 'Fine Weather Anglers' will come out of hibernation and join us on the water. Tight Lines.

RUGBY

Since the last Rugby report the Squadron has been keeping itself in form, trying to get as many games in as possible. We played 11 Armd Wksps REME at the beginning of February and, to our surprise, especially **Sgt Steve Osman**, we won! This unexpected victory was good for the team as there were some new members playing, notably **Cpl Ian Burt**, who was coached all the way through the match by **LCpl 'Taff' Davies**. On a high for a week, the team was really looking forward to playing 19 Fd Regt RA, unfortunately they cancelled at the last minute (literally). The team was downhearted but some members still got a game by helping two of the 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt's teams out. **Pte Daz Hill** and **Cfn 'Mitch' Mitchell** playing for 1 Sqn so that we could learn from them how to play the ball off the ground without the referee seeing it! (Dig).

Our next match was at Gutersloh with a scratch team (and do I mean scratch). Unfortunately we lost, even though we were told 'I want! I want!' by **WO2 (YofS) Ian Parry. LCpl Davies** says it was because he wasn't playing that we lost. **LCpl Paul Davis,** at fly half, did score an excellent solo try. Another moment was when the scrum half, **Capt Jim Morley-Kirk,** was left with his head in his hands. When asked if he was all right, he replied 'I thought I had lost my contact lenses'!

A week later we played and beat 3 Regt AAC in a nail, ear and hand biting game! A week after that, two of the team members, **Cpls Butler** and **Ian Burt** were picked to play for the Garrison side against REME UK. They didn't get a game, just as well, the Garrison side lost 46—0.

22 March saw us playing 5 Armd Wksp REME, a game we wanted to win as that would have been the hat trick against our rivals at Salamanca Barracks. It wasn't to be. **Sgt Tony Gaston** got the only try of the game for 206 Sig Sqn and 5 Armd's tries are too numerous to mention. That's all from the Rugby desk for now. We'll take this opportunity to say fond farewells to **Sig Jimmy Shand** on his departure to civvy street, and hope he won't play Rugby for his local team—joking apart we will all miss him.

206 SIG SQN INTER TROOP FOOTBALL

The Troop Football Competition took place recently thanks to **Sgt Jimmy Hanlon** who organised and refereed the event. **Capt Viv Thatcher** was ill recently and parted with some of the Squadron's Funds to purchase trophies and medals for the event. Rumour has it that he once sat on a piece of coal and it instantly turned into a diamond! As luck would have it the weather was possibly the worst ever, but undaunted the teams paraded in their best football gear, that is with the exception of the OC Sqn, **Maj Thomas**, who turned up in his 1930 'Boys Own Paper' kit. The competition was fierce but Support Tp displayed its superior skills and deservedly won the trophy. The MO's man of the game was **Cpl Crown**, who regularly supplies the Medical Centre with patients when he plays football.

EXERCISE WATER WINGS

Ex Water Wings was a sponsored canoeing exercise, from Lippstadt to Wesel a distance of 100 miles in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind. We hoped to raise enough money to buy a Guide Dog and donated any money over to the Soest Kinderheim. At 0230 hrs on the day we met in camp and made our way to the start point on the River Lippe at Lippstadt. There were three teams of three men each covering a distance of 8km per leg which took (or should have done) around one hour to complete. The teams consisted of: Team 1: **Capt Jim Morley-Kirk, LCpl 'Woody' Wood** and **Sig Jennifer Wade**. Team 2: **Sig Steve Gore, 'Beaky' Beckett** and **'Ma' Baker**. Team 3: **SSgt Roy Boulton, Sig Andy Cartlidge** and **Steve Emmett**. The Admin Team consisted of **Sig 'Sid' Buck** and **Gaz Carr** with the procurer of stores being **LCpl Paul Davis**.

Team 1 prepared to set off on leg one, we launched the canoes into a back water of the River Lippe, everything was going fine until the backwash from a passing leaf had **LCpl 'Woody' Wood** fighting for balance and over he went! Blind panic ensued as he struggled to eject himself from the canoe, and accompanied by nervous, almost hysterical laughter he swam rat-like to the bank. A good start! An unwilling replacement was found and into the darkness they paddled. Rather than go through each stage, it may be more entertaining if we mentioned the 'meaty bits' only. Team 2 manages somehow to complete all stages without mishap, it would seem they drew the long straw. Team 3 started on leg nine as it was getting dusk, as they rounded a corner they were met by what seemed like a fast stretch of the Snake River! Up went the cry 'to the side' or something similar, and the three canoeists star burst. **Sig Andy Cartlidge** made it to the bank first, clinging limpet like to the bank he was quickly joined by **SSgt Roy Boulton**, feeling quite pleased with the way they had expertly traversed the boiling water. **Sig Steve Emmett** had no such luck, having reached grabbing distance of the bank he was struck by a passing tree (which was growing on the bank) and over he went. **SSgt Roy Boulton** went to his aid and it took only a millisecond before he was over too. One canoe disappeared into the dusk leaving **SSgt Roy Boulton** wet, but safe on the bank and **Sig Steve Emmett** hanging in the branches of the said tree doing water skiing impressions. The equipment was recovered by **Sig Andy Cartlidge** and after a small delay the event continued. After stopping for a few hours rest and warm food we went on to complete the course in fine style.

The end of the trip was at the junction of the Lippe and Rhine where the final team was met by an oncoming ocean liner (so they say), and it was reported that **Capt Jim Morley-Kirk** headed for the bank so fast he was 300m onto dry land before he stopped paddling! The liner apparently missed them by inches. The end saw a four man-cross-over manoeuvre, a bottle of bubbly and a kamikazi leap into the Rhine by **Sig 'Beaky' Beckett**.

The venture raised sufficient money to purchase the Guide Dog and a contribution was made to the Soest Kinderheim, a good effort by all concerned.

River Lippe Charity Canoe
Back Row (L to R): LCpl Goodall, Sig Wade, Capt Morley-Kirk, Sig Steve Gore, SSgt Roy Boulton, Sig Steve Emmett and Paul 'SBS' Beckett
Front Row (L to R): Sig Daz Carr, Mark Baker and Andy Cartlidge (and Lucky the wolf and Timmy Tug)

4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt BFPO 15

A BUSY PERIOD

With the postponement of Ex Flying Falcon to April the Regiment had expected a reasonably quiet time, but this was not to be. The Commanding Officer started the busy period with a Regimental exercise in January. February passed relatively easily, but included a highly successful Inter-Squadron Novice Boxing Competition and Ex Wintex/Cimex. March was a swirling mixture of TEWTS and visits. The visits included: the SOinC **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander** and **Mrs Alexander** on their farewell visit to the Regiment, plus Comd Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen P. R. Davies** and the new Comd Herford Garrison, **Brig M. A. Willcocks**. In the remaining moments we had a practice ORT and a series of Inter-Troop and Inter-Squadron events.

RED NOSE DAY

In the midst of all this came comic relief day. It was decreed that red noses would be worn at certain times. Unfortunately for the unsuspecting the times were not appreciated by the charity collectors, who (dressed up as clowns) met everyone at the gate. Cries of 'I've got a red nose in my office' were not tolerated and so the event got off to a good start.

A fire alert was called later in the morning, and soon the real reason behind it became apparent as the RSM divided the assembled into 'the haves and the have nots'—again the charity coffers rang to the sound of donations. The CO then pulled another surprise by calling for **Sgts Geoff Hawkins** and **Kenny Sykes**. They had been selected for promotion to Staff Sergeant and after making a donation to the fund they received the good news.

The final surprise was the charity clowns running onto the square and asking the CO for a donation. The CO turned to the RSM, who turned to the Adjutant, who called for a subaltern to supply cash quickly. Alas, **2Lt Tony Picknell** was unable to oblige, suddenly the combined wives of the Regiment surrounded the CO, RSM and the Adjutant and in a few seconds all three victims were covered in crazy foam. All this was taken in good spirit. The collection for the day was eventually whisked away by a Lynx helicopter, resplendent with a red nose.

1 SQUADRON
EXERCISE SNOW QUEEN

Thanks to the Zugspitze, Ex Snow Queen has remained popular throughout the season, allowing all those keen skiers to enjoy their annual outing on the slopes. Young and 'old' alike managed to secure places on the Nesselwang course. **Sgt Dave Shaw** assures us that the 'old' including **SSgt Mal Hopper** skied as well if not better than the young sprogs.

'Oh, we're a couple of 'Swells'
SSgt Mal Hopper and Sgt Dave Shaw take a well earned rest on the Zugspitze

CUP WINNERS EXTRAORDINAIRE

Various Inter-Squadron/Troop competitions have also kept us busy with 1 Sqn faring particularly well at the time of writing. **Cpls 'Bas' Bastow** led the Squadron to victory in the Rugby sevens tournament, defeating 211 Sig Sqn in the final. Praise has to go to our clerk, **LCpl 'Willie' Leggatt**, whose fine kicking clinched the match during extra time.

Our second victory returned the Regimental athletics trophy to the Squadron lines. Between them, **Sgts Kenny Sykes** and **Dave Yates** put together a winning team which performed superbly on the day. In particular, **2Lt Bret Appleby** proved to be a source of untapped talent, producing an impressive run in both the 100m and 200m. **Sgt Dave Purnell** ran one of the most courageous races winning the 400m B

1 Sqn Athletics Team
Maj Gordon Rafferty, Sgt Ken Sykes, Cpls Bob McCormick, Dug Piper, LCpl Al Evans, Cpls 'Gaz' Pope, Mark Shrives, Sgt Dave Yates, Lt Addley, WO2 'Sprog' Brogden, Sgt Dave Purnell, Lt Appleby, LCpls 'Waggi' Wagstaff, Nige Back, LCpl Gordon Kynoch, Cpls 'Taff' Donovan, Kev Peters, Sgt Kev Jenkins, WO2 (SSM) Pete Halstead, LCpl John Reid, Sgt 'Taff' Childs, LCpl Kev Innes, SSgt 'Bud' Abbott, Sig 'Skel' Skerritt

string by a whisker, but undoubtedly the most exciting event (apart from a sighting of the OCs legs), was the 4 × 100m relay, with all our athletes earning their winning medals. Not to be outdone our field eventers proved their worth with **WO2 (FofS) Dave Brogden** demonstrating that Australians can throw javelins and put the shot as well as throwing boomerangs.

If all this physical activity wasn't enough, someone 'unknown' saw fit to organise the Tug-of-War competition on the same day. Here, the trusted and well rehearsed team of; **LCpl 'Jock' Reid, WO2 (SSM) Pete Halstead, LCpl Kev Innes, Sgt 'Taff' Childs, SSgt 'Bud' Abbot, Sgt Kev Jenkins, Cpl 'Taff' Donovan** and **Sig 'Taff' Collis** pulled to an easy victory, actually it was a white wash, adding yet another cup to the trophy cabinet.

On a slightly less energetic scale, Panther Tp secured second place in the Regimental Safe Driving Competition, behind the LAD. **Cpl 'Dougie' Piper** and the remainder of the team are confident that next time these positions will be reversed! This time they won't let the Squadron Commander guide **Cpl 'Robbo' Robson** at night.

Staying with an adventurous theme, **Sgt Simon Tatman** organised a canoeing proficiency course in February for members of Kiwi Tp. Breaking the ice and braving the elements were **LCpls 'Jock' MacCuaig, 'Jock' Reid, Alex Hurst** and **Sig Mark Hobson**. Concurrent activity included an unrehearsed first-aid practical demonstration starring the Troop Commander **Lt Andy Smith** (his eye is better now).

For Ex Wintex/Cimex, the Squadron deployed to Ripon Barracks, Bielefeld to provide the Excon element, with **SSgt (YofS) Mick Purves** and **WO2 (FofS) Bob Thomas** at the reins (closely watched by the OC, **Maj Gordon Rafferty**). The main highlight of this unusually quiet exercise for us was the number of visitors which included the GOC 4 Armd Div, **Maj Gen The Hon W. E. Rous OBE**, Comd Comms (BAOR) **Maj Gen P. R. Davies**, and Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps **Brig T. I. M. Waugh MBE**.

1 Sqn Tug of War Team
SSgt 'Bud' Abbott, Sgt Kev Jenkins, Sig 'Taff' Collis, LCpl Nige Back (Coach), LCpl John Reid, Cpl 'Taff' Donovan, LCpl Kev Innes, WO2 (SSM) Peter Halstead, Sgt 'Taff' Childs

Sgt Dave Purnell leads the thrust for 1 Sqn in the 4 × 400m relay, having taken the baton from Cpl 'Gaz' Pope

1 Sqn Rugby 7s team blocking an attack by 211 Sig Sqn. Cpl 'Bas' Bastow with his eye on the ball!, with Capt Nick Borrill and LCpl Alex Hurst in close support

Finally, congratulations to **SSgt Mal Hopper, Sgts Kenny Sykes** and **Dave Till** who have all recently been selected for promotion. Also **Sgt Dave Till** has been transferred to 3 Sqn until his posting in July, where we're sure he'll be happy! Likewise the now, **Cpl 'Scouse' Williams** and **LCpl Boath** are congratulated on their well deserved promotions.

Unfortunately, the Squadron must say farewell to a number of old faithfuls; **WO2 (FofS) Bob Thomas** who has managed to arrange four months in Latina before a posting to Hong Kong! **Cpl 'Scouse' Williams** who moves on promotion to Verden, **Cpl Pat Murphy, LCpl Tom Lappin, Sig 'Shorty' Short** who all go to 16 Sig Regt, and **Sig Harry Hull**, who is leaving for civilian life. We wish them all the very best for the future.

Without a doubt the quiet season is over and we are all preparing for Ex Flying Falcon.

2 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj M. J. Dent MBE**
2IC	**Lt A. G. Ross**
OC A1 Tp	**2Lt D. J. Quinn**
OC A3 Tp	**Lt J. S. Charnock**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) W. J. Kelly**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) M. S. Baron**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) P. J. Stoddart**
Tech SSgt	**SSgt J. Jamieson**
MT Sgts	**Sgt K. Enfield/Sgt J. McGowan RCT**

SHQ TROOP

The recent reorganisation of the Squadron has brought about a number of changes in the Troop. All the technicians and Driver Lineman have now been added to our establishment bringing our strength up to 27. OC A1 Tp, **Lt Alistair Ross** moves into the vacant Second-in-Command's chair and **SSgt John Jamieson** takes over responsibility for technical matters from **SSgt (FofS) 'Minny' Minton** who moves across to the 'enemy', 3 Sqn.

ARRIVALS AND FAREWELLS

Sig 'Eddie' Edwardes, our new Stores Accountant, arrived in March from the QM(T) Dept to takeover from **LCpl Mick Concepcion** who moved to 3 Sqn. **LCpl 'Rodders' Rodwell** joined our MT from A3 Tp on assuming the new title of Driver Lineman, we also said farewell to **Sig Andy Marrit** who has left the Army for a more restful life in civvy street. Our congratulations go to **Sgt John McGowan RCT** on the award of his LS & GC Medal, to **LCpl Pete Ross** on his promotion to Corporal and finally to **LCpl Paul Carling** and his wife **Lisa** on the recent arrival of their baby.

A1 TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**2Lt D. Quinn**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt J. Brooks**
TP Sgts	**Sgt M. Richmond/Sgt S. Talbot**

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

Changes in the Squadron and the Regiment have had their effect in the Troop. **Lt Alistair Ross** becomes Squadron Second-in-Command after a four month paid holiday as OC 'Mercury Lodge' in Bavaria.

Sgt Dave Mason moved across to B Troop, 3 Sqn, after doing a sterling job as Troop Staff Sergeant for eight months. The powermen, sorry Driver Electricians, **LCpl Paul Carling, Sig Pete Parker, Tony Evans, Steve Parker** and **Bob Thirsk** have joined the echelons of SHQ Tp and **LCpl Martin Hobbs** moved to A3 Tp to take over as CRA's driver.

To replace the irreplaceable, **2Lt Damian Quinn** arrived from Blandford. **SSgt John 'Bomber' Brooks** returned to us after a two year holiday in 3 Sqn and **Sig Nigel Howard** joined us from Catterick.

EVENTS

The Troop was heavily involved in Ex Wintex, providing the AFV's and crews for the control HQ at Bielefeld. Leaving only our Radio Relay Ops under the command of **Cpl 'Ozzie' Lindon** ably assisted by **Sig Pete Nash** languishing in barracks. On returning to Herford there was just enough time for us to turn round the vehicles before the CO's practice ORT, which led into Ex Rural Quadrant; a TEWT for all Regimental Officers, Warrant Officers and Staff Sergeants, on the defence of a Divisional Main HQ. The aim was to show the Regimental hierarchy what Main HQ looked like in the field when deployed with all its 'atts', as well as illustrating the problems of defence, communications and administration.

The practice ORT went very well, despite all the problems involved in boxing and outloading stores. **Cpl 'Jacko' Jackson** and **LCpl Hadley** came up with one solution, 'hide the lot'!. The move to the nominal Active Edge location went smoothly with special thanks to **Sgt Bob Sleeman** our new Wavell manager, who has now proved himself to be 'panzer' trained and a very competent packet leader. The TEWT was deemed a success, and following a satisfactory solution given by the DS and a visit by the new Comd Arty 4 Armd Div, **Brig MA Willcocks** we returned to barracks.

A3 (RADIO) TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Lt J. S. Charnock**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt K. Nicholls**

ARRIVALS AND FAREWELLS

The Troop welcomes **LCpl Andy Gibb** and his wife **Svenja** from Celle, **LCpl Marty Hobbs** from A1 Tp and says farewell to **Sig Andy Marritt** and **LCpl Jim Cameron**, our ED's who have recently moved across to SHQ Tp with **LCpl 'Rodders' Rodwell**.

GOINGS-ON IN THE TROOP

As we prepare for Ex Flying Falcon and all the forthcoming trials and tribulations, we can look back over the past four months and say 'thank goodness we are going on exercise'! PRE's, STI's, border patrols, ORT's, competitions, plug-ups and visits are now a thing of the past, well almost, only the OC Squadron's to go! A very busy period in which much has been done, especially during the pre-Flying Falcon Radex, which went particularly well. **SSgt Kev** 'Driver of the Year' **Nicholls** was specially commended for his skills as was **Sig Challiner** for this clean boots. Finally congratulations to **Cpl 'Tomo' Thompson** on his recent promotion.

3 SQUADRON

OC	**Maj Richard Barfoot**
2IC	**Capt Barry Williams**
OC A Tp	**Lt Paul Vingoe**
OC B Tp	**Lt Vinay Pandya**
SSM	**WO2 John Dent**
SQMS	**SSgt Ian Selkirk**
FofS	**SSgt Robert Minton**
YofS	**SSgt Steve Wood**
Mt Sgt	**Sgt Daniel Murphy**
OC L Tp	**Sgt Fredrick Shingler**

FAREWELLS AND HELLO

There have been a number of changes in the last couple of months including the following:-

FofS Brogden Royal Australian Signals has moved to 1 Sqn breaking with the traditional posting of the 'Oz Foz' with 3 Sqn. The Squadron will miss **Dave** and **Kathy** especially at social functions. **SQMS Ian Blacklaw** is off to enjoy a short tour in the sunny Falkland Islands.

We also say goodbye to **SSgt John** and wife **Gina Brooks**. He has been moved to 2 Sqn, A1 Tp where his talents are required.

Sgt Pete Duffy and wife **Sharon** have also left to a posting outside the Regiment. Best wishes to you all.

The Squadron welcomes **SQMS Ian** and **Elaine Selkirk** and their two white poodles, **FofS Robert** and **Jacqueline Minton.** Also **Sgt Dave** and **Ursula Mason** and **Sgt Fredrick** and **Pauline Shingler** to take up positions of Troop Sergeants of B and Line Tps respectively.

BRAVO TROOP

OC Tp	**Lt Vinay Pandya**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Dave Mason**

It has been a relatively quiet time for B Troop during which **Sig Kevin Parkinson** has returned from his tour in Cyprus and been promoted to Lance Corporal. He has been placed on the JNCO cadre course to stop his promotion going to his head. **Sig Bob Whipp** was invited to go to the UK and play basketball for the Army. He must have done well since he has a shiny medal to show for his troubles. The Army managed to beat the RAF and Navy.

Has anyone seen the Tp OC **Lt Vinay Pandya** who is still missing. Rumour has it that he's probably still skiing somewhere.

Sig 'BFT' Brigdale has unofficially broken the 11½ minute barrier. Can he repeat this feat under the close scrutiny of the QMSI. Watch this space to find out.

The Troop welcomes its new Tp Sgt, **Sgt Dave Mason** and his wife **Ursula**. New faces also include **Cpl Jim** and **Ute Wilson, Cpl Paul** and **Alexandra Henderson, LCpl Mark** and **Susan Hurren** and straight from training **Sig Penwarden.**

Farewells are due to **Cpl Chris Rooney, LCpls Micky Bott** and **Mark Riley**. Last but certainly not least **SSgt John** and **Gina Brooks** who will be sorely missed. We wish them all well for the future.

REGIMENTAL NOVICE BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

A cold night in February saw the final of the Inter-Squadron Novice Boxing Championships. Over the previous three days the knockout (no pun intended) competition had taken place, so everyone eagerly anticipated the evenings events.

Nobody was disappointed. Considering that all were novices the standard of boxing was exceptional. All the boxers displayed a tremendous degree of determination and courage. The crowd was cheering as if it was a Tyson versus Bruno fight (and for longer too!). However, in the end, HQ Sqn proved to be the victors.

Winners of the Inter-Squadron Boxing Championships—HQ Sqn
Rear Row: Dvr Brian Wills, LCpl Jimmy Reeves
Middle Row: LCpl Mick McBride, Cfn Sean Jillins, Ptes Mark Holmes, Ian Shepherd
Front Row: Pte 'Pez' Perry, Sig 'Daz' Proctor, Cpl Gary James, Dvr 'Jock' Hamilton, Cpl Billy Knox
Absent: Pte Paul Ross

The Commanding Officer presented the medals, and congratulated all of the competitors, pointing out that not only had they all provided a marvellous display but had undoubtedly all learned something about themselves. The victorious HQ Sqn team were then invited back to the Sergeants' Mess to help their celebrations.

Thanks are also due to **WO2 (QMSI) Denis Delaney** and all his gymnasium staff for organising such a good event.

The listing of fights is shown below, winners are marked by an asterisk (*):-

Bantam	**Sig 'Willie' Cuthbertson**	**Sig Darren Proctor (*)**
Feather	**Sig Colin Parry (*)**	**Cpl Gary James**
Lt Weight	**Dvr 'Jock' Hamilton**	**LCpl 'JC' Cartmell (*)**
Lt Welter	**LCpl Mike Concepcion**	**Sig Lee Cox (*)**
Welter	**LCpl Mick McBride**	**Cpl 'Willie' Knox (*)**
Lt Middle	**Cfn Sean Jillings (*)**	**Sig Vince Saunders**
Middle	**Sig Barry Hearne**	**Sig John Milne (*)**
Lt Heavy	**Sig Bob Hamilton (*)**	**Sig Simon Fitzgerald**
Heavy	**Sig Richard Cawthorne (*)**	**Pte Mark Holmes**

The CO Lt Col Raper presents the Welter weight medal to Cpl 'Willie' Knox, while his worthy opponent LCpl Mike McBride looks on. In the background WO2 (QMSI) Denis Delaney

REGIMENTAL NORDIC SKI TEAM
Report by Lt Vinay Pandya

The Regimental Nordic Ski Team was composed mainly of soldiers of 3 Sqn who contributed four of the six members. Training commenced at the end of October and involved early morning swimming sessions, long runs, weight training and stretching sessions. The team left for Norway on Ex Mercury Quadrant II at the end of November to train on snow prior to moving down to Austria for the Divisional championships. Accommodation in Norway was a self catering apartment and on top of hard training the team took it in turns to do the cooking and washing up. The team remained in Norway over the Christmas period which is relatively free of commercialism. Norwegian Christmas Day is spent with the family and in an effort to inject some seasonal spirit the team went carol singing; this brought forth invitations to come in for hot chocolate and biscuits. The training in Norway went well and three of the team who had not langlaufed before had improved beyond recognition. After moving back to Germany on New Years Day the team spent three days in the Regiment to reorganise before leaving for Galtur in Austria for the 4 Div Championships. The quality of the snow initially threw us since it was old and wet and the dreaded klisters had to be used, but once the fear of these had been overcome they were found to be excellent. Kitted out in our pink and navy blue racing suits the team made a good impression. For a group of novices the team did rather well and narrowly missed being selected to go to the Army Championships but **LCpl Steve Shawcross** qualified for a place as an individual. He went on to win the Best Novice Award. Nordic skiing is a hard and demanding sport requiring guts and determination but full of fun and excitement. It can be said without doubt that a throughly rewarding time was had by all who were involved.

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200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 41

The Squadron bade farewell to a number of old sweats: **LCpl 'Scouse' Taylor** to 28 Sig Regt and **Sig Neil Watt** to 1 Armd Div Sig Regt. We wish them and their families all the best for the future. A welcome is extended to **Pte Clayton RPC** and hello again to **SSgt Bob Shortis** who has returned to the unit after spending seven months in Belize; welcome back to the German weather!

OC SQN HANDOVER/TAKEOVER

On Wednesday 25 January 1989 **Maj C. J. Burton** handed over command of 200 Sig Sqn to **Maj D. M. Mills** while in the field and attempted to leave the location unseen. But Top Sergeant Ivan Itch **(WO2 (SSM) Charlton)** and five highly trained members of 200th Steppes Spetnaz Section (RPC Defence Section) had other ideas.

With the aid of uniforms and props, a roving Spetnaz Squad managed to snatch **Maj Burton** from outside Comms Ops. After binding his hands, he was taken to an interrogation room on the local golf course. He was read a list of his achievements with the Squadron and then left with a message to take with him to the corridors of MOD 'Slow down and take a well earned rest'.

It was at this point that he characteristically broke free and tried to escape. However, he was re-bound and unceremoniously dumped back outside Comms Ops.

Who was the creep who cut him free? (Photo evidence to follow in the next issue folks'). Meanwhile the new OC continues to patrol around with his 'new broom'—Oh for a quiet life.

ALPHA TROOP
DIVISIONAL SHOOTING COMPETITION

A scratch team was entered in the Div SAAM Competition. The team consisted of **Lt Meers, LCpls Marsden, Bedford, Ptes Smith** and **Cockburn** who enjoyed the event despite coming third in the minor units competition. The main source of satisfaction was the fact that the team won the money prize on the pool bull on the SLR and pistol, which was perhaps a matter of luck. However in the Falling Plate competition the team shot well, knocking out the team from the Divisional Signal Regiment (sorry Colonel) and losing to 2 R Irish in the final, which was no disgrace as they were equipped with SA80 with the SUIT sight. An excellent day out, which at least gave the teeth arms something to think about.

BRAVO TROOP
CULTURAL TOUR OF BERLIN
by LCpl Steve Sorbie

About two months ago our Troop Commander, **Lt Forrest**, decided that he would take fifteen members of the Troop on a cultural tour of East and West Berlin. Some could not go due to other commitments, so (after a lot of arm twisting!) **SSgt Cleary** and **Cpl 'Mo' Howarth** of Alpha Tp went instead.

The main party left for Berlin by the British Military Train (BMT) on Friday 31 March. **Cpl 'Robocop' Dobbins** and **Cpl Dave Riley** took the minibus with our personal kit through the road corridor.

We arrived in the early evening, heading for the cultural night life after being dropped off at the Olympic Stadium. The evening ended with **Sig Fearnhead** and **'Trigger' Smith** showing the way.

Saturday morning started with a tour of West and East Berlin. For most of us this was our first visit to Berlin and the highlight was to have our photos taken next to the East German Guards at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the Soviet Sector of Berlin.

SQMS DEPARTMENT
by Cpl 'Monty' Moore

The SQMS Dept has been having a busy time since the Squadron returned from their camping expedition on Site Guard in January. Efforts were made to sort out all the items which had been used on the guard. It took about a week to clear everything and by then the Department was out camping again on Ex Winter Gauntlet. The SQMS actually came out for this Exercise but said that this was his last for the year. Apart from being bounced around the countryside, it was a good exercise. While the Department was on the exercise, **LCpl Tony Taylor** was doing a painting job for the SQMS as the new store was in need of a new image. The less said about his efforts the better!

Now on to brighter things. **Cpl 'Monty' Moore** has finally managed to get some leave and **Sig 'Bud' Mountfield** is on his Cadre Course at 4 Div Sig Regt. Meanwhile, the Department was performing miracles in preparation for the Ordnance inspection, which hopefully will be as good as the one last year.

As a football match against the Berlin Sig Regt planned for Saturday was postponed until Sunday, we decided to go down town and do some shopping, followed by what we were fast becoming accustomed to—the night life (beats Detmold).

It was a late start on Sunday for the Berlin weary 200 Sig Sqn members whose morale was not improved by having to play the Berlin Sig Regt, who won the encounter 11—3. Everyone enjoyed themselves despite the awful score which showed how grateful we were to our hosts for their hospitality.

On Monday we visited the Soviet Sector of Berlin. The same afternoon we had an excellent and humourous brief on the role of the Berlin Sig Regt by OC 1 Sqn **Maj McColville**; thank you for sparing us the time. The last evening was spent at the Stadt Hotel in the Soviet Sector of Berlin, where we had an excellent meal out together. When we were told that we would be treated like kings by **Lt Forrest** and **Cpl 'Mr Softee' Riley**; I don't think any of us believed it. However, it did happen; the food and service were a shock to most of us, as well as something called a champagne cocktail, which, despite the colour, tasted quite nice (we have always said, the most Senior Brigade Signal Sqn in the Corps has some style). After an early night we departed for Detmold by BMT.

A short break from normal duties, before the 'big one', Ex Flying Falcon. It was only made possible by the help of Berlin Sig Regt—Once again many thanks for having us and all your efforts in making the trip so worthwhile.

Back Row (L to R): LCpl 'Chewie' Marsden RPC, Sig 'Bud' Mountfield and Pte Pat Paterson RPC
Front Row (L to R): Cpl 'Monty' Moore, SSgt (SQMS) Mick Ara and LCpl Tony Taylor (now 28 Sig Regt)

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

As the wind whistles off the moors and around the accommodation, we are all thankful that this year winter in Catterick has been mild. Enough snow was fallen to practice the Regiment's snow-clearing SOP's without anyone becoming bored with it!

There has been a major change within RHQ, with the departure of **WO1 (RSM) M. A. Kerr** on commissioning to 14 Sig Regt where rumour has it he's fully employed clearing a man-made snowstorm of PRI vouchers. The new incumbent, **WO1 (RSM) J. E. Mullender**, has just returned from sunny Hong Kong and wonders where he can get a curry as good as those he got on the third floor of Chung King Mansions.

There are other comings and goings too numerous to mention: Trainees out to units, cadre on postings and also those who are destined to become Combat Civilians,—or as described in post-CERC language; Tele Op (Civvy). Good luck to everyone, wherever they may be going.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

Pictured here are some of the recent presentations made as rewards for outstanding efforts and results.

Cpl Tomkins T1 Radio Technician receiving his Outstanding Student Award from OC Trade Training School, Lt Col J. C. Young
Cpl Tomkins is the first Technician Upgrader to receive the new Outstanding Award since the Trade Training School changed from awarding A Grades
This result was well deserved as he was in every way outstanding in theory and practical performance throughout his course

BASIC TRAFFIC GROUP—OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARD

Having completed the final stage of his basic training as a Tele Op (Systems) Basic at Leconfield, **Sig Carl Hughes** returned to Basic Traffic Group to receive the Royal Signals Award for Outstanding Performance in training. **Carl**, who is now serving with 22 Sig Regt in BAOR was presented with his award on Wednesday 22 February by **Lt Col Young**, OC TTS.

Carl's achievement is really two fold—not only does he join the company of only 14 other students trained within the FMVT system to receive this award since 1986, he also becomes the very first Tele Op (Systems) Basic to receive such an award.

Our warmest congratulations to **Carl** on this outstanding achievement.

Presentation of the BSAD 'Wilkinson Sword' Poignard on 11 November 1988 to Maj I. Forbes and Sgt S. M. Rogers of 8 Sig Regt
The Poignard is awarded annually to the team who, at the BSAD Wheelchair Marathon in September, raise the largest amount of money for BSAD
Maj Forbes and his team raised £491.40 in 1988

RESERVIST LOSES PRIZED POSSESSION

The appearance of a tall, broad Lance Corporal with beard and pony tail marching around 8 Sig Regt caused some comment, as you may well imagine. With his bulk and long hair he was soon nicknamed the 'Honey Monster'. The red tape on his shoulder denoted 3 Sqn . . . what was this man doing?

The enlightened amongst us recognised that the JNCO was in fact a Reservist on a refresher course. The civilians on these courses attend a week's training to keep them current in their skills and able to fulfil their Reservist liability, but don't have to have their hair cut!

'Honey Monster' was in fact **LCpl Steve Farmer** from Nottingham, who left the Army six years ago, and along with the other men on his course he seemed to enjoy a few days back 'in uniform'. But this would have been just another Reservists course except that Comic Relief came along. **Steve** volunteered to have his beard shaved for sponsorship, and a quickly organised sponsorship and whip-round raised just over £100. The proceeds were divided equally between Comic Relief and the Regimentally sponsored charity, the St John's Appeal. The shaving was done by **Sgt Hems**, who should work for the Blood Donation Service as he obviously knows how to draw blood, and he was assisted by two of the girls from the current TA course, **Ptes Marjorie Riley** and **Michelle Halliburton**; but they had to retire early as they couldn't stand the sight of blood. The event was witnessed by a large audience, eager to see value for their money.

Our thanks to **Steve Farmer** for originally coming up with the idea, volunteering himself and for losing his beard with such good humour. Equally thanks to all those who dug in their pockets to support a good cause.

Sgt Hems completes the first stage of the attack: The beard is thinned and trimmed

SPORTS IN THE REGIMENT
FOOTBALL

As reported in the last issue the Regiment qualified for the Army 6's in Aldershot by winning our district league qualifying competition. The trip down to Aldershot was not as successful as we had hoped and we did not qualify for the final stages but we did make things hard for the eventual winners 'School of Signals' who fortunately managed to hold us to a draw, as reported in Soldier magazine.

The 8 Sig Regt football team. Missing SSgt 'Mac' McMillan

In the NE/NW District League however the first team has been having a more successful run. With four games remaining we are top of the league three points clear of our nearest rivals, and have also successfully qualified for the semi-final stages of the Premier Division Cup, beating our quarter-final opponents 27 Fd Regt RA 8—1. The team as a whole has been playing excellent football and after a shaky start, which was due to a draft of footballers being posted in, we now have the luxury of competition for positions in the first team.

I wish the same could be said about the second team, which is presently residing in the nether regions of the First Division. To be fair they are playing good attractive football defensively and in midfield, but lack striking power up front, a situation which would be rectified once the new intake of upgraders get past their initial Barrier Tests. Hopefully this will enable the second team to avoid relegation.

The league tables as at the beginning of February are:

1st XI

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
10	8	—	2	29	15	10

2nd XI

9	1	4	4	18	25	6

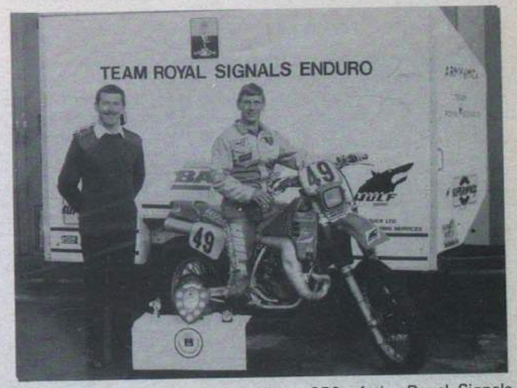
TEAM MEMBERS OF FIRST AND SECOND TEAMS

OIC Football **Maj J. Turner**, 2IC **SSgt 'Mac' McMillan**, second team manager **Sgt Andy Waterston**, first team manager and captain **Sgt Grant Pocock, SSgt Jimmy Sheils, Sgts Mick Applegarth, Simon Naylor, Ches Cheslett, Cpls Tye Sanderson, Kev Sturmann, Micky Mann, Sig Tibbs Corbin, Cpls 'Shaky' Makin, Paul Hubble, Chris McQuade, Dave Buckingham, Sig Paul Brown, Cpls Andy Dick, Jim McNaught, Billy Chambers, 'Biddy' Baxter, Andy Gilpin, Sig Ally Watkins, Paul Alford, Cpl Dave Coleman** and **LCpl Archie Gemmill**.

Players recently departed and just arrived at the time of writing **LCpl Taff Powell** posted to School of Signals and **LCpl Ben Gunn**, no fixed address. Welcome to **Sig Macker McSween** on TRA from 2 Div Sig Regt.

ROYAL SIGNALS ENDURO MOTORCYCLING

Capt D. M. Pratt Secretary Royal Signals Enduro Sport Motorcycling, and **Cpl Mick Mosley** with the awards won when **Cpl Mosley** rode for the Army MCA Team at the Natterjack round of the National Enduro Championships.



Cpl Mick Mosley astride the Maico 250 of the Royal Signals Enduro Team, with the trophies won at the Natterjack Enduro when he rode there for the Army MCA

Army MCA—Best Club—H&S Trophy
Army MCA—Best Team Award
Individual—Silver Medal

As well as many other awards, **Cpl Mosley** has won the overall Yorkshire Enduro Clubman Championship, was seventh in the North of England Championship and fifteenth in his class in the National Championship.

1988 was a good year for Team Royal Signals Enduro, and the team is now preparing for the 1989 season, beginning in March. A very full diary of weekend competitions will keep us busy until November.

If anyone is interested in motorcycling, or has ridden in events previously, why not contact **Capt Pratt**, Secretary of Corps Motorcycling UK at 8 Sig Regt, or enquire of 16 Sig Regt in BAOR.

9 Sig Regt
BFPO 58

AY NIK PRIMARY—EASTER EGG-STAVAGANZA

The children of Ayios Nikolaos Primary School entered into the spirit of Easter by reviving all the traditional festivities—bunny hunting—egg rolling—egg breaking—Easter bonnets and egg decorating. It was left to **Miss Nancy Johnson** to organise the festivities which was extremely hard work but not nearly as hard as trying to select prize winners in the egg decorating and bonnet parade categories. This task was left to **Mrs Loes Morley** and **Lt Gillian Wright**. The imagination and improvisation of the multitude of entries in the decorating contest had to be seen to be believed but after much deliberating prize winners were finally established. The bonnet parade was an equally difficult task with hats that would have held their own at Ascot week. All in all an eggcellent day was had by all!

Jake Helm (centre) proved too formidable an opponent for the rest of the class in the egg rolling

SETTING TRENDS IN AY NIK!

Jackie Doherty (RSM's wife) and **Ellen Savage** (Padre's wife)—feeling anything but 'down and out' at the Childrens' Tramps' Lent Lunch on Saturday 18 March.

Below, a Bunch of Swells! Final amount raised was £100 sterling which has been sent to MHA Methodist Homes for the aged, a registered charity.

To the victors the spoils

REGIMENTAL WIVES—CLIMBING DAY

Recently some of the wives accepted the challenge put out by the men, and organised a climbing day. On a fine and sunny Thursday morning, after weeks of anxious waiting, the girls assembled at Cape Greco, all raring to start.

The supervisors set them the task of climbing 'The Crag' a 16m climb graded very difficult, and descending a 20m abseil. Recording the whole days activities was **SSgt Dave Cresswell** with his video camera. They all completed both the climb and the abseil, showing tremendous courage, some going twice they enjoyed it so much. For their efforts the supervisors awarded each wife a certificate, and of course, they have the video as living proof that they have been there, climbed it, and thrown themselves off it.

Supervisors—WO1 Jim Leivers, WO2 (SSM) Pete Whitehouse and Cpl Sue Hulands. Assistant—2Lt Vivian Bracken. Wives—Yvonne Dunbar, Loes Morley, Anita Hennessy, Jan Gardner, Trish Clarke, Karen Crawford, Annette Storey, Sue Tedder, Corrinne Campbell and Val Penketh

FAREWELL TO SGT RICK DUDLEY

On Friday 17 March the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess held a dinner to mark the occasion of **Sgt Rick Dudley** breasting the tape of a 22 year career. **Ricky** returns to UK for his final six months before joining the ranks of 'The Public'.

OLD RSMs

Old RSMs never die they just pop up occasionally to ensure the standards are being maintained. **Dicky 'Tich' Marris**, who served as RSM of 9 Sig Regt between 1961-1964, paid a welcome visit to Ayios Nikolaos as a guest of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. **Dicky** turned out to be a character and kept us enthralled with his stories and anecdotes of the good old days. He was pleased to see that the soldiers were no longer under canvas, other than that not a great deal had changed—except of course the pay.

STILL PLENTY OF GAS—BUT WHERE ARE THE GAITERS?

The Regiment had a surprise visit from one of its old boys last week, star of screen and stage **Derek Nimmo** popped in for lunch and a tour of his old haunts. Derek, who was directing a play in Nicosia, served with the Regiment between 1949 and 1951 as a National Serviceman. He delighted us all with his stories from the past. He produced a programme of a production of 'Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves' which he appeared in as a member of the Regiment's Amateur Drama Group of the day. Included in the cast were quite a few other ex-regimental personnel who have made good. It is hoped that **Derek** will return to Ay Nik in September to join in the Regiment's 30th birthday celebrations.

Left to Right: RSM, Adjutant with Oh Brother!

ESBA BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS 1989

Once again the Regiment hosted The ESBA Badminton Championships with all the normal events being played, plus this year for the first time the youngsters were invited along. An event was held for the under 12 year olds and one for 12-16 year olds.

There was a tremendous response to the competition which was held over the weekend 11/12 March. The majority of the games were played on the Saturday with the finals on the Sunday. After some long hard fought battles on court the results were:-

Event	Winner	Runner Up
Mens Singles	**LCpl Batty**	**Mr Mike Jones**
Mens Doubles	**WO2 (SSM) Whitehouse**	**Capt Morley**
	LCpl Batty	**LCpl Middleton**
Mens Plate	**Mr Cockcroft**	**SSgt Bobryczki**
Ladies Singles	**Mrs Whitehouse**	**Sgt Irving**
Ladies Doubles	**Sgt Erving**	**Mrs Whitehouse**
	Mrs Norton	**Cpl Dickens**
Ladies Plate	**Mrs Taylor**	**Mrs Shaw**
Mixed Doubles	**Mrs Norton**	**Mrs Whitehouse**
	LCpl Batty	**WO2 (SSM) Whitehouse**
Childs Junior	**Hayden Rushton**	**Kelly Whitehouse**
Childs Senior	**Simon Cowdrey**	**Toby Van De Pol**

The organisers would like to thank OC 2 Sqn **Maj A. Helm** who presented the trophies to the finalists, and to all the competitors for entering.

The prize winners from the ESBA Badminton Championships 1989

Maj Helm poses with WO2 (SSM) Whitehouse and LCpl Batty, the Mens Doubles winners

'LOADSA MONEY'
From Ay Nik

As regular Lion readers are well aware Ay Nik Personnel are not adverse to dipping their hand in their pockets when some deserving cause comes along, in fact we subscribe to so many charities and worthwhile causes the lapels of our suits are always the first to go. Recent notables were, a cheque for £1,250 on behalf of the GOSH appeal and a comic relief disco realised the grand sum of £400. Main credit goes to those hardworking stalwarts from the Harewood Club Committee and a special mention for **Mrs Chris Riley** who descended from a great height courtesy of the Dhekelia Parachute Club to contribute to the GOSH windfall.

2 SQUADRON
AY NIK FUN RUN 89

Sunday 2 April saw this year's Ay Nik Fun Run. Again the run was organised by 2 Squadron with the object of having a fun day out for the family and to raise money for charity.

The run had both a 4km and 8km route to accommodate all standards of runners, and took the runners out into the bundu through orange groves, mainly on beaten tracks. The weather started off very misty, the first runner out was **Mrs Evans** the CO's wife who disappeared into the mist at around 0900 hrs, by 1000 hrs the sun was shining fiercely, the afternoon runners suffered from the extremely high temperatures. All entrants received a certificate for their efforts.

Money was raised by charging an entrance fee and by the Wives Club, who again rallied around and organised stalls at the start of the courses. They managed to raise well over £100. The charities chosen to receive the money are 'The Lord Nelson Appeal' and local community projects around the Ay Nik area.

Total number of runners = 189
Total money raised = c£262.22

EVENTS AND WINNERS

Mens	8km	**WO2 (SSM) P. Whitehouse**
Ladies	8km	**Mrs Terry Lang**
Male Vet	8km	**Dave Reading**
Female Vet	8km	**Avril Reading**
Male Child	8km	**Hayden Rushton**
Female Child	8km	**AJ Kirk**
Female	4km	**Carol Preston**
Male Child	4km	**Master Bush**
Female Child	4km	**Amy Doherty**

WIVES CLUB COMMITTEE:

Eileen Clarke, Bev Savage, Sue Abercrombie, Jan Gardner, Ann Cresswell, Elaine Bowman and **Gayle Jarvis**.

The organisers would like to thank all those who helped in the administration of the event, especially the Wives Club Committee and those involved in collecting for the stalls. A big thank you also to all those who entered.

EASTERN SBA MINOR UNITS RUGBY
2 SQUADRON WIN KNOCKOUT CUP

The ESBA Minor Units Knockout Cup Competition was hosted by 33 Sig Unit at Ayios Nikolaos on Sunday 26 February.

Amid much confusion 2 Sqn found itself with only 14 players as it took the field for the first match against Mac's Mincers (HQ Dhekelia Garrison). Despite a spirited performance it eventually lost after the 30 minutes play. The second pool game saw the team up against 33 Sig Unit. Now with a full complement of players the Squadron was victorious after a hard fought game.

In the semi final the Squadron came up against 3 Sqn. This was a fiercely fought game with no quarter given on either side. Continued pressure from 2 Sqn forwards resulted in a penalty. **JT 'Snowy' Shotton** stepped up for the kick and captured the only points of the game.

The final was against 1 Sqn. Although feeling the fatigue of the previous matches the team was fired up after a brisk warm up from **Sgt Dave Ruddock** and **CPO Ian Bellingham**. Led from the front by **Sgt Chris Hobbs** the pack played a hard spirited first period but could not break down the 1 Sqn defences.

Five minutes into the second half 2 Sqn broke the deadlock after a superb move across the backs resulted in **'Snowy' Shotton** 'jinking' over for the first try. With spirits once more high the 2 Sqn forwards continued to apply the pressure. From this determined forward play **CPO Ian Bellingham** was able to charge over for the second try of the game. The result was an 8—4 victory in 2 Sqn's favour, achieving a thoroughly deserved triumph.

The Garrison Commander, **Col Champion**, presented the trophy to the Team Captain, **Sgt Chris Hobbs**.

The team consisted of: **Sgt Chris Hobbs** (Captain), **CPO Ian Bellingham, JT 'Snowy' Shotton, Cpl Nige Watton, LCpls Loz Hill, Phil Ward, Sig Shaun Hughes, Cpl 'Jock' Blyth, Sig Harry Harrison, Sgt Dave Ruddock, Sig Mike Jolley, Jez White, Dean Butler, Steve Kennedy, WO2 Pete Lang** and **Sig Harry Harrison**.

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

SKI TEAM
Report by Lt J. Vlasto

In recent years 11 Sig Regt has entered a Junior Ski Team in the UKLF (Scottish) Alpine Ski Championships, achieving considerable success. This year it was decided to enter a Senior Team as well. The training for the Juniors started with the Ski Hobby in October 1988. This took place on the Catterick dry ski slope and was open to all those eligible for the Junior Ski Team. By Christmas twelve had been selected for the next phase of training.

They went on ELT in Scotland as a team from 22-29 January 1989. The total lack of snow could have been a problem, but the ingenuity of **Cpl Mike North**, the Team Trainer, secured us the use of a local dry slope so enabling training to continue and the further selection of eight for the next phase of training.

EXERCISE HIGH PISTE

This phase of training took place in Mayrhofen, Austria from 3-12 February. The idea of going to Austria was to guarantee snow and long runs so building up ski fitness and familiarity—none of the Juniors selected had skied on snow before.

But before skiing we had to endure a thirty hour bus journey in a cramped coach with insufficient luggage space. Ski boots had to be jammed under seats and legs then contorted in some way into the tiny space remaining. It was with considerable relief that we finally arrived, after a comprehensive tour of other ski resorts in Austria, at Mayrhofen.

The next day dawned bright and clear with blue skies, dazzling sun and good snow. That evening, after a hard day's skiing, **WO1 (RSM) Britton** commented that just one such perfect day made the bus journey worthwhile. Unbelievably conditions continued to be perfect for the remainder of the week. Not even the return bus journey could dull the elation (or the sun tans) of the best week's skiing that I have ever had.

Incidents that stand out in my memory invariably involve somebody's wiping out. Perhaps the highest marks for technical merit should go to **JSig 'Jock' McNeill** who was attempting a vicious jump whilst watched by the remainder of the team. He disappeared into the dip, then reappeared airborne as expected, but minus his skis. His skis, however, continued independently on their course and appeared beneath **Jock** still skimming along the snow. Losing his skis in this way was an impressive achievement, regaining them proved too much even for him—the inevitable wipe out was great to watch.

At the end of the week a further selection of six for the final phase of training had to be made. The aim of building ski fitness and familiarity had certainly been achieved as we had skied all day every day. Consequently it was a very tired ski team that returned to Catterick to a predictably jealous reception.

EXERCISE SNOW CUB/SNOW LION

The final phase of training, the pole training, took place in Scotland from 19-26 February 1989. This was attended by both Junior and Senior Ski teams.

Our first day in Scotland coincided with the first day of skiable (I use the word in its broadest sense) conditions of the season. There was sufficient snow to slide on, but only just, and the weather provided quite a contrast to Austria.

Nonetheless we managed to ski every day, even though on occasion this meant walking up the piste. But four days before the Championships the Army Winter Sports Association decided that conditions were too unreliable and cancelled the Championships. After all the training we were anticipating considerable success and the cancellation came as a great disappointment. The only consolation for all those who had worked so hard is that the training was not wasted—the Regiment has produced a number of skiers who will hopefully go on to ski for the Corps.

Also, of course, there are the memories. Wipe outs in Scotland were plentiful, but the award for the most entertaining undoubtedly goes to **Cpl Mike North** and **JSig Oz Longstaff. Mike** was leading off piste and did not notice a small hidden gully, the result being that he flew spread eagled across the gully into the far wall. **Oz**, who was following, on seeing **Mike** suddenly disappear attempted to stop. This he achieved momentarily on the very brink of the gully, but then his arms began to windmill and slowly, gracefully he somersaulted headfirst into the bottom of the gully. Those of us not involved in this pile up were rendered helpless, by laughter.

The Ski Team training went extremely well this year. A very high standard was achieved, a strong team spirit built up, and it was enjoyable. It is a great shame that the Championships was cancelled, but this does not alter the value of the training in maintaining a supply of high standard skiers into the Corps.

The Junior Ski Team *(Left to Right)*: JSig Howard, McNeill, Dutton, Cpl North (Team Trainer), JSig Longstaff, Page and Hilton

A rare sight—JSig 'Jock' McNeill airborne—with skis still attached!

4 TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**Lt Steve Wheatley**
Tp Sgts	**Sgt 'Scottie' Sherrard**
Tp Cpls	**Cpl Eddie Goff**
	Cpl Chris Hymas
	Cpl 'Jock' Lambe
	Cpl Tony Slaney

The Troop began another nine week training programme with some 50 adult recruits. After inevitable backtrooping through injuries etc a 30 strong Troop passed out on 10 March, a morning of brilliant sunshine. 4 Troop ran parallel with 5 Troop and in the Inter-Troop Competition won the Cross-Country, Assault Course, Long Race, Drill and Section Races, emerging as Championship Troop.

The prizes for Best Shot and Best Endeavour were presented by **Gp Capt Ryan**, Commandant RAF Catterick to **Sig Nizhar** and **Makings**, and although the overall Best Recruit was won by a 5 Troop member, a prize was awarded to **Sig Guilfoyle** as the Best Recruit of 4 Troop. After a speech by **Gp Capt Ryan**, a cheque for £1,200, raised by the Troop for various children's charities, was presented by **Sig Boothman** who had raised £75 from family and friends.

BATTLEAXE TROOP

Since forming on 9 January the Troop has had to soldier on through a lot of changes. At last another Corporal posted in. Welcome to **Cpl Mick O'Brien** and wife **Theresa**. He will be aiding **Cpls** 'I'm off to Germany in July' **Castro** and 'football on Wednesday' **Edwards**.

A change of command to educate the staff with **Lt John** 'he's gone skiing' **Vlasto** leaving the Army being replaced by **Lt David Gallagher RAEC**. Welcome to **Lt Gallagher** and wife **Mary** and congratulations on your promotion to Captain on 8 April 1989.

Add to that **Cpl 'Cas' Castro** to 21 Sig Regt in July and the Squadron moving back to Helles Barracks from Vimy 'C' while **Sgt Dave Henry** gets his well planned Fire NCOs Course to miss the humping and dumping. I hope the boys can fit in some training.

SPONSORED BED PUSH

After destroying one hospital bed 4 Troop breast the Hauton Cross Roads—**Sig Makings** leading whilst **Sig McCallum** ponders the meaning of it all.

THE HOMECOMING (OR THE MOVE OF 3 SQUADRON)

After 1,000 days of being lost the CO in his infinite wisdom, decided to take his people home. The move was left to three wise Corporals **(Cpls Castro, Edwards** and **O'Brien)**.

The task set was to leave the desolation and be settled in the promised land in seven days and the following commandments were given: On the first day—Thou shalt pack away all unessential kit. On the second day—Thou shalt clean anything that doesn't move. On the third day—Thou shalt clean it all again. On the fourth day—Thou shalt pack all of the troop stores. On the fifth day—Thou shalt prepare everything in readiness for the great trek to the promised land. On the sixth day—Thou shalt leave for the promised land. Normally the seventh day is a day of rest but, unfortunately, not this time. On the seventh day—Thou shalt unpack thy kit and get ready for the Coming of the Sqn Comd. **Maj Smith**.

All of the tasks went well with the co-operation of the RQ, **WO2 Henning**, who co-ordinated everything (with much gnashing of teeth) and slew the false prophets who went around giving out much disinformation.

Day six went exceptionally well except, as there were no rivers, we had to do with a parting of the road between barracks with a goodbye to 8 Sig Regt between RSM's, 8 Sig Regt **WO1 Mulhander**—11 Sig Regt, **WO1 Britton** and a Battleaxe march led by the Troop OC, **Lt David Gallagher**.

At last paradise—or at least an end to purgatory when everything is sorted out.

Well done Battleaxe!

WO1 (RSM) Britton *(Left)*, 11 Sig Regt bids farewell to WO1 (RSM) Mulhander, 8 Sig Regt with Battleaxe Tp, led by Lt Gallagher RAEC, marching past

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.

14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 23

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj E. J. P. Kellett**
2IC Sqn	**Lt M. A. Kerr**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) A. Lunney**
SQMS	**SSgt N. Yarwood**

A warm welcome goes out to **Lt M. Kerr** who has just arrived from the cooler climate of Catterick to take over a grandiose selection of hats including 2IC Sqn, OC PRI and MTO, to name just a few. Also we would like to welcome **LCpl Humphries** to TM Tp and **Sig Naylor** to MT Tp; they have both just finished their basic training.

This year the Squadron has been very busy, deploying on various exercises in support of the other elements of the Regiment. However, we did find time to get together during Ex Fast Draw II in an effort to bring our military skills up to speed in preparation for the Regimental ARU. The exercise went very well and, although various functions within the Regiment had to be maintained, a large proportion of the squadron joined into the spirit of the exercise.

BOXING

Three members of the Squadron managed to get through the preliminary bouts of the inter squadron boxing competition; **Sig 'Rudolph' Grimes, 'Slapper' Kindness** and **LCpl 'The Hulk' Ord**. All were excellent bouts with **Sig Grimes** and **LCpl Ord** winning theirs in superb style.

FSL
by WO1 N. C. Mapp

Field Station Langeleben continues to be as busy as ever. Our neighbours in the Old People's Home, Langeleben, entertained the FSL permanent staff and some of X-Ray Tp as a gesture for giving them Christmas dinner in December 1988. This was in the form of afternoon tea and a dance and the 'young boys' enjoyed it.

Maj 'Rollo' Rumford was running around in circles in the second week of March (who said 'just then?') when he held a four day orienteering tutorial involving over 30 members of the Corps. This was followed by sparring **Lt Robert 'Tom' Forrest** and his 'ring' of Regimental boxers.

Five nations were represented at our local international games night on Friday 10 March. **Cpl Pete Bromilow** (ACC) was up to his usual very high standard and fed over 100 hungry competitors. **SSgt Pete** 'Put that light out' **Rixon** and **Cpl 'Taff' Allen** were hard pressed to keep up with the demand for refreshments. The evening was a great success. Result: first British, second USA, third German reserve, fourth Italian reserve and fifth Australia (to be fair **WO2 Pete Bull** was the only Aussie to make the trip).

This will be my last contribution to *The Wire* as WOIC FSL and I would like to publicly thank all past and present members of 14 Sig Regt (EW), especially my permanent staff, for all the help and assistance which has made this tour the most satisfying of my career to date.

QM (GEN) DEPT
by SSgt Bill Dyson

Being an addressee required to action and submit a chatty and interesting article, I give you **Sgt John** (MIMO—March-In, March-Out) **Salter**. On a serious note, the Quartermaster's Department would like to welcome **Sgt John Salter** to the team. He joined us to help on the families side of life. This keeps him rather busy and he is of great help to the Regiment and acts as the link between us and the ASA/ASU services.

The Regiment's gymnasium is almost complete and everyone is eagerly waiting for the Grand opening day. I'm sure the squadrons will be trying to outdo each other as to who will be the first to use it. (More competition).

Our **SSgt (SQMS A) Bill Dyson** is busy while all this is going on around him, bargaining and bartering with all the various outside agencies to help keep things running smoothly in the Regiment on behalf of all the Squadrons. 'Who said it was wheeling and dealing?'.

Heike, our Fam/MFO clerk has just returned from a few weeks leave. Our other clerk, **Sharon** (smallhausen) **Powell**, when she is available and not running between QM Gens and RHQ, has had a rather busy time of it. She found herself having to move quarters while her husband was in Northern Ireland as the one she was occupying was due for modernisation. Young smallhausen was *not* amused.

All in all our not so busy department (as **WO2 (RQMS) Colin Thompson** 'I've just returned from leave' keeps telling everyone), has been rather busy of late.

QM (TECH) DEPARTMENT

First of all the hellos and goodbyes—here we go: welcome to **Maj Andy Boyle** and his wife **Rachel, Sgt Raymond Pickering** and his family, **Cpl Tony Simpson** and his family. And hello once again to **Cpl Rich Clatworthy** and his rugby team.

Goodbye to **Sig Ian Bain** and his wife **Christina**, who have departed to the sunnier climate of York (he passed his B1 upgrading course!).

Funny moments: the RQMS is not very well due to a mishap after being told to take things easy after his operation in BMH Hannover. (The QM wonders why it needs an operation for the RQ to relax—he does it all the time). Well done to **LCpl Colin Rich** for sabotaging the RQ's coffee bell, so it's no more coffee for you today RQ!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The department has saved up its sports afternoons and has decided to go on an adventure training weekend in the Harz mountains. We are crossing our fingers that **Cpl Rich Clatworthy** and **LCpl Murray** (I've lost my contact lens) **Walker** learn to map read after their disastrous attempt during the Squadron night navigation exercise.

It was red nose day on 10 March, so all the department went for it, with the exception of **LCpl Davie Alsop** who didn't. **Mr Robin Gypps**, our resident R&I Storeman, collected over DM600 for having the nerve to interrupt the CO's parade on Harry the Hyster. The CO took it in his stride and even gave up his pocket money for the whole week.

STOP PRESS

Congratulations to **Cpl Tony Simpson** on his forthcoming promotion and departure to the warm and sunny Falkland Islands. All the best **Tony**, was it really worth unpacking all those boxes?

TM TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt P. G. Cross**
Wksp	**WO1 (FofS) P. Martin**
Projects	**WO1 (FofS) D. Wild**
Trg	**WO2 (FofS) R. Hamilton**
1st Line	**SSgt (FofS) N. Cullen**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt M. F. Laybourn**
SSgt Radio	**SSgt M. Holland**

NEW ARRIVALS

Welcome to **Sgt Yates** from the hot-bed of Northern Ireland and **LCpl Humphries** direct from training (at last a TE Tech).

EXERCISE FAST DRAW I

Ex Fast Draw I saw the Regiment visit TM Tp en mass for two days to see how we tick. **WO2 (FofS) Bob Hamilton** produced a programme where the Regiment was split into syndicates and shown every aspect of TM Tp from R&I, through URS to repair of the major 'special to role' EW equipments. He then went on leave for the duration and left it all in the capable hands of **SSgt Mike Laybourn** to follow it through (good move!). Fortunately things went fairly smoothly and we now have a Regiment of 'nearly' techs so TM Tp can carry on with sports afternoons, days off etc.

CELLE WASA LAUF

Congratulations to **WO1 (FofS) Dave Wild** on being our sole representative in the Celle Wasa Lauf, a 20km road race through the attractive local town (surely there's an easier way of getting to know your way around!).

ALLER SWIM

Early March saw the annual Celle swim in the River Aller. Three representatives from the troop braved the elements, **Capt Paul Cross, LCpls** (it's not whether I'm in—it's just the depth that varies) **Duffy** and **Spence Ord**. Fortunately this year there was no ice to crack, but did anyone get their hair wet?

3 SQUADRON

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Lance Byrne**
2IC	**Capt Adrian Campbell-Black**
OC O Tp	**Lt Andy White**
OC P Tp	**SSgt Terry German**
OC R Tp	**Capt George Prideaux**
OC Z Tp	**SSgt Mick Halford**
SSM	**WO2 Rick Logan**
YofS	**WO2 Kev Doyle**

GENERAL

The Squadron has been scattered to the winds to do various activities: these included Ex Wintex, the Aller swim, the Celle Wasa Lauf, Ex Fast Draw and the inter squadron boxing competition. Z Troop said goodbye to their OC **Capt David Gruncell** who handed the Troop to **SSgt Mick Halford**.

EXERCISE WINTEX

The whole of Papa Tp deployed on Ex Wintex. A barbed wire maze was erected to keep people amused when they were off duty and to catch any would be snoopers. The exercise became a troglodytes paradise with few people emerging from their vehicles except to go to bed or to eat.

THE ALLER SWIM

Once again the biscuit factory came up with the goods. Papa Tp decided that it would be a good idea to enter the Troop in the 15km race while most other people opted for the 10km race. Just about everybody completed the race except for the hapless **Cpl Lee Cooke** who dropped out because of his tonsils (apparently they are connected to your feet). The sun shone all day and it made the affair much more pleasant than last year when it snowed.

EXERCISE FAST DRAW

Leading up to the Regiment's ARU there was a week of in camp military training. Only a few of the Squadron were involved in this as the rest were out on other exercises. The ARU proved to be very entertaining: the squadron had to build a POW cage and try to keep 100 prisoners. The prisoners had a 97% success rate in escaping and there were only three left to interrogate, though a lot would have been shot. **SSgt Terry German** also escaped even though he was meant to be running the camp.

INTER SQUADRON BOXING

The highlight of the last couple of months was undoubtedly the inter squadron boxing competition: Individual performances are too detailed to go into but here are some points of interest: **LCpl Marty Graham**'s opponent is still doing his Patrick Moore impression, looking at the stars; **LCpl Dean** (Scud B) **Cox**'s opponent has applied to join the APTC as a punchbag; **LCpl Frank** Bruno **Flaherty**'s face looks as if he has done 10 rounds with **Mike Tyson** but he had an excellent win; **Sig Grant** KO **Proctor** has had a blood transfusion and indented for a new nose; **Sig Kenny Marlowe** fought well on the night but lost after a close bout and picked up the best loser's trophy. **Cpl Andy McNeil, LCpl Chris Yates, Sig Marty Fell** and **Wayne** Chopper **Bramwell** all had close fights in the prelims. The team was well supported and trained by **WO2 (YofS) Don-King Doyle, SSgt George Greig** and **LCpl 'Scotty' Scotson**.

23RD ALLER SWIM 4 MARCH 1989

Over 200 swimmers braved the chilly waters of the River Aller on 4 March. Divers from clubs all over Germany and the Netherlands gathered together to take the plunge on a warm spring afternoon.

Dr Severin, Oberburgermeister of Celle, welcomed the multinational swimmers including **Lt Col J. D. Stokoe MBE**, our CO, before officially starting the event.

Many of the swimmers dived like lemmings from the road bridge, while others slipped more sedately into the water from the river bank. Everyone then laid back as the current took the all-singing swimmers downstream. A variety of floats adorned the river, matching the colourful fancy dress worn by the swimmers and creating a wonderful carnival atmosphere.

The half way point was marked by a welcome Gluhwein stall, where everyone swam to the bank for a drink and collected a candle. The river was now full of singing swimmers, illuminated in the early evening by candlelight as they drifted through the town. Crowds lined the banks and bridges cheering and waving the swimmers on.

Among the first to finish was the 2IC **Maj Rumford**, closely followed by **Lt Andy White** OC Diving, **WO1 (RSM) Aitken, Capt Paul Cross** and the Regimental Water Polo Team.

Once showered and changed, the swimmers and spectators assembled in the Regiment for the prize giving. **Herr Karl Stroher**, head of the German Life Saving Society, presented a commemorative plaque to the Regiment for hosting the event and thanked **Lt White** and **Sgt Cooper** for co-ordinating it.

2IC Maj Rollo Rumford before his plunge!

Members of the Regiment at the half way 'Gluhwein Stall' *(Left to Right):* Cpl Baillie, LCpls Ord, Duffy and Sig Harding

INTER SQUADRON NOVICE BOXING COMPETITION 1989

The final of the Inter Squadron Boxing Competition took place on 22 March 1989 in the Gymnasium of Trenchard Bks, Celle. On completion of the Prelims/Semi Finals only three points separated all four Squadrons.

The final got underway, however, the first contest was stopped within 30 seconds; would this mean an early exit to the Sergeants' Mess? On the contrary, from here on in the competition went from strength to strength with only one of the remaining eight bouts having to be stopped inside the distance. After an excellent nights boxing the final placings were:

WINS IN THE FINAL

Winners—1 Sqn—17 points 1 win
Runners up—2 Sqn—16 points 3 wins (incl Welter Weight)
Third—3 Sqn—16 points 3 wins
Fourth—HQ Sqn—14 points 2 wins

As can be seen from the results the competition was a gripping and nail biting affair enjoyed by participants and spectators alike.

Before presenting the prizes, the Guest of Honour **Brig T. I. M. Waugh MBE**, congratulated all boxers on displaying such courage, commitment and sportsmanship. A special mention must go to **Sig Kenny Marlow** 3 Sqn for the Best Runner Up and **Sig 'Buzz' Burrows** 1 Sqn for the Most Improved Boxer.

Finally **WO2 (QMSI) Dick Parker** is to be thanked for the gathering together of the officials and general organisation which made the evening such a success.

16 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

2 SQUADRON
ROMEO TROOP
by Cpl Andy Dobson

PERSONALITIES

Tp OC	**2Lt K. Osterburg**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt T. Benson**
Tech SSgt	**SSgt A. Singleton**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt T. Davies**

FAREWELLS

We say goodbye to **Lt Clewlow**, best wishes go to the men of 244 Sig Sqn. Be ready for anything! Sadly, we are also losing **Sgt Simon Hill** who goes to the School of Signals and **Cpls Gav Collins** and **Paul Gartside** who go to sunny Catterick for their T1.

GREETINGS

Welcome to our new Troop members **2Lt Karen Osterburg, Cpl Tony** and **Sally Mee** and family who made the long trek from 28 Sig Regt. We also received fresh blood into the Troop in the shape of three signalmen complete to CES: **Sig Davies, Reid** and **Halliwell**.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **LCpl Karl** and **Lisa Perks** on the birth of their first son **Matthew**. They resisted pressure from the Troop who wanted the baby to be called **Elmo**. Best wishes also go to **Sgt Tom Davies** who married **Sarah** in January. It seems that **Cpl Steve Barr** may be going the same way, announcing his engagement to **Pte Chris Caisley** on St Valentine's Day.

CADRE COURSE

Five members of the Troop went through hell and back in the shape of the CO's Cadre Course. The unlucky five who only just survived were **LCpls Gaz Bowman, Phil Maddocks, Sig 'Morbs' Moorby, Toby Fernbank** and **Mark Johnson**.

RCZ ORIENTEERING CHAMPS

The Regiment won the major unit championship. The Troop was represented by **SSgt Tony Singleton** who came third M21, **Sig Mark Johnson** who came first M19 **Sig 'Taff' O'Connor, CPL 'Shuggy' Cowan** and **SSgt Tom Benson**.

RUGBY

Congratulations to **Cpl Andy Cooper** who was the Regiment's Top try scorer and the man of the season. Regular members of the team were **Sgt Tom Davies, Cpls George Roper** and **Nick Goodwin**.

SPORT

Romeo Tp was victorious in the Regiment's Inter-Troop Potted Sports competition. Missing from the photo of the winning team are **Cpl George Roper** and **Sig Taff O'Connor** who missed the moment of glory by skiving off to an early lunch.

Back L to R: Cpl Nick Goodwin, Sig Carl Reid, LCpl Pete Lagden, Cpl Andy Dobson and Sgt Tom Davies
Front L to R: Sig Steve Davies, 2Lt Karen Osterburg, Sig Steve Clarke and Lee Halliwell

21 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

TN 038
PERSONALITIES

OC	**2Lt Tony Clark**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Alf Ramsey**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Sandy Dos Martyres**
Tp Cpls	**Cpl Dave Jubb**
	Cpl Andy Terry
	Cpl Mat Murray
	Cpl Steve Foreman
	Cpl Jim O'Donnell
	Cpl Martin Kelman
	Cpl Lee Singer
	Cpl Andy Riley

KAPE TOUR

TN 038 would just like to say to all you avid *Wire* readers how much we are going to miss Flying Falcon which has been replaced by a KAPE tour this year. By the time this article is published the KAPE tour will be well under way. From the beginning of March we shall be at various venues around the Manchester and Chester area . . Anybody skiving in that area is more than welcome to pay us a visit.

Kape Team
Top Row (Left to Right): Sigs O'Brien, Anderson, Tierney, Willams and Cpl Jubb
Middle Row (Left to Right): Sigs Jones, Bostock, Leyland and Book
Standing (Left to Right): SSgt Ramsey, Lt Clark and Cpl Terry

WELCOME AND FAREWELL

TN 038 would like to welcome **Cpl Steve Foreman** who has made a big jump from TN 039. Other 'newish' arrivals are **LCpl Ivan 'Kid' Currey, Sig Dave 'Pervey' Pitt, Sig Jason Hughes** and **Guy Willans**. We would like to say goodbye and good luck to **Cpls Gaz Tinsley, Lee Singer** and **Sig Brian Gittins**.

PROMOTIONS

We would like to congratulate all of the Troop hierarchy who have all been promoted. **2Lt Clark** has eventually received his long waited Lieutenant, **SSgt Ramsey** his Warrant Officer 2 and **Sgt Dos Martyres** his Staff Sergeant.

H TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Troop OC	**Capt Keith Russell**
Troop SSgt	**SSgt Steve Dobson**
Maint Sgt	**Sgt Steve Brealey**
Project Sgt	**Sgt Pip Piper**
Tech Sgt	**Sgt Bill Stadius**
MT Cpl	**Cpl Geordie Brown**
Troop Clerk	**Mrs Sue Brough**

H Troop

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Welcome to Bruggen to three brand new Signalmen from Catterick—**Sig Gallivan, Wilkens** and **McCarthy**. Everything will become obvious in about three years' time. Welcome back also to **Sgt Pip Piper** after his holiday down South.

Sad farewells to **Cpl Nigel Dix** who has left us for Civvy Street and **Cpl Neil McKenzie**—good luck on his T1.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Sig Makker Macpherson** on his marriage to **Shenny**. Good luck for the future. Also to **Sig Darren Hilton** on his promotion to Lance Corporal.

RETURN OF LCPL STEVE BRICE

In September's publication we sent our 'Get Well' message to **LCpl Steve Brice** who was in Woolwich Hospital at the time. Since then, after spending some time in RAF Headley Court to rehabilitate, **Steve** was finally discharged from the Army. He did, however, return to Germany to see us all at H Troop and to collect his Jimmy. On his return to UK, **Steve** decided to reciprocate and has since sent us a fine memento for our Tea Bar which was made by his own fair hand.

We hope to see **Steve** here in H Troop again whenever he visits his brother **Sgt Lou Brice** who also serves in the Regiment.

More observant readers may wonder who the elf-like figure is perched on the Tornado behind H Troop. All is revealed—it is in fact **Capt Roy Coffill**, GLO 17 Sqn, who procured the aircraft (and a place on the photo) for us.

L TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Robin Seaword**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Mick Denny**
Projects	**Sgt 'Rocky' Hudson**
Maintenance	**Sgt Andy Elliott**
Technician Sgt	**Sgt Colin Brown**
MT	**Cpl Pete Rouse**
Clerk (and Tp 'Mum')	**Frau Busse**

Capt Russell presents Steve Brice with Jimmy

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We have continued the changes over the last couple of months, saying a sad farewell to **LCpl Paul Cutts** and his wife **Carol** who have decided to try their hand at civilian life—we wish them every success. The postings of **LCpl Andy Mattson** and wife **Linda** and **Cpl 'BJ' Forbes-Wilson** and his wife **Julia** to the sun of Cyprus have left room for more 'characters' in the Troop—they, too will be missed and we wish them well. Finally, we thought our resident engineer **SSgt Steve Smith** was leaving us but he managed to join PSA and remains with his wife **Denise**, within the fold. One question still remains, however, has **Sig Eddy Postlethwaite** really gone? We seem to have had more farewell 'dos' for him than everyone else put together—he will be a hard act to follow!

Recent arrivals have included **Cpls Pete Gruncell, Billy Nelson, LCpl Ned Kelly** and our replacement engineer **SSgt Roy Lowe** with his wife **Jaqueline**—all are most welcome.

Bay of the Month—'L' Troop

Back Row (Left to Right): LCpls Mattson, Brennan, Sgt Elliott, Cpls Davis, Forbes-Wilson, LCpl Jackson, Sigs Wildish, Pearson, Bradley, Cpls Rouse, Kemble, Cunningham, Sig Routledge, LCpl Fearon and Sig Davies

Centre Row (Left to Right): SSgt Smith(RE), Capt Seaword and SSgt Denny

Front Row (Left to Right): Sgt Hudson, LCpl Farr(RE), Spr Johnstone(RE), Sgts Brown, Kenna, Conlan, Jennings and LCpl Cutts

AND ON THE FINANCIAL FRONT . . .

Our Troop Staff Sergeant, **Mick Denny** was presented with the Royal Air Force Germany Certificate of Merit and cheques from both the Station and Command in recognition of his 'conscientious and constructive efforts directed toward the improvement of technical efficiency within the Royal Air Force'. At a small ceremony attended by all Troop members and their wives the Station Commander RAF Laarbruch, **Gp Capt G. McRobbie** handed over the award and joined us in a small social function to mark the occasion. **Mick**'s invention has already proved to be of great value.

Gp Capt G. McRobbie presenting SSgt Denny with the Certificate of Merit (and cheques)

FAME AT LAST . . .

L Troop rounded off a most successful year by being offered a starring role as Engineering Wing 'Bay of the Month' and we decided to show our Royal Air Force colleagues some of the many guises in which our boys can be found; poor old **Sig 'Taff' Davies** drew the short straw and donned the PT kit—and it was the coldest day of the year—whilst **LCpl John Brennan** and **Sgt Andy Elliott** chose themselves. Our Forward Engineers got in on the act as usual and bolstered the numbers in the absence of several Troop members on leave and some actually at work.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SNCOs' DINNER NIGHT

Thursday 16 February saw a very good turnout of the Contingency Fund to dine out two members after each completing 22 years with the

WO1 (RSM) A. F. McBain presents SSgt Chris Biddlecombe with a canteen of cutlery—22 years service

Sgt John Blackman being presented with an Armani porcelain owl in recognition of 22 years service

Corps. Both **SSgt Chris Biddlecombe** and **Sgt John Blackman** had spent more than a normal tour of duty with the Regiment and both were leaving the service and settling in the local area.

SSgt Chris Biddlecombe had served almost exclusively with the airfield troops and had a very close liaison with the Royal Air Force in various parts of the world. **Chris** is now employed as a civilian on RAF Wildenrath and intends to keep in close contact with the Corps.

Sgt John Blackman completed his service at our 'Eifel Hideaway', RAF Detachment Roetgen, where he will be best remembered for his dedication to the barbecue stall at the Dog Trials and Five-a-Side Football competition, held with great success annually for the benefit of charity. He will also be remembered for his prowess in removing manhole covers and leaving his fingers behind. **John** is now employed in JHQ in STARRNET/SSVC.

We would like to wish both ex-members of the Corps every success in the future, not forgetting their families who gave them excellent support.

Finally, that evening also saw a belated farewell on posting and promotion to **WO2 (FofS) Bob Pullan. Bob** ran the Roetgen detachment for two years and made it a pleasure to visit, he is now posted to CPD Blandford but is actually detached to JHQ. We wish **Bob** and his family good fortune in the future.

RUGBY 7s

The annual Regimental Rugby 7s were held in March on the Station rugby pitch. Eight teams representing the Squadrons were split into two 'pools' to produce the eventual finalists. An extremely entertaining day, which often showed that knowing the rules cannot beat fitness, kept the spectators highly amused! The final was between 1 and 3 Sqns with the 'Airfield Troops' emerging victors in a rather one-sided game.

Cpl Paul (Punchy) Hanlon, 4 Sqn takes the ball cleanly from a ruck

Lt Col P. Whitemore presents the winning trophy to WO2 (SSM) J. Fairbairn 3 Sqn

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.

22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

THE COMMANDING OFFICER'S FAREWELL

The Regiment bade farewell to **Lt Col Jerry Barrett**, and his wife **Sue** on 22 February. At the parade held to mark their departure he was presented with a framed photograph of the Regiment at Battle Camp. He inspected the Regiment for the last time and presented **Sgt Bob Anderson** with Corps Colours for Nordic skiing.

He will be remembered for his active contribution to all aspects of Regimental life, not least of all, his strong support for our successful ski teams. His last year of command also saw the Regiment reach the BAOR rugby cup final.

We wish **Lt Col Barrett** every success with his new job in the MOD and send him and **Sue** our best wishes for the future.

WELCOME

22 Sig Regt welcomes **Lt Col Peter Innocent** as its new CO. He comes to us from Shrivenham where he was an instructor.

VISIT BY ACF CADETS

For 11 days in April India Tp of 3 Sqn was host to a party of ACF Cadets from Warwickshire and the West Midlands. After the usual preliminaries and administration it was straight off to the Regimental square for a short burst of drill with **SSgt Stevenson.**

Various activities were covered during the visit. A day on RR dets and FFR's resulting in a general gain in knowledge, but will it be remembered mostly for the plaintive cries of 'Help, I can't get down out of the cam net' as a small face would appear upside down under a cam net. A shooting competition on the 30m range was often halted as **Cpl 'Tank' Sherman** moved the smaller Cadets back onto the firing point after they had been pushed backwards by the recoil.

The visit to 1 QLR nearly resulted in a major reduction in the battalion's AFV's after the Cadets had 'examined' both the vehicles and their weapons. More than one Section Commander cringed as the barrel of his Scrimitar flew up and down with total disregard for the equipment.

The visit was judged a success by those most qualified to judge, the Cadets themselves!

ACF visit caption competition

SNCO COMPETITION

At 0600 hrs on Monday 20 March six teams made up of SNCOs from the five Squadrons assembled at the Mess ready to start the day's activities. This was supposed to be a log race. As it was the RSM's last competition before leaving the Regiment, we knew this was going to be totally unlike the last two, which were solely military. We were not disappointed. To the team's relief this first event turned out to be breakfast in the Mess before the two days' activities commenced.

After breakfast the teams moved down to the Mohnesee for the orienteering competition. **WO2 (SSM) John MacKay** and **Sgt Jim McLachlan** managed to complete the course with only one argument. This did not stop them producing the best result for the Squadron team.

The next event at the Mohnesee was the raft race. The raft which gained most points on design closely resembled an iceberg, having one third above water and two thirds below. Although it floated it wasn't designed to be paddled at speed.

The driving from **SSgt Skimming** and **Sgt McLachlan** during the treasure hunt produced times of 48 and 58 minutes. This compared with an average of well over an hour. **SSgt (FofS) Paul Cooper** and **WO2 (SSM) MacKay** have vowed never to act as their co-drivers again.

Day two started again with breakfast at 0600 hrs. Then began a series of fun events consisting of Field Admin (food tasting) in which **Sgt Mick Brown** showed how years of smoking can ruin your taste buds. Then came survival where, with our hands tied behind our backs, we had to eat a paprika covered doughnut. This was followed with other events such as 'find the enemy' (toy soldiers in a sand box) and apple bobbing which consisted of retrieving an apple from a bowl of semolina and then retrieving another from a bowl of rice crispies, running round an earth spike 10 times then sprinting 10 yards back to the start/finish line.

Between events competitors cycled. This was a disadvantage for the 'BMX kids' **SSgt Chris Barlow** and **Sgt 'Taff' Rideout** who had difficulty keeping up with the 'big boys' bikes!

ONE MAN'S VIEW OF WINTEX

Dear Diary,

Spring finds us once more swinging into the exercise season. Ex Wintex began with a short drive to the first location which was to become our home for the next two weeks!

A few busy days followed with all of the lads on the relay dets bringing in the usual assortment of shots.

SSgt Skimming commanded the node in the absence of **Lt Smith. Cpl Purves** enjoyed? his last exercise with the troop at the helm of our faithful Processor 012.

Many of our detachments were lightly manned, with the possible exception of **Sig Roy Heathcote's**. I managed to fill some of the quieter moments by building a 1/16 scale model of the Manhattan Skyline with compo boxes and sticky back plastic.

Having somehow mislaid this I then set about rendering the timeless beauty of Beckum concrete to paper! I was asked to make a drawing of our Troop OC, I forgot what he looks like. Come to think of it, I can't remember who asked me to do the drawing in the first place!

Enough banter, we have just been given endex so I will have to scrap my 1/32 scale model of the City of Westminster in compo boxes and washing-up liquid bottles!

THE ALPINE REPORT

The Corps Race Training Camp

After months of fitness training the joint Alpine teams of 22 Sig Regt and 3rd Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt got down to some serious skiing in Kaprun in Austria. Our main training areas were on the Kaprun glacier, the Kitsteinhorn. When the weather became too bad there we went lower to the slopes of nearby Zoll-am-See. The camp was a success in spite of the blizzards and poor visibility and prepared the teams for success at the Divisional Championships.

THE 3 ARMOURED DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIPS

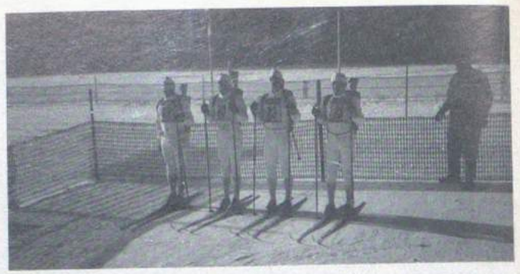
The weather was good, the snow was good, and Fulpmes is a very attractive Austrian village. 22 Sig Regt dominated the Alpine side of the Divisional Championships, but the competition was certainly not a walk-over. 17th/21st Lancers fought hard all the way.

The Regiment won the Giant Slalom team race. **Cpl Andy Brown** won the combined individual prize, **LCpl 'Geordie' Crawford** won the Individual Giant Slalom prize for the second year and the team won the Combined Team prize. The excellent work by the Nordic team then allowed the Regiment to pick up the overall skiing prize for the best skiing Regiment in the Division. In addition to these results, six men qualified to go on to the Army Championships, equalling the best performance ever by the Regiment. Unfortunately we had to leave behind two excellent novices **Cpl Tony Manktelow** and **Sig** (now LCpl) **Tomkinson.**

THE ARMY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Snow conditions were poor in Les Menuires in France, venue for the 1989 Army Alpine Championships. The French worked very hard to provide an excellent, if very icy, racing piste. Our team was totally unprepared for those conditions. The team started the competition badly but quickly adjusted to the different technique required and the extreme care required in ski preparation. The team came third, beaten by that 17th/21st Lancers team which came second at the Divisional meeting. We put in a solid performance, one of the best in the last three years. The final team was **Cpl Andy Brown, LCpl 'Geordie' Crawford, Cpl Colin Cunningham** and **LCpl Dean MacKenzie. 2Lt Nick Smith** won the Michael Pearce Trophy for the most promising new Corps skier. **Cpl Brown** and **LCpl Crawford** both qualified for the Army team and in the inter-services competition they helped the Army regain the Inter-Services Trophy.

They also competed in the British National Championships. **Cpl Brown** was 21st in the Slalom and **LCpl Crawford** was 34th in the Giant Slalom. At this rate of improvement they should be well worth watching next season.



The 3 Armd Div Patrol Race Winners
Left to Right: Lt Guy Ashton, Cpl 'Smudger' Smith, LCpl 'Taff' Jones and LCpl 'Quad' Harland

The Corps Alpine Race Camp with Brigitte in the middle

The Combined Teams—Alpine and Nordic, winners of 3 Armd Div Ski Championships at Fulpmes

22 SIGNAL REGIMENT NORDIC SKI TEAM

Report by Sgt Bob Anderson

The team headed by **Lt Guy Ashton** (Team Captain), **Cpl 'Smudger' Smith** (Team Beastmaster), and **Sgt Bob Anderson** (Team Sergeant Major), started in-barracks training on 1 November 1988. Training included long endurance runs, hill running and roller skiing. **LCpl 'Taff' Jones** and **Sig 'Cookie' Cook**, our two novices, spending a lot of roller ski time on their behinds. Afternoons were spent on the 30m range doing biathlon and patrol race training under the supervision of **WO1 (RSM) Johnson** (dead eye Dick). Also, full use of the gym and the local swimming pool kept us in good shape.

After preparing the skis, equipment and the two landrovers for the months ahead we were now ready and on 25 November 1988 we set off in search of mountains and snow to Nordseter, Norway and Ex Polar Triangle. We soon settled into our new home ('Ice Station Zebra' as it was to become known). On the second day we built a 50m range about 4km from the hut with the help of a local landowner and his track-cutting machine. We were able to do some good combination shooting practice and this we did every second day. The rest of the time was spent skiing steady distances and getting our snow fitness back. Ski training was intensive and even **LCpl 'Sy' Bartlett**'s technique of waking up every morning to the Rocky theme did not help on some of the worst/best hills—depending on whether you were going up or down!

Following several Biathlon and Cross-Country races, the final team was selected for the training in Ruhpolding in Bavaria and Ex Biting Triangle. **Cpl Smith** had several contacts in the Ruhpolding Biathlon centre and, with the help of **Herr Muller** of the Bundeswehr, we were able to get some top class biathlon training.

Whilst we were in Ruhpolding, the Royal Armoured Corps was holding its Nordic Ski Meeting and the Regiment was invited to compete in the 4 × 7.5km biathlon relay as an 'hors concours' team. Good runs by **Sgt Anderson** and **LCpl Harland** ensured first place for the Regiment.

We were now ready for the Divisional Championships at Fulpmes in Austria. The first race was the Junior and Novices 10km race, with **LCpl Jones** and **Sig Cook** gaining good results of fourteenth and sixteenth respectively. We had too light a team without **Cpl Carl Davies** (British Biathlon Team) for the 4 × 10km Relay, the 15km race and the 4 × 7.4km biathlon relay, but with great efforts by **LCpl 'Bopper' Bromiley** and **Lt 'Gap' Ashton** we achieved sixth place in all our three team events.

After the arrival of the CO, **Lt Col Barrett** and his wife, **Sue**, with the red Regimental ski jumpers, we were all in good spirits for the 30km Patrol Race we had been training for. Following good team preparation and ski waxing by **Sgt Anderson** and **LCpl Harland** the team was ready. As we arrived at the range after skiing 20km, with the same running time as 19 Field Regiment RA, we knew it was our race. Clearing down all fifteen targets with the SLRs and then skiing a very fast final 10km to the finish, the team was now Divisional Patrol Race Champions, some nine minutes ahead of the next team. This was the first time the Regiment had won since 1982.

Next morning, after the prize-giving, we set off to Zwiesel where the British Army and BAOR Ski Championship are held. At the Army Championships we were in search of the Princess Marina Cup. This prize is given after a combination of three downhill events and four nordic events.

With the 20km Biathlon race only one day before the 4 × 10km relay race we decided that only one member should take part. **LCpl 'Bopper' Bromiley**, in his first biathlon, came thirty-first out of a high class field; a very good result. The night before the 4 × 10km relay race, **Cpl Carl Davies** arrived from Bulgaria to join the team after competing in the World Cup. With his abilities and fitness this would greatly improve our strength. With good runs by all members of the team and **Cpl Davies** gaining eighth fastest time of the day, the team finished in fifth place.

Two days later, the 15km race started at temperatures of −11° with fast downhills on hard ice tracks it proved to be an exciting event and this time the team finished in fourth place.

After a days rest and some light combination training we were ready for the 4 × 7.5km Biathlon Relay. In this race you shoot every 2.5km, once prone and once standing, with eight rounds to hit five targets. It is a very exciting race with the lead changing throughout. A good first leg and clear shoot down by **Cpl Smith** put us in a useful position, and with **Cpl Davies** skiing the third fastest time of the day we were able to come fifth team again.

After three races and the good results from the downhillers, we were now in second place in the Marina Cup, but with only a one point lead over 1 Division RCT, we needed to beat them in the Patrol Race to come second overall.

The Patrol Race at the Army Championships is a gruelling 30km with a team shoot at 25km carrying an SLR and 10kg pack. After a good inspection, we skied the first 25km in 1 hr 39 mins. At the range we won two minutes off our running time for good shooting. It was then a final sprint/stagger for the last 5km to finish in a time of 2 hrs and 5 mins.

Now all we had to do was wait for 1 Division RCT to finish. As the times went up on the scoreboard we had come in fifth place ahead of them so making us the second Princess Marina team and winners of the Canadian Land Forces Trophy. Last year we came fourth so all our training and hard work had paid off.

Congratulations are due to **Cpl Carl Davies** who also won the 10km Biathlon Sprint to become National Champion at this event.

The team would also like to thank the ladies of the Wool Shop who brightened up the prize-givings with the excellent Regimental ski jerseys they made.

Finally, we would like to thank **Lt Col Barrett** and his wife **Sue** for all their support which helped to achieve the result of runners-up to the champion ski unit of the British Army—22 Sig Regt. We wish them both as much luck in the future as they have brought to us.

The Nordic Squad
Back Row (L to R): LCpl Johnson, Sgt Anderson and Sig Cook
Centre Row (L to R): Cpl Smith, Lt Ashton, LCpls Bromiley and Harland
Front Row (L to R): LCpls Bartlett, Barrowman and Jones

Sgt Bob Anderson is awarded Corps Colours for Nordic Skiing

THE TIMER'S STORY
by WO2 (YofS) Wood

It all started last November when the Ops Yeoman, **WO1 (YofS) Ken Graham** was casually approached by the CO and asked 'What do you know about skiing Yeoman?' 'Nothing at all Sir' came the honest reply whereupon the CO immediately came back with—'Good, you're just the man for the job'.

The job in question was to be the newly appointed Chief Timekeeper running a Timing and Calculation Team at the British National, Army and BAOR Nordic Ski Championships to be held in late January at Zwiesel in Bavaria. The main qualification for the task was an ADP trained individual with previous ski experience preferable but not essential. So chosen from a cast of thousands, **WO1 (YofS) Ken Graham** was our man.

The next step was to find two unsuspecting volunteers from the Regiment to complete the team. Two factors were important; those chosen should own 'moonboots' and be good with a heavy duty shovel. **LCpl Phil Eaton** and yours truly were picked for the job.

Now happy in the knowledge of who the team members were, it was a question of us all familiarising ourselves with the equipment to be used and to carry out some training. This was somewhat difficult as the only way to practise and gain experience is to attend and time an actual ski meeting. This opportunity presented itself in the shape of the 4 Division Quadrant Ski Club, which was keen to have electronic timing for the first time at its Nordic Division Ski Championships in Galtur, Austria in early January. So with their kind offer to join them, the necessary contacts and arrangements were made for us to arrive at their meeting in Austria (suckers).

With all our plannng, preparation and groundwork carried out we were ready to hit the road. Our transport was to be a 'post-war' Wavell-one Landrover kindly provided by RSSST who share our barracks in Lippstadt. The vehicle was an extremely strange shape with lots of modifications and for those of you who served on 432s and know about 'Panzer bites' this vehicle gave nasty Landrover bites especially to 6ft 2in **Jason Wood**. We started to load the necessary computers, timing equipment, personal kit and ourselves, and thought that even Hogg Robinson would have refused this task! However, all the kit had to be taken so, with a tight squeeze, we managed the loading and set off on the long trek to Austria.

Upon arriving at Galtur we got organised immediately by unloading our personal kit into the rather plush Post Hotel which was to be our accommodation for the duration. The hotel is ideally situated in the centre of Galtur with just a turn of a corner to reach the race office. This is where we now headed to unload the remainder of our equipment in preparation for the arrival and booking in of participating teams.

The first day proved to be a very long day as the creation of a data base for all competitors and a start list for the first race had to be produced. It soon became apparent that if 'form filling' is not done correctly and legibly, then unnecessary work and delays are incurred.

So late in the evening of the first day we returned to our hotel to crash out for a welcome sleep but woke early the next morning to what seemed like a comedy of errors. Firstly, there was no hot water (it doesn't get hot until late in the morning). Secondly, the lights in our room fused (Army torches saving the day). Thirdly, when reporting for breakfast we were told to go away and come back when normal people are awake!

Not disheartened however, we took it all in our stride and got ourselves organised in the field—so to speak—for the first race of the meeting.

The first race, along with all the other races, went very well. For this aspect we used an ALGE TDC 4000 for the electronic timing with **Jason Wood** working the start functions and **Phil Eaton** on the finish functions. The TDC results are then downloaded either electronically or in this case by manual interface onto a Kaypro computer operated by **Ken Graham** who then organised the results in the required format.

The daily routine remained the same throughout the meeting with the running of the race, the production of results and finally the composition of a start list for the next day's racing.

For us the meeting passed without incident or drama and it was to prove absolutely vital in gaining experience. Our hosts were very accommodating in providing every assistance to help us in our work, in particular the start/finish judge **Capt Sanderson.**

The meeting was of course not all work and we were able to relax in the evenings. A particularly nice occasion to which we were invited by **Maj Dalton**, was an evening of food and drink for the admin/official personnel in the famous Galtur Tyrol Stube which soon became our own local due to its excellent service and friendliness.

The weather was sunny every day and team members, competitors, officials and holiday makers all agreed that the meeting had been a great success.

The 22 Sig Regt Timing and Calculation Team—WO2 (YofS) Jason Wood, LCpl Phil Eaton and WO1 (YofS) Ken Graham

So with the knowledge and experience of a race meeting under our belts, (courtesy of 4 Division) we set off from Austria to Zwiesel in Bavaria for the 'big event'.

EXERCISE RUCKSACK

After our arrival and booking in at the Rathaus (the Rathaus having been commandeered as the race office) we set off to recce the race start and finish points. Again we were impressed with the organisation and the facilities available had all the hall marks of a well run affair.

The weather, which was cold but bright and sunny throughout the two weeks, was conducive to some excellent results from the competitors on the full international courses set by the Chief of Race and his team. In fact, the standard of skiing in Zwiesel was exceptionally high as instanced in the 15km National Race with only 15 minutes separating the first and two hundredth runner! It must be mentioned here however that immediately upon completion of each race the pressure was always on our team to produce the results in the required format in time for the daily bulletin. Fortunately every deadline that was given was met. This being achieved with some valuable assistance from the CO 22 Sig Regt, **Lt Col J. G. Barrett**, who managed a few deft changes of program on his BBC Master in his role as computer programmer.

A particular highlight at the event this year was that we were honoured by the presence of **His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent**, Patron of the Army Winter Sports Association who went to the Alpine meeting in Les Menuires and then came to Zwiesel where he presented the Princess Marina Trophy, the trophy given to the champion skiing unit of the British Army by his Royal Highness's mother, **The Princess Marina** in 1957.

For our newly formed timing team from 22 Sig Regt it had all been a novel experience doing a very difficult job and working alongside other cap badges and meeting highly motivated competitors. We all had a sense of achievement in having contributed in an official capacity to the British National Ski Championships.

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON
QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT

It was growing late in the afternoon when **Maj Bob Mills** sauntered into the office, looked straight at me and said 'Right, *Wire* notes'. 'Oh yes, when sir?' 'Tomorrow.' 'Great.'

So peering over the work in my 'In Tray' I set about thinking what had happened to our motley crew of tech storemen, clerk techs or stores accountants—whatever we are this week!

It was only then it dawned on me just exactly what we had been doing for the last month, apart from a week in the middle, we had been on exercise for the rest of it. This entailed manning the office for 24 hours, moving on to standby guard for 12 hours, then getting a day off—which really meant going home for an evening. This still didn't stop the saying 'Soft Option Echelon' which was being bandied around the field locations.

The boss **(Maj Bob Mills)** and I managed to get round most of the exercise locations where a fair number of customer relation enquires were made, and quantities of scones were eaten. Hopefully the little 'bits and bobs' that were missing at the time will now be provided.

Cpl 'Fergal' Dullaghan managed to get away from sunny Lippstadt for a number of weeks with a swan off to Sardinia, trekking, climbing, swimming and a lot of bar work. No doubt there will be a complete report somewhere.

WO2 Les Wood was another who slipped the net and went off on Snow Queen for about three of four weeks, but he quashed any resentment we might have felt by informing us he had put in a leave pass. Strangely when I filled out the pink slip the reply was 'No chance **Haynes**. We are undermanned as it is'.

The Troop would like to congratulate **WO2 Les Wood** on his impending posting to 37 Sig Regt (TA) as their RSM. Also we would like to congratulate **Sgt Glen McLaughlan** on coming off the Staff Sergeant's board, but as yet we don't know where he is going.

With the departure of **LCpl Pettit** to the UK with **Samantha** (to whom we all wish a speedy recovery), the Troop seems to shrink every day; even **Sig Brown** has volunteered for Iceland or somewhere so any volunteers out there for a rewarding job in the cellar, send CV's to **Cpl 'Spike' Haynes** c/o QM(T), 22 Sig Regt.

MT TROOP
PERSONALITIES

MTWO	**WO2 M. Barker**
MT SNCO	**Sgt P. Casson (RCT)**
MT Cpl	**Cpl K. Baxter**
MT Details	**LCpl A. Raby (RCT)**

The Troop would like to say a fond farewell to **Cpl Dale Denton** and his wife **Karen** and daughters **Michelle** and **Carly** on posting to 16 Sig Regt. Have a nice time in the (RCZ).

Cpl Mick Every and his wife **Sue** and sons **Duane, Darren** and **Daniel** and daughter **Stephanie** on posting to 34 Sig Regt (TA) for his last six months before departure to civilian life. Farewells go out to three of the single members of the Troop, **Sig Dave 'Geordie' Martin, Glyn 'Sponge' Scarr** and **Phil 'PJ' Taylor** all of whom are taking their chances against the rest of the world as civilians. All the best and good luck to all of you.

TM TROOP

1989 has started extremely well for M Troop. The busy exercise season has been interspersed with many successes. We were delighted to hear that the Regimental Foreman, **WO1 Steve Rogers** was selected for commissioning on the 1989 Royal Signals Arms selection board. He will be commissioned in June and when he assumes the appointment of TOT 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

The foreman also had another noteworthy success, Ex TOTs Traverse—an adventurous training exercise for TM Tp in the Sauerland. It is also time to say goodbye to a number of TM Tp stalwarts. **Sgt Phil Playford** and **Cpl Roy Malik** depart to earn their fortunes in civilian life. **Sgt Mick Webb**'s request for his last tour in the south of England has resulted in a posting to the ACE High network in Aberdeenshire! Finally we wish bon voyage to **Mr Rick Barham** the Cossor engineer who has been based in Lippstadt for the past three years. As anyone who has been associated with the UK/TGC 401 Cossor electronic teleprinter will confirm, **Rick** has been an extremely busy man. He has been a popular 'honorary' member of the Troop and will be sadly missed.

EXERCISE TOT'S TRAVERSE

What! close down TM Tp and go off for a week into the Sauerland? Good grief, the Regiment will collapse. Well we did and it didn't.

The original aim was to take the Troop skiing for the week, with wives and families joining for the weekend. A German Air Force Kaserne was available for the week, the dates were booked, the equipment was available, the operational PRI grant was bid for. The problem? No snow. Our hosts, 5/Fla Rak G.21 (a German anti-aircraft rocket Squadron), stationed at Oedingen in the Winterberg area came up with an alternate (ersatz) programme. This included visits to a silver mine, world bobsleigh championships, the Attahoehle Cave in Attendorn and the compulsory brewery trip. Our hosts also gave us the run of the camp, which included use of the sauna and kugelbahn (although not at the same time).

The problem was how to occupy the families at the weekend. After much soul searching an 'Orienteering by Car' competition was organised. This involved a course of approximately 70km and 20 questions which had to be answered in a set order. **Cpl 'Simmo' Simcock** thought it was a rally and completed it in just over an hour. The majority competed at a more leisurely pace, and the eventual winners were **Sgt Chris Pedrick** and his wife **Sylvia**. Special mention must go to **Babs Rogers** and **Roz Mackay** who did it their way.

Saturday evening was given over to a buffet party in the Unteroffizierheim with our hosts. A suitably inscribed silver Jimmy was presented to **Maj Matthias Nickel**, OC 5/Fla Rak G.21, on behalf of TM Tp and the Regiment by **WO1 (FofS) Steve Rogers**, who thanked **Maj Nickel** and the **RSM (Spiess) Herr Schnuettgen** for all their help and assistance.

28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) BFPO 35

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS
by Cpl Robertson

EXERCISE WINTEX/CIMEX 89

The Regiment deployed on the first major staff exercise in February/March. Regrettably not many deployed from the Headquarters. Our resident infantry advisors **Capt Andrew Trimble** and **Sgt Peter Street** were distressed after being informed that their expertise in paper-pushing would benefit the Headquarters more than their appearance in the field. Even the Chief Clerk, **WO2 Chris Martin** had extended his time in the Regiment in a bid to achieve at least one full exercise! **Sig Paul Mason**, recently arrived from the factory, enjoyed his first exercise so much that he refused to return to the barracks at the halfway point. The Operations crew enjoyed their usual feasts of drama and excitement whilst I deployed in my new role with HQ NSG.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are extended to **WO1 Pete Johnson** on his recent selection for commissioning, to **SSgt 'Milli' Jeffery** on her selection for promotion to Warrant Officer 2 and a posting to Edinburgh; I have been selected for promotion to Sergeant and a posting to 13 Sig Regt, via the Falklands!

1 SQUADRON NEWS
EXERCISE WINTEX 1989

The start of Wintex found the Regiment taking part in a 'round the camp packet rally', with vehicles having to complete each stage in a set time; thus people and packets were everywhere and nowhere. But needless to say, all was well in the end and we all departed at the correct times.

On arrival in location **WO2 (SSM) Les Jackson** and **Sgt 'Sevvy' Hartley** found that most of the floor of our location had mysteriously disappeared. But with a combination of scouse and down right shifty personalities, a new floor was soon found and the admin area promptly erected upon it to stop the owners claiming it back. On the comms side, down in the complex things were going well and most of the people who we wanted to talk to were in fact answering.

Stand-to on day two produced the usual happy smiling faces. One in particular was **Pte Trudy Sloan** who found that the new type of helmet proved to be quite effective as a water catchment area when left out in even a modest down-pour. Unfortunately she forgot to empty it before donning the helmet.

One of the most welcome activities was an afternoon out to the local swimming baths, and quite a few members of the Switch took full advantage of the facilities to be had there and had a very enjoyable time. On the other hand, a not so welcome activity was the battle PT, with even **WO2 (FofS) Tom Sharp** taking part, only to fall over two very prominent pipes later that day, resulting in his twisting his ankle so badly that he had to be put in plaster and use crutches. He then went round threatening people with leaving; needless to say everyone went out of their way to wait on him 'hand and (excuse the pun) foot' to make his stay a pleasant one.

Sgt 'I'll take 6' Head talking to Comd (BR) RCZ, Brig P. I. Palmer

Trade Skills—LCpl Ian Sanders passing on his wealth of experience to Sig 'I'm going Airborne' Ford. Today's lesson is the alphabet

Some of the moments on guard were 'enlightening', especially for **LCpl 'Titch' Broughton** and **Sig 'Smoking' Stirton** who, being what can only be described as a little chilly, decided to set fire to the guard hut. The SSM **Les Jackson** thought he would go and investigate what all the smoke was about, thus alleviating what could have turned out to be quite a heart warming experience for the guard.

Lt Wheatley Price had a number of watch-keepers-come-tea-persons this exercise, starting with **LCpl Anne Smith** and then on to **SSgt Hazel Smith**, to **WO2 Tom Sharp** and finally **2Lt Mawdsley**, obviously upgrading the appointment on the way.

Extra duties were flying willy-nilly hither and thither to such an extent that it was rumoured that Norris McWirter was on call to leave home and make his way to Switch Bravo for a possible Guinness Book of Records record attempt. The league was good and competition strong, but the winner, purely for receiving the most in one go, was **Sgt Geoff Head.**

The Switch has recently been installing a new intercom system, and one would expect voice procedure to go out of the window after a while, but the callsign syndrome is still alive and kicking. A little unorthodox maybe, but still there. Callsigns have indeed changed and here are a few to ponder on: DCO—Harold the Helicopter; Technon—The Fat Controller; TG—Edward; Audio—Gordon.

New arrivals to the Troop include the following: **Sgt Trevor Sparshott** accompanied by his family and **LCpl 'Dozz' Dorrington.** Welcome to the Squadron and we hope you enjoy your stay.

Departures include: **Pte Beams,** shortly to become **Mrs Dixon; Pte Spilsbury,** shortly to become **Mrs Swain; Sig Forbes** shortly to become **Mr Forbes.** We wish them good luck for the future and hope they don't miss the Army too much.

Three weeks into the exercise and the technicians (Cpl Andy Riglar and WO2 (FofS) Tom Sharp) are still clean

EXERCISE SNOW QUEEN
by Pte Julie Phillips

Boss	**Capt Nick Keen**
Admin Sgt	**Sgt Remo Williams ('Wipeout')**
Chief Instructor	**Cpl Paul Dickinson**
Langlauf Instructor	**LCpl Paul Bartliff ('Barty')**
Downhill Instructors	**LCpl Craig Crockart ('Jock')**
	Sig Dean Harris ('Harry')
Driver	**Sig Jerry Jerman**
Cook	**LCpl Ian Wright ('Lefty')**

Over the two weeks that we spent in Wertach at the end of February, a good time was had by all, although there were three days when we could not ski because of the weather. However, things for us to do were planned: we visited the ski jump in Obersdorf, went ice skating and swimming and also had an orienteering afternoon against 19 Fd Regt.

The days that we spent skiing were very enjoyable. We were split into three groups according to our standards, and stayed in these groups for the rest of the course, except for **Cpl Carol Stevens** who, when she lost her group one morning, decided to join another Regiment. The fact that the other Regiment had no girls in it did not really matter to her, and when someone eventually said to her 'You're not in our group' she just said 'No' and carried on skiing.

As we progressed with our skiing we were allowed to go up the T-Bar to the top of the mountain. This proved quite difficult, especially for **Pte Meg Heart** who for some reason could not manage to stay on long enough to get to the top. **Pte Helen Price** obviously likes the fast life, as she was named the Banzi Queen. Both she and **Pte Julie Phillips** were renowned for their laughter: if they could not be seen, they could at least be heard.

The only real problem that we faced were the snow moles: because of their outstanding camouflage they could not be seen and could pop up just in front of your skis, grab your ankle and throw you over. It was thought that a nest of them got hold of **Pte Suzy Lesley**, who broke her leg and was casevaced from the slopes to hospital.

The group that had **Sig 'Harry' Harris** as their instructor were taught how to fall over whilst doing a snow plough which he demonstrated expertly (unintentionally I might add). **Sgt Remo Williams** joined us on the slopes for a few days and, after this, was renamed 'Wipeout', due to the fact that if you saw him coming you either had to move out of the way rapidly, or end up in a heap on the floor.

The evenings were quite full as well. 19 Fd Regt invited us to a games night saying they would put on easy games, because our team was mostly girls; but nevertheless, we did win.

One evening we had a fancy dress party which brought out some good costumes, such as **Capt Jane Wintermeyer** who came as a ladybird and **LCpl 'Lefty' Wright** and **Sig 'Harry' Harris** who went as Batman and Robin. Other costumes included **2Lt Mawdsley** as Biggles and **LCpl Debbie Spicer, Cpls Elaine Wilson** and **Carol Stevens** as the Witches of Wertach. Overall, a good time was had by all.

TM TROOP NEWS
by Cpl Shaun Cook

OC	**Capt John Phillips**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Glen Pennington**
Dept Heads	**Sgt Tony Lucas**
	Sgt Glen Shipman
	Sgt Chris Gouldson
	Sgt Rich Conway

Over the last six months the Troop has been involved in various activities. Under the intrepid leadership of **Capt Phillips** we have conquered many a mountain in the Eiffel; 'They didn't look that big on the map, honestly!'.

Sgt Rich Conway, Cpls Shaun Cook, Lennie Holloway and **John Daveron** went on an exciting translation exercise into France (it was terrible, all that free time). The exercise itself went very smoothly, with no problems encountered. The translation equipment is available for most multi language conferences (plug plug).

Wintex came and went with no serious problems encountered. A small crisis did arise when the coffee ran out, but a quick replen soon solved it.

This year the Troop is planning to walk across Sardinia (well a part of it anyway), so hopefully the next report will be full of our adventures.

The Troop would like to welcome **Cpl Steve Parkinson** from NI, and **Cpl Gaz Hewings** and his wife **Lynne** from Cyprus.

Congratulations are extended to **Steve** and **Debbie Bostock** on another addition to their family.

The Troop Corporals would also like to extend their thanks to **Cpls Steve Bostock** and **Mick Cameron** for volunteering to do the Troop's duties for the next month and a half.

REGIMENTAL SOCCER

After a disappointing exit from the BAOR section of the Army Cup, the soccer team has gained some success in the RCZ Knockout Cup, against 16 Sig Regt. With continued interest in the North Rhine Inter Services Football League (NRISFL) Division 1 and in the NRISFL Knockout Cup our season is far from over.

The long trip to Berlin to meet 1 Kings in the Semi-Final of the Army Cup gained us new friendships with our administrative hosts 1 Black Watch who gave us every assistance and indeed an excellent warm up game against the Battalion side. Unfortunately all the preparation by **WO2 (SSM) Brian Parkhill** could not take into account the below form game of the team and despite at one time leading 1—0 we were finally beaten 2—1.

Two days' later the team was back in Krefeld with the bread and butter NRISFL Division 1 match, where we laid to rest the ghost of Berlin with a good win against Rheindahlen.

With a break for Ex Wintex 'interrupting' the season, we came back to face 38 Sqn RCT in the NRISFL Knockout Cup, Again we were successful with an emphatic 8—0 win and so came our first, and hopefully not last, final of the season, the RCZ Knockout Cup. On a very windy day it was pleasing to see two Corps Regiments produce a very entertaining game. **Sgt Steve McCourt** opened our scoring with a memorable goal, and with a further two very well taken goals from **Cpl Stegs Storey,** our captain for the day, **SSgt Mick McAvoy,** lifted the trophy for the Regiment.

The Regimental 2nd XI is one game away from the NRISFL Division 2 title. Unfortunately the league rules do not allow two teams from the same unit in the same league, therefore promotion is not a bonus. All this after a disastrous start to the season. Credit must go to all players but **WO2 (RQMS) Chas Greig** has been the force behind the revival.

Whilst it is difficult to single out individual efforts, with both teams producing so much entertaining football, it is perhaps fitting to end with some personalities. Already mentioned are our two 'attached' Corps players **Sgt Steve McCourt** (RAOC) and **SSgt Mick McAvoy** (RAPC). **Sgt Bob Breheney** has become a revelation at left back, whilst his counterpart at right back **Cpl Jackie McHale** departing shortly for Harrogate leaves a gap to be filled. With plenty of talent to choose from, we could be seeing other names on the team sheet, **Sig George Crawford** and **Cpl Andy Duncan** to name but two. Congratulations goes to our team captain **Sgt John Wayman,** who has been selected to represent the BAOR side. Success is relative but with these and players like them, perhaps the Regiment's honour is safe.

BAOR AND BERLIN (WS) INTER-UNIT NETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS 1989

The competition was held in Berlin over the weekend of 21/22 January. 16/28 Sig Regts were represented by two teams, A and B. After day one the 'A' team had successfully reached second place in their league, with the 'B' team fifth in theirs. By the play-offs, and with two matches remaining, the 'A's were set for second or third place, while the 'B's supplied the in-house humour throughout the competition.

The 'A' team came away with a final position of fourth place after a very exciting battle with Berlin and the 'B' team finished eleventh. The competition was superbly organised and controlled, and both teams had a very enjoyable weekend.

The Regiment's team members were: **Sgt Carol-Anne Storrar, Cpl Debbie Riglar** and **LCpl Terry Goodman** (A Team), and **Cpl Dee Jenkins** and **LCpl Jackie Cottage** (B Team).

30 Sig Regt
Blandford Camp

UNTAG SIGNAL SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj A. Harrison**
2IC	**Capt J. Dakin**
QM	**Capt W. Olive**
SSM	**WO2 G. Knight**
YofS	**SSgt C. Luckham**
FofS	**WO2 Morrison**
OC Comms Tp	**Lt P. Owens**
OC Outstations Tp	**Lt J. Cooper**

BACKGROUND

After many years of delicate negotiations, the United Nations is deploying a force to Namibia to monitor the transition to independence. 30 Sig Regt has been tasked to provide the communications for the United Nations Transitional Assistance Group (UNTAG).

Namibia is almost four times the size of UK. The country has a varied geography ranging from desert to mountain ranges, to bush plains. The climate also varies widely. Temperatures in mid summer can reach 40°C and ground frosts are not uncommon during the winter.

The UN deployment consists of three battalions, a logistics company and several military observer teams all co-ordinated by a Brigade sized HQ based at the capital Windhoek. The communication task is to link each of the major units with the HQ by teleprinter and voice. The problem is the distances involved, some links will have to cover distances of over 1,000km.

The Regiment responded by forming an UNTAG Sig Sqn on 5 December 1988. At that time it was thought that the deployment would begin on 20 December. However since the Regiment has been on standby for Namibia since 1978 we knew that delays may occur!

TRAINING

Once the Squadron had organised itself a training package was started with the help of 16 Fd Amb. It covered a wide range of aspects such as; weapon training and zeroing, first aid, health and hygiene, fitness and trade skills with particular attention being paid to training with the VRC 322. The deployment date soon started to slip and this gave the Squadron more time to plan, train and prepare.

Sig Paul Scaife doing some final practice on the kit just before joining the Advance Party to Namibia

Sgt Linck testing some of the SATCOM equipment prior to deploying to Namibia

VEHICLE PREPARATION

Running concurrently with the training package was the preparation of the vehicles. All that was known about Namibia was that it was a very harsh country with few good roads and a limited infrastructure, but a serious threat existed from mines in the northern half of the country. All the vehicles were checked for roadworthiness and to ensure they were technically sound. Half of them were then mineplated by the local district workshop and they were all then painted white.

Due to the nature of the task and the sheer size of Namibia VRC 322 radio fits were thought to be most appropriate. Therefore **Capt Bill Olive** and **Maj Bill Kent** began burning the midnight oil to try and obtain all the necessary items of equipment we needed. Once our vehicles had been returned to us our technicians installed the radios and tested all our equipment.

By mid February we still had no firm date for our deployment and our lengthy preparations were almost complete. A confirmatory exercise was quickly organised to test our newly acquired equipment and our operator skills. Detachments were spread out across Southern England, mirroring the proposed communication plan for Namibia. A visit by **Maj Gen J. F. W. Wilsey CBE** from UKLF and **Brig J. O. C. Alexander OBE** also kept us on our toes.

DEPLOYMENT

Generally the preparations had gone well even if a little chaotically. Disasters were frequent, changes in the plan were even more frequent but enthusiasm and morale remained high. Eventually the deployment details began to firm up and excitement mounted. Within a week 12 vehicles and approxiatemly 80 men deployed to Namibia by USAF C5 Galaxy aircraft. Two weeks later an American merchant ship MV *Lyra* left with our remaining vehicles. The remaining 90 men were preparing to fly out on 4 April.

The Advance Party flew out of Brize Norton in this USAF C-5 Galaxy—the second largest plane in the world

SOinC's VISIT

The SOinC visited the UNTAG Sig Sqn on 8 March. The CO, just back from a recce in Namibia, briefed **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB, MBE** on what the soldiers would be doing in Namibia, the training they had received, and what they could expect when they deployed.

Maj Gen Alexander then went on a 'walkabout' amongst the soldiers while they were doing the final packing of vehicles. He got into one of the mineplated Landrovers but, being tall, did not think it would be the most comfortable drive of his life!

The UNTAG soldiers and officers were very pleased that the SOinC had been able to find time in his busy schedule to come and see them. Everyone wishes him the best of luck on his retirement.

The SOinC visited the UNTAG Sqn on 8 March and spent an afternoon talking to the officers and soldiers about the deployment of Namibia

EXERCISE COLD WINTER 89

Ex Cold Winter 89 was the climax FTX for the 3 Cdo Bde Winter Deployment to Norway. The exercise was run in two phases, a sea move to northern Norway followed by an amphibious landing and field exercise.

After working for two months near Lillehammer in southern Norway, 30 Sig Regt detachment, led by **Capt Peter Smith**, drove to the port of Andalsnes on the west coast of Norway. Unfortunately, they lost a number of personnel who were recalled to deploy with the UN Force in Namibia, in particular **Sgt Charlie George**.

The detachment spent seven days on board a civilian ship the *Norrona*, as a part of the UK/NL Landing Force. Sea conditions at the start of the voyage were particularly choppy resulting in a large number of extremely green faces. Morale was kept high by the zany antics of the detachment EDs, namely **LCpl** 'Arctic Pussycat' **Johnson** and **Sig** 'Muppet' **Lennox**. Later on, the seas become more tranquil and the only excitement on board was provided by the card school with its card sharks, **Cpl Les Waite, Sig Vince Newton** and **Nick Steen. Cpl Veg Tyler** suffered badly from bed sores during the voyage.

The detachment went ashore on mexe-floats late on D-Day. Conditions ashore were not too severe, the spring thaw appeared to have started. The communication site was established in an extremely bleak, windswept location adjacent to a rocky beach. Communications were established and the detachment moved into a steady routine. The wind roared around the masts and sleet lashed through the white camnets whilst **LCpl Nige Weir** slept soundly in his maggot. Snow conditions were likened unto white sorbet consequently all skis were left bundled in the admin waggon. Some detachment personnel asked if Wellington boots could be issued!

Endex brought about the start of the recovery to UK after 11 weeks in Norway.

A long wait in Tromso with RAF rumour control in full control, finally ended with a noisy but welcome flight in a Hercules to the 'Green and Pleasant land'. Fortunately the recovery was timed perfectly for the Regimental mandatory test week.

The whole Winter Deployment 89 was a great success—a highly motivated team of men given the opportunity for hard military training, technical training and recreational skiing.

'Waiting to cross the beaches'
(Left to Right): Cpls Tyler, Clarke-Brown, Sig Westcott, Cpl Waite and LCpl Porter

'High speed line laying'
(Left to Right): Sig Westcott and Thomas

'Wizard Prang!'
(Left to Right): Sigs Pollitt, Thomas, Cpl Cleavin, Sig Newton, Cpl Hutchings, Sig Westcott, Dennison, LCpl Weir and Sig Anonymous!

EXERCISE DIAMOND TRIAD

Ex Diamond Triad was 3 Sqn's one major foray overseas (apart from Denmark) that is occurring this year. The aim was to provide a secure speech link for the Allied Staff Berlin (AFB) in simulation of the telephone lines they would otherwise use.

So on a wet and misty February morning some of the last remnants of a working Bruin Unit trundled out of camp heading, ever optimistically, eastwards, whilst those that couldn't be crammed onto a vehicle gathered under the control of that trusty old war horse **WO2 (SSM) Chris Edler**. The SSM had gamely volunteered to stand in as YofS in Berlin, when the original YofS deserted the sinking ship for Namibia.

Once in Berlin the Troops had a gradual built-up to the exercise. This gave **Cpl Simon Gifford, LCpls Dave McLeary, Silas Dewhurst** and **Sig Kevin Cousins** plenty of time to do their rather unusual linelays across the top of Templhof Central Airport and around the corridors at the US Battle Simulation Centre (BSC). Meanwile **SSgt (FofS) Lee** 'worth his weight in gold' **Wookey** went into organisational overdrive and busied himself sticking his fingers into all the pies. Down at BSC **Sgt Martin Lockyer** and **Cpl Morris Fisher** set about organising their end of the operation whilst the SSM did his upmost to justify his existence by heading the Anglo-American social evenings and Bring and Buy Sales.

The exercise itself passed off without a hitch and the Squadron came away with well deserved laurels and thanks.

The remainder of the time was spent in ardent pursuit of R & R and Berlin was fully explored. A tour of the East was kindly organised by Berlin Sig Regt and a wide variety of dubiously useful mementos were purchased.

The Squadron was challenged by Berlin Sig Regt to a game of football which resulted in a very close match. **SSgt (FofS) Lee Wookey** showed that he knows as much about football as about nuclear fission, **Sig Dave Dorking** displayed more activity in 90 minutes than he had done in the rest of the year, **LCpl Simon Meadowcroft** proved he really couldn't hit a barn door at 2m let alone find an open goal, and **Sgt Carl Robinson** produced a standard of goalkeeping that would do any Scottish keeper proud. However, the master plan was implemented with 20 minutes to go when **Cpl Brian Ingleby** (our only scorer) was substituted for **Lt Paul Graham**, this dramatically altered the game and enabled the gap to be narrowed to a mere seven goals. The final score of 8—1 reflected fairly the quality of play by both sides.

The journey home presented only one major hiccup when **Cpl Collins** and **LCpl Silas Dewhurst** lost a wheel off the generator they were towing and watched it veer off into an East German checkpoint.

The exercise was a highly enjoyable and worthwhile occasion, with Berlin Sig Regt and **Maj Jim Ross** of the ASB both doing their best to make our stay in Berlin rewarding and fun. Our thanks go to them.

EXERCISE CORNISH CRUSADE

Ex Cornish Crusade was a 3 Sqn adventure training exercise held in, you've guessed it, Cornwall. It entailed a four day hike along the Cornish Coastal Path.

The exercise began on Comic Relief Day, and to look at some of the bergens, you could be forgiven for assuming that we were on a charity event.

The OC, **Capt Graham Lewis-Taylor** who had planned the route, had been praying all week, prior to the exercise, for the worst weather the heavens could throw at us, as **WO2 (SSM) Chris Edler** and **SSgt (FofS) Lee Wookey** had decided to take a more military approach and make their own bashas rather than carry the Vango force 10 tents. Thankfully the worst of the weather arrived at the end of the last day just outside Fort Bovisand, Plymouth when only the OC's party was still walking. This was almost the last straw for **Cpl Gaz Milner** on the last exercise of his Army career, he had had more than one humour failure during the week, as he and the rest of the OC's party had never once deviated from the Coastal Path. Unlike the SSMs and **Lt Paul Graham**'s parties who had taken a few scenic and less undulating short cuts.

Everyone on the hike enjoyed themselves, even though there were some sore feet at the end. The next expedition is a caving and windsurfing camp so put in your preference posting now!

ORIENTEERING REPORT

by WO1 (FofS) Thompson (M35+, B Course apprentice)

The Regimental team and several runners in particular have had some very good results this season. In general participation has been excellent with as many as 25 runners at a local event, and even at the most remote of venues we have managed to send a team of at least three runners (Merthyr Mawr on the Welsh coast between Cardiff and Swansea is not the nicest place on a cold day in January!). The Regiment has organised two league events, both of them orchestrated by **Sgt Carl Robinson**, and at least four training events have been run on sports afternoon basis, this must augur well for the future of the sport in the unit.

The highlight of the year was without doubt the Corps Championships where 11 runners from the Regiment came home with a total of 12 prizes. We did not manage to retain the major unit title as in the previous two years, but gave the School of Signals a good run for their money with **Sgt Carl Robinson** taking the second place prize in the individual event. Not only did our first team score but our other five runners plus one guest scooped the pool in the Guest Teams category taking first and second places!

Despite the loss to the Regiment of several Army class runners it is encouraging to see more novices pick up the sport and regularly turn out, even at weekends and in their own time. One of those who could never be described as a whippet, is **Cpl Jake Cave** who when nominated on orders to run for the Regiment was heard to say it was the first time in his career he had represented any unit at anything other than drinking. He is now to be seen galloping through the woods dressed for the part at every possible event lacking only a nightlight in order to be fully equipped. (Hope you are reading this Santa!)

More recently, due to Regimental commitments in sunnier parts, a scratch team which included the Adjutant, **Capt Mark Perry**, achieved third place in the District Finals and thus are due to appear at Sennybridge later this month in the UKLF finals. The most optimistic among us do not expect to win anything, however, **Cpl Setch Setchfield** won the second place M19 prize on his first run ever at the District Finals so you never know.

Finally after my first season as team organiser I would like to thank all those people in the Regiment who have done their best to transport us, feed us, pay for us to run or released runners from duties. We hope we can continue to improve and hopefully recapture the Corps major unit title.

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V)
Glasgow

FOCUS ON 52 SQUADRON

PERSONALITIES

52 SQUADRON

OC	**Capt David Harvey**
2IC	**Capt Fiona Farquharson**
PSAO	**Capt 'Nick' Nicholas**
TAOR RP	**2Lt Roddy Sutherland**
Bde and Conrad Pts	**2Lt Pauline D'Arcy**
Mould Pt	**2Lt Derek Timothy**
SSM	**WO2 Derek Bowstead**
PSI	**SSgt John Lamb**

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

OC	**Maj Ann Sweeney**
Paymaster	**Maj Tim Straton TD RAPC (V)**
Doctor	**Maj Jack Mulhearn RAMC (V)**
Padre	**Maj John Silcox**
TOT	**Capt Dave Watt**
QM(V)	**Capt Chris McEwan**
OC LAD	**Capt Willie Cunningham REME (V)**
OC RRTT	**Capt Jim Sims**
NRPS/AO	**WO1 Ron Hamilton**
SSM	**WO2 John McCall**

CHANGE OF PERSONNEL

A re-organisation of personnel has recently taken place in the Glasgow location. **Maj Allan Lapsley** has become Regimental 2IC and **Capt David Harvey** has taken over command of 52 Sqn with **Capt Fiona Farquharson** as his 2IC. **Maj Ann Sweeney** has taken over command of HQ Sqn and **Capt Brian Gilfeather** has become Regimental Operations Officer. **Capt Chris McEwan** has recently joined us as QM (V).

Admin area on Ex Bonnie Dundee locked into the job
Front: Sgts 'Shugie' McLean, Raymond Wylie
Back: SQMS 'Tam' Padden, Sgt Jackie Dollan

EXERCISE BONNIE DUNDEE

As part of annual camp, the Squadrons took part in Ex Bonnie Dundee, 52 Sqn providing the communications and HQ Sqn the necessary admin. The Admin Area at 52 Bde was a sight to behold. Great praise was bestowed on the Admin Staff by the Bde Comd for the professional and imaginative way of providing 'extremely good food'. This was due to the expertise of **Capt Nick Nicholas, SQMS Tam Padden** and **Sgt Jackie Dollan**.

ADVENTURE TRAINING

HQ/52 Sqns began the year traditionally by having their annual skiing weekend at Aviemore. Only one problem hampered the weekend—there was no snow! Undeterred, the Squadrons took to the hills above Aviemore and walked to the mouth of the Lairig Ghru. The weekend activities included abseiling, swimming and ice skating. In spite of the 'lack of snow', we had a successful and enjoyable 'winter adventure training weekend'.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Sgt Bill McIntyre** and his wife **Moira** on the birth of their first child, a boy. Congratulations also to **LCpl Gale Cochrane** and **Gary Steen** on their recent marriage. **LCpl Cochrane** is an RTg in 52 Sqn and **Gary** in a civilian Admin Officer in RHQ.

Belated wedding congratulations also to **Sgt Chic Doyle ACC** and **Pte Yvonne Newlands**. Guess who'll be doing the cooking in their house?

DINING OUT

At long last we found a date that suited everyone and managed to dine out **Maj Liz Campbell**—a one time OC HQ Sqn, and **Capt Phil Stuart**, the previous OC LAD. A number of 'old and bold' were present—old times were recalled and many stories were told. A good evening was had by all.

During the first weekend in April HQ Sqn organised Ex Night Ramble this was an exercise for combat drivers to gain experience in reading route cards and maps. The art of camouflage and concealment was also covered. Starting in Glasgow, the route covered more than 500 miles, embracing most of the central belt of Scotland. The particular success of the exercise was the night drive in Minard Forest which the drivers found very good training.

Great excitment was engendered late on Saturday night when the earth trembled, walls shook, lights flickered, teeth rattled (even in their cups), knees knocked. What was this noise? Was James Bond arriving by helicopter? Was it a tank? A Pneumatic Drill? The brave crept stealthily towards the epicentre of the noise and there snuggled up like a babe and snoring fit to waken the dead was the culprit—**Sig 'Jim' Devine**. Devine in name he may be—his snore is certainly not heavenly!

Those taking part in the weekend were **Sgt John Taylor, LCpls Richard Christison, Raymond Cossar, Sig Jim** (I don't snore) **Devine, Errol Over** and **Tam McHendry**.

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

REGIMENTAL RECEPTION

The Regiment held its Annual Reception on Saturday 11 March, the venue this year being 59 Sig Sqn TA Centre in Edge Lane, Liverpool.

A great deal of preparatory work took place which was undertaken by members of 59 Sqn, led by the PSAO, **Capt R. C. Meyer** ably supported by **SSgt (SQMS) Alan Proudlove, SSgt Chris Deary, Sgt Vince Wilby** and civilian storeman **Mr Dave Downey**.

It was achieved by transforming a rather spartan Drill Hall into a pleasing setting for the occasion. The centrepiece of the hall was a floodlit display of Corps Drums, loaned from the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate supported by a painting depicting the Freedom of Knowsley Parade, held in August 1988, which had been commissioned and put on show for the first time.

The guests, received by the CO, **Lt Col David Gardiner** and his wife **Sarah**, and the Honorary Colonel, **Col Jim Greenhill TD** and his wife **Elizabeth**, included the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, **Sir Kenneth Stoddart** and **Lady Stoddart**, the Chief Constable of Merseyside, **Sir Kenneth Oxford** and **Lady Oxford, Brig Conrad Garton**, Comd 11 Sig Bde (V) and **Mrs Garton, Col Peter Mather TD**, Deputy Comd, 11 Sig Bde (V) and **Mr Graham Stow**, Managing Director, ASDA Group.

The occasion proved a great success, assisted by the excellent canapes produced by Master Chef **WO2 Ron Gawthorne** and his team of cooks, and special thanks must go to **Capt Ron Meyer** and his team for ensuring that everything went so smoothly.

The Bde Comd and Mrs Garton being met by the CO and introduced to the Hon Col and his wife Elizabeth during the Spring Reception

TA OFFICER PROMOTION EXAMS

This year was the turn of HQ 11 Sig Bde (V) to host the TA Officer Promotion Exams.

The venue was Kinmel Park Training Area, North Wales between 7-9 April. This area had not previously been used for such an event, but, with the main camp being used for administration subjects and a wooded area close by the tactics, it was more than ideal and the whole weekend was a success.

Manpower cover was split between HQ Sqn (Liverpool), spearheaded by the QM, **Maj Bob Fortune** and **WO1 (RQMS) 'Huggy' Huggins**, with support from the clerks, cooks and 80 Sig Sqn (Chester) who supplied additional clerks, guards, stewards and HF operators under the supervision of **SSgt (SQMS) Len Curtis** and **SSgt John Watson**.

The Regiment was also well represented by officer candidates who were: **Capts Roger Bracey** and **Mike Jones** (80 Sqn), **Lts Micah Cummings** and **Lynn Greig** (42 Sqn) Manchester, **Lt Cathy McGrath** (59 Sqn) Liverpool and **Lts Steve Watson** and **Andy Payne** (80 Sqn) Chester.

Hot from the press is the good news that all but one had passed the exam and **Lt Andy Payne** gained the Best Student Award. Well done everyone.

The 'A' Team from HQ and 80 Sqn taking a break during the TA Officer Promotion Exam

34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

HELLO AND GOODBYE

During the last few months the Regiment has seen a high turnover in senior personnel who due to retirement etc have had to say goodbye to the Regiment. We all would like to give our fondest wishes for the future to **Lt Col Benny Newell, Majs Phillip Walker, Jim Smiles** and the **Rev Phillip Rushton, Capt Geoff Thirlwall** and **2Lt Alison McNab** and wish them all good luck in their endeavours.

90 Sig Sqn also bade 'goodbye' to **SSgt** (NRPS) **Ray Georgeson** who now moves to 'civvy street' at last.

The LAD has said farewell to **Maj Jim Storey** and **SSgt Pete Sherburn** (congratulations on your promotion) and welcomed **Capt Iain Grime** and **SSgt Dave Jones.**

FAREWELL

50 Sig Sqn bade a fond farewell to **Maj David Bodycombe** who has now moved to become the new Regimental 2IC.

The Squadron welcomes **Maj Peter Woodhead** back after his tenure as Operations Officer.

TRAINING WITH 50 SIGNAL SQUADRON DARLINGTON

March found us training in the Lake District. Who picked this time of year to go map reading? It's cold, dark and wet at 0530 hrs. The cooks, **Sgt Meaney** and **LCpl Hustwick** were hard at it over the frying pan. Burnt bacon grill is hard to swallow but we managed, then off we went to the hills.

The first four miles was easy going in the four ton Bedford. It was when we stopped and looked at the maps and the route we were to take that my heart missed a beat. An 11 mile round trip and a climb of 3,000ft straight up was not my idea of a nice stroll. Four hours later we were half way up and stopped for lunch, but not for long as it was blowing a gale and the canned drink had frozen to my hand. It was very cold at 3,000ft, still the pub was only six hours and 6,000 miles away.

Just after the halfway point **Sgt Tinkler** and party found out that **LCpl Hemblade** was an expert in guerilla warfare and they were bombarded with snowballs. Back in Ambleside everyone was tired, footsore and conversation in the minibus back to camp was limited to grunts and snores.

That evening however, people had perked up enough to manage a pint or two in the local hostelry. After a few hours socialising with the local Hooray Henries we headed back to the sound of Wild Rover ringing in our ears.

A tentative start fuelled by bacon and eggs, cooked over an open fire and we were ready to tackle the day's events at Cathedral Cave, led by **Capt Lambton**. After staggering through the deep black tunnel the light at the end offered some hope to those behind, but we were stunned by the sight of the drop of 120ft of sheer slate below us. **Cpl Cooke** proceeded to dangle each of us by a rope down this 120ft sheet slab of slate much to the trepidation of **Sig Dent** posing half way down.

We left the local mountain rescue in a daze at our agility and daring as we did our last abseil, packed up and headed into the blizzards on our way home. Written by **Brooklyn, Dodds, Grant** and **Stewart.**

BAND

On 31 March the Band of 34(N) Sig Regt (V) sadly had to say farewell to five very senior and long serving members, Bandmaster **WO1 Derek Farrington, WO2 Brian Scarlett, Sgts Colin Moscrop, Norman Charlton** and **Cpl David Jackson** who, after collective service of 104 years with the Band, have now retired.

A farewell social was held at Darlington on 18 March when all five were presented with a framed music banner and a small gift in appreciation of their long service and dedication to our Band. The presentations were made by the CO, **Lt Col M. J. Macklin**, and the evening was attended by both the present and past Honorary Colonels of the Regiment, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE** and **Col R. M. Stewart OBE, TD, DL.**

The Regiment and all members of the Band would like to wish all five a very healthy and happy retirement and a very sincere thank you to them for their dedicated service to the Band.

We extend a welcome to our new Bandmaster, **WO1 John Dodd**, who took over command on 1 April. **John** was formerly the Bandmaster of 3 RRF before retiring from regular service in 1985.

The Band calendar is heavy with engagements and the members are particularly looking forward to accompanying the Regiment to BAOR for two weeks in September where a little 'Ompah' may be the order of the day.

Lt Col Macklin CO presenting WO1 (Bandmaster) Derek Farrington with a framed music banner as part of a retirement gift from all Band members

CONGRATULATORY

The Regiment would like to offer its congratulations to **Lt John Alexander** and **2Lt Clive Chisholm** on their recent commissioning into the TA. Congratulations also to all our new officer cadets who have been successful on the recent District Assessment Boards. Keep up the good work.

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

58 SIGNAL SQUADRON
EXERCISE SNOWCASTLE

One of the Squadron's aims has been to raise the money for a Doppler Echo Cardiology Machine for the City General Hospital in Newcastle under Lyme. The machine enables a heart x-ray to be taken and saves valuable diagnostic time. **SSgt Tony Whalley** organised a relay race from the top of Mount Snowdon back to Newcastle under Lyme, a distance of 120 miles! The first day (down Mount Snowdon) saw 58 Sqn establish a narrow lead, however the following day Signal Radio (the local radio station) established a five minute lead. This was soon broken down by a series of five minute miles from **Pte Lisa Harper, Sgt Gary Owen, Jock Nibloe** and **Michael Carr**, which saw 58 Sqn establishing a ten minute lead. The result was a win for 58 Sqn and £1,000 towards the heart machine.

EXERCISE COLD FRONTIER

The start of the new year saw Squadron members burning off the Christmas Pud with an infantry exercise. The aim was for two opposing forces (namely the two Squadron Troops—Romeo and Sierra) to recce and attack each others positions. Controlled from a UN post comprising of **SSgt Tony Whalley, WO2 Bill Lambert** and a local cadet unit the exercise saw the two forces attacking each other until eventually the number of captured outweighed those left. At this stage the two armies regrouped and attacked the UN post. The verdict—a draw!

SQUADRON TRAINING

Squadron training has concentrated in the last few months on military skills. The PSI hid an SLR magazine in a car and demonstrated how to search vehicles. The only problem was that no one could find it! Since then cars are often seen queuing to get into the Centre whilst they are searched one by one. Western District Training Team has also been a frequent visitor to the Squadron and our thanks go to them for the interesting lectures they have given on AFV recognition, NBC and first aid.

Ex Dry Run/Paper Chase gave some members of the Squadron the chance to meet with other members of the Brigade and the new Brigadier. For many of the DTgs this exercise gave them the chance to practise the skills they learnt at Harrogate on the DTg training weekend organised by the YofS, **SSgt Chris Aslett.**

GOODBYES, WELCOME, CONGRATULATIONS

Finally goodbyes and good luck to ex PSI **SSgt Russell Marnoch,** welcome (or is it goodbye) to **Sgt Brian Leech** and congratulations to **SSgt Karen Baugh** and **Sgt Bill McQuire** on their promotion and **OCdt Paul Roden** who received the Staffordshire Police's Certificate of Commendation following a citizens arrest at a break-in.

37 Sig Regt (V)
Bristol

The Regiment is extremely sad to say farewell to our 2IC—**Lt Col Norman Harvey** but delighted on the announcement of his promotion and appointment as SO1 Comms HDTA at HQ 2 Sig Bde. He originally joined 43 Sig Regt (V) which later became our 43 Sig Sqn (V) in the 1967 re-organisation. This means he has had continuous service with the Regiment for over 26 years rising from the rank of Signalman to Lieutenant Colonel—a notable achievement. Not to be outdone in his other role as a first class PMC of the Officers Mess he achieved the unusual goal of organising his own dining out. At this Regimental dinner night we also dined out **Maj Ken Goulding** and former PSAO of 43 Sig Sqn (V)—**Capt Norman Salmon**. We wish them well and best wishes for the future.

Maj Ian Thomson has taken over as 2IC and has been appointed CO designate to succeed **Lt Col Jonathan Cox** as the next CO. Rumour control has reported **Maj Thomson** is undergoing extensive secret training in the correct use of the walking stick in field conditions, orienteering and the stamina needed for long periods sitting in a staff car. It is now reported following the appointment of **Capt Richard 'Busby' Harris** is the position of Regiment Operations Officer he is also allowed to leave RCP on exercise after the hours of darkness.

Lt Col Norman Harvey TD receiving his farewell presentation from the Hon Col Maj Gen Alan Yeoman. Comd 2 Sig Bde Brig J. O. C. Alexander and CO 37 Sig Regt (V) Lt Col J. D. Cox look on

67 (QOWWY) SIGNAL SQUADRON (VOLUNTEERS)

A team from the Squadron consisting of **SSgt (PSI) Pete Charles, Cpl 'Freddie' Hughes WRAC, Sig Ian Sewell, Victor Jonins, Toni Bevan** and **Pte Lucy Penington** joined 700 others in the annual nine mile road race around Stratford-Upon-Avon. Other members of the Squadron provided communications at the check points and verbal encouragement on the way round picturesque and hilly areas near Stratford-Upon-Avon. First two home were **Sig Ian Sewell**, a keen competitor representing the Squadron and Regiment at cross country and **SSgt Pete Charles**. All members had completed the course and reached home within 88 minutes.

The Squadron also took part in the West Wales District (TA) Orienteering Championship. Those who competed acquitted themselves well and some trophies were won. The WRAC team of **Cpl 'Freddie' Hughes, LCpl Helen Darby, Ptes Lesley Payton** and **Jacqueline Pearsall** lifted the team trophy with a total time of 112 minutes. In the process of doing this, **Pte Lesley Payton** became the individual WRAC Champion on this her first ever attempt at the sport. The male teams finished third and fourth which were good performances on tricky courses over hilly terrain.

The CO, **Lt Col Jonathan Cox**, entered as an individual guest on the 'A' course looking for a taxing run. He tried hard to beat **Sgt Jo Krikorian** but did not quite make it.

Squadron training has also continued through the winter on military and trade skills. Preparation and practices have taken place over various weekends for forthcoming exercises and Regimental/District competitions. **Officer Cadet Robert Cameron** and **Sig Kevin Holman** are shown practising with the LMG in preparation for the defence of the Volongdis Trophy won by the Regiment at Bisley in 1988.

Sig 'The basin' Sewell putting on a brave smile whilst looking at how far he has to run

WRAC Champions! *Left to Right*: LCpl Helen Darby, Ptes Lesley Payton and Jacqueline Pearsall

Photo by A. M. Smart

Sig Kevin Holman takes aim supported by OCdt Robert Cameron during LMG practice

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

RHQ NEWS . . .

Many changes in the 'management' have taken place recently. the CO **Lt Col Steve Coltman** is busy packing prior to moving South to take up his new post in the Ministry of Defence, (but still managing to push out reams of paper in the guise of 'PAMPAS statistics'! Our best wishes go with him and **Mrs Coltman** for a happy and successful tour in his new appointment. We welcome **Lt Col Paul Acda TD** who assumes command of the Regiment on 27 May. Our Training Major, **Maj David Podevin** has recently left us to take up a new and challenging career in civilian life—luckily he has settled in the Sheffield area and so we intend to keep in touch. He is replaced by **Maj Bob Etherton**, newly arrived from the Army Apprentices College Harrogate—we feel sure he will enjoy his tour with us. We also bid farewell to **WO1 (RSM) Don McLennan BEM** who has been selected for an LSL post. (Is the little 'Jock' with a kilt still hanging from the Junior ranks club chandelier I wonder?). Thank you for all you did for the Regiment whilst you were with us. Welcome to **WO1 Phil Budden** who has just returned to UK from the land of duty free . . . have you seen his tax free car! Welcome also to the Adjt, **Capt Ray Duffy** who has been with the Regiment for a year but has not had a mention since his arrival. Special congratulations must be extended to **SSgt Scott BEM** on his well deserved award of the British Empire Medal. It was a very popular award—well done **Staff**. Now for news from the front . . .

Brig Garton presenting SSgt Scott with his BEM

46 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) DERBY . . .
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj David Etherton**
2IC	**Capt Mike Petty**
AO	**Capt Cliff Webb**
OC 54 Bde Tp	**Capt Peter Mitchell**
OC 903 Tp	**Lt Vanda Leary**
OC Leicester Det	**Lt Ann Stenning**
OC Recruiting	**Capt Sally Reading**

46 Sqn welcomes **Capt Mike Petty** from 87 Sig Sqn (V) who has just assumed the post of Squadron 2IC and to **Capt Peter Mitchell** from 87 Sig Sqn (V) and **Lt Ann Stenning** from 71 Sig Regt (V). The Squadron has recently said farewell to **Capt David Rigley** who left to take up the appointment of 2IC of 87 Sig Sqn, our best wishes go with him.

During the Regimental Ex Bellows Blast the Squadron's recruits spent their first weekend carrying out military training. There was plenty of time left to practise volleyball in the gym however!

NEWS FROM 87 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) —NOTTINGHAM . . .

The past few months have seen an increasingly full MT Park at Triumph Road, as our SQMS—**SSgt John Wade** has taken on strength our new 110 landrovers and our brand new radio trailers! At last our ageing D11 sets have been pensioned off, and with them our role as Gateway Sqn.

Gone are the old familiar troop names—RX Tp, TX Tp, Power and Line Tp. In come a host of new acronyms and abbreviations, and a new modern look to our unit role.

The big change has resulted in a very busy period for the Squadron as we learn to use our new equipment and practice our new role. Our SPSI, **SSgt Paul Skinner** with his support team of **Sgts Peter Cooper, Chrissy Bull** and **Cpl Julie Marvin** have been in the front line, facing the massive task of writing new (flexi) training programmes.

Annual Camp gave us our first opportunity to get 'hands on' experience. Most of the Squadron headed for the South Coast and Tregantle Fort where the training and the beach parties were all good preparation for a blustery and wet second week at Prince William of Gloucester Barracks at Grantham. Meanwhile, **2Lt David Tomlinson** took the remainder of the Squadron to support the Northern half of the Regiment at Halton Camp and other locations 'somewhere in Northern England'.

The past few months have seen a big change in Squadron Officers, besides the loss of **Capts Mike Petty** and **Peter Mitchell** we have gained **Capt David Rigley** who is now our new 2IC. Welcome also to **Capt Rik Ludlow** and **Lt Dee Allen** who have recently joined us. We hope you will all enjoy your time with the Squadron. Congratulations are in order on the marriages of **Sgt Steve Marvin** to **Cpl Julie Vickerstaff, Sig Frank Kemp** to **Pte Julie Lacey** and **Cpl Annette Perry** to **Mr Bob Carraher**. Last but by no means least—**2Lt David Tomlinson** to **Michelle Gunn**. We wish all these happy couples all the very best for the future.

SSgt Ann Legge 'coaching' a recruit on the range

Sgt Phil Mellor checks respirators before recruits enter the chamber!

40 Sig Regt (V)
Belfast

VISIT BY DIRECTOR WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS

The DWRAC, **Brig S. P. Nield ADC**, paid her first visit to the Regiment at the TAC in Clonaver Park. It took place during a normal drill night to enable the Brigadier to see the wide range of employments available to the WRAC within the Regiment and to meet the WRAC Officers and soldiers less formally afterwards.

The Brigadier was met by the Senior WRAC Officer **Maj Jenny Wilson** and the RSM **WO1 Graham Campbell** and after discussions with the CO, she visited the Training Squadron and was met by the OC **Capt Rosa Blake**, OC Recuit Training **Lt Davy Givens** and OC Trade Training **Lt Shelley Hardie**.

After chatting to recruits during a lecture, she went on to see Commcen Echo, an AMC and a RR Det where she was met by OCs 66 and 85 Sqns, **Majs David Baxter** and **Gerry Fleming**.

A presentation of the TA Efficiency Medal to **Sgt Collette Murray WRAC**, then took place in the JRC followed by informal chats with all Ranks. The visit ended with supper with the Regimental Officers in the Mess.

DWRAC chats to Lt Davy Givens with Maj Jenny Wilson and Capt Rosa Blake in attendance

DWRAC chats to WRAC members in the JRC

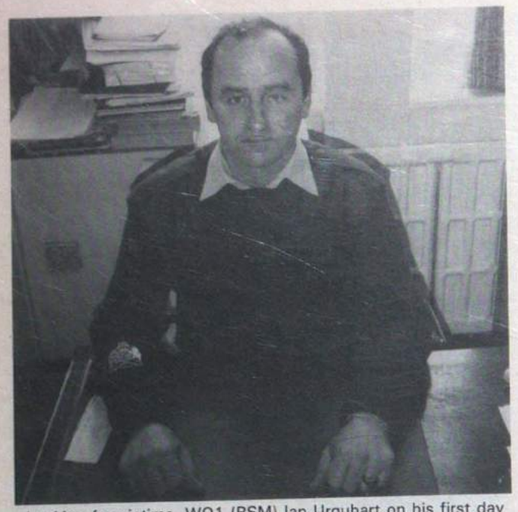
FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

Warmest welcomes to **WO1 (RSM) Ian Urquhart** and his wife **Janet**, and to **WO1 (MTWO) Dave Sparkes** and his wife, **Joanne**.

Sad farewells to the Trg Maj **Maj Ian Grant** and his wife **Marlies**, and to our long-suffering MO **Maj Robbie Kinnear** and his wife **Valerie** after 13 years in the Regiment.

CO—Lt Col Chris Shuker, makes a presentation to Maj Ian Grant

CO—Lt Col Chris Shuker, makes a presentation to Maj Robbie Kinnear



Looking for victims, WO1 (RSM) Ian Urquhart on his first day

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **SSgt (YofS) Keith Ratcliff** and **SSgt Ian Emerson**, who both received their LS&GC medals from Comd 12 Sig Bde (V) **Brig S. G. M. Gordon** on 19 March.

CHARLIE TROOP NEWS
Scribe: Lt Hilary Bustard

Members of 'C' Troop have been busy recently attending courses run by NISTT (Northern Ireland Specialist Training Team) at Ballymena. Personnel attending have been **SSgt Jim Murray** and **Sgt Ernie Cahoon** on the SA80 course; **Cpls Diane Brennan** and **Janet Coates** on the AFV course; **Cpls Davey Gillespie, Stevie Browne, Diane Brennan, Janet Coates** and **LCpl Karen Walker** on the NBC course; **LCpl Roberta Campbell**—First Aid and **LCpl Karen Walker** on the BIT course. Well done to all and especially **Cpl Brennan** who achieved Best Student on the NBC Assistant Instructors Course.

Congratulations to go **LCpl Geoff McClean** on his recent promotion and to **Cpls Diane Brennan** and **Janet Coates** on passing their Radio Relay B2.

Welcome to **Sig Mark Reilly** who has recently joined us from Trg Sqn. First day in the Troop found him on top of Divis Mountain in the ice, snow and mist assisting with the trial shot to Larne TAC. He now assures me that he knows the difference between vertical and horizontal polarisation—this, however, will be tested in Scotland next weekend!

On Saturday, 25 March, **Cpl Sandie Doggart** married **Sgt Davey Lightfoot**—all in 'C' Troop wish you both every happiness together.

Friday, 31 March saw a party of 16 (including representatives from 'A' Troop, 'B' Troop and SHQ) descend on Larne TAC for a Pub Quiz Night. Two teams of 4 were entered: 'Charlie's Angels' consisting of **Cpls Davey Gillespie, Janet Coates, LCpl Jim Weir** and the specially imported 'Dixie'; and 'Bustard's Babes' consisting of **Cpl Diane Brennan, Cpl Hazel Brown, LCpl Geoff McClean** and OC of 'C' Troop **Lt Hilary Bustard, LCpl Valerie Hawthorne, LCpl Lyn Sergeant, Pte Mandy Muir** and **Pte Lesley Harbinson** entered the spirit of the night and 'volunteered' to make up the numbers in two of the other teams! A total of eight teams took part and much to everyone's surprise and disbelief 'Bustard's Babes' won and very willingly accepted their Brae Club Fun Quiz Trophies from the PMC. Thanks to all at Larne for a great night especially the PMC of the Junior Ranks Club, **Sig George Jack**, and to **WO2 Eddie Blake**, for the invitation. Hopefully we will be allowed back for the return match!

Finally, good luck to **LCpl Karen Walker** who heads off to Catterick for her Detachment Commanders' Course in April, and to **Sgt Ernie Cahoon** who is going to Warcop in June for his Staff Sergeants' Course. Also to all those being tested for their B2 at the end of April.

As can be seen 'C' Troop has been very busy over the past few months, lets keep up the good work and keep 'C' Troop in its rightful place as the best Troop in 40 (U) Sig Regt (V).

71 (Yeo) Sig Regt
Bexleyheath

265 (KENT AND COUNTY OF LONDON YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON
SQUADRON HIERARCHY

OC	**Maj David Hewer**
2IC	**Capt David Hannam**
PSO	**Capt Jim Esson MBE**
Trg Offr	**Lt Richard Allen**
SSM	**WO2 Danny Farmer**
PSI	**SSgt Bob Wilson**
TQMS	**SSgt Pete Franks**
TSI	**WO2 Brian Eason**

Bexleyheath	SHQ, 890 Sig Tp, 905 Sig Tp, RITT
Southend	881 Sig Tp
Brighton	884 Sig Tp

884 SIGNAL TROOP

The latter half of 1988 was an interesting period for 884 Sig Tp. As part of 265 Sig Sqn, and thus part of the Kent and County of London Yeomanry (KCLY), we took part in the commemoration of the battle of Alam el Halfa, at Hever Castle on 9 and 10 July. The weekend culminated in Trooping the Colour in front of past and present members of KCLY.

On Sunday August 7, we entered a team in the Chichester March, and successfully completed the 40km route, proudly sporting our gold medals afterwards. Congratulations **LCpl West, Sig Cottle, Feather, McHenry, Ridgwell** and **Vincent**.

October saw us take part in another communication exercise, this time out in the middle of nowhere (next to the channel tunnel to be precise). Here we tested our abilities in less than ideal conditions—and yet again 884 knuckled down and came away with another successful exercise under its belt.

November, the Remembrance Day Parade, where, as always, we took our place alongside other members of the armed forces in the Brighton area (our Troop base).

December, with the start of the yuletide season, what else but the Squadron Christmas Dinner. That perennial opportunity to get together, eat, drink and be merry—and let the rest of the Squadron know what you think of them in the annual review. A host of relevant and cutting comedy sketches put on by individual troops, **Capt Jim Esson** certainly got a pasting from us! Well done, to **Sgts Gerry Cogger, Dave Wren** and **Cpl Dave Abbott** for contributing to the script. A good two hours of entertainment aided of course by an abundant supply of liquid refreshment.

Now we're well into 1989—with hopes of another successful year for 884 Sig Tp.

Early this year four members of the Troop took part in Ex Sandmaster, with **Lt Simon Malik** and **LCpl Bob France** in one vehicle, and **Lt Gail Malik** and **LCpl Phil West** in the other.

Various skills were put to the test, and **Lt Malik** and **LCpl France** succeeded in coming fourth overall, and first as beginners in the navigation section of the exercise. Congratulations.

There'll be more reports from 884 Tp throughout the year, see you soon.

905 SIGNAL TROOP

Yes, it's *Wire* time again! The decree from the 2IC's office with its threats of Orderly Officer, audit boards or even publication of certain photos taken at Camp arrived last week in the usual plain brown wrapper. Here goes. The year started well with three of the Troop running in the Squadron's WRAC team for the London District Cross Country Championships at Pirbright. They came second.

February saw the Troop exercises with 884 at Crowborough, 890 in Surrey and 905 off to the Cinque Ports. This weekend also saw the appearance of a new style SHQ Tp as **SSgt (SQMS) Mick Mustoe** led his clerks and storemen into the field on the aptly named Ex Cold Store. Although several cynics still believe that this deployment was a mirage we do have the photos to prove it.

905 Tp's Ex Cold Brass began with a very convoluted map reading course through North Kent and on arrival the four detachments deployed to a number of pre-recced hides. The omnipresent Mohican forces then set out to spread gloom and doom although on this occasion they had little success. One party, having spotted **LCpl Chris**

Ptes Jackie Smoker, Aisling Reilly, Sgt Lorraine Mundy, 2LT Di Clare, LCpls Anne Duffy and Mhairi Keir
Runners up in London District Cross Country Championships

Hilless' detachment during the afternoon moved in for the kill. With much screaming they stormed the wood only to discover that the wily Lance Jack had seen them too and had since moved down the road.

The exercise continued with a very precise compass orienteering course designed by **2Lt Adrian Rabot**. The following morning the Troop re-organised to form two detachments which were put through a battle run including two ambushes and a wood clearance. The teams also had to cope with two well made up (and realistically acted) casualties provided by SHQ.

On 1 February 25 members of the KCLY Sig Sqn visited our fellow Sharpshooters from C (KSY) Sqn The Royal Yeomanry. This proved to be a most enjoyable and informative evening for all and built on the improving contacts between the Squadrons and followed on last years triannual Alam el Halfa parade at Hever Castle. The 'return match' is being planned.

881 SIGNAL TROOP: SOUTHEND
by Sgt Robinson PSI

APWT WEEKEND—COLCHESTER RANGES

With the Troop still waiting patiently for its issue of the new Conrad equipment to arrive, we got down to the more sedate task of carrying out the APWT at Middlewick ranges. Under the command of **Lt** 'Mr Silverman' **Mike Evans** an early start of 0600 hrs on Saturday morning was called for, and as the Troop was waiting in its vehicles **Lt Evans** appeared out of the TA Centre with what can only be described as a 'dangerous weapon', a map. Within the Troop **Lt Evans** is famed for his map reading skills. The Troop could be heard to utter 'thank goodness its light'. Eventually the Troop arrived at the ranges with a bit of help from **Sgt Terry Fairbrother** where during the weekend they went on to achieve the best male shot and best female shot, they just missed out on the team shoot by three points. Well done Southend.

SQUADRON 'OPEN NIGHT'

For those not on the ranges it was left to the PSI, **Sgt 'Scouse' Robinson**, to crack the whip and get everything ready for the Tuesday night. With **LCpl** 'I never complain' **Chris Greenwood** and **LCpl Nick Vickery** setting out the display in the garages it was left up to the Troop housewife **LCpl Sarah Bathurst** to clean the most important place within the TA Centre, 'The Bar'. The potential recruits were impressed with the sweet smell of Pledge.

A LOOK FORWARD

The Regiment is now about to start Conrad trials, so **Cpl Val White** will be the first from the troop to get 'hands on' the new equipment with the added software. Once it is issued with the new equipment the Troop can then get down to the task of doing operator training in preparation for the annual camp in September.

The best of luck to **Sgts Terry Fairbrother** and **Kerry Jones (WRAC)** on their TA Staff Sergeant's Course which is coming up.

Photo by courtesy of Courier Newspapers

The Squadron Honorary Colonel Col R. Leigh-Pemberton, Lord Lieutenant of Kent inspects the Squadron at Hever Castle

Cpl Dave Whitehouse and LCpl Anne Duffy winners of the Lucy and Moore Trophies respectively

The memorial at Bexleyheath TAC

JCUFI
BFPO 655

PERSONALITIES

OC Unit	**Maj Miles Stockdale**
TOT/OC C Troop	**Maj Ian Forbes**
OC B Troop	**Capt Nick Naylor**
USM	**WO2 (USM) Barry Stephens**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Bob Downie**
SNCO i/c FITS	**SSgt Brian Appleyard**
SNCO i/c Power	**Sgt Jim Pattison**
UQMS	**Sgt Graham Kendall**
SNCO i/c JOC Radio	**Sgt Dave McBride**
Chf Clk	**Cpl Jim Seager**
SNCO i/c ACC	**Sgt Andy Elliott**
Det Comd Campito	**Cpl 'Shuggy' McVicar**
Det Comd MT Adam	**Cpl Dave Laverick**
Det Comd South Georgia	**Cpl Steve Davies-Williams**
Mt Alice FITS Tech	**Cpl John Patterson**
Byron Heights FITS Tech	**Cpl Rob Parr**
Stanley Det NCO i/c	**Cpl Ian Thompson**
DSO 'B' Shift JOC Commcen	**WSgt Glynis Blight**
FITS Stores Accountant	**LCpl 'Taff' Dilling**
FITS Stores Accountant	**LCpl Dave Starkey**

HISTORY OF THE UNIT

The Joint Communications Unit Falkland Islands, commonly called JCUFI, was formed from elements of Naval party 1242, 266 Sig Sqn and Ground Radio Flight on April Fools Day 1987 and despite the obvious humour of the creating powers, it has a vital operational role to play in the provision of the communication systems for the Falkland Islands. The unit is an integrated tri-service organisation with a mandate to make the best use of the Services different systems to meet the communication needs of the Command. One hundred and sixty Army, Navy and Air Force personnel work in the unit. The unit is formed into a headquarters and three Troops. The Troops provide the following Facilities:-

Alpha Tp, commanded by a Flight Lieutenant is responsible for providing airfield navigation aids, ground to air radio, tactical radio in theatre, HF strategic nets and maritime rebroadcast circuits.

Bravo Tp, commanded by a Captain Royal Signals is responsible for the two Commcens, one for the theatre at the Joint Operations Centre (JOC), and one for the station at the Combat Operations Centre (COC), the associated message distribution centres, the telephone exchange and the crypto distribution agency for the islands.

Charlie Tp, commanded at present by a Major Royal Signals look after all the technical maintenance, the links into the satellite at Stanley, the bearer network for the islands trunk communications, all our power requirements and airfield cable network.

In summary, the unit is responsible for all military communication systems to, from, and within the islands. This makes the command unusually diverse in its range of personnel, their skills and equipment.

VISITS

The Chief of the Defence Staff Marshal of the Royal Air Force **Sir David Craig GCB, OBE** visited the Falkland Islands during the period 14-18 March and visited JCUFI on 15 and 16 March. This was a great honour for the Unit and it gave us the opportunity to show a fully integrated tri-service Unit at work. Day one saw **Maj Miles Stockdale** and **WO2 (USM) Barry Stephens** waiting patiently outside the entrance to JCUFI HQ for the arrival of the CDS. At approximately 1525 hrs a convoy of staff cars with more stars than Orion's Belt arrived! The CDS was invited into the Unit Conference Room where he was given an in depth brief on the organisation and role of JCUFI by **Maj Miles Stockdale**. Suitably impressed by the M of I demonstrated by OC JCUFI the CDS then visited C Troop. On arrival he was met by **Maj Ian Forbes**, OC C Tp, who introduced him to **Mr John Nicol** our resident Marconi expert, **SSgt Alec Armstrong** and **Cpl 'Taff' Meaden**. Here the CDS was shown inside one of the many Falkland Islands Trunk System, commonly called FITS containers. This system is a microwave, line of sight trunk bearer system which provides military communications for the islands. After listening to the brief the CDS to continue his very busy programme. Day two saw the CDS and OC JCUFI leave by helicoper to visit one of the Units remote Rebro sites at Campito, here he was introduced to **Cpl 'Shuggy' McVicar** the detachment Commander, **LCpl Alf Hitchcock** the 2IC, **Sig Jason Quilter** ROp, and **Sig Alan Kehoe** Cbt Pmn. The men at these remote Rebro sites are fully self sufficient but rely on helicopter resupply for even the bare necessities, like food and water. Although they are well away from the comforts of Mount Pleasant Airfield and live in very basic accommodation they have the highest morale of almost any Unit on the islands. (Could it be that they are not liable for food and accommodation charges?). Having toured the site, which, incidently, is due for a major rebuild later this year, the CDS left with OC JCUFI by helicopter to resume the remainder of his visit much impressed by what he had seen and heard.

SIGNALMAN ON PATROL

Down in the deep South on those far-flung islands of the Falklands the Royal Signals are doing their bit to help the Resident Infantry Company (RIC) out. The RIC has just changed from members of the 1st Battalion the Cheshire Regiment to members of the 1st Battalion the Gordon Highlanders. The Gordons soon discovered the problems of communicating with the vagaries of the Falklands ionosphere. Patrols around the islands were having problems communicating with their base. It was decided that a Signalman would accompany one of the many patrols to sort out the problems. **Sig Woodland**, on detachment from 2 Inf Div, was quick to be volunteered by **Sgt McBride**, his section boss, to spend the five days out on patrol. With some ingenuity from **Sig Woodland** and the standard R4 wire communications were soon established from their distant patrol back to base. The patrol kept contact with the base throughout the five days with the Infantry being taught some of the more difficult aspects of communications in the field. On his return **Sig Woodland** was asked how things had gone. His reply was 'Superb, I thoroughly enjoyed myself'. The obvious follow-on question from the Officer concerned was: 'Yes, but what about the communications?'. No doubt time will tell how successful **Sig Woodland**'s efforts have been.

SPONSORED RUN

On Sunday 19 March the Unit witnessed a magnificent effort by **Cpl Al Hallgate** of Bravo Tp, (recently gone to pastures new). He ran from RAF Mount Pleasant to Stanley, a total distance of 34 miles, in aid of the Lourdes Appeal. 'Not far', I hear you marathon runners say? In normal weather conditions and good roads probably not, however conditions here are not what can easily be described as normal. The terrain most of the way is both very unhospitable and loose underfoot, these factors coupled with the continuous strong wind do not make for conditions conducive to marathon running. However undeterred by these problems, **Cpl Al Hallgate** lined up at the start point at approximately 1400 hrs ready and eager to embark. The Station Commander, **Group Capt G. Brindle RAF**, wished **Cpl Hallgate** the best of luck and sent him on this way. During stages of the run he was accompanied by other runners from the Unit, who not only gave him moral support but also kept the pace going. The following personnel gave their support: **Maj Ian Forbes, Capt Nick Naylor, Cpls Dave Butler, Bob Wymer, WPte Tracy Copper** and the RAF and Navy were also ran! All are to be warmly congratulated for their efforts. Thirty three miles and four hours later the last member of the support team broke off to leave **Cpl Al Hallgate** to run the last mile alone. Within five minutes he could be seen arriving at the King Edward Memorial Hospital (KEMH) Stanley and was greeted with rapturous applause and cheering by the Unit Commander, **Maj Miles Stockdale**, members of JCUFI, the nursing staff of the KEMH and the local populace. The run was completed in a magnificent time of 4 hours and 42 minutes and this is believed to be a record, (unless you know differently?). The total amount of sponsorship money raised by the event was a very impressive £1,130.16. The Unit Commander, **Maj Miles Stockdale**, at this point in the proceedings, posed for photographs with **Cpl Al Hallgate** and the KEMH Matron, **Maj Glynis Pauley**, and he also handed over a cheque for the sum of £60 for the KEMH welfare fund.

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj M. W. Edwards**
2IC	**Capt P. B. Knobel**
Ops Offr	**Capt S. R. Workman**
AO	**Capt R. A. Hamilton**
QM	**Maj J. M. Kirkman**
OC A Tp	**Capt J. Turner**
OC B Tp	**2Lt J. J. Cole**
OC M Tp	**WO2 (FofS) P. Gaffney**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) A. K. Harper**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) G. M. McCrindle**
CClk	**SSgt (ORQMS) C. Clark**

SHQ

Recently, it has been all ups and downs. The ups being some excellent performances by the blokes on exercise and in sporting achievements. The downs? Well once again we change OC Squadron after only seven months in the chair. **Maj Chris Wright** (now Lieutenant Colonel) has handed over to **Maj Mark Edwards**. As described in the Red Nose story below, the change of command took place in a Chinook; different, but at the time, convenient. Well, at least you go on promotion. Best of luck in London as SO1 'Space'.

Welcome to **Maj Edwards** and wife **Erica** best of luck in the new post. Soon after his take over, we all went on Easter block leave, so the next issue will have to detail any inevitable Orbat or office changes . . . we've got used to it now!

As this is being drafted, we see the face of an old boy returned, the new RSM. From what we hear, 'watch out lads'.

ALPHA TROOP

OC Tp	**Capt J. Turner**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt C. G. McGinley**
Rld 1 Sgt	**Sgt R. G. Nixon**
Rld 2 Sgt	**Sgt G. K. Cripps**

The last period has been hectic to say the least with a large majority of the Troop away in BAOR and UK on Ex Wintex leaving the unlucky few to cope with PRE, Technical Inspections and the odd exercise. On top of this, the Troop OC **Capt Scott Workman** left us to take over as the Operations Officer. Not to worry, the new OC Troop **Capt John Turner** has just walked in. Rumour has it he has been educated as well; JDSC that'll make a change! Best of luck to both of you in your new appointments.

One of the 'high' spots in recent months was a weekend in Blandford as a CP stand for 27 teams from the UOTC, on Ex Lightning Strike, **Cpl 'Thunderflash' Craig** led the team with some fine performances from **Sig 'Video' Brown** and **Cpl 'Buck' Rogers**. Each team would arrive at the CP and come across a casualty with their priority being communication back to HQ, although some teams took longer than expected no one was complaining as the female members of the team were normally tasked with tending to the casualty.

Congratulations to **LCpl 'Eddie' Murphy** who has just passed P Coy and is now having a well deserved rest at RAF Brize Norton.

The Troop sends it's best wishes to **Sgt Chris McGinley** and his wife **Caroline** on the recent birth of their daughter.

We welcome back **Cpl 'Wacko' Jackson** after a few months holiday at Lympstone teaching the Marines a thing or two, well done on passing the course. Another welcome to **Sgt Chris McGinley** and **Cpl Dougie Craig** after four gruelling months across the water.

We say farewell to **Sig Chris Quinn** who finally broke loose and posted himself to Civ Div.

The last few weeks for the Troop have seen the departure of **2Lt Guy Bennett** who is being educated at Blandford, and **LCpl 'Stig' Stanmore** out to the big wide world. Good luck to both of you. Welcome back to **LCpl 'Olly' Oliver** from the Bahamas, **Cpl Tommy Taylor** from Northern Ireland with 1 Para, and **LCpl Chris Brown** from California with the Queen's Regt.

Ex Badree, followed by Ex Red Lanyard tested the Troop in its new establishment. Both were successful and enjoyable exercises. Even **Cpl 'Smudge' Smith** was rumoured to have smiled! Assistance was given on Ex Wintex out in BAOR for the first fortnight of March; share the duty frees lads! Well done to **Cpls 'Bernie' Bernstein** and **'Jack' Payne** for two successful Jocommexs.

The final week before leave saw a few 'varieties'. The Troop ran the final race for UOTC Cadets at Blandford, (so much for a textbook demonstration!). Para Tac HQ was demonstrated for the Spanish CGS and HQ BMA for the new Brigadier; it seems to be a much-watched demonstration these days.

Finally, good luck to **Cpl 'Chilly' Chillcott, Sig 'Si' Ferrer** and **Pete Lawn** out in Belize.

Another Para Tac Demo

LCpl 'Olly' Oliver on the Tacsat 'Anybody Out There?'

2Lt John Cole briefs the new OC Maj Mark Edwards about Para Tac

M TROOP

OC Tp	**WO2 (FofS) P. Gaffney**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt J. S. Black**
IC Tech	**Sgt N. Preston**
IC TE	**Sgt J. A. Lockert**

Yet another eventful month in Mike Tp, we say farewell to **Cpl 'Block' Robertson** away to sunnier climates in Catterick, and wish him luck on his RSDCC and TI Course.

Congratulations to **Cpl** and **Mrs Fearn** on the arrival of their baby son **Daniel**. Good luck also goes to **Sgt Nick Preston** and **Sig 'Woody' Woodland** away on exercise with 1 Para to California (unlucky lads, but someone has to go). We also welcome back after a long spell of absence **LCpl 'Ma' Baker** from the Army Boxing Team.

Q TROOP

QM	**Maj J. M. Kirkman**
RQMS	**WO2 A. C. Hedgley**
SQMS	**SSgt K. G. McKenzie**
SQMS(T)	**Sgt B. E. Reid**
SQMS(A)	**Sgt M. Gear**

EXERCISE START RIGHT (FROM THE Q POINT OF VIEW)
Report by SSgt 'Mac' McKenzie

The day started well, the weather was mild and the skies were clear, the sun was quite warm for late January. The convoy was lined up ready to go, the intrepid SQMS, **SSgt 'Mac' McKenzie** was standing trying to look impressive, all cammed up and nowhere to go. We were waiting for the heli-lift of the Brigade Main HQ to be completed. The vehicles were finally given the signal to go and we departed for the local training area.

The first location was found without any real difficulty. The next task was to get the A Echelon set up and running before the 1830 briefing. The SQMS then made his way to the evening briefing, finding the general area of the Oscar complex was easy, but identifying the CP in the pitch black was another matter. After bumping into almost every tree and various antennae, he found another group of people in the same position, blind and totally lost. Out of the darkness a voice said 'keep the noise down and follow me!'. The man turned round to lead the way and walked straight into an antenna!

The briefing over the SQMS went back to A Echelon. **Cpl Dave Turner** had A Echelon under control, they were all gathered round a hexie stove swapping war stories and adventures from exercises and units past. After the briefing we settled down for the night.

The RSM visited the location after first light to check the defences and the general readiness of A Echelon. Passing **Cpl Dave Turner**'s basha he remarked, 'That's not a basha it's a hotel'.

That night we moved to the next location. This proved to be the busiest night for the REME Detachment under the leadership of **Cpl Steve Buttle**, as the Squadron vehicles did their impressions of lemmings. **Sig Dave Pilgrim** worked as usual, like a Trojan, up to his arms in soap suds washing pots and pans after the meals for the mobile kitchen. **Cpl 'Grif' Griffin** and **LCpl 'Gus' Angus** prepared the meals in the mobile cookhouse to their normal high standard of cuisine. This last location proved to be the worst for setting up the A Echelon, the area was very marshy and waterlogged making it difficult to manoeuvre the 4 ton Bedford into the correct area, whilst carrying the double water carriage pack at the rear. After having bogged ourselves in, we relocated the A Echelon to another area.

'At Last, New Boots'
Left to Right: Cpl Dave Turner, Sig Dave Pilgrim, Pte 'Smithy' Smithson and LCpl 'Taff' Wright

The night was interrupted by a call for help from the OC's driver, especially after we had briefed all the members of the Squadron in the art of moving in and out of locations without the use of lights, it would appear that the OC's driver had run out of road; he had, to say the least, attempted to bury it in a storm drain—a time consuming and frightening recovery by contractors was the result. Surprisingly the vehicle still worked!

B Echelon didn't deploy, it covered rear details. The rear details party should not be forgotten, they too carry on with their own essential tasks. **Sgt 'Scouse' Reid** making sure the G1098 and all the other accounts are on the ball. **Sgt Martin Gear** who maintains the accommodation accounts and deals with all the civil contracts. The QM, **Maj John Kirkman** and the RQMS, **WO2 Arthur Hedgley**, had their own pressures to bear, like who was going to make the next brew. On return to camp it would appear they had all survived. Although, rumour had it that the RQMS actually did make a brew, but there were no witnesses!

RED NOSE DAY

Friday 10 March saw the Squadron doing its part for the Red Nose Charity Appeal. Forty-five members of the Squadron arrived on Queens Parade complete with Red Noses, all having paid £5 for the chance to jump out of a Chinook.

The Chinook arrived complete with Red Nose, but the wind speed was too high and the jump had to be cancelled. The Air Adjutant, **Capt Scott Workman** had to promise to fix up another Chinook jump at a later date (some people will believe anything). Although there was no jump, the RAF flew the Squadron around Aldershot to satisfy the camera crew from TVS, who took, and used, some footage for their Comic Relief Special trailer.

During the flight **Maj Chris Wright** (now Lt Col) handed over Command of the Squadron to **Maj Mark Edwards**.

The Handover—Maj Mark Edwards signs for the Squadron from Maj Chris Wright. Maj John Kirkman keeps a watchful eye

CROSS COUNTRY
Report by Maj John Kirkman

Once again cross country has dominated the Squadron Winter sports. This year the team consisted of:-

Maj John Kirkman (Manager)
Sgt Nick Preston
Cpl Gary Smith
Cpl Tom Keville
Cpl Pete Fearn
Cpl Dave Chapman
Cpl 'Bernie' Bernstein
LCpl Chris Brown
LCpl 'Q' Rose

The aims this season were to retain the SE Dist Minor Units trophy and to win the Army Minor Units.

The team was well prepared for the SE Dist Championships at Blackdown, and after a hard fast race we came away comfortable winners over the Depot Parachute Regiment, retaining the title for the third year running. The first part of our aim had been achieved, the second part was to prove a lot harder.

Having done some research it was confirmed that our old rivals FOD Dulmen (BAOR) and PCD RE (London Dist) were in excellent form and easy qualifiers for the Army Championships. Between our District Championships and the Army's our training was interrupted by Squadron commitments so when the big day arrived on Wednesday 1 February the team was not as sharp as it should have been. Nonetheless they all battled hard, each man having a good race. Unfortunately the end result was a re-run of last year coming third to Dulmen and PCD RE. However we came close enough to PCD RE to give them a fright and a clear warning that next year they will have a tough fight on their hands. For the moment Dulmen are in a class of their own and it is going to be extremely difficult to beat them.

Since the Army Championship the team has had to concentrate more on military duties but the lucky **Sgt Nick Preston** and **LCpl Chris Brown** have managed to fit in a trip to the USA. However **Cpls Gary Smith, Pete Fearn, 'Bernie' Bernstein** and **Dave Chapman** entered the Para 10 and ran very well to finish team home behind a very strong Depot Para team.

As we go to press we have just learned that the team has finished third in Division One of the aggregate league and **Cpl Gary Smith** was fifth individual overall.

We now look forward to some road races during the summer and the new session that starts in October.

Cpl Gary Smith going flat out in the Para 10

EXERCISE TRUMPET DANCE
Report by LCpl Brown

I was sitting on my bed on a Monday afternoon (yes, it was a long weekend, Sir) and in came the boss, **2Lt John Cole**, OC B Troop. 'Afternoon', said he, 'how would you like to go away for six weeks?'. Oh no, another trip to Salisbury Plain. 'Pack your bags, you leave at 1200 hrs tomorrow for California''. When I had picked myself up from the floor, there was the last minute rush for kit, jabs, money and anything else I did not have.

On Tuesday with **Lt John Hazel** and some of the lads from the Brigade Pathfinder Platoon we went to Tidworth to introduce ourselves to our host unit, 1 Queens. We met **WO2 (CSM) John Anglin** who assigned us to our respective platoons, then we waited for our departure.

We left a dull and drizzly UK for the 12 hour flight to San Jose Airport, stopping at Travis US Air Base, Northern California (where it was snowing). We arrived at Fort Ord, California to a two degree centigrade drop in temperature (and I had only packed T shirts!).

The first day in the USA dawned brightly enough, about 65 degrees in the morning. In the afternoon we had a weapons demo from our American hosts, the 1st/17th Light Infantry (Foot), then the programme took over, five days range and FIBUA in extremely hot weather, five days adventure training (rock climbing in the Pinnacles and hill walking), five days leisure activities (fishing in Monterey Bay). After that, we had a five day escape and evasion exercise; the terrain had to be seen to be believed. Unlucky **Cpl Reuben Paul** (Q Troop!).

There was also a day trip to San Fransisco, which was an excellent day out. Thanks to **Lt Hazell**'s diligent efforts, we managed to liaise with our American counterparts and launched ourselves out three times from a Black Hawk Helicopter. For anyone who has ever received their 'Blood Wings', you will understand why I have still got my marks on my chest, with 30 people assisting in the ceremony. (The Americans seem to take pride in physically pinning their wings on, once earned).

I returned from America with a lot of infantry experience, a hazy head from our last night's celebrations and no money! I enjoyed myself immensely, and gained a great deal from the training.

Finally, many thanks to the Squadron for allowing me to go (that should get me another trip!).

244 Sig Sqn (AS)
RAF, Brize Norton

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Rob Symonds**
2IC	**Capt Tom Pengelley**
OC A Tp	**2Lt Graham Inglis**
OC B Tp	**Capt Ian Bucklow**
SSM	**WO2 Grant Humble**
RQMS	**WO2 Bob Atkinson**
YofS	**WO2 Keith Pywell**
FofS	**WO2 Mick Howells**
ORSQMS	**SSgt Terry Morrissey**

ALPHA TROOP

Alpha Tp has had a fair turn round in recent months. In November it said farewell to **Sig** (Retd) **Colin Stroud** and (Now LCpl) **Taggart**. January saw the departure of **Lt Graham Neal** who went on to complete his parachute training before finally leaving for 14 Sig Regt. The coming of March did not see a let up and three more notable veterans left for pastures new; **LCpl Ron Clinton**, off to Harrogate, **LCpl 'Slick' Simms** to 1 Armd Div Sig Regt, and **SSgt Martin-Pitt**, now well renowned in AMF(L) circles also left us to join SHQ prior to his posting. The two new boys in the Troop office are **2Lt Graham Inglis** complete with **Barry** his trusty mountain bike and **SSgt Phil Duddell**.

Congratulations to **Cpl Whiting** and his wife **Maria** on the birth of their daughter, and to **LCpl Longstaff** and his wife **Giselle** on the birth of their son.

Also more congratulations to **Cpl Whiting** on the newly arrived Tash! Well Done!

A NOTE FROM SIG BARKER

I arrived at RAF Brize Norton on 15 August last year to be informed that I had been posted to Alpha Tp, AMF(L) of 244 Sig Sqn (AS). Several hours later I met my new room mate **LCpl 'Billy' Taggart**, and received my first and probably most important piece of advice—'Keep your month shut and eyes and ears open for the first six months and you'll be OK'!

Next day I was woken rather abruptly at 0400 hrs—anyone who has ever lived approximately 100 yards away from an aeroplane runway will know why. After showering and finishing my block job—toilets—(some things never change from training) I made my way down to Hangar 66—my new place of work.

Remembering the advice I had received from **LCpl Taggart** I began my first day's work bright eyed and bushy tailed—being really polite and calling everyone by their rank, I was that worried about upsetting someone even the civilian electricians got addressed as 'Sir' or 'Sergeant' a couple of times. However this was soon to end when I went to the Stores and **Cpl Esson** refused to acknowledge my presence until I called him 'Kev'.

I enjoyed my first day in the Hangar and survived most of the practical jokes ie going to MT to get a hand generator serviced or to get a tin of patch paint.

The next couple of weeks passed with me working in the Hangar and gradually trying to figure out the good guys from the bad—**(LCpl 'Tug' Wilson)**, whilst still trying to establish myself in the Troop.

Then came my first test—a three week exercise—Ex Ally Express 88 in Turkey. Another big difference from training, not having an exercise at Bishop Monkton or Catterick Training area.

So on 3 September 1988 I deployed on this very busy exercise along with my Det Comd, **LCpl 'Slick' Simms** and fellow crewman **Sig Vera Duckworth**. Over the next three weeks I was to learn a lot about the role of Alpha Tp in the AMF it was interesting to see Dets and pieces of equipment at work that I had never seen in training—but perhaps most importantly I learned the rules of volleyball, which we seemed to play a lot in Turkey.

Since Turkey the Troop has been busy having travelled a fair distance on exercise including Denmark, Norway and Italy—not one to be forgotten with such events as **Sig Clint Barker** getting run over and **Sig Any Wiseman** and **Jase Moore** getting arrested for a crime they did not commit—honest!

Alpha Tp AMF(L) is a small Troop with only 24 people therefore everyone knows everyone else and it is a fairly close knit working force, which is kept in line in the singles block by **Cpls Andy Salmon** and **Mick Brown**.

My first six months are up now but I think I'll carry on keeping my mouth shut and eyes and ears open—it seems to be working so far, and has proved to be sound advice.

DELTA TROOP (MOBILE AIR OPERATION TEAMS (MAOTs)), RAF UPAVON
ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

During the last couple of months there have been a number of arrivals and departures within the Troop. Hellos to: **Sig 'Suggs' Sutherland** from basic training; **LCpl Brian Green** and family from Int and Sy; **LCpl 'Mac' McKenna** from 202 Sig Sqn; **Sig Tony Curtis** and **Paul Musson** from Bravo Tp. Goodbyes to: **LCpl** (now Mr) **'Scouse' Jones** to civilian street; **Cpl Billy McCue** to 2 Sig Bde Corsham; **Cpl Andy Drummond** and wife **Carrine** to 1 Armd Div. Congratulations to: **'Baz' Cadman** and **Pat Gray** on their promotion to Lance Corporal, **LCpl Bryan Ives** on his marriage to **SACW Jenny Crossland** on 1 April and RAF Upavon PSA for finally installing toilets, sinks and a shower in the MAOT Hangar!

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF THE SQUADRON
by Sig 'Suggs' Sutherland

I arrived at 1630 hrs on 1 November 1988 at the front gate of RAF Brize Norton. It was here I encountered the first of many tabs. After 45 minutes trying to find SHQ I stumbled on a small wooden hut with a red hand on the door. Five minutes later I had a hand full of papers to get signed, told where I was staying and left for the dark depths of room 16 block 545.

In the morning I found the Squadron hard at work in a driving competition and it was then I was told I was going to Delta Tp, RAF Upavon.

I arrived at Delta Tp at 2000 hrs on 2 November.

In the next couple of days I was to learn about Helicopter Handling (HH) a qualification I had never ever thought I would have needed. All the equipment I was to use but had never even heard of eg; Potter T's, Angle of Approach Indicators, Altimeters etc. All through training I had been told that working units were always Exercise Here, Exercise There, all the time getting bored. But, since arriving at the Squadron everything has been new to me. It is a lot better than people had said. The Squadron seems to be full of good blokes ready to have a laugh but also ready to graft at the same time.

EXERCISE HARDFALL 89
by LCpl Bryan Ives

January arrives again and it's time once again for MAOTs to deploy to Norway. **LCpl 'Baz' Cadman** to Branset on an MSI Course. **Cpl Gary Thomson, LCpl Pat Gray** and **Sig 'Jack' Frost** to Ulvik for Arctic Warfare training. **Cpl Andy Drummond, Sig 'Taff' Jones** and myself to Bomoen for MAOT tasking.

The deployment started slowly due to the distinct lack of snow but there was enough rain to cause Noah some worry!

The MAOTs were used mostly in the training of other units and in PR exercises. One in particular stands out, using a Chinook to move a prefabricated hut for a Norwegian Biathlon.

Spare time was spent by all downhill skiing at the hangar in Voss, under the expert guidance of **LCpl Pat Gray**, our very own JSDHSI. We all improved tremendously under his expert tuition.

Once all the courses were completed it was time to turn our attention to the Brigadier's exercise involving all members of the AMF(L) British contingent. Unfortunately due to bad weather the Hercules drop was cancelled and the engineers bridge lift was brought forward and so the exercise passed quietly for the MAOT teams.

MSI COURSE
by LCpl 'Baz' Cadman

On 3 January, after an expensive Christmas leave, I was happy to be travelling out to Norway on a Ski Instructors Course. The flight out was up to its high standard of comfort on a Hercules (about 15 inches of leg room and almost sitting on the guy next to you).

We eventually arrived at Brandseth Camp, a small Norwegian Army camp out in the middle of nowhere, but at least it was warm and comfortable. The next day, we started on the ski training. A lot of skiing was done on flat ground which was tiring work, but we had a whole week of downhill skiing during the last third of the course (watch out Klammer).

The course was shared with all the AMF(L) although most were RRF. I enjoyed it and was glad of the opportunity.

ARCTIC SURVIVAL TRAINING (AST)
by Sig 'Taff' Jones

Day 1: We set off bright and early from Ulvik and arrived at the training area around midday. We then skied up a large hill and had our first experience of the pulk. We spent the night in a man ridge tent.

Day 2: We had another early start and we skied up yet another hill. We then saw a tent sheet demo, and yes we then made our own tent sheets and had a pretty rough night's sleep.

Day 3: Back down to the bottom of the hill and then we had our survival night. This involved digging a snow shelter of some sort. Most people got soaked through to the skin but we knew we were going in the next morning so nobody cared. We then had about a week of ski training and Demos.

EXERCISE TACOMMEX 2/89
by Sig 'Bobby' Porter

It was a cold and early start as **Sig 'Bri' Millarvie, 'Suggs' Sutherland, 'Ian Meadowlark' Green** and I, set out from RAF Upavon to start our journey to RAF Brize Norton. This was the first phase of Ex Tacommex 2, which was going to be an exercise that nobody will forget.

At Brize Norton we lined up in convoy, then set off at 0800 hrs on the road to Harwich. The journey was long and tiresome, but eventually we arrived at Harwich and waited to board the Tor Scandinavia (one of the more luxurious LSLs). Once on board the ship, the Squadron proceeded to find out where their cabins were, then we changed into slightly more comfortable Army Kit, for the 24 hour journey across the sea to Esjberg. After setting sail, we were all treated to a hot meal, then we settled down in the bar for a few drinks before bed. The weather was getting a little rough by now and the ship was moving about more than it should have been. At just after midnight, the weather outside was even worse, and most of us were tucked up in bed. Then the fun started:

The ship decided to start up its own revival of the 1950's 'Rock and Roll' era, with most of the emphasis on the Roll! Emergency lights came on, people were tipped out of bed and everything was in chaos.

Next morning we learned that the ship had actually turned into wind, dropped its anchor and rode out the storm for four hours. That wasn't all; pots, pans, tables, glasses and even plants were strewn all over the restaurant, so there wasn't a single plate or cup for our breakfast.

A message for our MT Sergeant and OC Sqn came over the tannoy and we then found out about the damage to our vehicles and trailers. About 19 were damaged, with about 12 trailers tipped over. That was that; nothing could be done except return home to the UK (after first docking at Esjberg).

What a let down, no Duty Frees, Bratty stands, LOA and worst of all no exercise in the field!

LANYARD TROPHY TRAINING
by Sig Ian Green

One of the next events for the Squadron this year is the annual 40 miles 'Tab' across the undulating terrain of Dartmoor for Royal Signals units competing for the coveted 'Lanyard Trophy'

Training is already underway here; besides the normal fitness training, runs etc, the 'volunteers' for this event have already spent a week down in Dartmoor getting accustomed to the 'Moors and Tors', also practicing the fine art of moving at speed across country with heavy bergens and personal weapons.

The week began with a short excursion around the surrounding hills of Okehampton camp, shortly after arrival, so that we could brush up on such skills as map reading, following compass bearings and using the compass in conjunction with the map, correcting any mistakes we made as we went along.

In the next couple of days the distance was increased to get used to carrying the weight on our backs for longer periods of time and also serving to get us more familiar with the surroundings.

At the end of the week it was decided we would have a race along a shorter route than the previous days, a sort of small scale situation of what it was going to be like on the day, with each person being set off at two minute intervals and the first few people past the finishing post won the sweepstake prize organised before the race. Some very good times were achieved by the lads, reflecting that the skills practised earlier in the week had been put to good use, with everybody getting in with no problems.

Now we are all looking ahead to improving even more in the coming weeks and doing well in the actual event (look out 264 and 5 AB Bde).

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

VIP VISIT

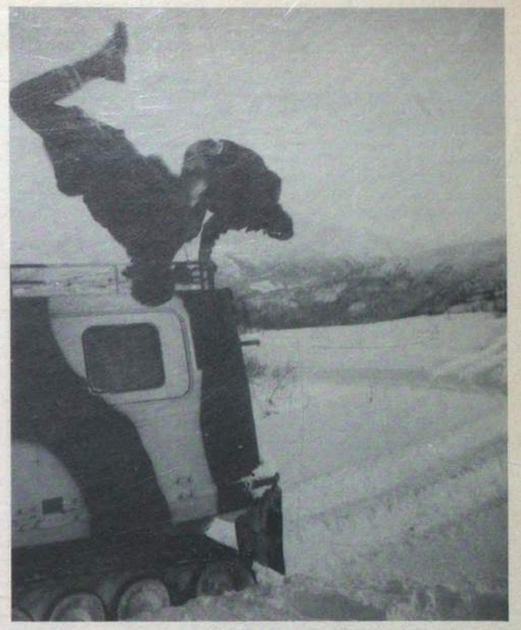
We were very proud to host our SOinC **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB, MBE,** on a four day visit, during which he saw, and indeed experienced our unique role and involvement in the AMF(L) under Northern Flank Conditions. The photo shows the SOinC presenting **WO2 (YofS) Peter Barron** with his LS & GC medal.

WO2 (YofS) Peter Ballon receiving his LS & GC Medal from the SOinC

EXERCISE HARDFALL '89

To be absolutely frank, the Squadron never actually leaves Norway! The training year starts in March with the physical build up for the stresses and strains of Langlauf, and progressively increases throughout the summer. A short hiccup is experienced each September, albeit Italy, Turkey or Denmark, then it's into the final push and run-up for the Norway deployment period (January-March). So the Squadron is either in Norway, just returned from Norway or getting ready to go to Norway (or so it seems!). Once there, however, minds and bodies focus hard on ski training, BV206 driver training, military training and of course Arctic Comms training. Although it's not all hard work and no play, most of the members take their few R & R days on the downhill ski slopes of the Hangur in Voss.

Sig 'Happy' Phillips, Cpl 'Nobby' Nevill, Sig Del Whyman and LCpl 'Brummy' Baker, seen pictured with the orphans of Orchard House Childrens Home, with the gifts provided from sponsorship events in Norway, 'Ex Hardfall 89'



LCpl Urquhart demonstrates the art of Arctic Anti-Gravitational training

OPERA '89

This is the annual event of the social calendar where one half of the Squadron characters send up the other half. The venue was the state dining room of the Brakanes Hotel Ulvik. Choreography manifested itself in the form of **2Lt Inglis** (244 Sig Sqn) with each of the platoons and admin factions providing sketches for the benefit and amusement of their audience, mostly bedecked in fancy dress.

Notable reactions were recorded throughout the evening. The SSM was enthralled by featuring in every sketch and the Chief Clerk (name and address withheld) was more than acrimonious at what he thought was an over portrayal of himself **(Sig 'Chiefy' McGuinness** look out for a quick posting!) The rest of the Squadron, however, thought that it was spot on. Between sketches the 'Squadron Academy Awards' were duly presented and the SSM was very keen to see who came up to receive his 'I locked the SSM in the telephone booth' parchment but unfortunately for him the miscreant did not wish to make himself known and the SSM had eventually to leave empty handed.

One late presentation has subsequently been made, the 'Fiddler on the Roof award' goes easily to **Sig Denis** 'the slate' **Whyman** although very nearly posthumously.

RUGBY—A SOCIAL EVENT

The start of the 1988/89 season saw the departure of several well established players who had served us well.

Scrumhalf, **WO2 'H'** 'I thought that stood for hooker' **Elkan** out to pasture at the School of Signals. Our thanks to you for your efforts in re-establishing the Squadron team during your time with us.

Outside Half, **LCpl Greg Harwood** to 7 Sig Regt. His rugby talent will be sorely missed by us but undoubtedly of great benefit to 7 and the Corps. Our best wishes for inevitable further honours.

Cpl 'Tweakie' Tyler a committed player who played with all the fervour of a man twice his stature. The opposition can remain thankful he was not 6ft tall. We'll say goodbye at a later date in the traditional fashion. (Hope you're thirsty!).

However, this left us with the nucleus of last year's team on which to build. Having carefully scoured every new arrival's credentials for any Celtic or Northern English ancestry we recruited a sizeable squad of seasoned rugby players. We were further fortunate to be joined by several of the older Squadron members who were total novices. Two

who have matured quickly and now command regular places in our team are **Sig 'Salmon' Smith** a fast improving second row forward who shows much promise for future years and **LCpl Currie**, a speedy threequarter.

Congratulations go to **LCpl 'Taff' Nelson** on representing the Corps last autumn. He is currently our sole contribution but surely it won't be long before he is joined by two other rising stars, **Cpl 'Taff' Collinson** a lanky and mobile second row forward and **Sig 'Den' Yates** a strong running and hard tackling threequarter. (Are you listening 'Col Bill'?).

On the field, team spirit has been remarkably high even in the face of great adversity. One such moment came when we turned out to play IRRW 3rd XV and were surprised to find we were facing the first team who must have played very badly the week before—nevertheless they gave us great tackling practice and we only just lost!

More evenly matched opposition has enabled us to play our running brand of rugby providing many tries and much entertainment for player and spectator alike.

Fun doesn't stop with the final whistle either. We have developed our third half tactics to a fine art. The social environment has provided us with a means of establishing many new friendships. **Cpl Kirkham** has been so successful with his fund raising efforts that we intend to celebrate our return from Norway by spending it on a trip to the Middlesex sevens, and if we were to get lost in London . . .

I guess we can expect a few phone calls from thirsty ex-players. Please do, you're welcome.

'Front Ball'—Sig 'Salmon' Smith leaps high to challenge for a lineout ball (ably assisted by an acrobatic Cpl 'Alf' Kirkham)

'Next stop Terra Firma'! Sgt 'Taff' George is stopped but Cpl 'Slug' Davey is in close support to carry out the movement

254 (UNFICYP) Sig Sqn
BFPO 567

VISITS

The Squadron was host to the DSOinC, **Brig T. H. Wheawell** on 21 March, during his visit to Cyprus. After a tour of Squadron Lines, a buffet lunch followed in the Squadron's Wire Inn which was enjoyed by everyone.

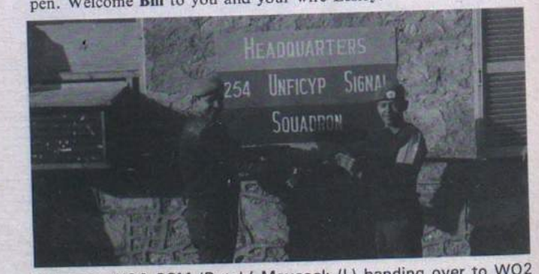
Cpl John Yates discussing his role with the DSOinC. SSgt Benny Bennett and Lt Rousseau looking on

SHQ TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj J. G. Peck**
2IC	**Capt R. P. Giles**
SSM	**WO2 W. Henderson**
CC	**Sgt A. B. Rose**
FSO's Clerk	**Mrs Liz Donaghy**
Typist	**Mrs Sue Hiscock**

Once again it's time to put pen to paper. Since **Maj** 'Orienteering Mad' **Peck** arrived SHQ has been kept busy looking for him. He is a keen orienteerer and a conference man!

We have said farewell to **SSM 'Butch' Maycock** and his family, watch out Krefeld here he comes. In his place we welcome **SSM Bill Henderson**, the daily orders seem never ending. It must be his new pen. Welcome **Bill** to you and your wife **Lesley**.



A happy WO2 SSM 'Butch' Maycock (L) handing over to WO2 SSM 'Bill' Henderson, who we are told, is equally happy

We say welcome to **Sgt Ade Rose** (our new Chief Clerk) and his wife **Karen. Sgt Rose** took over from **Sgt Howard Ripley**. We thought **Ripley** was a golf fanatic, but **Sgt Rose** doesn't know whether to bring his golf clubs or his pens to work.

Lastly we say a big farewell to our 2IC—**Capt Charlie Manning**. He will truly be missed by one and all, especially his fatherly figure and jovial personality. We know he is going home to his beloved Geordie land and we wish him and **Anne** all the best in the future.

We welcome **Capt Richard Giles** as our new 2IC—honestly 'Sir', the sea for wind surfing does exist. We wish you a happy tour.

On the civilian side of the SHQ, we have said farewell to **Ms Larraine Latimer** (typist) and welcome **Mrs Sue Hiscock**, who is beginning to wonder whoever invented the word precessor. Honestly **Sue** it gets better. Our FSO's clerk **Mrs Liz Donaghy** has just passed her SFA's course and is driving everyone mad trying to work out their bank balances.

Lastly to all our new personnel in SHQ—Welcome, and to all our departees—our best wishes go with you.

TECH AND LINE TROOP
PERSONALITIES

FofS	**SSgt Giles Whiteford**
SNCO RR	**Sgt Graeme Hossell**
SNCO TE	**Sgt Pete Hancock**
Line SNCO	**Sgt Stan Holden**
Faults Boy	**Cpl Alf Norrie**

DEPARTURES

Cpls Phil Case, Charlie Hanson, MCpl Bob Carney, Sig Jones, Lewis and **Pte Boucher**. Manual Switchboards and SRC 70 RR.

ARRIVALS

Cpls Andy Sutton, Al Giles, 'Bing' Crosbie, Dave Adams, Sig Pope and **Pte Fullerton**. Telic EPABXs and UN Radio.

The Troop has excelled on the sporting front, winning the March and Shoot, Orienteering and coming second in the assault course competitions.

Cpls 'Ev' Evans and **Case** tried their own brand of orienteering and found themselves on a Turkish language course.

Cpl 'Bing' Crosbie and **Sig 'Thrapper' Rapson** have been busy rewiring the Danes and **Cpl 'Kel' Watson** and the rest of the Techs keeping the Austrians in touch with UN HQ.

RADIO TROOP

Once **Lt Rousseau** had settled into the Troop he suddenly disappeared. Unknown to the rest of us the Sqn Comd had selected him out of a cast of thousands to lead the Military-Skills Team in the forthcoming competition. Every spare minute was then spent practising, map reading, running, grenade throwing and various other activities at all sorts of hours of the day. The team trained hard and after an exciting competition finished a creditable fourth.

The Troop saw an almost total deployment for the Womens' Walk Home movement on 19 March, with the Troop supplying communications to the whole of the buffer zone. **Sig Zolinski** looked after the Canadian Rebro somewhere in the buffer zone but during the day was called away to the telephone leaving **Sig Fullerton** a Canadian to man the sets. 'What's going on down there?' came the call, 'Don't shout at me I'm only a lineman' came the reply. **Cpls Kenny Colbeck** and **John Yates** spent a lot of time before the operation collecting equipment and organising manpower, with **LCpl Andy Corder** having the unenviable task of getting all the vehicles on the road. The day was quite successful and a lot was learnt by all.

The introduction by the Sqn Comd of the new Dash series of inter troop competitions saw the Troop pick up its first trophy of the year, Dash 2. A CFT followed by the assault course. The team was

LCpl Andy Mackie and Sig Barnie Barnett getting ready for another inspection on a cold winter's day, LCpl Plowman in the background

led by **Cpl John Yates** with **LCpls Andy Plowman, Jim Swain, Sig Paul Davie** and **Andy Brown** as team members.

After telling the Troop Staff Sergeant that he had a head for heights **LCpl Jim Swain** became an instant rigger and earned his UN medal by scaling the JOC mast to change the antennas. He was heard to say afterwards 'It didn't look that high from down here!'.

The Troop would like to welcome the following to our funny world of mixed Canadian and British equipments and white landrovers: **Cpls Livery, Turner, LCpl Corder, Sig Zolinski** and **Davie.**

Sadly all good things come to an end so we say farewell to: **Cpls Colbeck, Dodd, LCpl Rose, Sig Morgan, Ellis, Brown** and **Goodson.**

COMMCEN TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**WO1 (YofS) Hammett**
Day Sgt	**Sgt Dave Hartshorne**
Day Cpl	**Cpl Kenny Everett**
Tp Pickles	**QD and 'Taff' Hughes**

HELLOS

Sgt Thornton-Granville, Cpls Tim Hopkins, George McGuire, LCpl Bingham, Sig 'Scouse' Barton, 'Shaggy' Shahi, Dave 'Yakky-Dar' Owen and **'Jas' Garvey.**

GOODBYES

Sgt Dave Hartshorne, wife **Carolina** and son **Andrew**—good luck in 1 Div. **Cpl Kenny Everett** and **Sig Andy Major**—good luck in Civvy Street. **Cpl 'QD' McGaw, LCpl Kev Parnham, Sig Harding** and **Kev Wyatt**.

HAPPENINGS

The Commcen has been quite busy over the past few months, with treasure hunts, bowling competitions and a driving competition. **LCpl Kev Parnham** was the lucky winner of the treasure hunt, with **Sig Davis** bringing up the rear. There were two bowling competitions, in the first competition, Commcen Tp beat Tech and Line Tp in the Troop competition, **Sig Dave Hartshorne** was the winner, followed by **Sig Lee Porter** and **Cpl Bob Mason**.

In the Driving Competition the Troop not only came second overall, but **Cpl Kenny Everett** won the best driver award—who said handbags can't drive!

SQUADRON FOOTBALL

Commcen Tp beat Radio Tp 4—1 and Tech and Line 2—1 'Say no more'.

262 Sig Sqn
BFPO 58

HELLOS, GOODBYES AND CONGRATULATIONS

Hellos to **Sgt Des** and **Tiny Watson**, to **Sgt John** and **Julie Garhard**, **Sgt David** and **Jayne Doody**, **Sgts Mick Senior**, **Russ Dodd**, **Cpls Phil Murphy**, **Phil Leach**, **LCpl Ian 'Lamby' Lamb** and **Pte Karen O'Conner**. Welcome to Cyprus and all the best for your tour with the Squadron.

Goodbyes to **Sgt Rick** and **Sue Rickwood**, **Sgts Stan Matthews**, **Shaun Prior** and **Pte Jackie McCorry**.

Congratulations on their recent promotion to **Sgt Pete Harvey** and **LCpl Steve Appleton**. Finally, hello to **Garry Foster**, recent arrival in the Foster household. Congratulations to 'Dad' **Barrie Foster** on his promotion to Sergeant and goobye to **Barrie**, **Janet** and **Garry** who are off to 8 Sig Regt at Catterick.

TROULLI SCHOOL

The Squadron has recently become involved in the renovation of Troulli School, near Larnaca. Troulli Village lies in the area of 'no-man's land' between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish forces, consequently neither the Greeks or the Turks will take responsibility for the School. The Squadron, with the support of other Garrison units, is hoping to raise C£3,500 (S£4,200) to refit the School. Additionally much of the maintenance is being carried out by Squadron members in their own time. At weekends it is now a familiar sight to see **WO2 (YofS) Bill Jackson** and his band of painters and decorators depart for Troulli.

The photograph shows Squadron members with the Mayor of Troulli at a recent presentation. The Squadron wishes to thank Garrison units for their support and continued interest in the project.

GOSH!

Yet more good charitable work by 262! Photograph shows **WO2 (YofS) Bill Jackson** presenting a cheque for £845 to Great Ormond Street Hospital to the British High Commissioner on his visit to Dhekelia. Supervising events is the Squadron's OC **Maj Nigel Cory**.

SQUASH

Congratulations to **Cpl Mitch Ashley** who represented the Corps in the all-island Squash championships. The winners are shown with their prizes, **Mitch** is the centre of the front row. Well done!

NEFSKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Sgt Gary Corrigan

The Squadron supported the NEFSKI Championships by entering two teams and supplying communications, although, at times, the two combined.

The band of heroic (or foolish as the SSM was heard to say) skiers set off for Troodos early one February morning with thoughts of 'how on earth are we going to get down the North face safely and in one piece?' flowing through their minds. However on arrival at Troodos Square after a two hour journey the only thought anyone had was 'where can I get a cup of coffee?'.

After a short admin period we collected skis and eagerly headed for the slopes for our first attempt of racing each other down the north face. It was at this point that **Sig Dean Whitworth** was politely invited to become the fourth member of the B team.

Thursday morning both teams sat at the breakfast table in silence, everyone unsure. Today was the day of the race, the Giant Slalom.

Cpl 'Smudge' Smith had the unenviable task of leading the way for the Squadron and with great relief managed an admirable time even though he was in the B team. Next was the turn of the OC **Maj Nigel Cory** for the A team to brave the slopes. With the completition of a fine race the pressure was on the other three members of the two teams to get down safely. This was the reason given at the finish line by **Sgt Keith 'Dobber' Talbot** after his race. The next excuse was 'that one of the Squadron Instructors had taught me everything I know' (naming no names **'Dobber'**) came from **Sgt Gary** 'Good Style' **Corrigan**.

After good skis by **LCpl Mick Preston** and **Cpl Mick Garbett** and steady snow plough by **Lt Jane Heywood** the stage was set for **Sig** 'no right turn' **Whitworth** to entertain the whole championship by not being able to turn right causing great problems in a slalom race.

Apart from **Sig** 'now I can turn right' **Whitworth** confusing the crowds who turned out to watch the Slalom the second day passed uneventfully leaving the A team in fifteenth place overall and the B team in thirtieth place.

The meeting continued with the Langlauf.

GIANT SLALOM AND SLALOM

A Team	B Team
Maj Nigel Cory	Lt Jane Heywood
Sgt Keith Talbot	Sgt Gary Corrigan
Cpl Mick Garbett	Cpl 'Smudge' Smith
LCpl Mick Preston	Sig Dean Whitworth

LANGLAUF

by Sgt Keith Talbot

A Team	B Team
Maj Nigel Cory	Cpl Mick Garbett
Sgt Keith Talbot	Cpl 'Smudge' Smith
LCpl Mick Preston	Sig Dean Whitworth
Individual	
Lt Jane Heywood	

After the Slalom and GS Downhill races had finished all the part-time skiers left the way clear for the diehard langlauf skiers.

The course was set by **Cpl Dave Pritchard RM** and was 10km long, with lots of surprises on the way.

The first man left the start line at 0900 hrs, just before the sun really made you feel like an overdone Kebab, with old father time **Maj Nigel Cory** setting the way for the Squadron at 0905 hrs. There were several mattresses placed around the course for protection against static objects when hitting mach 12 in a racing snowplough, but some people like **Cpl 'Smudge' Smith** decided to rest up, feet up and have a cup of tea half way round. All in the two teams made it to the finish line, including 'I can run better than I can ski' **LCpl Mick Preston** who finally received a present in the form of disqualification certificate. The women's team also competed in the race, which was equally hazardous.

The Squadron was fortunate in having a skiing novice, **Lt Jane Heywood** who gave an excellent performance and gained the novice prize. The Squadron didn't win but made its mark, ready for the championship next year.

WHO FIGHTS FOR THE SOLDIER WHEN THE SOLDIER CAN'T FIGHT?

When a man has given his youth and strength to help us, it's our privilege and duty to help him and his loved ones when in need – even if he's still in the Service.

And when a Serviceman leaves the Army, Navy or Air Force, he and his family may have to face problems never encountered before. In fact, he may, in the defence of his country, have become disabled or have left behind a widow and children who desperately need advice and help.

A legacy in your will ensures that we can continue doing something in return. Please remember us. And please help.

SSAFA, 16–18 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP. Tel: 01-222 9221.

SSAFA

SOLDIERS', SAILORS' AND AIRMEN'S FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

Fortress HQ
Gibraltar

Signallers in Gibraltar? Yes, there most certainly are! As well as 642 Sig Tp, under the intrepid command of **Maj Tony McMullen**, Fortress HQ has a band of four Tele Ops (Data), one Tele Op (Radio) and one Battalion Rear Link Detachment Sergeant (on loan from the Resident Battalion who tends to its every need. The photo shows the four that could be found posing very naturally by their badge of residence. They are, left to right, **Sgt** 'commercial radio whizzkid' **Hoy, Sig** 'just married' **Tremayne**, 'Scarface' **Randall** and 'basketball ace' **Hunt**. With occasional help from the SO3 Comms/P Info/Training **Capt Croft** these men carry out a variety of jobs attached to a small but busy HQ, often in scorching heat (is it March already?) and arduous conditions (the ice machine is broken again). After work with the Signals Despatch Service, maintaining the Fortress Command Net and carrying out Comcen duties the merry band hardly has time to improve its suntan

633 Sig Tp
BFPO 12

PERSONALITIES

OC Tp	**Capt Steve Ardagh-Walter**
FofS	**WO2 Tim Prince**
YofS	**WO2 Bob Marshal**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Don Blacklaw**
TQMS	**Sgt Neil Charterton**

The past few months have been relatively quiet, the only excitement being a liaison visit from CDCN and the Force SAAM. The CDCN liaison team consisted of **Capt Bob McLaren** and **Flt Lt Graham Dawson** RAF. We hope that their visit proved interesting, that **Capt Bob McLaren** did not lose his shells again and that **Flt Lt Graham Dawson** managed to get another shirt!

The Troop did very well in the Force SAAM. Coming second in the Rifle Match and second overall, beaten by three points by the Armd Recce Troop. Our riflemen did not do very well in the Falling Plate but, unlike last time, did not get beaten by the Wives Club!

COOMA CAIRN

Most members of the Royal Signals know that there is a Signal Troop here in Belize providing comms from Airport Camp (APC) back to the UK but what is not generally known is that the Troop has a band of unsung heroes who man a VHF/UHF rebro site in the Mayan Mountains at a spot height (953m) called Cooma Cairn.

The climate at 953m, as you can imagine, is very different from that at APC. Although the sun still shines and you can still get a suntan it is very much cooler, especially in the evenings. It has been so cool that the electric fire has been switched on!

The rebro site consists of various Nissen type huts housing the sleeping accommodation, kitchen, equipment rooms and living room. The rebro is a three way rebro providing communication between FHQ, Battle Group (N) and Battle Group (S). There is also the C70 (yes we still have C70s here) rebro between APC and the satellite Earth Station at Belmopan.

The rebro crew consists of a Corporal Tele Op Tg, two Signalmen/Lance Corporals Tele Op Tg and a Signalman/Lance Corporal ED. They do between six and eight weeks at the site and then return to the commcen or the radio section to finish their tour. Although the facilities are very basic, outside showers (when there is water!) and an outside toilet, all the personnel who have done a stint at the site have enjoyed it very much. Asked the reason why they enjoy it so much the standard answer is 'We are doing a worthwhile job'. The Troop Staffy says it is because they are away from him!

The local wild life provide sources of entertainment as various species of snakes (the skin of a 4-5ft South American Rattlesnake hangs on the wall of the living room) bugs and creepy crawlies inhabit the area and there are plenty of scorpions living in the accommodation huts! **LCpl Wayne Hunt** was stung by a scorpion on his big toe while in bed and **Cpl Pete Poulson** had one fall, from the ceiling, on to his chest while he sat watching TV one night. For an 'Old Sweat' he can certainly move when the mood takes him!

The whole area of the site is very picturesque with Cooma Cairn surrounded by rolling hills and not far away the spectacular 1,000ft falls.

With a location that is beautiful, cool and away from authority there is never any lack of volunteers to man the site.

FAREWELLS

The Troop would like to say farewell to: **WO2 (YofS) Pete Wykes, SSgt 'Gunny' Shortis, Sgts John Kennedy** and **'Bev' Beverley, Cpls John Greenwood, Frank Nevens, Rich Cartwright, 'Geordie' Robson, Andy Fallows, Kev Yates, 'Snowy' Thorpe, Terry Swift, LCpls 'Jess' Bromley, 'Fish' Taggart, Sig 'Geordie' McKnight** and **Jimmy Carlin**.

A special farewell goes to **WO1 (FofS) Ron Kirkwood** and his wife **Carole** who, after 16 months (short toured!) leaves the sun of the Caribbean for the sun of Salisbury Plain!

ARRIVALS

The Troop would like to welcome **WO2 (YofS) Bob Marshal, SSgt Don Blacklaw, Sgts Mark Gibbons, Andy Suttie** and **Neil Charterton, Cpls Phil Anderson, Al Woodward, 'Chas' Charley** and **Phil Davis, LCpl Phil Lane, Sig Aidan Witty** and **Pete Messanger** and finally **WO2 (FofS) Tim Prince** and his wife **Kay** who are with us for the next 18 months.

The rebro site at Cooma Cairn as seen from the air

The Queen's University
Officers Training Corps
BFPO 801

DEPARTURE OF WO2 (SSM) GRANITZA
by JUO Susan McCloskey

March saw the last of **WO2 'Uncle Mick' Granitza** the long suffering Royal Signals PSI of QU(B)OTC. The 'Silver Fox' leaves us to go to 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn as RSM. What a step down from PSI! but congratulations anyway on the well earned promotion—it couldn't go to a better guy!

Despite an initial reluctance at returning to Belfast (to say the least), in his 18 months with Queens **WO2 Granitza** has been a shining example of hard work and enthusiasm and has been the best possible representative the Corps could have.

His record of service to the officer recruiting organisation has been considerable with **2Lts J. Gillespie** and **R. Gillanders** at RMAS, **2Lts M. F. Brenchley** and **R. Butler** with 40 Sig Regt (V) and **JUO S. McCloskey** sponsored by Royal Signals to RCB in April—who knows what trend has been started.

In early February the Royal Signals Troop (young and not so young) gathered together once again to bid farewell to a man who taught us things about Batco, VP and Clansman that we never knew existed. Ex Highland Jimmy in Scotland will never be the same without our 'Airborne Signals Jock' at the helm.

Good luck in the future **Mick** we will all miss you (will you miss us quite as much?).

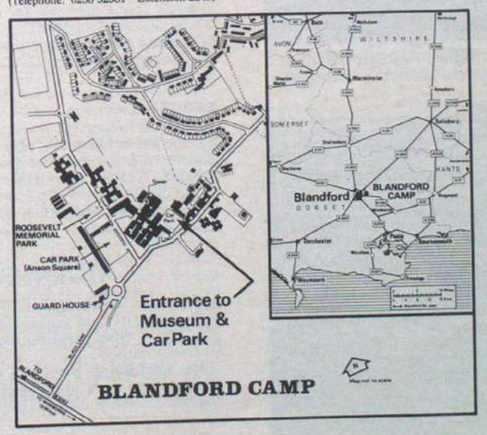
WO2 (SSM) Granitza receiving the obligatory 'goodbye' gold watch from 2Lt J. Gillespie

ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM
BLANDFORD CAMP, DORSET

The museum contains items dealing with the history of army communications dating from the Crimean War to the Falkland Islands Campaign of 1982, as well as the history of the Royal Engineer (Signal Service) and the Royal Corps of Signals.

The display contains early telegraphic and radio equipment dating from the South African War, World War I, the campaigns on the North-West Frontier of India, and World War II. There are many colourful uniforms on display as well as the only surviving example of the horse drawn cable laying wagon, also an 8th Army Armoured Command Vehicle in a desert setting. There are a number of examples of military motor cycles used by the Despatch Riders of the Corps and an airborne communications jeep.

Admission: FREE.
Opening hours: Monday to Friday 0900 - 1700 hours. Saturday - by appointment.
(Telephone: 0258 52581 Extension 2248)



CHESTER BRANCH

The Branch has over the past four years increased its membership mainly due to Ex TA members joining, but we are always on the lookout for new blood.

In November 1988 one of our members **Sandy Pettit** laid a wreath at Chester Cathedral in memory of Far East POWs.

We held our Annual Dinner at the Royal British Legion Club, Upton-by-Chester on 27 January 1989, our principal guest was **Brig C. T. Garton** and his wife **Kathy**. At this function the Branch was presented with three Silver Candelabra's by **Mrs Joan Thomas** in memory of her husband **Dave** who died whilst on holiday in Malta, a great shock to us all, he had been a member since 1950. Also a large Silver Jimmy on a plinth was presented to the Branch by **Sandy Pettit**, and along with the Candelabra's took pride of place on the top table.

Another Jimmy on a plinth was presented by **SSgt** and **Mrs K. Nichols**, for a special raffle which raised £64.50 for the Branch Benevolent Fund.

FORTY ONE YEARS ON

Those who served in 5 Training Regiment will be interested in these photographs sent to us by **A. Gray-Montgomery.** What are you doing now? Are you in touch with the Corps via an Association Branch and do you attend the annual reunions at Catterick and Blandford?

5 TR Royal Signals Tolthorpe Airfield February 1948
Whitehouse—Slater—Morris—Griffiths—Newton—Woodall

5 TR Royal Signals Deerbolt Camp Barnard Castle August 1948
Monty 2nd from Left Bottom Row

DD Course July 1948 Gaza lines 4 Training Regiment Royal Signals
(Monty) Bottom Left

DERBY BRANCH

Report by Dot Williamson—Chairman and Entertainment Secretary

We held our Annual Dinner at Kingsway TAVR Derby on Saturday 18 March. One hundred and twenty five members and their guests attended and **Lt Col S. Coltman**, CO 38 Sig Regt (V), **WO1 (RSM) Budden**, 38 Sig Regt (V), **Capt Bill Speirs** and **Mrs Speirs** (he was the Padre at 46 (NM) Sigs) together with **Maj Ann**, retired Royal Artillery were our guests of honour. Thus in one night we dined out **Lt Col Coltman**, dined in **RSM Budden**, revived old friendships for the Padre and brought back memories for **Maj Ann**. Kingsway has been in existence for 50 years and **Maj Ann** was one of the first officers to occupy it!

Lt Col Coltman thanked the Chair, the committee and the staff and delivered a most interesting speech to ex serving and serving members present. He also said that he was impressed at our success in gaining so many young members for the Branch.

After an excellent meal, cooked by an ex Signals chef and his wife, **LCpl Mike Adams**, with his usual flair, soon persuaded the 'old' and the 'young' to dance to his disco band. In this he was supported by his wife.

NEW ARRIVALS

Last year I reported the weddings among our serving members, now it is the babies! **SSgt** and **Mrs Warden** have a daughter who is being Christened in Cyprus. **Sgt Lennon** and his ex Cpl wife also have a daughter. **Cpl** and **Mrs Adams** are counting the days for their addition to the family. One wonders if 'it' will be a disco comedian too!

We thank all members of 46 Sqn for their help and support at all times and the Branch looks forward to a successful 1989.

GUERNSEY BRANCH

Fifty one members and friends attended a dinner held at Les Rocquettes Hotel on Tuesday, 21 February, when the guest of honour was **Mrs Gillian Reid-Buckle**, Senior Air Traffic Controller at Guernsey Airport.

Mrs Reid-Buckle previously worked at Gatwick and East Midland Airports and gave a fascinating account of how Royal, military, commercial and private planes are controlled in Guernsey's airspace.

EAST LONDON BRANCH

The Branch has sprung into life! Our meetings which are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month are well attended and we are pleased to report an increase in membership.

The Annual Dinner and Dance held at the Royal British Legion Hall, Seven Kings on 11 March was again a sell out. Our President **Maj (Retd) G. Dyer**, welcomed the guests and thanked the Committee for organising such a splendid function. The Chairman, **Mr S. E. Thrope-Tracey** thanked **Maj Barry Greenwood** and **Mr** and **Mrs Gilbert** and **Mr** and **Mrs Bilby** for their efforts on the Social Committee. Our guest of honour, **Lt Col C. P. Conlon**, CO 36 Sig Regt (V) replied on behalf of the guests. He then presented the Cup for the 'Best Troop' in his Regiment to **Lt Chris Forshaw**, Troop Commander 755 Sig Tp, based in Norwich who was present at the dinner together with representative members of the Troop.

Music was provided by 'Bow Tie Disco'. The occasion was concluded with the lowering of the Branch Standard by our Standard Bearer **Fred Backhouse** which preceded the playing of the National Anthem.

WEST LONDON BRANCH

In February we held our Branch Annual General Meeting. A large gathering arrived at Beaver Camp to find it still red-alerted and we were locked out. It was a very cold night. Our President, **Maj John Daw** and **Margaret** had driven all the way from Southampton. A line of cars, some groaning under the burden of trays laden with goodies, stood outside the gates. Our intrepid Treasurer, **Maj Ronald Miller**, came to the rescue. He took off at speed to find an alternative venue. Now, it must be said our respected **'Dusty'** knows his hostelries. (We understand it is a requisite of those in command, in the interest of their Troops). So there was a happy ending with a chilly but cheerful gathering in a hall at 'The Hussar.' We commend the Ladies Section for producing an excellent buffet. What would the Branch do without them?

SHEFFIELD BRANCH

A very successful Christmas Social was held at the Sergeants' Mess, 38 Sig Regt (V), on 15 December 1988. Sixty seven members and friends attended. Chief guests were the CO, **Lt Col S. A. Coltman** and **Mrs Coltman**, and **WO1 (RSM) D. P. B. McLennan BEM** and **Mrs McLennan**. This event was, unfortunately, to be their last function with us, since they are now being posted. We wish them well in their new units.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation by the CO, of Honour Membership badges and framed Commendation Certificates to **Mr Fred Powell JP**, our Branch Chairman, and the ever popular **Ernest Taylor**, for their work on behalf of the Branch and Association over the past 20 years.

We are especially grateful to **Lt Col Coltman** who made a special journey to the TA Centre on our Ladies' Night on 19 January to present **Frank Elwood**, Branch Treasurer and Welfare Officer, with his Honour Membership badge and Certificate.

Sadly, we have to report that **Ernest Taylor**'s wife, **Winnie**, died suddenly on 13 January. She was a great supporter of the Branch, and will be sorely missed. Our sincere sympathy and condolences go to **Ernest** and son **John**. The Branch was well represented at the funeral. **Mrs Margaret Stockdale**, wife of **Frank**, our Branch Secretary, is now at home recovering from a very serious heart operation. Their many friends in the Corps and the Association wish them well.

Our Annual Dinner will be held on 14 April and arrangements for our summer outing are still to be finalised.

Our meetings are still well attended, new members are joining us, and we are hoping for a good turn-out for the AGM on 2 March.

There are only two surviving members of the old Sheffield Branch still with us—we used to hold our meetings in the Sergeants' Mess at the Signals TA Centre, Crabtree Lodge. One of those, who later became CO of the Regiment, was **Lt Col John Ronald Long OBE, TD**, a former headmaster of a school in Sheffield. He died on 16 December 1988 at Portmahomack, Scotland, aged 70.

All Branch members are reminded that our Welfare Officer will be pleased to advise and help any ex members of the Corps who may be in need of welfare assistance.

Lt Col Coltman, CO 38 Sig Regt (V) presenting certificate and badge to the Chairman of Sheffield Branch Mr F. Powell JP at annual Christmas Party

Lt Col Coltman, congratulating our long serving member Mr E. Taylor on receiving certificate and badge at annual Christmas Party

Lt Col Coltman, presenting certificate and badge to Hon Treasurer/Welfare Officer Mr F. G. Elwood — January 1989

SHROPSHIRE BRANCH

Another year and another Grand National Draw has come and gone. The Draw Committee would like to express their sincere thanks to all those who took the time and effort to sell tickets on our behalf, as a result of which we are able to send a cheque to RHQ for the sum of £350.

The Branch now holds its meeting in the Sergeants' Mess HQ Western District, Copthorne Barracks, Shrewsbury normally once per month on a Wednesday starting at 7.30 pm. If you are residing in our area and happen to read this why not come along, you never know it might surprise you to discover an enjoyable evening. Our entertainments member **Colin McMillan** is busy looking into the wherewithall on Mystery Tours and thinking about our next dinner night with the ladies.

The winners of the Grand National Draw 1989 were as follows:-

1st Prize £150 =	**Capt P. A. Hodgkiss** 21 Sig Regt 'Little Polvier.'
2nd Prize £ 75 =	**H. Goldsby Chadderton** Oldham 'West Tip.'
3rd Prize £ 25 =	Pay Office 22 Sig Regt 'The Thinker.'
4th Prize £ 10 =	**Sgt D. Styles** 39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn 'Last of the Brownies.'

If you didn't win this year, there is always next year, so keep trying because the money raised goes to our Association.

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3 DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB

by E. E. Bayley, Honorary Secretary

On Saturday 18 March the Victory (Services) Club saw the launch of the 37th AGM and Annual Reunion as a luncheon get together, and the experiment proved a resounding success. Although this occasion was 'Stag' 49 members including the guest speaker **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB, MBE** the Signal Officer-in-Chief. **Lt Col Jonathan Cook**, the new CO of 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and his RSM **WO1 G. T. Reeves** represented the Regiment. First footers included **Brig Dick Baly** ex CO of the Regiment and now Commandant of the School of Signals, **Mr Jack Hudson** ex 8 Bde Sigs Section, and **Les Wright** ex 'E' Section 7 Fd Regt RA and **Mr Norman Scott**. The top table was graced with a large statute of 'Jimmy', a mounted Divisional Sign and an exhibition of photographs of Ex Ironhammer and action in the Falklands. Sincere thanks from all members of the Reunion Club for bringing these over.

The President **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe** welcomed our guests and first footers and all members present including **Col Peter Hoskins** whom we had not seen for a few years. He stressed that the Club was in good heart and he was pleased to see so many present. It was the first time we had decided to hold the Reunion as a lunch and the attendance seems to have justified the decision. Next year we will have the pleasure of the ladies on the occasion of the 38th Reunion. He took the opportunity of thanking the committee and the secretary on the good work put in to keep this club going and for the very successful Reunions over the past 37 years. After the loyal toast to her Majesty The Queen and our Colonel-in-Chief, The Princess Royal, the Signal Officer-in-Chief, whom I first met in my Hong Kong days as Chief Clerk CSO's Branch HQ Land Forces, gave an interesting resume of life in the Corps today and thanked the committee for inviting him in his last few weeks as Signal Officer-in-Chief. He promised his support for the Reunion Club and wished it success and many years of life.

The Secretary had prepared a short history of the Signal Regiment from 1 September 1939 to 30 June 1940 and this was handed over to **Lt Col Cook** by **Maj Gen Tighe**. At the request of the Commandant School of Signals a further copy is being prepared for the Royal Signals Museum Blandford in time for the May Association Reunion.

Lt Col Cook has thanked me for the 'Short History' which he said he found fascinating reading and so that the memories and records should not be lost asks that I fill in some more of the war years with the Regiment. So, help from ex members of the 3 Div Sigs during these years will be most welcome! I will try! 3rd Armd Div will be carrying out the annual ceremonies at Hermanville on 6 June at 0900 and 1800 hrs. **HM The Queen Mother** has graciously agreed to unveil the Memorial Window in Bayeux Cathedral on 6 June which the Fellowship has provided from voluntary subscription. That evening 3 Div Veterans will unveil the Gunner plaque in the car park. This will follow the Hermanville Ceremony and a visit to the Commonwealth War Graves cemetery.

All Ex members of the 3 Div Sigs, Inf/Armd, are earnestly invited to join the Reunion Club so that it will continue to be well attended.

The 38th Reunion is booked for the 24 March 1990 and ladies are invited. This will be at the Carisbrook Room, The Victory (Services) Club, London. The 40th Reunion in 1992 will be a very special occasion and donations towards the cost of this are invited.

THOSE PRESENT

Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB, MBE Signal Officer-in-Chief, Guest of Honour; **Lt Col J. R. B. Cook** Commanding Officer 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt; **WO1 (RSM) G. T. Reeves**—Representing all ranks 3 Armd Div Sig Regt and **Mr Alex Trueman**—Secretary Indian Signals Association.

MEMBERS

Mr B. J. Anderson, Mr W. J. Anderson, Brig R. F. Baly, Mr E. E. Bayley, Mr J. M. H. Brady, Brig J. D. T. Brett, Mr J. L. Collins, Mr P. E. S. Coombs, Mr T. H. W. Dean, Mr F. Drake, Mr F. G. Dukes, Mr W. T. Edwards, Mr G. A. Elwick, Brig A. F. Freeman, Mr P. T. Gibbons, Mr C. E. Hodder, Mr David Hodder, Mr W. H. Holden, Col P. R. Hoskins, Mr S. G. Hounsell, Mr J. Hudson, Capt A. Hughes, Maj H. Kelly, Mr E. G. Leat, Mr L. F. Martin, Brig C. G. Moore, Mr P. H. C. Munchin, Mr S. G. H. O'Dell, Mr E. A. Packham, Lt P. C. Packham, Mr T. A. Pakeman, Mr H. W. Palmer, Mr P. W. Pannett, Lt Col M. A. Philp, Col A. F. Pownall, Maj D. J. Roberts, Mr N. Scott, Maj K. N. Smartt, Mr W. Spittal, Mr A. W. Spratley, Mr J. Y. Templeton, Mr R. W. Thompson, Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe, Mr H. F. Timms and **Mr L. Wright**.

'WHERE ARE THEY NOW'

Mr Alan Searle has sent us the following names regarding the photograph published in the January 1988 issue, page 118 '1942 Boys Company Intake'—Rear Row (Standing): **Iveson, Pawson, Greenwood, Avery** and **Stevens, March** should read **Marsh**; Second Row (Standing): the 'missing' name is **Rush, Greenwood** should read **Hewitt**; Third Row (Standing): **Faulkner, Gooding, Woodward** . . . **Glendenning**? **Maycock** should read **Gilroy**; **Caine** should read **Mane, Catt, Roland Charles** is correct! On Ground: **Reid**?, **Davies JG**?, **Kent**, . . . and **Yeo**?

After leaving the army in 1953 at the end of his engagement, **Mr Seale** joined the Metropolitan Police and retired in 1982 in the rank of Chief Inspector. He is in touch with **Sid Hewitt** and **Stuart Dunlop** and ran into **John Head** at the Royal Tournament in 1960. He sends greetings to everyone with whom he may have served. He lives at 15 Brandsby Grove, Huntington, York YO3 9HL.

WAZIRISTAN 1936/37 AND 1937/39

By coincidence we have received two contributions from readers who served in the Waziristan Campaigns for publication in this issue. They are sure to evoke memories for those who served in those eventful days.

Lt Col (Retd) John A. Waite writes:-

'There may still be a number of ex-members of the Corps who served in the Waziristan campaigns in 1936/37-1937/39 who will remember a black bearded fierce looking Khassadar who was employed as the personal bodyguard of the Brigadier commanding the Razmak Brigade (RAZCOL). He was known affectionately as "**George**" and I got to know him quite well when I was preparing to take the Pushtu examination. George played an important part at the outbreak of the 1936/37 campaign when the Bannu Brigade (TOCOL) was ambushed in early November 1936 by a lashkar consisting of several thousand tribesmen from the Mahsud, Wazir and Ahmedzai tribes who had banded together under the Faqir of Ipi to undertake a jehad (holy war) to drive the British out of the North West Frontier. These various tribes were usually at war with each other, but the Faqir had managed to persuade them to band together in a common cause. He had been trying to do this for some considerable time but the tribesmen were very reluctant to become engaged in a major campaign as they feared the might of the RAF which at that time had nothing more than Wapitis which carried a few 50lb bombs and were only armed with machine guns. The Faqir assured the tribesmen that he had the power to change the bombs into paper and when the RAF dropped leaflets telling the tribesmen to disperse, they were convinced of the Faqir's extraordinary powers.

TOCOL was ambushed just before dusk and the terrific fire power of the tribesmen caused all the horses and mules carrying the wireless sets, heavy weapons and ammunition etc, to stampede. The column was completely cut off and expected the tribesmen to swoop down under cover of darkness with results that did not bear thinking about. Fortunately, the Brigade Signal Section managed to recover a CIP transmitter and aerial equipment which was set up to send messages to RAZCOL several miles away and to the RAF Miranshah requesting air support at first light the next morning. The 50 Watt valve of the CIP transmiter lit up like a beacon and had to be covered with a blanket whilst the messages were being sent. Without a receiver, they had no idea whether the messages for help were being received. Late that night, **George** made his way on foot from RAZCOL through the enemy held territory to TOCOL with a message to the effect that RAZCOL would be on its way at first light and confirmed that the RAF would be there to give their support. **George** made the perilous return journey to RAZCOL the same night—no mean feat even if he had not had to pass through the enemy.

In the event, the tribesmen started their attack that night but they must have lost direction and clashed with each other. The immediate reaction by the Wazirs was that they had been betrayed by their old enemies the Mahsuds and vice versa. This kept them busy throughout the night and at first light the next morning, RAZCOL and the RAF came to the rescue and the 1936/37 punitive campaign began in earnest.

The reason I have outlined this incident is that one of the recent TV reports on the Afghanistan campaign briefly featured **George** posing to show his prowess. He had changed little except that his beard was greying and he was toothless. When I last saw him at the end of 1939 he appeared to me to be about 38 years of age, but I was very young and he may have been no more than 28 or thereabouts. However, it is remarkable that he should be alive and look so fit almost half a century later. Perhaps some of the old and bold who served in Waziristan may have seen the TV report and it may be of interest to others who never heard of **George**.'

THE HEAVIEST CRICKET DEFEAT

The most important team in the history of first class cricket is the Dera Ismail Khan XI of Pakistan. Between 2 and 4 December 1964 they played an Ayub Trophy fixture at Lahore against a run-crazed Railway XI who batted until lunchtime on the third day. It was one dreary predictable six after another for hours on end till they were all out for 851.

Out came Dera Ismail Khan in fine fettle. In no time the game was alive with excitement. Their first innings was a model of economy (they were all out for 32) and in the second innings they were all out for an even more thrilling 27 to achieve the heaviest defeat in the history of the game.

Capt (Retd) J. W. Prees has spotted an item from the book 'The Return of Heroic Failures' which is reproduced by kind permission of the author, Stephen Pile: Ex-members of Waziristan District Signals may be interested in an item from the book.

— Sport —

BOARDSAILING

No sooner had the report in the last issue gone to the printers than unfortunately a change had to be made to the Corps Championship dates. BAOR units are regrettably unable to meet the original 8-10 June dates due to a major exercise planned for these dates.

Therefore the Corps-wide Championships will still be sailed at Lee-on-Solent but now at the later dates of 31 August-2 September. The original dates of 8-10 June have been retained at Lee-on-Solent for a new event—the UK Corps Championships which will include both individual and team races. This event is ambitious given the previous UK support and will succeed only if UK Corps Boardsailors unite and turn out in force!

Please support it no matter what level of sailor you are—novices and veterans will have their own categories. Full details will be circulated shortly.

Any queries on Corps Boardsailing will be welcomed by:- BAOR Secretary: **Capt Phil Daisey** Krefeld Mil: 329; Corps and UK Secretary: **Capt Dave Gilchrist** Tidworth Mil: 2403.

GOLF

BAOR Royal Signals Spring Meeting

The Annual Spring meeting took place at RAF Bruggen Golf course on 6 and 7 April. Once again the meeting was well attended by golfers from many units in the Theatre and a total of 50 started the two day meeting in cold, wet and windy weather. A number of excellent scores were returned on the first day and amongst them was a 43 point stableford score by ex **WO2 (FofS) Wally Sugden** (now working in 4 Sig Gp.) This attracted the attentions of the handicap Committee whose prompt action reduced **Wally's** handicap to prevent him winning any further prizes on the next day!

The second day brought better weather and worse scores (this, we are told, is the charm of golf!). At the end of the day and in his usual fashion, **Lt Col (Retd) Sam Wyatt** rigged all the scores and asked **Lt Col Cliff Walters** to present the prizes. Results of the principle competitions were:-

Scratch	Winner:	**Maj W. Brewin**	HQ BAOR
	Runner Up:	**SSgt J. Burgess**	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Handicap	Winner:	**WO2 B. Dalton**	21 Sig Regt
	Runner Up:	**SSgt J. Burgess**	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Stableford	Winner:	**LCpl A. Harriot**	206 Sig Sqn
	Runner Up:	**SSgt M. Paterson**	STC Sennelager

Regtl Greensome Winner: Comms Branch, HQ BAOR **(Lt Col Walters/Maj Brewin)**

Runner Up: 7 Sig Regt **(Maj Gilyeat/SSgt Scott)**

We are told that this meeting may be the last one to be organised by **Sam Wyatt**. On behalf of all the BAOR golfers, past and present, we wish him all the best for his retirement and thank him for the many years of excellent service which he has given to the Corps golfers in this Theatre. Royal Signals golf in BAOR will not be the same without him but we suspect he is busy amending MPT 91 to include a post of RO3 VLSL (Very Long Service List) in an additional column of the 4 Group establishment. No guesses as to who might fill the post.

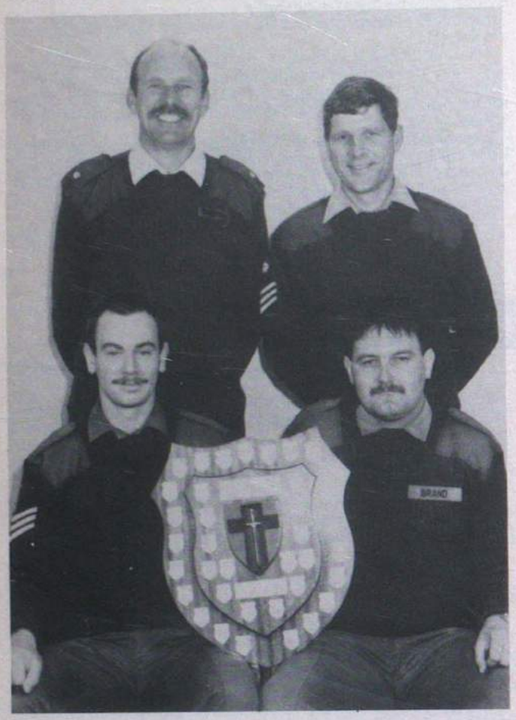
The Royal Signals BAOR Autumn meeting is to take place at Sennelager on 19/20 October.

Maj Willie Brewin receives the Scratch Trophy from Lt Col Cliff Walters with Lt Col (Retd) Sam Wyatt keeping his hand on the silver until the last second

ORIENTEERING

AFCENT ORIENTEERS DO IT AGAIN

The combined orienteering skills of 227 Sig Sqn and HQ AFCENT proved more than a match for the opposition at the British Rear Combat Zone (RCZ) Championships at Diergartscher Wald near Bruggen on Thursday, 30 March. Beating the Dusseldorf Station team by a margin of about five minutes, the team retained the Minor Units Shield, which they won in 1988. Our photograph shows the team: **Maj Graham Thomas, (FofS) Nigel Johnson** and **Sgts Peter Tasker** and **Tom Brand**. 227 Sqn quite often field a dozen entrants at RCZ Orienteering Competitions these days—the fact that the Sqn Comd, **Maj Brian Robinson** and the 2IC, **Capt Carol O'Nians** are both keen orienteers could have some bearing on the matter.



SAILING

EVENTS 1989

May		
8-9	R Signals Dinghy Regatta	Netley
10	Retired Members Regatta	Netley
10	Inter-Corps League v REME	Theale
10	Windsurfing v REME	Theale
17	Inter-Corps League v RA	Blashford
22	R Signals North v South Dinghy Match	Ripon
22-23	R Signals (BAOR) Windsurfing Championships	Dummersee
24	Inter-Corps League v RAPC	Netley
June		
1-2	R Signals Keelboard Regatta	Seaview
6	Inter-Corps League v RE	Poole
8-10	R Signals (UK) Windsurfing Championships	Browndown
10-11	ASA Dinghy Regatta	Netley
15-16	Triangular Regatta	Seaview
20	Inter-Corps League v Infantry	Poole
20-22	BAOR Windsurfing Championships	Dummersee
22-25	Army Windsurfing Championships	Browndown
23-27	ASA Offshore Regatta	Gosport
28	Princess Elizabeth Cup	Gosport
29-30	Army Keelboard Championships	Seaview
29-2 Jul	Services Offshore Regatta	Gosport
July		
6-10	R Signals Offshore Regatta	Gosport
8-9	R Signals Rally	Cowes
9	ASA v Seaview Yacht Club	Seaview
11	Inter-Corps League v RCT	Poole
15	Gold Cup	Seaview
16	Conningham Cup	Seaview
17-19	BFG Windsurfing Championships	Dummersee
18-21	Junior Soldiers Regatta	Netley
22-23	Bosun National Championships	Plymouth
August		
25-2 Sep	Universal 500	Hamble
30-3 Sep	R Signals Windsurfing Championships	Browndown
September		
2	Start of Whitehead Round the World Race	Portsmouth
6	Inter-Corps League v RAOC	Calvert
14-15	Inter-Service Dinghy Championships	Netley
25-26	BAOR Inter-Service Windsurfing Championships	Dummersee
26	Inter-Corps League v Army Medical Services	Poole
October		
14-15	Services Single Handed Championships	Plymouth

MASSED BANDS ON PARADE

For the first time ever all three Services will Beat Retreat on Horse Guards Parade 13th, 14th, 15th June 1989 at 6.30pm

Tuesday 13th June 1989

No of Tickets	Price £ p	Total £ p

Wednesday 14th June 1989

No of Tickets	Price £ p	Total £ p

Thursday 15th June 1989

No of Tickets	Price £ p	Total £ p

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Telephone Number (in the event of a query)

Daytime.....

I enclose a cheque/postal order for the sum of £..... and a stamped addressed envelope for the return of tickets, or debit my credit card (Access or Visa only)

Acc. No. Access ☐ **Visa** ☐

Signature _____

I cannot attend but would like to support SSAFA and enclose my donation of £.....

Please note:

Cheques should be made payable to

"Massed Bands on Parade"

Tickets **£6, £5** (reserved), **£2** (unreserved) obtainable from:

SSAFA 16-18 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP
Tel: 01-222 9221 *(no booking fee)*
GROUP RATES AVAILABLE

Premier Box Office Limited, 1b Bridge Street (opposite Big Ben), London SW1
Tel: 01-839 6815/6732 *(no booking fee)*

Open All Hours (24hr credit card booking)
Tel: 01-379 4444 *(no booking fee)*

or usual agents, and wherever you see VIEWTICKET — **WH Smith Travel, American Express Travel and Badger Travel Nationwide** *(booking fee)*

Goods Available from the Museum Shop, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH

Any telephone enquiries to Blandford Military (0258 452581) Ex 2248.

	Overseas £	UK £
Ash Tray, glass, blue with gold Corps badge	1.90	2.20
Blazer badge	5.65	6.50
Blazer buttons—large	1.20	1.40
small	1.15	1.30
Book mark	0.45	0.50
Brooch, white with gold Corps Badge	2.40	2.75
Cap Badge	1.75	2.00
Car badge, 2" × 2", silver badge on enamelled Corps colours	3.75	4.30
Clip board with Corps Crest	3.15	3.60
Cocktail mats, set of six, blue acrylic with Corps badge	7.10	8.15
Corps badge, on foil, framed and glazed 11" × 9"	4.90	5.65
Cuff links, shield, gold badge on enamelled Corps colours	5.25	6.00
Identity card holder, gold badge on blue vinyl	0.30	0.35
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
Royal Signals Officer Statuette	41.75	48.00
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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Birmingham B1 1TT.

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THE wire

The Royal Signals Magazine

July 1989

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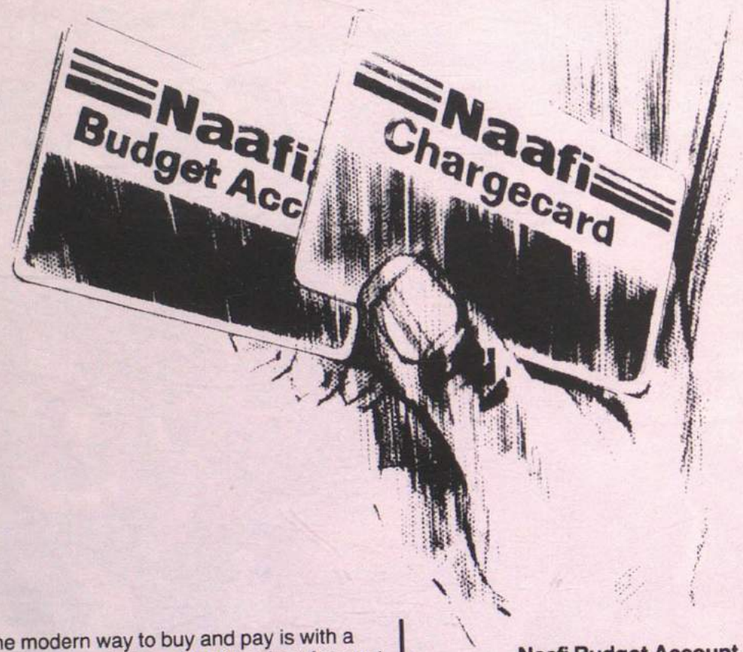

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The Royal Signals Magazine

July 1989 Vol. 43 No: 4

The Wire

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Editor Lt Col K. E. P. Andrews MBE
Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs
The Wire is a member of the Association of Service Newspapers

BIRTHDAY HONOURS

All our readers will wish to join us in congratulating the following who received awards in the Birthday Honours List:-

MBE

Capt B. P. Gilfether Royal Signals (V)

BEM

SSgt D. W. Burton
SSgt P. R. Smith
SSgt M. F. Starbuck
Cpl G. J. Blondel
Cpl M. Holman
Cpl D. Lindley
Cpl A. Wilson

PRINCESS ROYAL DAY, 28 JUNE

The Master of Signals sent the following greetings to our Colonel-in-Chief, **Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal GCVO**:

*On the occasion of Princess Royal Day, 28 June 1989, 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 renew their thanks for her kindness and devotion to her Corps.*

The Colonel-in-Chief sent the following reply:

I was delighted to receive the kind message of best wishes and affectionate greetings from the Master of Signals and all ranks of my Corps on the occasion of Princess Royal Day.

I much enjoyed meeting members of the Corps and their families during my visit to Middlesbrough earlier this year and look forward to future visits when I hope to meet many more of you. I send my warm thanks to you all.

The following messages were exchanged between the Colonel Commandant and Director of Communications, Royal Australian Signals and the Master of Signals on the occasion of Princess Royal Day.

The Colonel Commandant Director of Communications and all ranks of The Royal Australian Corps of Signals send greetings and best wishes on the occasion of your celebration of Princess Royal Day on 28 June. We look forward to the continuation of the firm friendship and co-operation developed over the years.

The Master of Signals sends his thanks to the Colonel Commandant Director of Communications and all ranks of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals for their kind message on Princess Royal Day. He and all ranks of The Royal Corps of Signals greatly value the close link between us which we are sure will continue and send best wishes to all ranks of The Royal Australian Corps of Signals.

BRIGADIER R. F. MAYNARD

Readers will be pleased to know that the Italian Government has posthumously awarded the Medaglia Al Valor Civile to the late Brigadier R. F. Maynard MBE who was drowned whilst attempting to save some children in difficulties in the sea in July 1988.

OUR COVER PHOTOGRAPH

The 259 Sig Sqn shooting team which won the Near-East Skill-at-Arms meeting photographed with the Sqn Comd Maj Lynn Relph WRAC/R Signals. Others in the photograph are:-

Rear (left to right): Sgt Steve Ferguson, Cpl 'Yogi' Cauldwell, Maj Colin French and LCpl 'Dicky' Dickerson

Front (left to right): Sig Fraggle Sutton, SSgt Kev Fitzpatrick, Capt Iain Standen and Cpl 'Taff' Bull

VISIT OF THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ROYAL GCVO TO 34 (N) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

The Regiment was honoured to receive a visit from **Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal** at the Brambles Farm TA Centre in Middlesbrough on Saturday 29 April.

Her Royal Highness was received at the TA Centre by the Master of Signals, **Major General J. M. W. Badcock CB, MBE, DL**, the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Major General R. F. L. Cook** and Commander 12 Signal Brigade (V), **Brigadier S. G. M. Gordon**.

During the visit **Her Royal Highness** saw members of the Regiment from all five TA Centres engaged in a wide range of activities including recruit and trade training, maintenance work, a mobilisation exercise and the field deployment of a communication centre and an area message centre. **Her Royal Highness** met members of the Regiment and their wives and husbands at a reception held in the Sergeants' Mess. Civic and VIP guests joined the gathering at a lunch which was prepared by the Regimental cooks and served by our stewards and stewardesses to music provided by the Band. Before leaving **Her Royal Highness** spent some time talking to the families.

Her Royal Highness showed a keen interest in the work of the Regiment throughout her visit. Memories of the visit will be treasured for years to come and the pleasure can be seen in the accompanying photographs.

Master of Signals, Lord Gisborough, HRH, CO and Katherine Macklin

Maj Angus Maude, HRH, LCpl Harry Cutler and Sig Alan Turley

SSgt Kenny Jackson, Mr Brian Mein, HRH and LCpl Robin Lawson

HRH, WO2 George Poulter and Sgt Brian Irvine

Maj Angus Maude, Maj Sarah Maude, HRH and CO

Capt John Lambton, LCpl Micheal Macdonald, HRH and CO

HRH talking to Jennifer Nesbitt daughter of Sgts Laura and Pete Nesbitt

PLAYING OF RETREAT CEREMONY

A Playing of Retreat Ceremony took place at Carlton Barracks, Leeds on Saturday 3 June 1989. It was preceded by 'cocktails' at which many members and ex-members of the Regiment renewed old friendships. The guests of honour were the Lord and Lady Mayor of Bradford and The Deputy Lord and Lady Mayor of Leeds. It was a very enjoyable occasion at which the Regimental Band under the direction of **WO1 J. H. Dodd** gave a first class marching and musical display. The Commanding Officer **Lt Col M. J. Macklin** took the salute and the band was warmly applauded by an appreciative audience as it marched off the parade.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Sgt Ena Hall** 50 Sqn, on passing a TA Drill Course at the Guards Depot, Pirbright.

To **LCpls Falkinder** and **Chan** 49 Sqn, **LCpl Clare** 90 Sqn, for achieving first, second and third place respectively on a recent TA Detachment Commanders Course at 11 Sig Regt.

To **SSgt Guy Richards** on selection for promotion to Warrant Officer 2.

FAREWELLS

To **Sgt 'Griff' Griffin** and his wife **Diane**, best of luck for the future.

VISIT OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER TO 68 (INNS OF COURT AND CITY YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON

In February this year an invitation was despatched to Clarence House by our Sponsor Colonel, **Colonel G. D. Thompson MC, TD, DL**, inviting the Squadron Royal Honorary Colonel to visit the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry. **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother** honoured us by accepting our invitation.

Well the day came and luck really was on our side, Tuesday 2 May was the first fine day of the summer.

A small working party began setting up at 1000 hrs. Several hundred chairs were laid out on the Terrace outside the Great Hall overlooking the Benchers Walk. Saluting dais borrowed for the day from 71 (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment was placed in position.

From 1430 hrs onward increasing numbers of people began to arrive and Headquarters soon became rather full of people changing into uniform, seeking a spot to rest, ladies trying on hats, men in a panic calling for a needle and cotton, or getting into a panic when that difficult spur refused to stay in its box.

Eventually at 1700 hrs the Guard of Honour fell in outside. 68 (IC and CY) Signal Squadron, Commanded by **Major Nick Leviseur**, with **Captain Jeremy Fern** and **Lieutenant Jonathan Manley**; 348 (IC and CY) Squadron Home Service Force, Commanded by **Major Richard Duxbury TD**, with **Lieutenant Timothy Weale** and **Second Lieutenant Edward Marshall**; and the Band under Command of **WO1 Walthew**. The Guidon Party—**Staff Sergeant Peter Thornton, Staff Sergeant Dave Simmons** and **Staff Sergeant Dave Lavender**—took up position between the two Guards and the Staff Sergeant Major, **Warrant Officer 2 Barrie Corfield**, handed the parade over to **Major Duxbury** and the Officers fell in.

Under the command of **Major Duxbury** the parade moved off and marched the short distance to the Benchers Walk where they formed up and waited the arrival of **Her Majesty**. The band continued to play a selection of traditional light music, entertaining the assembled guests and casual spectators.

We were fortunate to have amongst our guests Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Greater London, **Field Marshal Lord Bramall, Major General Badcock**, Master of Signals, **Major General Cooper, Brigadier Bowser** of London TAVRA and **Colonel Andrew Parker Bowles**, Silver Stick. The Treasurer of Lincoln's Inn, **Right Honourable Lord Justice Kerr**, Benchers of the Inn and the Masters and Clerks of the affiliated Livery Companies were also present.

The Royal Car drove into Benchers Walk past route-liners provided

HM inspecting members of 68 (IC & CY) Sig Sqn at Lincoln's Inn—Tuesday 2 May 1989. Escorting HM is Maj Nick Leviseur, the OC of 68 (IC & CY) Sig Sqn

Photos by John Green

HM inspecting members of 348 (IC & CY) HSF Sqn at Lincoln's Inn—Tuesday 2 May 1989. Escorting HM is Maj Richard Duxbury OC (IC & CY) HSF Sqn. Behind them is the IC & CY Sponsor Colonel, Col Digby Thompson

by 35 (IC and CY) Squadron ACF and halted.

Trooper Fitzgerald (HSF) opened the limousine car door and **Her Majesty** alighted to be greeted by **Colonel Thompson**, who in turn introduced the Parade ADC, **Captain James D. A'C Cartwright**, the Squadron 2IC. The party walked to the dais where **Her Majesty** took the Salute, after which both guards were inspected, and what a fine sight they both were.

On returning to the dais **Her Majesty** was invited to present the new camp colours and an escort comprising **Captains Michael O'Beirne** and **Peter Walker**, with **Warrant Officer 2 Jim Wolfe** (SSM HSF) and **Corporal Hulme** marched on and formed up.

With the raising of the new HSF Squadron just two years ago it was thought appropriate to revive a tradition in presenting small camp colours, previous examples of which are displayed in the Regimental Museum at Headquarters. One colour was given by **Major Nick Leviseur**, the second by **Captain Doug Mully**, the PSO of both Squadrons.

After **Her Majesty** had presented the colours each was received by its Squadron to the sound of the Regimental March 'Nancy Dawson'. That ended the formal parade. Troops marched off; guests, and old comrades, entered the Great Hall for the reception. Among those presented were **Major** and **Mrs B. Rowe, Captain** and **Mrs J. Wilson**, and **Warrant Officer 1 (Regimental Sergeant Major)** and **Mrs McKenzie**.

Her Majesty, on entering the Great Hall paused to unveil a portrait of our Sponsor Colonel, **Colonel Thompson**—who in 1989 celebrates 50 years service, and a short address was given by **Colonel Stephen Carden CBE, TD, DL**, the Honorary Colonel of 71 (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment, who with **Lieutenant Colonel Tony Verey TD**, Commanding Officer of 71 Signal Regiment, watched the unveiling.

Her Majesty then moved amongst the assembled guests chatting to many of those present. On departure a bouquet was presented by **Mrs Corfield**.

A buffet supper was then served and the party went on till 2100 hrs.

So ended a most memorable occasion. **Her Majesty** has been our Honorary Colonel since 1957 and has made a point of visiting us every so often. We are honoured by her patronage and hope it may continue.

We would wish to record an enormous vote of thanks to **Capt P. M. Carver RN (Retd)**, the Under Treasurer of Lincoln's Inn, for the help and assistance given so readily to us.

No production can be a success without dedicated support and a special word of appreciation must be given to **Mrs Pam Dumbrell**, the Squadron Administrative Officer.

After the visit the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry Sponsor Colonel, **Colonel Thompson**, received the following message from Her Majesty, through **Sir Alastair Aird**, Comptroller of the Household:

'**Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother** commands me to write to let you know what great pleasure it gave **Her Majesty** to visit the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry and unveil your portrait at Lincoln's Inn.'

The Honorary Colonel was much impressed by the smartness and turnout of the Guard of Honour. **Queen Elizabeth** was also delighted to have this opportunity of presenting the Squadron Pennants before attending the Regimental Reception in the Great Hall.

It was a splendid gathering, and one which **Her Majesty** much enjoyed.'

MASTER OF SIGNALS AWARD

The Corps Committee has agreed to a Master of Signals Award in formal recognition by Royal Signals of special contributions or services to the Corps made by individuals or corporate bodies, where such recognition cannot be accommodated properly within the terms of award for The Princess Mary's or Institution's Silver Medal.

The very nature of this award precludes any formal direction of criteria on which it shall be made. Nonetheless, The Master of Signals Award shall be considered a prestigious and rare award and so the sponsor must take due account of this in making a recommendation. Nominations are to be forwarded in accordance with the directions set out for The Princess Mary's and Institution's Silver Medals, so as to arrive at Regimental Headquarters, Royal Signals, in time for the October Meeting of the Institution Council.

Nominations are to be accompanied by a full justification and are to be processed through the normal chain of command for Royal Signals Regular and Territorial Army Units to the Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army), and through the Royal Signals Association channels to the Chairman of the Royal Signals Association for the retired Corps. Applications for the award are to be considered at each level of command, throughout the selection process and can be rejected at any stage.

The final decision as to whether or not the award is granted will be passed to the Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army) or the Chairman of the Royal Signals Association for action as appropriate.

The form of the award is to be decided after an analysis of the recommendations received during the year.

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE OF THE REGIMENTAL COLONEL

ROYAL SIGNALS RECRUITING AND PUBLICITY EVENTS—1989

JULY		
1	Carnival Parade, Windsor	94 Sig Sqn (V)
1-17	SEDIST KAPE	3 Armd Div Sig Regt RIT
1	Bramley Carnival	Trg Gp RIT
2	Bromyard Gala	White Helmets
4	Keighley Straw Race	Trg Gp RIT, 49 Sig Sqn (V)
5-7	Bassingbourn Army Exhibition for Schools	Quicksilver, Trg Gp RIT, Blue Helmets, 19 Inf Bde Sig Sqn RIT
6-10	Plymouth Joint Services Day	30 Sig Regt RIT
7-8	Pudsey Show	Quicksilver
8	Middlesbrough Brit Steel Gala	Trg Gp RIT, 90 Sig Sqn (V)
8-9	Bexley Show	71 Sig Reg (V)
8-9	Cheshire Steam Fair	White Helmets
9	Barnsley Vintage Car Rally	Trg Gp RIT
9	Staines Show	Blue Helmets
10-13	Harrogate, Great Yorkshire Show	Quicksilver
11-14	Torbay Carnival	30 Sig Regt RIT
13-15	Kent County Show	White Helmets
14	Wathgill CCF Central Camp	Trg Gp RIT, White Helmets
15	Littlehampton Forces Day	5 AB Sig Sqn RIT
15-17	Wakefield, Save the Children Gala	Quicksilver
15	Wetherby High School Gala	Trg Gp RIT
15	Stoke Hill School	30 Sig Regt RIT
15-16	Widnes, Wakefield Halton Show	Blue Helmets
16	RAF Church Fenton, SSAFA Air Show	Trg Gp RIT
16	Spilsby Show, Lincs	White Helmets
16-21	Helston, Flambards	30 Sig Regt RIT
19	Keighley Show	Quicksilver
20	Cumberland Agric Show	White Helmets
22	Cleveland Show	Quicksilver, Blue Helmets
22	Bristol, British Aero Space	30 Sig Regt RIT
22	Catterick, Save the Children	White Helmets
22	AAC Harrogate, Spectral Vision	White Helmets, Quicksilver Blue Helmets
22-23	Nostell Priory, Wakefield	Trg Gp RIT

JULY		
23	Wigtownshire Hunt County Fair	White Helmets, Blue Helmets
24-26	Rydale Show (N Yorks)	Quicksilver
26	Devon, Yealmpton Show	White Helmets, 30 Sig Regt RIT
26-27	Weston Air Display	Blue Helmets
27-28	St Helens Show	33 Sig Regt (V)
28-31	Pickering Traction Rally	Quicksilver
29	Imphal Bks, York. Kohima Day	Blue Helmets
29	Weston Super Mare, ACF Tattoo	30 Sig Regt RIT
30	Torquay Pedal Car Rally	30 Sig Regt RIT
31-11 Aug	Inverness, Aberdeen KAPE	White Helmets, Trg Gp RIT Band, 4 Div HQ & Sig Regt
AUGUST		
3	Herne, Strode Park Fete	5 AB Sig Sqn RIT
3-6	Blackpool Lions	Quicksilver
4-5	Lowther Horse Show	Quicksilver
4-6	Southsea Show	5 AB Sig Sqn RIT
6-11	Paignton Regatta	30 Sig Regt RIT
7-11	Morecambe Show	Quicksilver
12-13	Steam Rally, Knowl Hill	94 Sig Sqn (V)
12-13	Gatcombe Park Horse Show	White Helmets
12-13	Hastings Fair	5 AB Sig Sqn RIT
12-13	Oldham Show	Quicksilver
12-13	Mevagissy Town	30 Sig Regt RIT
14-17	Swynerton Cumbria ACF Camp	Quicksilver
16-17	Ilfracombe Tattoo	30 Sig Regt RIT
19	Darlington Show	White Helmets, Trg Gp RIT
19	Bolton Show	Quicksilver
19-20	Hartlepool Show	Blue Helmets
19-20	Bristol Festival of Transport	30 Sig Regt RIT
20	Wisbech, Metal Box Gala Day	White Helmets
22-24	Leek, Lancs ACF Camp	Quicksilver
23	Stafford Police Space Carnival	White Helmets
24-27	Poole Show	Blue Helmets
25-28	Staverton Airport Military Tattoo	Blue Helmets
26-28	Stoneleigh Town & Country Festival	White Helmets
26-28	Harwood Hse Traction Rally	Quicksilver
26-28	Seaham, East Durham Show	Trg Gp RIT
28	Hemel Hempstead Show	Blue Helmets
28	Cricklade Show	30 Sig Regt RIT
31	Bridport, Dorset. Melplash Show	White Helmets
SEPTEMBER		
2	Dorchester Show	30 Sig Regt RIT
2	Eastbourne Show	White Helmets
2-4	Bradford, Yorkshire Water Fun Day	Quicksilver
3	Bradford, RSPCA Fun Day	Trg Gp RIT
5-8	Eastney Royal Marines Tattoo	White Helmets
6-9	Taunton Agric Show	30 Sig Regt RIT
9	S Norfolk Tattoo	White Helmets
9	Leeds, Normanton Gala	Trg Gp RIT
10	Bradford, Flockton Gala	Trg Gp RIT
10-15	Christchurch Quay	30 Sig Regt RIT
15-18	Worsborough County Fair	Quicksilver
16-17	Peterlee Carnival	Trg Gp RIT
16-17	Calne County Show	30 Sig Regt RIT
19-22	Leconfield, Joint Services Display Blue Helmets	Quicksilver, Trg Gp RIT,
21	Thame, Leyland/DAF at Thame Show	White Helmets
23	RAF Finningly	White Helmets, Trg Gp RIT
23-24	Blandford, Bryanston School	30 Sig Regt RIT
25	Pateley Bridge, Nidderdale Show	Blue Helmets
25-8 Oct	Norfolk, Cambs, Suffolk, Essex KAPE	19 Inf Bde Sig Sqn RIT
30	Middlesbough Northfield School	Trg Gp RIT

SOLDIER RECRUITING

The recruiting year has not started well and the first four Adult and Young Soldier intakes forming at Catterick have been 57% short of target. The major deficiency trades are Tele Ops (Radio Relay), (Radio), (Data) and (Linguist). Despite better Junior figures the overall trend in manning continues to be downward.

The Director of Army Recruiting (DAR) is taking various measures to help and has agreed to make four Royal Signals trades priority 1 trades in coming months, but the fact remains that we have to increase the number of committed Royal Signals potential recruits when they walk through the Army Careers Office door. Units can assist this effort by greater support for the Satisfied Soldier Scheme.

Two of our six KAPE tours for 1989 have now been completed, and first reports indicate that both 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt and 21 Sig Regt have conducted well planned and well run tours. The emphasis has swung from straight KAPE to recruiting venues, and more of the programme has been spent in schools. 3 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt is next in line with a KAPE tour in South East District from 1-17 July.

PARA 90—THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF AIRBORNE FORCES

The British Army's Airborne Forces will celebrate their Golden Jubilee in 1990. In May, 5 AB Bde will parade for a Royal Review; on 22 June there will be a Service of Commemoration in St Paul's Cathedral, and on the next day there will be a march through Rushmoor by units granted the Freedom of the Borough. On Airborne Forces Day, 7 July 1990, there will be a parade of Airborne units, to be followec by a pageant which will be open to the public

The Corps participation in Para 90 will be based on 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. The unit is anxious to make contact with all ex-Airborne Royal Signals, so those who may not be known to the Squadron are invited to get in touch with the Administrative Officer, 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Arnhem Barracks, Montgomery Lines, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2AU.

Below is a list of the events already planned for Para 90; this will be updated in due course:-

1990 EVENTS	
Feb 4	Leicester Cathedral Band Concert
Feb 23	Birmingham—St Valentine's Ball
Mar 17	Manchester Airport (Ringway) Celebrations
Mar 25	Rhine Crossing Service, Aldershot
Apr 28/29	Cardiff Events
May 30-Jun 2	Royal Bath and West Show
Jun 1/3	15 Para (SV)—Glasgow and Edinburgh
Jun 10	Church Fenton SSAFA Air Show (N Yorks)
Jun 16/17	Biggin Hill Air Show
Jun 21	York Band Concert
Jun 22	Memorial Service, London (St Paul's)
Jun 22	Memorial Service, York
Jun 23	Freedom of Rushmoor March
Jul 7	Airborne Forces Day 1990
Jul 11/13	Harrogate Show
Jul 28	York Area Band Concert
Jul 29	York Minster Service
Jul 29-Aug 25	Edinburgh International Tattoo
Jul 30-Aug 4	Colchester Tattoo
Aug 5	Duxford IW Museum
Aug 11/12	St Michael's Mount/Flambards
Aug 19	Nostell Priory, Wakefield
Aug 26	Andover Fete
Sep 2	Spitalgate Heath, Grantham
Sep 7	Preston Band Concert
Sep 8	Leyland Spectacular
Sep 23	Bristol Service/Parade/Display
Sep 30	Arnhem Sunday, Aldershot
Oct 27	Warrant Officers and Sergeants Past and Present Dinner, Aldershot
Nov 4	RBL Festival, Birmingham
Nov 10	Royal Albert Hall, London

MEMBERS OF 31 SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS) AT A TRAINING WEEKEND

Left to right: LCpl Diane Evans (Secretary), Sig Francis Hegarty (Booking Clerk), Pte Colleen Hickey (Stock Control Clerk), LCpl Judith Williams (Assistant Accountant), Sig Geoff McKay (VDU Operator in RHQ R Signals), LCpl Carol Green (Video Tape Editor), 2Lt Lynn Smith (Royal New Zealand Signals) and LCpl Cathy Bassey (Training Manageress)

Photo by Courtesy of Times Newspapers Ltd

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.

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THE WHITE HELMETS PAST AND PRESENT

This unique picture was taken at Drayton Manor Park on 13 May during 35 (South Midland) Sig Regt (V) Military Tattoo. It shows on the left **Sgt Robinson** RAPC 35 Sig Regt (V) on his immaculate 1956 Triumph T100 which was the motorcycle used by the White Helmets, next **Capt Kit Lewis** the current OC White Helmets, next is **Mr Ian McSherry**, Rides Manager of Drayton Manor Park and former MTWO of 35 Sig Regt (V) and a former Team Sergeant White Helmets, next is **Maj David Elson**, Trg Maj 35 Sig Regt (V) a former OC White Helmets and **Sgt Gary Elliston** the current Team Sergeant White Helmets on a 1986 Triumph 750 Tiger.

35th (South Midland) Sig Regt (V) Tattoo at Drayton Manor Park 13 May 1989

(Left to right): Sgt Robinson, (astride 1956 Tiger 100); Capt Kit Lewis, OC White Helmets; Mr Ian McSherry, Tattoo Organiser; Maj D. Elson, 35 Sig Regt; Sgt G. Elliston, White Helmets Team (astride 1986 Triumph Tiger 750)

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.

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 makes at least two trips a year to the Continent, to take part in the Queen's Birthday Celebrations at SHAPE and to top the bill at the prestigious three day Rhine Army Summer Show. In May this year, the Team took part in the International Festival of Military Music in the City of Mons in Belgium. By the end of the Season, the Team will also have appeared in front of their colleagues in 2, 8, 11, 16, 21 and 35 Sig Regts, the AA Coll Harrogate (twice) and HQ 2 Sig Bde. The Team is already booked for the Rhine Army Summer Show next year but the highlight in 1990 will be the three weeks of performances at the Royal Tournament in London.

WHAT WE WANT FROM YOU

We are not looking for 'bikies'. Surprisingly only nine members of the present highly successful Team possess a licence to take a motor cycle onto the public roads and most of those have passed their test since they joined the Team. Even if you have never been on a motor cycle in your life, you could be the man we are after.

If you are keen, fit, reasonably well co-ordinated, possess guts and determination, have an even temperament and get on well with your colleagues, have an abundance of common sense, enjoy travelling and are prepared to live out of a suitcase for five months of the year, 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. We have been doing it for 62 years.

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 1988 the Blue Helmets had operated a part-time display team based in the South of England. The South was full of military parachute display teams but there was 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 has 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 AA Coll 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 Show Season, up to 10 members and potential members of the Blue Helmets are sent to Spain to carry out approximately 60 parachute descents as pre-season training. This is to get the individuals to perform as a team. Most military parachute display teams set themselves a similar training task. In its first season of operating from Catterick, the Blue Helmets gave 34 performances. Although in theory the Team was to capture audiences primarily in the North of England, the 1988 and 1989 programmes have seen it booked to perform all over England and Scotland and as far afield as SHAPE and the Rhine Army Summer Show. This year the Team has also given displays in Belize and for 13, 16 and 21 Sig Regts in BAOR. Nearer home they will have also performed for their colleagues in 2, 8, 11, 35 and 37 Sig Regts, the AA Coll Harrogate and HQ 2 Sig Gp. They are scheduled to give 65 displays in 1989.

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 strength 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 both full- and 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 Dispaly Teams, Vimy Barracks, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire DL9 3PS.

A NEW CORPS MUSEUM

THE CURRENT SITUATION

The Corps Museum was established in the entrance hall of the Headquaters School of Signals building when the School of Signals moved to Blandford in 1967, Since then the displays have been progressively and energetically developed and updated. Some additional accommodation has been provided in recent years but a total of only 6,500sq ft of display space is available and there are none of the environmental controls necessary for the long term protection and conservation of the exhibits.

At the moment the majority of exhibits are, perforce, in glass cases, some on cramped shelves and only a limited selection of exhibits up to the early 1950s can be shown. Coverage since the 1950s is very sparse. Many equipments, including, for example, a wide range of Larkspur radios, are currently held in packing cases in the limited storage space available. There is no space to display Bruin even though arrangements are now in hand for the acquisition of a fully representative range of Bruin installations. There is a need to present the history of the Army Wireless Chain/Commonwealth Communication Army Network/Defence Communication Network and the United Kingdom static communication system. Technology displays showing, for example, the progress from valves to the latest integrated circuits are a clear aim for a communications museum and these also cannot be included at present. Looking slightly further ahead, the plans for procuring Bowman, the future combat radio, will add Clansman to the Museum inventory.

A LOOK AHEAD

In 1987 a study looked at the future requirements of the Corps Museum into the 21st Century. The study concluded that approximately 25,000sq ft was now required and considered three basic options for providing the extra space:

Expand the Present Museum—The limitations imposed by the existing structure made this impractical.

Adapt and Expand Another Building within Blandford Garrison—No suitable building which could be made available was found.

Build a New Purpose-built Museum—The most costly option but considered to be the most cost-effective long term solution.

The Corps Committee accepted that a new Museum should be built and approved the aim as:

'To preserve, conserve and to display where appropriate items and equipments which relate to Army Communications and the heritage of the Corps, so as to meet the particular needs of Royal Signals and the interests of the public at large.'

In developing this aim, recruiting, training and educational aspects would be highlighted.

In 1989 the Corps Committee tasked a small volunteer project team to carry out a feasibility study into:

The availability of Ministry of Defence land in or near Blandford Camp.

The planning constraints for erecting a new building.

The feasibility study concluded that the best available location was a site at the top of Black Lane, near the existing Main Guardroom but outside the Camp perimeter, and that planning problems should not present insuperable difficulties.

At a meeting in May 1989 the Corps Committee accepted that, in common with other Arms and Corps, Royal Signals would have to raise the money for the capital project. It also agreed to establish a small Project Development Team and appoint a Project Manager, to carry out, in conjunction with appropriate consultants, a design and build study and to launch a fund-raising campaign.

THE PROPOSED OUTLINE PLAN

The new Museum needs to present the story of Army communications and the Corps heritage in an exciting manner using modern techniques, including audio-visual, with interactive tableaux, displays and models. It would have to be run as a commercial enterprise with active marketing and publicity.

The Project Development Team has launched the planning application phase, prepared an estimated outline cost for the whole project and obtained tenders from museum designers and architects for the design and build study which will take place throughout 1989.

Detailed planning of the building will take place during 1990 and a building contract could then be let in early 1991. Building and installation of displays are planned for 1991 and early 1992 with a proposed date of opening at Easter 1992.

FUND-RAISING

The estimated total capital cost is £2,300,000, which includes £1,500,000 for the building and supporting infrastructure, £750,000 for the museum displays, graphics, tableaux, models, lighting and audio-visual effects and £15,000 for other installation costs, including security.

Before an appeal can be made to major electronic firms, it will be essential to demonstrate the Corps' commitment and support for the new Museum. The whole project will, therefore, stand or fall on the response from all members of the Corps to the appeal for funds. During 1989 therefore, brochures giving an outline of the plan will be distributed throughout the serving and retired Corps, inviting individual contributions. An external appeal, targetted at industry and the general public, will then be launched in Spring 1990, following receipts from the internal appeal. In addition, the Signal Officer in Chief (Army) has agreed to designate 1990, the Corps' 70th Anniversary, as 'Corps Museum Year'; Regiments and Squadrons will be invited to hold special events/fetes/shows during the year and to donate the profits to the New Museum Fund.

NAME THE NEW MUSEUM

In order to attract visitors, a name is required which will convey the modern image while encapsulating the history of the Corps in particular and of Army Communications in general. The currently favoured title is 'Museum of Army Communications', but the Project Team is looking for ideas. Is 'Museum' as a term too out-dated? Should we adopt something completely different? It has been decided therefore to launch a competition to 'Name the New Museum'. Entries are invited and should be sent as soon as possible to: The Project Development Team, Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH.

A cash prize of £50 will be awarded to the contributor of the entry with the selected name. Closing date for entries is 31 December 1989.

The present Museum has inadequate space and facilities. A new, larger Museum is needed which will employ modern display techniques in telling the interesting and informative story of the growth and development of both Royal Signals and of army communications in general.

It is hoped that everyone will feel able to assist the Corps in developing the plans for this new, exciting and challenging project. Any ideas, comments or suggestions concerning any aspect of the project should also be sent to the Project Development Team at the Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH.

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Remember the Forces Correspondence Course Scheme will help you to save on the cost—start now for a qualification in 1990.

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GAMES CLUB FOR THE WINTER SEASON 1988/89

The Winter Season 1988/89 has seen success at Army level, some very good individual performances and a continuous process of team building throughout the Corps.

The most notable team successes have been in Rugby with 7 Sig Regt as Army Champions. This was the climax of an outstanding season in which the Corps had three teams in the quarter finals of the BAOR Rugby Competition. In Association Football, the School of Signals won the Army Cup (UK) for the second consecutive year and were runners up in the Army Challenge Cup. 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt has retained both the BAOR and Army Major Units Cross Country titles. 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt won the UK Group 5 Orienteering Competition and the UK Army Squash and is going forward to the Army Orienteering finals later this year. 16 Sig Regt did very well to become the runners up in the Army Basketball Championships to the Royal School of Artillery Larkhill, being beaten by only the smallest of margins—one point. 22 Sig Regt had some excellent results in skiing this year being runners up in the Princess Marina Trophy and winning the Canada Cup.

Individual successes were achieved in a number of sports. In Hockey eight players have played for the Army under 21, and three for the Combined Services Junior Team. Three Corps Hockey players played for the Army and one was in the Combined Services Senior Team. Corps Rugby was represented by one player in the Army and Combined Services Teams and one Under 21 who played in the Army and Combined Services Teams. There were also four ATs from AA Coll Harrogate who represented the Army in the Colts Level Inter Service Match. Corps Football contributed three Army and Combined Services players and a further two Army players and ten ATs from AA Coll Harrogate representing the Army Youth Team during the season. **Sgt Martin** and **LCpl Vile** finished in the top six in the Army Cross Country Championships and went on to represent the Army in the Inter Service Championships. In Skiing, **Cpl Brown** and **Cpl Crawford** were selected for the Army Team and **Cpl Davies** our Olympic Biathlete became the Army Champion and the UK National Champion. In Canoeing five members of the team were awarded their Army Colours.

There is a lot of experience and quality in our Corps sportsmen over a wide range of sports. This all bodes well for the future.

NOTABLE SUCCESSES

BASKETBALL

In the Inter Corps Competition we fielded a group of good players who failed to find any real team cohesion while in competition on court. There were of course a number of notable absentees that could perhaps together have made a stronger team than the one we had, but these were all absent for good career reasons and there is no complaint about support from Units who all co-operated in releasing personnel. We slipped to fifth in the Inter Corps out of the nine competing teams.

Our results in the Army Inter Corps Tournament in Aldershot were:

v RA	Nov 21	Won	78-57
v RCT	Nov 21	Won	77-76
v RAPC	Nov 22	Won	91-48
v RAOC	Nov 23	Won	110-60
v APTC	Nov 24	Lost	81-90
v RE	Nov 25	Lost	59-82
v REME	Nov 25	Lost	50-81
v ACC	Nov 26	Lost	66-76

CANOEING

As there is no Corps Canoeing team, Unit and individual results from UKLF and Inter Service Wild Water Championships only are included in this report.

UKLF Wild Water Racing Championships—River Washburn

Army Junior K1	Winner	**ATCpl Broders** AA Coll Harrogate
UKLF Men K1	Third	**Capt Bunce** School of Signals
Army Junior Unit Team	Runners Up	AA Coll Harrogate

Army Wild Water Racing Championships—Llangollen

Army Unit Team	Runners Up	16 Sig Regt
Event		
Inter-Service Wild Water	Championships	Sanquhar
Men's K1 Team	Runners Up	**Capt Bunce** School of Signals

ARMY COLOURS

The following are due to be awarded Army Colours for representing the Army at the Inter Service Wild Water Champships: **Capts S. N. Jackson, J. Bunce, Cpls A. Dobson, S. Wright** and **M. O'Brian**.

CROSS COUNTRY

1988/89 has been another successful season for the Corps in BAOR. On the team front 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt has featured in most major events and began its successful season by winning the Bismark six-man Cross Country Relays in Herford in September. It then won the BAOR ten mile Road Running Team Championships (with first and second individuals **Sgt Martin** and **LCpl Vile**), and sent two teams to the Army Cross Country Relays in Aldershot, finishing first and third. 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt has since retained both the BAOR and Army Major Units Cross Country titles, defeating strong opposition from 1 Bn PWO Regt of Yorkshire by the convincing margin of 97 points to 149 in the latter race.

Two runners from 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt (**Sgt Martin** and **LCpl Vile**) finished in the top six in the Army Championships and subsequently represented the Army in the Inter Service Championships. No fewer than five Royal Signals runners were included in the BAOR team which defeated RAF(G) and the French Forces this year and both the BAOR Junior and Veterans Individual Champions are Royal Signals athletes—**Sig Boyle** of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and **WO2 Wood** of 22 Sig Regt.

The Royal Signals BAOR Championship was inaugurated last season and helped the Secretary to pick a strong Corps side which subsequently took the BAOR Inter Corps title.

UK Cross Country was not quite as glamorous. 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt has suffered from its loss of runners and whilst coming second in the Group 5 Championships only managed sixth in the Army Relay and eighth in the Army Team Championships. 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn featured well in Minor Unit competitions without any spectacular success.

FOOTBALL

The season got off to a good start with an excellent result against the RCT at Aldershot. The Corps winning 3—1. However things did not go as well during the preparations for the Inter-Corps Quadrangular Competition. The Corps played against the professionals of Wimbledon FC and a strong Territorial Army side, both games were lost.

This year the Corps was responsible for the organisation of the Quadrangular competition which was held in Aldershot between 14-18 November 1988. In the competition the Corps got off to a bad start, losing to the Sappers 2—0. Having collected some injuries to key players we fared no better in the second game losing to the Gunners 3—2. The final game against the REME was to be for the newly installed 'Boyne Cup'. This turned out to be one of our better performances and a turning point in the season, at last, the Corps played to their potential and ran out winners 3—2, winning the Boyne Cup on its inauguration. A lot was learnt from that particular week and we are looking forward to next years competition.

In the last two fixtures of the season against RAOC and RAPC we took the opportunity to look at other players. Both games were won.

The School of Signals once again carried on where they left off last season by winning for the second consecutive year, the Army Cup (UK) and the Army six-a-side. The School of Signals played 10 Regt RCT in the Army Challenge Cup Final on 19 April 1989 losing 5—0 at Aldershot. 28 Sig Regt reached the BAOR Semi Final losing 2—1 to 1 Kings in Berlin.

The following Corps players gained representative honours during the season:

Combined Services and Arms

Sgt Brown	238 (London) Sig Sqn
Cpl Higgins	210 Sig Sqn
Cpl Welsh	School of Signals

Army

Cpl Shergold	School of Signals
LCpl Robinson	School of Signals

The Army Apprentice College Harrogate again did well in youth football. They lost to the Army Apprentice College Aborfield 2—1 after extra time. The following Army Apprentice College Harrogate players represented Army Youth during the season: **ATLCpls Munro, Maxwell, Oakes, Stevenson, Whitehead, AT MacKintosh, Radcliffe, JLCpl Thomasson JLdrs Smith** and **Bundley**.

SSgt Peter **Kitson** of the School of Signals who is a Football League Linesman refereed the match between the Army and the Guernsey FA on 17 March 1989.

The detailed list of results for the season are:

Date	Opponents	Venue	Result	Score
14 Oct 88	RCT	Aldershot	Won	3—1
5 Nov 88	Wimbledon FC	Wimbledon	Lost	1—3
6 Nov 88	TA	Aldershot	Lost	0—2
11 Nov 88	Exeter University	Blandford	Won	3—0
14 Nov 88	RE	Quadrangular	Lost	0—2
16 Nov 88	RA	Competition	Lost	2—3
18 Nov 88	REME	Aldershot	Won	3—2
3 Mar 89	RAOC	Donnington	Won	1—0
10 Mar 89	RAPC	Worthy Down	Won	4—0

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Against
9	5	—	4	17	13

HOCKEY

The Corps has established a squad of good hockey players who play well as a team. The mixed results of the Corps' league matches do not truly reflect the talent of the side which reached the semi-final of the Inter-Corps Outdoor Hockey Tournament.

The team has become an established indoor hockey side and although it was defeated in the semi-finals of the Inter-Corps Indoor Hockey Tournament it did manage to qualify for a place in the Combined Services Tournament.

The Corps has enjoyed considerable success in the civilian hockey circuit. The team joined the Dorset Indoor Hockey League for the first time and finished third in Division 2 and reached the semi-finals of the Dorset Indoor Cup. The team has also played in three Hockey Festivals at Salisbury, Bognor Regis and Bournemouth.

There is plenty of young blood in the Corps' Squad. The following represented Army and the Combined Services at various levels:

Army Under 21

Cpl Collins	30 Sig Regt
LCpl Adamson	30 Sig Regt
Sig Beaney	30 Sig Regt
Sig Roberts	30 Sig Regt
Sig Pollitt	30 Sig Regt
ATCpl Cunnion	AA Coll Harrogate
ATLCpl Emsen	AA Coll Harrogate
ATSig Hopkins	AA Coll Harrogate

Army (Senior)

Cpl Souter	30 Sig Regt
Cpl Collins	30 Sig Regt
Sig Roberts	30 Sig Regt

Combined Services (Junior)

Cpl Collins	30 Sig Regt
Sig Roberts	30 Sig Regt
Sig Beaney	30 Sig Regt

Combined Services (Senior)

Sig Roberts	30 Sig Regt

A special mention should go to **WO2 (RQMS) Mower** who also devotes much of his time to the Army Under 21 team as its Manager.

The results of games played were:

Corps League Matches

R Signals	1	RMCS	2
Staff College	1	R Signals	5
RAOC	2	R Signals	0
R Signals	2	Nordics	6
RMAS	4	R Signals	1
RA	4	R Signals	1
Welbeck College	0	R Signals	1

Inter-Corps Outdoor Hockey Tournament

Pool B

RAMC/RADC	1	R Signals	1
R Signals	1	RE	4
R Signals	2	ACC	0
Inf	0	R Signals	4

Semi-Final (as runners up of Pool B)

REME	2	R Signals	0

ORIENTEERING

Again the Team Captain has had considerable trouble getting people out to represent the Corps although the Corps team was placed well in the Inter-Corps Championship. Few young officers and soldiers are being attracted to the sport and the major competitors of Corps standard are above Sergeant/Captain ranks. During the past two years particularly, a good number of Foreman of Signals on courses at Blandford have been attracted to the sport and are now actively encouraging support at unit level. The 'old faithfuls' continue to compete for the Corps and encourage any one who will listen to the merits of orienteering as a form of Military Training.

The Royal Signals Orienteering Championships continued to be the high point of the season and support for this two day event remains very high. Over 200 competitors met at Proteus Training Camp and were hosted by 38 Sig Regt(V) to two excellent days of orienteering. The individual event was held at Clipstone Forest in flat mixed woodlands that provided fast winning times on all courses. The 1987 Corps Champion **WO2 Temmen** has retired and was therefore not present to defend his title. The title was taken by **Capt Nick Bateson** from the School of Signals, with the runner-up title going to **Sgt Robinson** of 30 Sig Regt. The M35 title went to **SSgt Lumgair** of AA Coll Harrogate and yet again the husband and wife team, **Lt Andy Payne** and **Capt Jean Payne** took the Corps TA Champion and WRAC Champion prize respectively. The junior title was closely contested and the top four places were separated by only two minutes, **Sig Crowther** finally coming out on top.

The relay event was held on Bestwood Lodge, a slightly more hilly venue though distances were kept short. A spectator control visible from the change-over area proved very successful and added to the spirit of the competition. The School of Signals won the Major Unit title and the Minor title went to AA Coll Harrogate.

RUGBY

The results of the matches played reflect the standard of Corps rugby in UK. The games against the weaker sides were won relatively easily but the games against the stronger Corps and the RA were all lost, in two cases quite disastrously. The consolidated results are:

Played	Won	Lost	Points For	Points Against
10	6	4	214	127

The non availability of most of the players from BAOR for the bulk of the season due to Cup Rugby interests has had a bad effect on the results. In all 52 players wore a Corps rugby jersey and this did not help to develop any stability although it can be construed to indicate strength in depth.

The results of the games played were:

Wimborne II	at Blandford	Won	23—12
RAOC	at Colerne	Lost	10—35
RAPC	at Worthy Down	Won	60—0
RMCS	at Shrivenham	Won	20—0
ACC	at Blandford	Won	67—6
RA	at Blandford	Lost	3—10
REME	at Blandford	Lost	11—16
RCT	at Aldershot	Won	6—4
Salisbury II	at Salisbury	Won	6—0
RE	at Chatham	Lost	8—44

The following represented the Corps at Army and Combined Services level: Senior Level—**Cpl E. Atkins** (30 Sig Regt) has again represented the Army and Combined Services including touring New Zealand with the Combined Police and the Combined Services side in 1988. U21 Level—**LCpl S. Bartliff** (2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt) has represented both the Army and the Combined Services regularly. Colts Level—Four ATs from AA Coll Harrogate represented the Army in an Inter Service match. They were **AT Bembridge, Williams, Parr** and **Hayes**.

SKIING

This season has been successful for the Alpine Ski Team and culminated with the Corps team being placed third in the Army Alpine Championship. The combination of Alpine and Nordic disciplines resulted in 22 Sig Regt winning the Canadian Cup and being declared runners-up to the Champion Ski Team of the British Army. 22 Sig Regt and 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt were the only major units representing the Corps in the Alpine Skiing Competition and 22 Sig Regt alone represented the Corps at Army level.

The 3 Armd Div Alpine Championship took place in Fulpmes from 8 to 18 January 1989 and consisted of individual and team racing in Slalom, Giant Slalom and Downhill. 22 Sig Regt was placed first overall. **Cpl A. P. Brown** was placed first in the Individual Slalom, second in the Individual Giant Slalom and third in the Downhill. **LCpl**

Crawford was second in the Individual Slalom and first in the Individual Giant Slalom.

The Army Alpine Championships took place at Les Menuires in France between 19 and 28 January 1989. 22 Sig Regt was placed third. **Cpl Brown** skied consistently but won no individual honours. **LCpl Crawford** was placed sixth in the Super Giant Slalom. Both **LCpl Brown** and **LCpl Crawford** were chosen to represent the Army in the Inter-Services Championships, both racing well in all disciplines.

At the British National Championships **Cpl Brown** was placed a very creditable 21st in the Individual Slalom, and **LCpl Crawford** 36th in the Individual Giant Slalom.

ARMY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Slalom		
Individual:	10th	**LCpl D. Crawford**
Team:	4th	22 Sig Regt
Giant Slalom		
Team	4th	22 Sig Regt
Super Giant Slalom		
Individual:	6th	**LCpl D. Crawford**
Overall Result		
Combination event:	3rd	22 Sig Regt
Nordic Ski Team Results		
4 × 7.5km relay	5th	22 Sig Regt
Military Combination	5th	22 Sig Regt
Marina Cup	2nd	(Canadian Land Forces Trophy)
British National Championships		
10km Biathlon Sprint Championship:	1st	**Cpl C. Davies**

SQUASH

The Corps Squash Championships for 1988 were held at the AA Coll Harrogate, with the Inter Corps Championships following immediately after at the Waverley Squash Club, Farnham, Surrey.

The excellent turn out for the Royal Signals Individual Championships for this season was mainly due to the efforts of the BAOR players. There were 46 entries and a very high standard of squash played. The results were:

Open	**Sgt N. Ranier**
Plate	**Capt J. Newman**
Over 35	**WO2 W. Hutton**
Super Plate	**SSgt D. Hall**
Veterans	**Brig C. T. Garton**
The Davies-Stewart Cup	2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM

The Corps Museum is now firmly established on the tourist map of Southern England and the number of visitors attending the Museum has greatly increased and is still increasing.

Unfortunately the Museum is not open at weekends which means that many would-be-visitors are turned away.

To help overcome this problem a voluntary society, 'Friends of The Royal Signals Museum', was established in 1987 whose members agree to man the Museum shop and supervise visitors during the weekends between May and September.

Interested volunteers can also help in Research, Cataloguing, Preservation and identifying objects.

This scheme worked very well in 1988 but unfortunately a number of Friends have been forced to pull out this year and we need some new recruits to take their place.

Any member, or wife, who is interested in helping the Corps Museum are asked to contact: **Maj (Retd) Leslie Taylor MBE**, Secretary, Friends of The Royal Signals Museum, c/o The Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Dorset, DT11 8RH.

Twenty teams entered the Inter Corps Squash Championships this year. The competition was run on a three divisional basis, the Corps being in Div 1 together with APTC, RAOC, RCT, RE and REME. The Corps came fourth in its division.

OTHER SUCCESSES

JUDO

AA Coll Harrogate continues to do well in the National School Indoor Archery Championships where it was runners up for the second consecutive year.

ARCHERY

AA Coll Harrogate continue to do well in the National School Indoor Archery Championships when they were runners up for the second consecutive year.

CHESS

AT Shea won the Army Youth Chess Championships having won all his games.

WHITE WATER CANOEING

16 Sig Regt did very well in the BAOR White Water Canoeing Championship winning the first four places in the Open Championships, the winner of the Ladies Championship, the winner of the Intermediate Championship as well as winning the Open Team Championship.

COMBINED SERVICES FOOTBALL

Meet the oldest trophy in European Competitions—the tri-angular Belgian-British-Dutch Forces and the premier prize of Service soccer, The Kentish Cup, is held aloft by **Sgt A. 'Sandy' Brown**. He is flanked by **Cpl S. 'Steve' Welsh** and **Cpl Alex Higgins** on his right, and **Lt Col G. S. 'Pat' Massey** on his left. All three played in the Combined Services side which won the cup for the first time since 1984.

A FAMOUS VICTORY—7 SIGNAL REGIMENT WIN THE ARMY RUGBY CHALLENGE CUP

7 Sig Regt won the Army Rugby Union Challenge Cup again in what is only their second victory in many years of trying. It is also only the second time that a Royal Signals unit has held the title. The last time the Regiment won the cup was in 1984 and the only member of the 84 team to play in the 1989 final was **Capt Andy Hickling** who was skipper on both occasions.

In the final played at Aldershot in April in appalling conditions, 7's superior fitness and team skills overcame the Duke of Wellington's Regiment by 20 points to 7. The points scorers for 7 Sig Regt were tries by **Cfn Simon Peart, LCpl Kevin Bowling** and **Cpl 'Zoo' Williams** two penalties by **SSgt Chedney Keates** and two further points from the boot of **Bowling** with a conversion.

In what was a very young side (the skipper apart) tribute must be paid to the fitness dedication and determination of a super squad of players. As **Andy Hickling** said it is the fittest, most skilful and happiest rugby team he has had the privilege to be associated with.

VOLUNTEERS ON EXERCISE IN BAVARIA

Four Signalmen of 55 Sig Sqn (V) serving as the Rear Link Detachment for The Parachute Regiment who took part in Ex Casino Royale from 12-14 May.

(Left to right): Cpl Brian Dean, Sig Dave McLaughlin and Fred Bates and Officer Cadet Rob Davies

— Movements —

Officers

JUNE 1989

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col J. E. F. Kirby	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt Col T. F. Moncur	NACISA
Maj A. J. Bowering	55 Sig Sqn (V)
Maj R. V. J. Brannigan	HQ AMF(L) (BAE)
Maj P. J. Daniel	HQ AFCENT
Maj T. J. Hendren	30 Sig Regt
Maj D. A. Lamerton	Army Pers Selection Gp
Maj M. R. G. Stockdale	HQ 4 Sig Gp
Maj R. J. Turnbull	HQ 1(BR) Corps
Maj G. Yule	251 Sig Sqn
Capt M. Baines	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt M. Banks	HQ British Forces Cyprus
Capt R. A. Hamilton	30 Cadet Trg Team
Capt D. E. A. McAllister	3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Capt P. J. McLoughlin	251 Sig Sqn
Capt C. H. Turner	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Capt K. Whitehead	9 Sig Regt
Capt D. M. Woodhouse	7 Sig Regt
Lt G. J. Complin	HQ BR Forces Belize
Lt I. L. Meers	11 Sig Regt
2Lt K. A. Francis	School of Signals
2Lt J. C. Gillespie	School of Signals
2Lt A. I. M. Gordon	School of Signals

JULY 1989

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col R. D. Abbott	Edinburgh UOTC
Lt Col G. Meakin	ACDS(OR) Land Systems
Lt Col S. S. Paul	IMS Brussels
Lt Col P. J. Pritchard	Brit Appts USA
Lt Col P. A. R. Rouse	HQ AFCENT
Lt Col M. R. Stephenson	HS BDS Washington
Lt Col D. J. Wills	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj T. J. P. Bryning	HQ 2 Sig Bde
Maj A. A. Ewell	21 Sig Regt
Maj J. A. Harris	16 Sig Regt
Maj D. J. Tunmore	AA Coll Harrogate
Maj A. G. Turner	641 Sig Tp (2 ATAF)
Maj A. J. Ward	SANGCOM
Maj C. G. Webb	AA Coll Harrogate
Maj A. J. Whydell	21 Sig Regt
Maj F. E. Worrall	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt C. R. Bechelor	8 Sig Regt
Capt M. Baines	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt F. A. Bancroft	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt P. C. Bawden	36 Sig Regt (V)
Capt J. W. Clark	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Capt P. W. Clibbery	244 Sig Sqn
Capt N. D. Kennedy	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt P. B. Knobel	DIS(AE)
Capt G. M. Lewis-Taylor	HQ SWDist/7AFHQ
Capt S. J. May	HQ 49 Inf Bde
Capt M. T. Nevill	7 Sig Regt
Capt A. Russell	MOD ARC
Capt P. Stephenson	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt C. G. Stubbings	13 Sig Regt
Capt M. J. Woodham	11 Sig Regt
Lt J. S. Adams	30 Sig Regt
Lt K. Atkinson	7 Sig Regt
Lt J. A. Compston	QG Sig Regt
Lt T. C. Cooper	7 Sig Regt
Lt A. J. Duncan	AA Coll Harrogate
Lt M. J. Fensom	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt S. O. France	11 Sig Regt
Lt D. G. Halstead	30 Sig Regt
Lt A. G. Hill (518905)	249 Sig Sqn
Lt A. G. Hill (524314)	28 Sig Regt
Lt N. G. Holden	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt G. P. Horn	244 Sig Sqn
Lt A. Metcalfe	22 Sig Regt
Lt G. L. Owen	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt P. D. Peel	14 Sig Regt
Lt N. S. Stevens	30 Sig Regt
Lt J. E. Swindells	16 Sig Regt
Lt S. J. Vickery	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt M. A. Walker	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt D. B. Warne	21 Sig Regt
Lt F. E. R. Whichelo	LSP Oman
Lt I. R. Whitehall	School of Signals
Lt S. M. Williamson	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt G. E. Bennett	21 Sig Regt
2Lt O. D. Bryant	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt J. A. Clare	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt M. J. Hanby	16 Sig Regt
2Lt S. J. McConnell	7 Sig Regt
2Lt A. J. E. Parsons	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt G. M. Pullen	22 Sig Regt
2Lt C. M. Wood	14 Sig Regt

WOs and SNCOs

JUNE 1989

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
AWO1 (FofS) D. E. Murray	School of Signals
AWO1 N. S. Round	HQ BAOR
AWO1 (FofS) C. J. Turner	28 Sig Regt
AWO1 (FofS) R. Wilson	9 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) P. J. M. Jarvis	HQ 12 Sig Bde
WO2 R. P. Logan	13 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) J. Mugford	Depot Tp 11 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) B. J. S. Nelson	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (Int)
WO2 T. R. Whately	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) P. J. Wykes	8 Sig Regt
AWO2 P. R. Abbott	14 Sig Regt
AWO2 J. G. Chapman	21 Sig Regt
AWO2 P. D. Clifford	Cambridge UOTC
AWO2 A. Fiddes	MOD(PB11)
AWO2 M. Geer	14 Sig Regt
AWO2 A. J. Knight	HQ 4 Sig Gp
AWO2 K. W. Lodge	Sheffield UOTC
AWO2 T. G. Morrissey	QG Sig Regt
AWO2 J. Williams	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt D. Bradley	13 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) A. Hockley	FSS Cape Greco
SSgt D. G. Hughes	28 CTT (Chester)
SSgt H. Watkins	259 Sig Sqn
SSgt W. Watts	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) G. R. Wilson	30 Sig Regt
ASSgt S. Barrington	21 Sig Regt
ASSgt L. H. Brooks	233 Sig Sqn
ASSgt P. A. Horton	30 Sig Regt
Sgt S. Carr	22 Sig Regt
Sgt W. N. Cassells	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. S. Combe	8 Sig Regt
Sgt S. J. Dale	39 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt D. Exley	9 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Fairclough	633 Sig Tp
Sgt M. R. Gummow	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt N. E. Hatton	56 Sig Sqn (V)
Sgt G. E. Head	8 Sig Regt
Sgt A. S. Heaton	School of Signals
Sgt G. R. Henderson	16 Sig Regt
Sgt G. C. Hodge	ACIO Portsmouth
Sgt M. J. Lockyer	21 Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Murphy	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt D. A. McBride	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt R. S. Neal	8 Sig Regt
Sgt I. Philemon	Berlin HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. Porteous	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt B. Postings	ACIO Manchester
Sgt W. Rennie	NATO Comms School
Sgt C. R. Riddell	School of Signals
Sgt I. Shiels	14 Sig Regt
Sgt B. Shipman	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt B. Simpson	28 Sig Regt
Sgt D. G. Still	FSS Cape Greco
Sgt D. M. Till	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt K. G. Wosika	FSS Mossy Hill
Sgt R. Yeomans	9 Sig Regt
Sgt A. Zammit	RAF Mount Pleasant
ASgt A. M. Ducker	1 Staffords
ASgt J. C. Ginty	RMAS
ASgt S. R. Harrison	259 Sig Sqn
ASgt J. B. Lambe	50 Msl Regt
ASgt G. Shield	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASgt I. S. Swan	ACIO York

JULY 1989

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (FofS) W. R. Kirkwood	RSA and Larkhill Garrison
WO1 R. J. Underhill	HQ Northag Staff (BAE)
AWO1 T. A. Dean	7 Sig Regt
AWO1 J. J. Dent	33 Sig Regt (V)
AWO1 A. C. Hedgley	11 Sig Regt
AWO1 J. Kerr	NATO Comms School
AWO1 G. P. Manning	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO1 I. Thorneycroft	Comms and Sy Gp
AWO1 A. E. Tomlinson	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 (FofS) D. S. S. Andrews	32 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 (FofS) M. A. Chapman	HQ DCN
WO2 M. G. G. Corsar	40 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 (YofS) A. F. Glover	8 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) B. J. Hayward	LSP Oman
WO2 (FofS) J. M. P. Leggate	LSP Oman
WO2 J. E. O. McConnon	602 Sig Tp
WO2 M. R. Metcalfe	AA Coll Harrogate
WO2 B. M. Stephens	13 Sig Regt
WO2 G. G. Townsley	14 Sig Regt
AWO2 S. R. Buxton	Leeds UOTC
AWO2 S. A. Clarke	HQ 5 AB Bde and Sig Sqn
AWO2 (YofS) T. C. Crosby	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO2 M. V. Doherty	9 Sig Regt
AWO2 W. Drain	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) G. S. Grove	SHAPE Sig Gp
AWO2 W. Ireland	13 Sig Regt
AWO2 P. J. Ramsey	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO2 W. B. Sanderson	11 Sig Regt
AWO2 J. W. Somerville	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO2 P. M. Watson	37 Sig Regt (V)
AWO2 (YofS) S. C. Wayman	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt A. J. Bottomley	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt A. R. Carr	14 Sig Regt
SSgt J. J. Clace	22 Sig Regt
SSgt K. R. Counsell	8 Sig Regt

SSgt (YofS) G. T. Greig	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt N. W. Leyland	Def ADP Trg Centre
SSgt E. G. Tunks	8 Sig Regt
SSgt D. Ward	HQ AFNORTH (BAE)
SSgt R. Woodger	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) S. Brant	249 Sig Sqn
ASSgt L. J. Brice	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) A. C. M. Craig	28 Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) P. J. Day	55 Sig Sqn (V)
ASSgt (YofS) K. E. Emmerson	30 Sig Regt
ASSgt M. B. George	7 Sig Regt
ASSgt W. C. E. Grattidge	HQ 5 AB Bde and Sig Sqn
ASSgt R. Griffiths	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) N. F. Hawley	7 Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) A. K. Herbert	608 Sig Tp
ASSgt (YofS) S. R. Holt	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) S. J. Lock	7 Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) C. J. Montgomery	14 Sig Regt
ASSgt G. Muir	9 Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) C. D. R. Nutt	22 Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) A. Patterson	Sennelager Trg Centre
ASSgt D. R. Randle	30 Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) P. M. Sexby	16 Sig Regt
ASSgt A. Turner	7 Sig Regt
Sgt J. S. Ackerley	16 Sig Regt
Sgt T. Ainsworth	School of Signals
Sgt P. M. Barr	9 Sig Regt
Sgt P. A. Billingham	ACIO Liverpool
Sgt R. I. Booth	School of Signals
Sgt C. R. Bough	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. Brennan	8 Sig Regt
Sgt A. G. Burns	School of Signals
Sgt S. Cameron	8 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Crossley	School of Signals
Sgt A. J. Dixon	NATO Comms School
Sgt T. Docherty	30 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Dunne	HAC
Sgt T. D. Flippance	School of Signals
Sgt T. M. Flood	ACIO Southend
Sgt S. Gallimore	238 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. R. Harvey	Cyprus FSS Cape Greco
Sgt R. F. Hodgkinson	School of Signals
Sgt T. F. Hoehne	35 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt S. R. Holt	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt J. C. J. Hughes	1 Gren Gds
Sgt E. A. Hutchinson	Berlin HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt M. P. J. Jackson	School of Signals
Sgt P. Jennings	254 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. T. Kendall	21 Sig Regt
Sgt D. R. Little	35 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt R. C. Mullins	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt M. McCue	9 Sig Regt
Sgt K. A. MaGuire	School of Signals
Sgt G. MacKenzie	14 Sig Regt
Sgt T. McLaughlin	632 Sig Tp
Sgt A. H. Phillips	School of Signals
Sgt R. P. Pullan	School of Signals
Sgt S. J. Reeve	HQ AFNORTH (BAE)
Sgt G. A. J. Renshaw	30 Sig Regt
Sgt F. E. Roberts	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt W. S. Robertson	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt C. P. W. Robinson	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt J. A. Rose	School of Signals
Sgt C. P. Shead	School of Signals
Sgt S. J. Somers	21 Sig Regt
Sgt A. T. W. Steele	School of Signals
Sgt D. Styles	ACIO Glasgow
Sgt M. Tate	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt I. P. Taylor	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt P. Watson	RMAS
Sgt F. W. Worgan	30 Sig Regt
ASgt G. M. Garett	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASgt D. A. Gosney	School of Signals
ASgt S. M. Griffiths	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt G. Lee	16 Ad Regt
ASgt M. Murray	17 CTT (Winchester)
ASgt P. O'Brien	14 Sig Regt

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during May 1989:-

Shropshire RSA	£350.00
In memory of Col S. J. Lovegrove	£236.59
All Saints Church, Blandford	£125.00
Maj (Retd) Skillicarn	£110.00
St Albans Church, AAC Harrogate	£100.00
Mrs F. Stanley Charitable Trust	£100.00
WOs' and Sgts' Mess, 36 Engr Regt	£ 93.36
Col K. S. Newell	£ 20.00
Certa Cito Lodge	£ 10.00
In memory of Mrs Anne Gregory	£ 10.00
In memory of F. C. Latter Esq	£ 10.00
Honorary Colonels 36 Sig Regt (V)	£ 10.00
Capt A. C. M. Prince	£ 5.00
A Prasser Esq	£ 2.00
Misc	£ 3.80
	£1,185.75

The following donations were gratefully received during June 1989:-

D. O. Leary	£10.00
Brig J. H. Almonds	£ 5.00
In memory of Thomas F. Gates	£ 5.00
RSA Harrogate	£ 4.00
	£24.00

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).

NOTICES

DEATHS

Bailey—Cpl J. H. Bailey—died 30 June 1989.
Brooks—Capt W. H. Brooks—served 1931-68—died 11 February 1989.
Gates—ex Sig T. F. Gates—served 1940-46—died 25 March 1989.
Ingram—ex WO2 W. E. Ingram—served 1951-63—died 30 April 1989.
Knox—Brig G. S. Knox CBE—served 1928-60—died 16 May 1989.
Metcalfe—Maj C. A. Metcalfe—died 6 July 1989.
Potts—Maj J. D. Potts—served 1959-75—died 10 June 1989.
Scott—Capt H. J. Scott—died 6 March 1989.
Thomas—Maj E. G. Thomas—died 28 June 1989.
Welch—ex Sig R. H. D. Welch—served 1942-47—died 26 May 1989.

OBITUARIES

Clark—Maj W. H. Clark. 'Nobby' Clark was one of the original members of the Corps. Before enlisting in RE Signals he had served with the RNVR in 1918/19. His first posting in the Corps took him to Palestine where he remained for six years. During that time he got married and had a son.

After a spell in UK he went to India in 1933 returning to England just prior to the beginning of the war. He was commissioned as a Quartermaster in 1940. After various postings which included France, Egypt and the Record Office he retired in the rank of Honorary Major in 1954.

After his retirement he was employed with the Regular Forces Employment Association in Wolverhampton for 17 years. He was also a member of the Royal Engineers Association Branch in Walsall and became its President.

'Nobby' died on 20 September, aged 88 years. He leaves a widow and a son.

Geach—ex Sig C. J. Geach. It is with regret that we publish the death of **Charles John Geach** which occurred on 14 April. He served in the Corps as a Lineman from 1940-1947 and saw service in France and Germany, also with 153 LM Section HQ3 Coy 2 WO Sig Regt. He transferred from Royal Signals in 1947 and continued in the Army with the RAEC. Later he worked for British Petroleum as a Chemist and he lectured in Geology at Kingston College. He leaves a widow.

Latter—ex Sig F. C. Latter—died on 3 May 1989. **Lt Col (Retd) M. E. E. Truscott** writes **Charles Latter** served from 1933-1946. He joined Boy Service in 1933 and went to Hong Kong with the Hong Kong Sig Coy in 1937 where he was taken a Prisoner-of-War on Christmas Day 1941.

After his release from the Army he joined the Ordnance Survey as a surveyor. In 1969 he married **Ruby**.

Charles was an efficient soldier, quiet, unassuming, of the highest integrity and respected by all who knew him. He attended the 12 reunions of the Hong Kong Sig Coy and took on the task of Secretary and served his members well up until his death.

A sad day for his widow and all members of the Hong Kong Sig Coy 1939-45.

McInally—Ex WO2 (FofS) J. P. S. McInally died peacefully after a short illness, on 5 April 1989 aged 55. He served for 23 years in the Corps (1952-73). Known as **Jim** to everyone he had tours in Japan, Mauritus, Adan, Korea, Hong Kong, Belgium and UK. When **Jim** left the Army in 1973 he worked as a senior technician in Stirling, Scotland. **Jim** will be missed by all those who knew him. We extend our sympathy to his widow and his family. **SSgt (YofS) P. J. McInally** is currently serving in 2 Sqn, 22 Sig Regt.

Mitchell—Lt Col C. Mitchell. Colin Mitchell joined the Corps in 1941. He served in a variety of appointments until his retirement in 1976. Since then he has been actively involved in Association affairs, and has been a regular chairman of the fortnightly Welfare meetings held in Regimental Headquarters. His kindness and understanding of people's problems have brought relief to many. He died peacefully on 29 June after a short illness, and is survived by his two sons and daughters.

Memorial Service for ex-Cpl Robbie Carroll— On 10 May, at the North Church of St Andrew in Aberdeen, a Memorial Service was held for **Robbie Carroll**, who died so tragically in the Piper Alpha oil platform disaster, in July 1988. More than 150 members of **Robbie's** family, friends, survivors of the disaster, serving and former members of the Corps attended the Memorial Service, which was conducted by the **Rev Gordon Haggarty**, a personal friend of **Robbie. Robbie** left a widow, **Jeanette**, and a daughter **Ashleigh**. Former members of 16 Sig Regt will remember **Jeanette** as **Cpl Jeanette Presley** in the Medical Centre. **Robbie** would have been 35 years old on the day of the Memorial Service.

THE LONDON LECTURE 1989

This will be held at the London International Press Centre, 76 Shoe Lane, EC4 at 1800 on Thursday 23 November 1989.

The Lecturer is Professor John Erickson FRSE, director of the Centre for Defence Studies, University of Edinburgh and author of several books dealing with Soviet military power.

The title of the lecture has yet to be decided but it is likely to be concerned with the impact of electronics and technological advances in the Soviet Union on the glasnost and perestroika initiatives.

Further information together with application forms for tickets will appear in the Summer issue of the Journal.

ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER

The AGM will be held at 1800 hrs on Friday 20 October at the Crown Hotel in Blandford. All present and past members of the Corps are invited to attend. It will be followed by the Annual Dinner. For any further information contact **Lt Col K. Powell** at the School of Signals, Blandford Mil or (0258) 52581 Ex 2269.

PERSONAL

Sgt Malcolm Turfrey and **Ann** are shortly leaving the Army after 22 years service. They will be delighted if their friends will keep in touch with them and will be pleased to welcome them in their new home at 23 Summerfield Road, Chasetown, Nr Walsall, Staffordshire.

The original YMCA Staff, Hildelerand Barracks, Penny Pot Lane, Harrogate, N Yorkshire (1942-1944) would be delighted to hear from any of our Army friends from those days, so please write to us, enclosing SAE for replies, and addressing as above: c/o The YMCA, Lord Street, Huddersfield, W Yorkshire—and adding To Be Collected.

FOR SALE

SD Caps 7⅛ and 7⅜ (new) £25 Complete.
Blues Caps 7⅛ and 7⅜ (new) £25 Complete.
SD 5ft 10in 46in Chest (new) £175.
No 1 Dress 5ft 10in 46in Chest (new) £150.
Brown Shoes 8M (as new) £10.
Brown Shoes 8L (as new) £10.
Brown Gloves (as new) £10.
Mess Dress Jacket 46in Chest Officer Pattern (Lt Wt) £40.
Uniformed Shirts (as new) £5 each.
No 6 Dress Trs 38in-31in (new) £20 each.
Spurs £10.
WO1 J. S. Bailes School of Signals 2424 or Blandford (0258) 480027.

SITUATIONS VACANT

VACANCY FOR A RETIRED OFFICER GRADE 3 IN ROYAL SIGNALS MANNING AND RECORD OFFICE

A vacancy exists now for an RO3.

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, in fact, Glasgow has changed dramatically over the last few years. Last year it was the home of the British Garden Festival, the most successful so far and is now preparing for the European City of Culture for 1990. There are many things to do in and around the city. Glasgow affords quick and easy access to the coast and highlands. The city centre has many more 'green areas' and superb shopping facilities which are improving daily, and, of course, there are the Highlands and Islands on the doorstep, Glasgow is booming and is a nice place to live. Applications should be made to MOD(CM(A)2), Lacon House, Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8RY.

ROYAL SIGNALS DISPLAY TEAMS—RO3 APPOINTMENT

There is a vacancy for the RO3 appointment of Administrative Officer (AO) in the Royal Signals Display Team (RSDT) at Catterick.

The RSDT consist of the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team (the White Helmets commanded by a Captain); the Royal Signals Quicksilver Team commanded by a Captain and the Royal Signals Freefall Parachute Display team (the Blue Helmets).

The AO appointment has recently been held by **Lt Col F. C. Lockwood OBE**. It requires a retired Royal Signals officer with up to date knowledge of the Corps' communications and the new trade structure. He is responsible to OC RSDT for all aspects of the Teams' administration, including the maintenance of their accounts and preparation for audit.

He deputises for OC RSDT, in his frequent absences, in all matters except discipline. He assists the OC with operational planning and co-ordinates the programmes for all three teams.

There is a requirement for the AO to liaise with staff at District HQ and with civilian entertainment agencies.

Additional details can be obtained by telephone from OC RSDT on Catterick Mil (0748 832521) Ex 2666.

RO VACANCIES

SO2 **RO2** Sigs 36a DSS(A) Main Building post vacant, daily management of all AD Crypto equipments. Suits computer literate Tfc Officer Major or above.

SO3 Trg **RO3**, Sigs 32a DSS(A) Main Building MOD available October 1989—to manage Royal Signals training.

SO3 Sigs **RO3**, Sigs 32c DSS(A) Main Building MOD post vacant, Manpower and Establishments.

SO3 Recruiting **RO3**, Sigs 32b DSS(A) Main Building post vacant, Implementing Recruiting Policy.

There are two vacancies for Grade 2 Retired Officers within the Directorate of Personnel Services in Empress State Building near Earls Court. One appointment is to act as the personal staff co-ordinating officer for the Director General of Personal Services (Army) and the duties of the other include Medal Policy, and the Army Museum Matters, Royal visits, garden parties etc. Further information may be obtained from **Lt Col S. A. Coltman**—Room 1025, Empress State Building (Tel: 01-385 2501). Applications should be made to MOD—CM(A)2(R) Lacon House, Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8RY.

Successful new entries selected for RO3 and RO2 appointments in London may be entitled to financial assistance to enable them to move house to take up post. Allowance up to the sum of £5,000 may be available to reimburse Legal and Estate Agent's fees, removal expenses, stamp duty and associated VAT incurred for house purchase/removal. Advice should be sought from CM(A)2(RO) before commitment by anyone who considers that they may be eligible for the allowance.

STAFF OFFICER—NEW MUSEUM PROJECT

It has been decided to build a new Royal Signals Museum at Blandford Camp. A vacancy exists now for a Staff Officer to support the New Museum Project Management Team in all aspects of planning and fund-raising for the project.

The post, which will be full-time, will deal with the day-to-day running of the project office; acting as organiser and secretary for all meetings; preparing, in conjuction with the Curator, Royal Signals Museum, detailed display briefs for consultant designers and architects; maintaining the project office budget accounts; and, in liaison with the Corps Accountant, implementing the policy and plans for internal and external fund-raising appeals.

The post will be based at Blandford Camp and the Staff Officer will report directly to the Project Manager.

Requirements: A recently retired, enthusiastic Royal Signals Officer living in the area is likely to meet all the requirements. Alternatively, a member of a service family, likely to be in the Blandford area for at least two years, with suitable qualifications and enthusiasm for the project, would be considered.

Salary: The salary for the post will be paid from Corps Funds at RO3 rates and conditions of service but is not pensionable.

Applications: Applications should be made in writing, giving details of background and experience to: Project Manager, New Museum Project, Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH. 8RH.

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).

Applications should be sent to The Regimental Secretary, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Typing skills are helpful but not essential.

ARMY FIXED TELECOMMUNICATIONS

A number of interesting and challenging vacancies exist throughout the UK. If you are leaving or have left the Services and have relevant experience why not enquire whether one of the vacancies available would suit you? At present vacancies exist in the skills shown in the following locations.

Telecom Ops	Telephonists
Andover	Aldershot
Ashford, Kent	Brecon
Bicester	Central London
Blackdown	Chatham
Bordon	Colchester
Bulford	Edinburgh
Central London	Glasgow
Didcot	Hermitage
Glasgow	Preston
Leconfield	Warminster
Wilton	Wilton
Winchester	Worthy Down

For further information contact: Tom Winsborough, Civil Manager, HQ 2 Signal Brigade and Cotswold Garrison, Park Lane, Corsham, Wilts SN13 9NR. Tel: 0225-814220 or Corsham Mil 4220.

REUNIONS

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.

THE NATIONAL EXPOW ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REUNION, WARNER HOLIDAY VILLAGE, MIDDLETON-ON-SEA, SUSSEX COAST, 27 TO 30 OCTOBER 1989
The Council of the Association would like to extend a hearty welcome to any of your members who were prisoners of war and who would like to attend the Association's AGM and Reunion. A thoroughly interesting and entertaining weekend was enjoyed by all in 1988 and we confidently expect the same again. There is ample parking space at the Holiday Village and the disabled are in good hands. Full details of the Reunion can be obtained from the Reunion Secretary, **Charles Jago**, 74 Norfolk Road, West Harnham, Salisbury SP2 8HG. Tel: (0722) 333599.
Details of Association membership can be obtained from the Hon Gen Secretary, **Leslie Allen**, 99 Parlaunt Road, Langley, Slough SL3 8BE. A stamped and addressed envelope would be appreciated.

INDIAN ARMY (1746-1947) EX-SERVICES REUNION
The next reunion will take place on Saturday 16 September at the Southall Community Centre. Anyone who served with the Indian Army is cordially invited to attend. Admission is free. Particulars from **Mr C. J. J. M. Lawrence**, 49 Grand Avenue, London N10 3BS.

HORA HENA AND EKALA
A reunion has been arranged for 15 September at the Belmont Hotel, Leicester. It is hoped that as many as possible of those who served at Hora Hena or Ekala between 1944 and 1949 will be able to be present. All particulars can be obtained from **Harry Moore**, 1 Blue Granite Park, The Green, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire LE12 7AG or by telephone (0533) 375423. Do come!

HARROGATE 66B—REUNION DINNER
Calling all members of Harrogate 66B. It is proposed to hold a Reunion on 7 October at Blandford in the Sergeants' Mess. Accommodation will be available on a first come basis and the evening will include Dinner with first class entertainment.
For further deails contact: **WO1 J. S. Bailes**, School of Signals, Ext 2424 or Home Blandford (0258) 480027.

IS THAT *THE WIRE?*

'I have not had my *Wire*'.
Have you paid your subscription?
How did you pay?
Have you checked these particulars with your bank?
Have you changed your address?

Serving personnel may wish to obtain their copies from the PRI of their unit.
Officers, those serving in non Signals units and retired members should obtain theirs by completing the subscription form printed in *The Wire* each September and November. Please order early.
Please notify a change of address by completing the coupon below and sending it to RHQ.
If you comply with these requests you will help RHQ to keep its records up-to-date and, more important, you should receive your copy of *The Wire* at the time of issue.

To: RHQ Royal Signals — attention Chief Clerk,
56 Regency Street,
London SW1P 4AD.

Name, Initials, Rank .....

New Address, with effect from .....

.....

.....

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION
The Association, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Employment, 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; these services are available to them throughout their working lives.
Our Employment Officers are situated in Branches throughout the United Kingdom and they maintain close contact with local employers and Jobcentres. Their addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Unit Resettlement Officers, Jobcentres and local telephone directories.
During 1 April 1988-31 March 1989 the Association assisted 9,918 men and women with their settlement and placed 5,117 in employment. Of those placed 2,444 were men and women from the Army and 223 were from Royal Signals.

THE SOLDIER AS COLLECTOR A SPECIAL EXHIBITION AT THE NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM 21 JUNE 1989 TO 14 JANUARY 1990 ADMISSION FREE

Organised to celebrate Museums Year, this free Special Exhibition looks at the remarkable range of items collected by British soldiers in peace and war.
A large number of unusual souvenirs and trophies will be represented, but this Special Exhibition will also introduce some important academic collections, and the colourful characters who created them. The Exhibition will chronicle the adventurous lives of fighting men who were also ethnographers, archaeologists, natural historians and collectors of antiquities, and enable visitors to find out more about the important contributions which many of them have made to the advancement of knowledge.
Items from the collections of **Gen Pitt-Rivers**, one of the first systematic archaeologists, will be on display and one of a myriad of colourful characters to be featured in the Exhibition will be **Frederick M. Bailey**, a soldier whose many extra-curricular activities included entomology, exploration and espionage. **Bailey** was sent into Russia to report on the progress of the Russian Revolution, and his disguise fooled the Bolsheviks so successfully that they actually hired him to track down and capture himself!
Exhibition organiser **Marion Harding** said:-

'1989 is Museums Year, which seeks to draw attention to the variety of fascinating collections on display in Britain's museums, and I am sure that the range of items gathered together for this unusual Special Exhibition will make it an exciting contribution to the Museums Year programme'.

LETTERS

From: George W. Cook

Dear Sir,
I would like to jump into the 'FofS fray' (Letters from **FofS Cooper** *The Wire*, November 1988 and **FofS McDonald** and **Inman**—*The Wire*, March 1989), and relate a Foreman of Signals story to top theirs.
In June 1944 a Foreman of Signals Refresher Course at Catterick was attended by 14 Foremen.
In December 1944 all 14 flew to Mons in a single Dakota, and it was jokingly remarked that should our plane go down, the war would end a few days thereafter.
As an ex-Foreman of Signals myself I suggest, with tongue in cheek, that a gathering of two or more Foremen be referred to as a 'Faux Pas of Foremen'!

Yours truly,
George W. Cook

CanCom Consultants Inc
183 Temelec Circle
Sonoma
California 954768026
USA

From: WO2 (FofS) R. Wilson BA

Dear Sir,
As we are having a run of records, regarding, in particular, Foremen of Signals, it may be of interest to learn that presently there are three brothers in the Corps each of the same rank and appointment. I am the eldest, and I joined the Corps as an adult and then my younger twin brothers became apprentices. **WO2 (FofS) Paul Wilson BEM** is now serving in BAOR and **WO2 (FofS) Pete Wilson BA** is serving in the UK. Are there other serving members who can equal the family connection?

Yours faithfully,
Roy Wilson

3 Sqn
13 Sig Regt
BFPO 45

From: Maj J. D. Heck

Dear Sir,
I would like, through your pages, to thank all those members of the Corps who sent me messages of goodwill and encouragement following my involvement in the M1 air crash in January this year. I received well over 100 get well cards, and many visitors. I have continued to make a steady recovery and at the time of writing (mid June) I am still in hospital but the progress continues.

Yours,
James D. Heck

Ward 7
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital
Brockley Hill
Stanmore
Middx

From: Jim Mellett

Dear Sir,

40th Anniversary of Junior Leadership

It may not be generally realised but this year is the 40th Anniversary of a significant time in the history of *Junior Leadership* training in the Royal Signals.
In October 1949 a new Squadron of Boys was formed at the Green Howards Depot, Richmond, Yorks. It was formed by bringing in a nucleus of Senior Regimental Boys and Boy NCOs from Harrogate and by recruiting a new intake for training, I was a member of that first Squad and we passed out on 6 January 1950.
If I remember rightly the Squadron was called No 1 Independent Selection Sqn (Boys Wing), The Sqn HQ being the Regular Training Squadron at Gallowgate Camp. We remained at Richmond till mid 1950 when we went to Beverley and became 6 Trg Regt and became known for evermore as 'Beverley Boys'.
I attach a photograph taken on the day of the Passing out Parade but I regret that I only remember a few of the names, I am first on the left centre rank, next to me is **Wally Wheeler** and next to him is **Ernie Metters**, the only other name I can recall with absolute certainty is **Maurice Matthews** (seventh from left rear rank) who joined up with me on the same day from Jersey. Perhaps some one else can fill in the gaps.

Yours faithfully,
Jim Mellett

The Bungalow
51A Earls Court Square
London SW5 9DG

REPORT FROM ULSTER

HQ Northern Ireland
BFPO 825

THE VISIT OF THE SOinC, MAJ GEN R. F. L. COOK

On 4 and 5 May, **Maj Gen Cook** paid his initial visit as our new SOinC to Units in Northern Ireland. It was a whirlwind tour, the character of which can best be seen from the pictures taken on the way.

233 SIG SQN (NI)

At 233 Sig Sqn, **Maj Gen Cook** was given the five shilling tour. This consisted of a 60 minute race from the magic blue boxes of Brinton to the remarkable beige boxes of the AMS and culminating in a brief inspection of the astonishing off-white boxes with which India Tp busy themselves.

The General was invited to peer at VDUs, Modems, keyboards, multiplexers, microwave ovens and a wide selection of other equipment. He was also introduced to several members of the Squadron, although the lack of time precluded more than a brief word in each department.

39 INF BDE HQ AND SIG SQN

Next stop was 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn where the SOinC was met by the OC **Maj Steve Johns** and **WO1 (RSM) Andy Melville**. He was then briefed on Cougar by **WO2 (YofS) Chris Aitken** and on the 'wonders of syscon' by **Sgt Shakespeare**.

Next on the list was a brief on Heli-Tele by **SSgt Partridge**, and then a car fit, demonstrated by **Sgt Carl Shead**. Finally the entire cast of the Bde Comd's rover group was presented by **Cpl 'Scouse' Wharton**.

8 INF BDE HQ AND SIG SQN

On to Londonderry, where the highlight of the General's visit was a morning spent in green kit, touring the city. First stop was Fort George, then Rosemount SF Base followed by a (thankfully uneventful) return trip through the Bogside. Holiday snaps courtesy of **Maj Jim Stabler** (sandwiched between top cover sentries).

The SOinC meets members of the Bde Comd's rover group

Home from home demonstrated by Cpl 'Scouse' Wharton

3 INF BDE HQ AND SIG SQN

The last stop on the SOinC's tour was at 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, where he lunched before getting back to work. First a practice shoot with the SA80 and HF53—resulting in an impressive 2in grouping. Seconds later he was required to don protective clothing and assist in defusing a car bomb just outside the MT. Finally he was invited to listen to a barrage of war stories in the 'Whynge Inn' before departing again for Lisburn.

Londonderry

SA80 demonstrated to the SOinC by Sgt 'Stew' Johnston

The 'Wheelbarrow' demonstrated by Capt Mike Dolomore of the EOD Detachment

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 807

This time our notes have a rather satisfying flavour with the ARU report and our success at the Skill-at-Arms Meeting; unfortunately they are soured by the horrific murder by the Provisional IRA of **LCpl 'Jock' Duncan RCT** who was ambushed on his way to pick up primary school children in the school minibus. Our sincere condolences to his wife **Pauline** and their children. **'Jock'** was a well respected member of the squadron MT and will be sorely missed by all.

NORTHERN IRELAND SKILL-AT-ARMS MEET 1989
Report by SSgt Martin Leighfield

NISAAM this year was held, as usual, at Ballykinler over the weekend 7-9 April. The weather, for the start was miserable, but soon brightened up, as did the scores. The rifle team consisted of **SSgts Martin Leighfield, Kev Bailey, LCpls Bill Dodd** (RPC) and **Kev Penman** (REME). The LMG match was fired by **SSgt Bailey** and **LCpl Bill Dodd**. In the section match we acquired the able assistance of **Cpl Jim Alger**, who was only there for the medals.

Friday afternoon saw the start of the competition proper with **SSgt Martin Leighfield** first to shoot the Henry Whitehead. As well as this match **SSgt Kev Bailey** and **LCpl Bill Dodd** competed in the LMG match. Their combined scores meant that we had won our first match of the competition.

The following day we mustered all our skill and resources to go on and win the Roupell Cup and finish second in the Whittaker moving target. These results meant that we had won the Minor Unit Rifle Team Championships.

We were on a high, although 233 Sig Sqn was running a close second, the only match left to go was the section match. All we had to do was to compete and not come last. If 233 Sig Sqn were to win the Minor Units, by one point, it had to win and we had to lose the section match.

We were first down the range, on a rather blustery but dry day. There we were on the 610m line and champing at the bit. Targets up, and away went **LCpl Bill Dodd** a few seconds later his LMG spat fire and the target disappeared. For some reason the butts showed a flag, we did not protest as the indication of a miss helped when he fired at the second exposure. The rifle section received 20 penalty points for not killing at 500m, all in all we finished with a reasonable score.

39 Bde Sig Sqn was next to go, followed by 233 Sig Sqn and then Ord Depot Northern Ireland. At this stage 233 Sig Sqn was winning and we were losing with only one team left to go, 46 Comd Wksps REME. As 46 ran down we were wishing penalties upon them, so they would come last, and 233 Sig Sqn was hoping the Wksps would beat us. After 46 had finished 233 was hopeful, as 46 had incurred no penalties, and mild panic was setting in in the 8 Bde camp. **LCpl Bill Dodd** rushed over to hear the scores along with **SSgt 'Taff' Carr** from 233. The result was announced 46 Comd Wksps had won the section match, which meant that we had won the Minor Unit Championships beating 233 Sig Sqn by one point. Many thanks to 46 Comd Wksps from 8 Bde Sig Sqn.

On the individual front both **SSgt Martin Leighfield** and **LCpl Bill Dodd** qualified for the GOC's XII, the Roberts, and finished 18th and 15th, respectively, in the rifle match. **LCpl Bill Dodd** also finished 36th in the Champion at Arms. A mention for **LCpl Kev Penman** who shot well for his first year in competition. **Cpl Jim Alger** also went home happy and clutching the medal he had so long desired.

The team now goes on to the Corps meeting and Bisley along with our fellow Northern Ireland Signal Squadrons 233 and 39 Bde.

ARU
by Lt C. J. Thackray

We are informed that there may still be readers out there who are of the opinion that our life here in the combat zone is one long round of 'Ops NI', and we are spared the ritual degradations of audits, boards of Officers and the like; well, if you're thinking of a posting out here to avoid all that, then, as the saying goes—cheers, easy. I'm here to tell you all about the awesome spectacle that was the 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn ARU; a glittering experience loved by the critics:-

'Magnificent'—DCOS
'A smash hit'—COS
'This one will run and run'—Comd 8 Inf Bde
'No, of course we didn't rehearse it'—**Maj Jeremy Ellis**

Let me take you back to 26 April . . .

It is a typical late spring day in Derry, ie it was snowing heavily, and Comd 8 Inf Bde faced the first challenging task of his formal visit; he stood square on and faced the impassive team of riggers beneath the Ebrington Barracks mast.

He was invited by **Cpl Dai Treeby** to don coveralls. After a short struggle, he was invited to don another set of coveralls, as it was quickly realised the first set was more suited to a slightly built, very short member of the ACF.

As he began his climb, beckoned on by the 'Come on, I'm getting a bit cold' expression of **LCpl 'Mac' McDonald**, he must have had reservations about completing the remainder of his tour, but, under the guidance of **Cpl Ian Church**, he made it to the top and back in one frozen piece.

There was no respite for him, however. He was led around the corner to meet the 'Hilton Death Squad', otherwise known as the Brigade Rover Group. By some extraordinary coincidence, as they drove past the POL point, they just happened to meet a 'surly, riotous crowd' in ugly mood (thank you, HQ Coy 1 R HAMPS), who proceeded to attack them with any and all means at their disposal. Rover Group deployed with their usual efficiency, which involved **LCpl Rick Halliwell, Pte 'Geordie' Coggins** and **Sig Simon Malin, Paul Marsden** and **Harry Monks** taking several well-aimed potatoes to the head as they formed protective cover. **LCpl 'Geordie' Finlay** was set upon by a few of the braver rioters, and showed that the shorter length of the SA80 allows the fine art of 'butt jabbing' to be practised with ease. Meanwhile, the Commander was hastened (bundled? thrown?) into the nearest building by **Cpls Kev Hilton** and **Jim Sorbie**, the house was secured and reinforcements called. The 7th Cavalry, in the guise of **LCpl 'Woody' Wood**'s QRF, arrived in the nick of time and dispersed the mob with minimum fuss.

Suitably impressed with these scenes of gratuitous violence, the Commander was then escorted to look at some boring communication kit under the watchful eye of the Foreman, **WO2 'Nobby' Baugh**, a wallet of technicians (well, you think of a more apt group name) had deployed an emergency talk-through and portable Operations room. This allowed him to enjoy coffee and biccies with the overstretched lads of TM Tp: **Cpls Dave Griffin** and **Martin Kendall, LCpls Andy Cameron** and **'Jonah' Jones**, and **Sig 'Gerry' Fitt**. We will never know exactly what sort of hallucinogen went into his coffee, but he came away muttering about TM Tp working too hard.

His final visit of the day was with the Operators of Comms Tp, forced out of bed and SYSCON for this special occasion (apparently it took three hours for their eyes to grow accustomed to the daylight), displaying rebros and CPs. This had necessitated a certain amount of refresher training ('Gentlemen, this box is a Clansman 353, it is a sort of radio'), but they all proved up to their task. The dets were manned by **Cpls 'Chas' Tolton, Shean Dewar, Brian Green, Jim Alger, Tony Scoins** and **LCpl Paul Elson**. **Lt Emma Pascoe**'s wardrobe was by 'man at Q&M'.

And that was that. The Commander returned to Brigade HQ, the Officer Commanding's shuttle ticket still in his pocket, and everyone was happy. All in all, a great day out for the whole family, and just goes to show what it's possible to achieve with a 'can-do' attitude and two months' preparation.

The (FofS), WO2 'Nobby' Baugh, demonstrates an emergency talkthrough deployment. LCpl Andy Cameron and Cpl Dave Griffin supervise his work. The OC looks cynical, and the RSM, WO1 'Dixie' Dean, wonders what's in the box

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

LIFE BEGINS AT 39

This is the title of the new Squadron magazine. It covers the gap in news and gossip between *The Wire* and the *News of the World*. Circulation has doubled to 12 copies in the space of one issue and it seems destined to go from strength to strength. Some of the notable events it has covered so far include **WO1 (RSM) Melville**'s unsuccessful attempt to flatten an armoured Landrover with the boot of his car. Two issues and no libel case to answer yet. Eat your heart out, Eye.

A lot of hard work was put in by **Cpl Vince McNaught** and **Sig 'Stig' Richards** to ensure that the Red Nose day function raised a lot of money. One event had a number of members sitting in a bath of cold baked beans for 30 minute stints. A good night was had by all and congratulations to everyone who helped raise the £600.

On a more serious note, two members of TM Tp had a narrow escape at North Howard Street Mill. Having packed their van in the secure car park, to attend to a fault in the building, two minutes after they left it it had been devastated by a passing blast bomb. On the bright side however, it wasn't TM Tp's van . . .

The Warrenpoint RUC station bomb also made for an exciting day out. Comms were restored within a matter of hours, as was the OC's blood-pressure.

EXERCISE IRON CIRCLE

This year's squadron battle camp took place on the Otterburn Training area and the activities split into two separate weeks. The first week went according to an unnamed press officer as follows: The exercise took place at Otterburn.

One platoon of 1 Bn The Antrim Fusiliers deployed to Manchunia in order to restrain the hostile forces of Peoples Organisation for Liberation of Ozcabia (POLO).

On arrival at Otterburn the boys were given an exercise brief. Much to the surprise of the stand-in platoon commander **Sgt 'Shakey' Shakespeare** and rifleman, **Cpl Hood**, the men were allowed a night (well half a night) off to catch up on the sleep already missed.

0500 hrs the time, and early morning PT the occasion. After a run, assault course and log race the boys were now ready to take on the breakfast so delicately prepared by chefs **Cpl Ron Stevenson** and **LCpl Al Payne**. The rest of the daylight hours were spent revising such beauties as patrol harbours, ambushes, and patrolling. Calls of rally, rally, rally were heard for many hours and according to **Cpl 'Duty Dieter' Chappell** are very useful. Honest!

On reaching full potential the platoon was alerted to the threat and hence deployed to the field. A long (some may say too long) tab of 10km was the first hurdle to be overcome. After reaching a platoon RV we moved across open ground at altitude and into the harbour area. The orders came through that enemy activity was occurring in the vicinity and observation posts were to be put out. Slight troubles and skirmishes happened during the night but nobody was lost, and morning routine was a welcome break, especially to **Cpls** 'Old Man' **Curtis** and **Colin** 'I think I'm dead' **Williams**.

The next day the enemy was sighted and being ultra keen **Cpl Steve Ferris** acting as platoon sergeant shook the boys around and moved into a border area.

The rest of the week was spent trying to find out what the score in the FA Cup Final was (as **Trev Ellis'** Sony Walkman had packed in) and doing recce patrols, fighting patrols and an ambush.

All in all the week was exhausting and much was learned especially by the DS.

MERCURY CUP

The sporting prowess of the whole Squadron was put to the test one sunny Saturday in April this year. The annual meeting of the Province's Signals Squadrons took place in Lisburn, hosted by 39 Inf Bde.

Participants apart from ourselves were HQNI, 225 Sig Sqn, 233 Sig Sqn, 3 Inf Bde and 8 Inf Bde. The scene was set for a day of competitive sport, with contests in Rugby, Soccer, Hockey and Basketball.

The day got off to a good start with most of our sides winning their respective games. The hockey, captained by **Cpl Steve Ferris** and ably assisted by some staff officers and a few squadron soldiers had the best day of all our sides. They eventually won all of their games against stiff opposition and after a narrow win against 233 Sig Sqn were outright winners.

Rugby was another sport we did well in but not quite well enough to carry off the cup. **LCpl 'Wilf' Williams** captained the side from scrum-half and was outstanding all the way through. He was more than ably assisted by **Capt Beard** at outside-half and the rest of the side including the OC Sqn. We managed to beat all our opposition except in the final game when a rather lax performance against 8 Inf Bde resulted in defeat. So after beating the eventual winners (on points) we felt disappointed not to carry away the cup.

Soccer proved slightly more difficult for our gladiators, and we managed only a 50% success rate. Nonetheless, thanks to the likes of **Sgt Dave Harris** and team captain **Cpl 'Fossil' Wharton** were equal runners-up over the day.

The day was great fun overall not only for our Unit but for all those who took part and the spectators.

Eventually we carried off the trophy, presented by Commander Communications Northern Ireland to **Sig Andy Dutton**. Also the hockey team won its respective trophy. HQNI pipped us on points difference for the rugby cup, fittingly, as the trophies were in memory of **Cpls Howes** and **Wood**.

Many thanks to **RSM Andy Melville** for organising the activities and **SSgt Mike Hendley** who was chief scorer.

PS The rugby side would like to point out that the rumour of the OC Sqn **Maj Steve Johns** catching a ball at the Northern Ireland Sevens is totally untrue.

Lt Col Steve Siddall sharing a smile with Cpl Steve Ferris

Comd Comms, Lt Col Steve Siddall presents the Royal Signals Sports Shield to Sig Andy Dutton

The 'Squadron Gladiators'—including two Brigade Staff Officers!

FOREMAN'S FOLLY

Having kidnapped the OC and RQMS's designer mugs the Foreman **WO2 Russ Moran** decided he would hold the mugs to ransom them to enhance the TM Tp drinking fund. The OC **Maj Johns** tried diplomacy and bluster, but the Foreman doesn't give in that easily! The RQMS **WO2 Derek Coker** assured the OC that no ransom should be paid and that his SAS team (Stores all Sunday) would take care of the problem. So it was, that while the Foreman of Signals sat smugly in his office the team hit, mugs successfully rescued, the Foreman of Signals was plasticuffed and delivered to the Officer Commanding for legal proceedings.

TICKLE TROPHY

Yet another example of the amazing standard of fitness of this Squadron was the winning of the annual Tickle Trophy. This trophy is presented to the Northern Ireland Unit with the highest BFT/CFT pass rate for the year. Along with two other Units the Squadron achieved a 100% pass rate. No undue influence was brought to bear on the PT staff who invigilated the tests. Surely Joggers' Paradise (aka Thiepval Barracks) must be the posting for aspiring fitness fanatics?

Comd 39 Inf Bde, Brig Bryan Dutton presents the Tickle Trophy for BFT's to the OC, Maj Steve Johns

233 Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

The Officers and SNCOs of 233 Sig Sqn (Northern Ireland) May 1989

EXERCISE WINTER WARRIOR 1989
A report by Pte Field

After 36 hours of travelling, we arrived in Wertach, Bavaria on a wet Sunday afternoon. There was no snow in sight, not very promising. After ski kit issue and briefings there was just enough time for a quick visit to the bar before bed in our five star accommodation.

On Monday morning at 0630 hrs we all awoke to the screams of 'fire, fire, fire' (just a practice) and after breakfast we were ferried up to the slopes in four tonners. That's when the fun started. For most of us the first morning's instruction was: 'This is a ski, that is your ski boot. Clip the boot on to the ski'. That was the easy part; standing up for longer than five minutes was slightly more difficult.

As there was no snow for the next two days we had day trips to the Deutsches Museum, ice skating and swimming. Thursday was back to

Pte Field

the slopes and to the 'T Bars' which for most of us was a complete disaster but we all got the hang of it after about the eighth go.

Friday night was the highlight of the two weeks for a couple of us with a night out in Kempton. I was the only girl who had the courage to venture outside Wertach and away from the instructors table. I tagged along with five gentlemen: **Cpl** 'Pete the feet' **Low, Cpl Sharp, LCpls Lewis, Parry** and **Sig 'Geordie bootroom' Harrison**, and after a great evening we were all met by **WO2 Copperwaite,** by the back door making sure we all got back safely.

For me the weekend consisted of fire piquet, pan bashing, and cross country skiing. Monday we were back on the slopes and for the next couple of days we learnt how to turn and how to do basic swings.

Some of us however were happy to stick to the snowplough position for the whole two weeks. Thursday we took our bronze test which we all passed in blizzard conditions. Friday was a fun day with farewell drinks from our Instructor **Pte Chris Wilson**, so I spent the rest of the afternoon going down mountains on my face instead of my skis!

After packing up early and handing in the kit, we were off to the bar for prize-giving, sketches, singing and goodbyes, most of us in bed by midnight, then up again at 0300 hrs for our journey home.

INDIA TROOP

Again the time has come to get out the dictionary and the Thesaurus and put pen to paper.

We bade farewell to **Pte Karen Cooper**, who moved from one building to another within the Squadron, now working in Commcen Tp. **Sig 'Stan' Cummings** has finally hung up his uniform and departed for the civilian life. **LCpl Steve Jones** has also left us for civvy street. Finally goodbye to **LCpl 'Mo' Morris** who has also said cheerio to the military lifestyle and has gone off to get married and live in Scotland. Best of luck to you in your futures.

We lose four and gain one (as we expect nowadays). Welcome to **Sig 'Stan 2' McDermid** from 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt and also to his wife **Corola**. Have a nice tour.

TECH TROOP

The Troop bids farewell to **Capt Al Hooley** who has left us for a well earned rest in Berlin.

We welcome the new TOT, **Capt Jim Hanifin**. Hope you don't play guitar! **Capt Al Hooley** will be best remembered for his expertise in designing cable pits. A very clever design, they can double up as swimming pools, or footbaths. Anyway, now that we have gone metric, things might be a bit easier in the future!

Capt Al Hooley *(right)* handing the Troop over to Capt Jim Hanifin *(left)*

The FofS bathing his feet (or has he lost his trousers?)

The new Troop swimming pool due to be opened up soon with Tech Tp swimming consultants
(Left to right): FofS Hughes, LCpl Kerr, Cpl Jolly, LCpl Griffiths and Sgt Bagnall

The Troop also bids farewell to **Cpl 'Rock' Hudson** and his wife **Tracy** who have left us for civvy street. Also to **Sgt 'Fudge' Webb** who joins 264 Sig Sqn (will Radio Section ever be any different without him? After all who ever saw him?).

Welcome to **Sgt Pete Szeremeta** who has joined us from Catterick.

A poem, Ode to the Syscon Tech, by **WCpl Cherry Banfield**.

ODE TO THE SYSCON TECH

At 8 O'clock we're smart and fit
To babysit our Brinton Kit
Lightweights pressed and feeling keen
We sync ourselves on to routine
At five past eight the thirst is on
But kettle's empty—something's wrong
'Quick' switch it on to local loop
And fill it up by standby route
With flapping over, water boiled
The brews get working parts all oiled
And so we sit and wait and watch
A remsdaq screen that's slightly botch
At half past one it's down all tools
'Tis Neighbour's time; for Ramsey Rules!
So off we bimble down the back
The shifties, shirkers, FofS and Jack
Come evening time there's ale's to quoff,
So dis the Link and Log right off
With loopback boxes switched to one
It's hand in called the mouth in Run

ROMEO TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC Tp	**Capt N. Yeoell**
2IC	**WO2 (FofS) W. Stockdale**
YofS	**SSgt C. MacKenzie**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt R. Ingham**

Despite the usual everyday jobs and fast balls, Romeo Tp managed to put up quite a good show in the McKelvie Trophy, with quite decisive victories in both football and squash, and narrowly missing victory in the shooting competition, due to really, really, really biased rules on the day.

As many know Romeo has always been involved in charitable activities, and Saturday 3 June was no exception. The Troop ran a 'goldfish stall' at the Lisburn Garrison Summer Fete where the day went very well, with over £117.58 (give or take £100) being raised by the stall's enthusiastic minders, **SSgt Bob Ingram, Sgts Pete Farrington** and **Ralph Johnson** and **Sig Chris Ravenhill**.

During the morning preparations **Sig Chris Ravenhill** almost ended the day before it began—he managed to drop all the goldfish on the floor of the workshops. Luckily none perished. All the fish, some with headaches, went to good homes.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

At times life in Romeo Tp can appear to be one continuous happy party and yet as always people must move on to pastures new. Farewell and good luck to **Maj Ewing** who will be enjoying the sunshire of Verden. Goodbye also to **Cpl 'Cloggy' Clogg** who has left us for 1 Div and to **Cpl 'Woody' Wood** who is now on his T1. Finally say goodbye to **Cpl 'Dodge' Naylor** who is now touring the world as a civvy.

In their place we welcome the new Troop OC, **Capt Neal Yeoell** and his wife **Diana**. Other newcomers to the Troop are **Cpl Eric Sykes, Dave Buckingham** and **Cpl Mal Pryke**. **Mal Pryke** was posted from Radio Section after eating a Cougar PR one day when the Nip Inn canteen was closed.

We also extend our congratulations to **Cpl George Hume** and his wife **Liz** on the birth of their second son **Craig**.

COMMCEN TROOP
COMIC RELIEF

Commcen Tp raised £356.89 for the Comic Relief Appeal and **Mr Russell Thompson** of Oxfam Northern Ireland came down from Belfast to receive the cheque.

LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL PRESENTATIONS

On his farewell visit to the Province the outgoing SOinC, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB MBE**, presented LS & GC Medals to seven members of 233 Sig Sqn (Northern Ireland) and a member of 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn.

Standing (left to right): Ptes Ingham, Granger, Mr Russell Thompson, LCpls Adams and Sockett
Kneeling (left to right): Cpl Partridge and LCpl Potter

(Left to right): WO1 (YofS) Secker with wife Teresita and children Christopher and Mark; WO2 (FofS) Stockdale; SSgt Maddison; Sgt Thornton-Granville with wife Lesley and daughters Claire and Nicola; Maj Gen P. D. Alexander; Sgt Jacobs with wife Eileen; Cpl Curtis with wife Marieke and daughter Kirsty; SSgt Carr with wife Chris and SSgt Arbuckle

— News from Headquarters —

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

Champion Squadron—Rawson Sqn with the Cup, Comd Trg Gp R Signals and the Comdt

CHAMPION SQUADRON

At the end of the Spring term a hard and close fought battle for Champion Squadron took place once again. Rawson Sqn, having won the Swimming, was training hard. Scott was keen to retain the trophy, Bradley was doing what only Junior Leaders do and Penney Sqn was taking it all in their stride. Commander Training Group R Signals, **Brig A. F. Eastburn** came for the day. The drill competition took place in the morning, Bradley were Junior winners and Rawson Senior winners. The final competition saw Penney disqualified and placed last in five of the events. Rawson after several years has at last regained Champion Squadron for the Summer Term. Congratulations.

EXERCISE SILVER SWORD

Ex Silver Sword was a week's training organised by OC Sqns, which was to give the Apprentices' Squadron Commanders a chance to command their Squadrons. The only proviso was that some form of home defence training must take place.

BRADLEY SQUADRON

Bradley Sqn went to Leek Training Area. The Sqn 2IC, **Capt John Wallace**, said it was a tremendous week spoilt only by the cellnet telephone that the OC, **Maj Mike Fisher**, insisted upon taking. That's technology **John** . . .

SCOTT SQUADRON

Ex Silver Sword consisted of seven sunny days of field training based on our home defence role with the Squadron being supported by Mil Trg Wing and the affiliated staff. Training varied from Fibua to Cordon and Search with opportunities to fire on the anti-ambush and section in defence ranges. A further invitation was given by the EL instructors to explore the hills of Warcop Training Area in closer detail. The training week ended with a section competition comprising of speed march, command tasks, assault course and pistol shoot.

RAWSON AND PENNEY SQUADRONS

Rawson and Penney Sqns combined their exercise and went to Warcop Training Area the week after Scott Sqn.

For Phase 1 both Squadrons were split into 10-man sections and deployed by Puma helicopters around the area. Armed and with communications, the Apprentices for 28 hours continously clocked in at DS manned check points, to receive instructions and to move on. The distances themselves were taxing but with terrain that in parts was extremely dangerous, and awful weather, both Squadrons did very well. The only casualties being many blistered feet. Some DS check points were easier to find than others; the tremendous noise of snoring from **Sgt Tom Dooley**, however, did serve as a useful navigational aid in the fog!

Phase 2 was mostly ranges and military training over a four day 'enjoyable rest period'. The ranges consisted of CQBs, anti-ambush, moving targets and an All Arms Air Defence Range. Five planes were shot down, including one by OC Penney Sqn, **Maj Paul Wilkin**, miracles do happen!

Rawson Sqn had a superbly run home defence ex by **Lt David 'Closet Infanteer' Ollerearnshaw**. Here, they defended an abandoned house which became a key point against rioters and activists. Also the Squadron sent out recce, ambush and fighting patrols.

Saturday saw an inter section competiton run by **Lt Gordon Elliott**. The competition consisted of NBC, First Aid, Clay Pigeon Shooting, Uphill Run, Map Reading, Assault Course and Shooting:

The winning section was Rawson Section 9.

Finally Phase 3 was the Penney and Rawson escape and evasion exercise. Both Squadon 2ICs (Hinge and Brackett) **Capts Mick Radford** and **Bill House**, ran what was by and large a tactical and more taxing Phase 1. Sadly, the Chinook let us down having only deployed the DS, but once the five man patrols were deployed in glorious weather most were not seen until the end of the exercise the next day. If anybody finds an AT **LCpl Jason Wing** and his section please let them know that the exercise has finished. As well as having to find their 'contacts' they had to evade a highly mobile, quick reaction enemy force of **Maj Paul Wilkin, Sgts 'Chamois' Leather, Tom Dooley** and **Terry Oakes** with infantry adviser CSM **Mal Pearson**. Overall everybody did very well and the nine days were hard work but very enjoyable.

COMMEX TROOP

Commex Tp, part of Operator Wing, is responsible for putting into practice in the field, trade skills learned in the classroom.

In a very full exercise timetable we take most of the trade classes, but Tele Op (Tg) in particular, through all necessary field skills and practises to make them complete tradesman.

It is rare indeed for every member of the Troop to be together but we managed it for the photograph.

Cpls 'Dave' Old, Colin Gardner, Mark Elliott, Sig Spider Webb, Cpls Chris Breen, K. B. Smith, Andy Donaldson, Peter Prater, Sgt Rob Ibbotson, WO2 (YofS) Bill Ruthven, Capt Dave Luckett (OC Tp) and Sgt Jim McMahon

PENNEY SQUADRON

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

The Commandant Col Peter Burke congratulates AT Dean Parry on his D of E Gold award

EXERCISE CHAMOIS LEATHER II

This was the second time that the car parks in Harrogate have been flooded by Penney Sqn. A charity car wash which took place on FA Cup Final Day!

£1,600 was raised and cheques of £750 were presented to the Treasurer of the local Save the Children Fund Branch, **Miss L. Davison** and the Chairman of Harrogate's National Childrens Home, **Mr Bryn Heapy** (Ex Royal Signals).

Ex Chamois Leather II practise using PS cars . . .

The cheques being presented

PUPIL WORK EXPERIENCE COURSE

PWEC is designed to give 40 boys, 15-16 years old, a flavour of Army and Royal Signals life in four and a half days. **Maj Paul Wilkin** was tasked with producing a programme with **Maj Gus Vigurs** and then **Lt Gordon Elliott, WO2 (CSM) George Evans**, Kings Own Border and **Sgt Terry Oakes** conducted the boys through it. Hard work but there are a few who may now join the Army.

The PWEC with their training team

BRADLEY SQUADRON

The Inter Squadron Pacestick Championships was held on Wednesday 17 May with the first team marching on at 1100 hrs.

The competition was a very close thing between four Squadrons with Bradley Sqn being judged the winners and Rawson Sqn runners-up. The winning team consisted of: **WO2 (CSM) Dave Morcom** Scots Guards, **Sgts Paul Horton, Ian Taylor** and **Ken Sheppard.**

The Best Individual Pacesticker Trophy went to **Sgt Paul Horton,** a happy result as this was his last parade at the College before being posted to 30 Sig Regt.

A good day was had by all due to the weather and an excellent lunch for all competitors and judges was held in the Sergeants' Mess after the competition.

SCOTT SQUADRON

The sportsmen of the Squadron put on a fine display at the Regimental Athletics day and with the support of the whole Squadron, retained the athletics trophy for a second year, by only three points from Penney Sqn.

SATORI KARATE CLUB

The College Karate Club started just a few months ago. We are mostly complete beginners, without any knowledge of what might be in store for us.

Everyone is working like mad to gain their first grade, ninth Kyn, (Red Belt) and there is a lot of sweat ending up on the dojo floor. We are members of Zanshin Karate Kai and our chief instructor is Sensei **John Rickhuss** 4th Dan. We are Martial Arts Commission recognised and are members of the Federation of English Karate Organisations.

We will be making trips to our main dojo to train with some of the leading world masters who regularly visit our association.

We would like to hear from any other military Karate Club and perhaps even train with each other and exchange ideas. If you are in the area and are a practising marital artist, why not call in? We train on Thursdays at 1800 hrs. You will be made very welcome.

SWIMMING AND WATER POLO

The squad has been in intensive training since January of this year, the aim being to win the Army Junior Swimming Competition.

Matches followed against 8 Sig Regt and Coppice Valley, a local civilian swimming club featuring five swimmers who had previously represented England. These matches proved worthwhile and even more serious training followed. In truth we were expected to finish third in the Army Championships having been beaten by AA Coll Chepstow who had in turn been beaten by Princess Marina College Arborfield. Then of course, there were the unknown quantities of four other teams.

THE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

These were held at PMC Arborfield on 18 May. During the course of the day three Army records were broken and several others survived by the narrowest of margins. The final placings were:-

1st	AA Coll Harrogate	86 pts
2nd	PMC Arborfield	82 pts
3rd	AA Coll Chepstow	61 pts
4th	JLR RE	52 pts
5th	JLR RA	41 pts
6th	JLR RAC	40 pts
7th	JIB Shorncliffe	14 pts

WATER POLO

AA Coll Harrogate was drawn against RAC JLR Bovington in the first round, the final score being 10—2 in Harrogate's favour. This match was on the morning of 18 May immediately before the team Swimming Championships. Harrogate then had to play AA Coll Chepstow, the favourites immediately after the Swimming Competition. After the first quarter Harrogate led 1—0 but after the strain of the day could not maintain the required effort and lost to Chepstow who went on to beat Arborfield in the final.

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

These were held on the morning of 19 May with the following results:-

400m Freestyle	2nd	**AT Christie**	5 mins 14.61 secs
	3rd	**AT LCpl Brass**	5 mins 23.23 secs
100m Breaststroke	1st	**AT SSM Williams**	1 min 16.62 secs
100m Backstroke	2nd	**AT Robins**	1 min 19.01 secs
200m Freestyle	1st	**AT LCpl Brass**	2 mins 27.02 secs
200m Backstroke	2nd	**AT Robins**	2 mins 54.35 secs
200m Individual Medley	2nd	**AT Christie**	2 mins 41.46 secs

The College Swimming Squad is to be congratulated on a fine effort in becoming Army Champions against the odds. The success is a direct reflection of the time and effort spent in months of training. A special vote of thanks is due to **Mr John Williams,** who works in the QM(Gen). He has been at the pool each morning at 0600 hrs Monday to Friday to coach the boys. Without him they would not have won. Thanks **John.**

FOOTBALL
ARMY YOUTH CHALLENGE CUP 1988-89

AA Coll Harrogate (8) v (0) JLR RAC Bovington — 1st Round
AA Coll Harrogate (3) v (1) AA Coll Chepstow — Quarter Final
AA Coll Harrogate (3) v (1) JLR RE Dover — Semi Final

So we were set for the final at Burtons Court, Chelsea Barracks on Sunday 14 May, against PMC Aborfield. Both teams were introduced to **Mr G. McCullock** of Atlas Hydraulics Ltd.

The team mascot, **Liam Wright**, led the proceedings by winning the toss. Straight from the kick off it was obvious Harrogate was going all out to win. The ground was rock hard and the midfield of **'Mac' Mackintosh, 'Max' Maxwell** and **'Fez' Slater** had to work hard to keep Aborfield at bay. Our skipper **LCpl 'Tommo' Thomasson** commanded the team brilliantly and with our strong midfield and speedy attackers there was only going to be one winner (Wow!—Ed). The goals came from **'Mac' Mackintosh, Paul** 'Sunderland Rule OK' **Stephenson** and **'Smudge'** (Babyface) **Smith.**

Final result—AA Coll Harrogate 3 PMC Aborfield 1.

The Army Junior Swimming Champions

The Army Youth Cup Challenge Winners

POINTS TO NOTE

ATLCpl Paul Stephenson was the competition's top scorer with seven goals. **AT 'Mac' Mackintosh** was voted the Man of the Match.

Away from the final our Player of the Season award went to **ATCpl James** 'Trigger' **Strouts** who has had an excellent season. **'Trigger'** also had a great season for the Army and Combined Services Youth and was voted Army Player of the Scottish Tour. A great achievement.

SERGEANTS' MESS

In the last *Wire* we mentioned that a Charity Dinner with **Bernard Manning** was held for the **Margaret White** Appeal. This raised £1,614.70 and will be used to help pay for the specialised treatment in the USA that **Margaret** needs.

ROYAL SIGNALS STABLE BELTS

New 3in Regulation Pattern with Straps
Any Amount Made Up as Required

Export 3in Web with Strengthening ..... £6.33 plus post
Export 3in Web without Strengthening ..... £5.23 plus post

UK inc VAT 3in Web with Strengthening ..... £7.29 plus post
UK inc VAT 3in Web without Strengthening £6.01 plus post

T. FROST (Saddlers)
SOUTH PARADE, BAWTRY
DONCASTER, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

COMMENDATION

Sig Paul Meredith received a Commander Training Group Commendation for saving a man's life after a car crash near Harrogate. Quickly taking charge of the situation he rendered first aid to the unconscious driver while directing passers-by to wave down the traffic and contact the emergency services.

The driver made a good recovery and so grateful was his family that they wrote to the Commandant asking that his action received some form of official recognition.

His commendation finally caught up with him when he was on a four month tour of the Falkland Islands.

Sig Paul Meredith receiving his commendation from Air Vice Marshal David Crwys-Williams, Commander British Forces Falklands Islands

HQ BAOR
BFPO 140

PRINCESS ROYAL DAY 1989

All Royal Signals Units in Europe gathered together on Haltern Ranges near Munster, West Germany on Tuesday 30 May, to compete in Comd Comms BAOR Military Skills Competition for both Major and Minor Units in celebration of Princess Royal Day, 28 June.

Maj Gen P. R. Davies staged an Inter Unit Military Skills competition designed to test the standard of shooting and fitness amongst Royal Signals Units in Europe. Units were invited to enter a four man shooting team and Comd Comms BAOR personally selected a march and shoot team from Unit nominal rolls. Major Unit teams consisted of 12 men and Minor Units 6 men. All personnel taking part in the competition were Royal Signals badged.

Regimental and Squadron Commanders and Regimental Sergeant Majors/Squadron Sergeant Majors were invited to take part in a pistol competition and as a finale to the day Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps and his Commanding Officers challenged Comd 4 Sig Gp and his Commanding Officers to a Falling Plate competition.

The weather was very warm. This was comforting to the marksmen on the firing points but not so to the march and shoot teams who were faced with 5.5kms in warm humid conditions. The competition was tight throughout the whole day with no team showing as the obvious winner so that the result rested on the march and shoot competition. The Minor Units were set off in a mass start by Comd Comms BAOR and were soon seen to start spreading out over the course. The first team in with a very fast time of 29 mins was Berlin HQ and Sig Regt who then seemed to throw away their advantage by leaving 4 of their 12 clay pigeons untouched. Luckily no other team bettered that score, although 204 Sig Sqn equalled it, and Berlin HQ and Sig Regt could be declared the winners of the Minor Unit competition.

The Major Unit run followed immediately and the mass start with the larger teams was very congested so that it was some time before the faster teams could fight their way to the front of the herd. It was apparent however that the teams had been well coached on the experience of the Minor Unit run and the importance of the shoot at the end since the teams were far more cautious during the run and very slow and precise during the shoot. Once again there was not a single team which managed to destroy its quota of clay pigeons and 28 Sig Regt therefore won the march and shoot having left the least number of clays.

After a few anxious moments for **WO1 Mackender** and his trusty calculator it emerged that 7 Sig Regt had won the Major Unit competition having beaten 28 Sig Regt by one point.

The results of the two competitions were:-

	Major Unit	Points	Minor Unit	Points
1	7 Sig Regt	699	Berlin Sig Regt	579
2	28 Sig Regt	698	207 Sig Sqn	540
3	16 Sig Regt	672	204 Sig Sqn	519
4	22 Sig Regt	624	227 Sig Sqn	501
5	4 Sig Regt	621	202 Sig Sqn	500
6	3 Sig Regt	603	NORTHAG ASRS	451
7	21 Sig Regt	525	201 Sig Sqn	362
8	14 Sig Regt	512	206 Sig Sqn	351
9	1 Sig Regt	473	200 Sig Sqn	317
10	13 Sig Regt	395	212 Sig Sqn	253
11			211 Sig Sqn	244

The Pistol competition produced some amazing scores, some amazingly high but a few quite amazingly low. However, the team from 28 Sig Regt soom emerged as the clear winners. Congratulations to **Lt Col B. Chubb** and **WO1 (RSM) O'Hara**.

Berlin HQ and Sig Regt receiving the Minor Unit trophy from Comd Comms BAOR

The day ended with a resounding success for **Brig T. I. M. W** team in the Falling Plate match for which he collected two b fine champagne from Comd Comms BAOR.

The day was filled with exciting competition and much enhanced by the smooth administration provided by **Capt Phil Daisey** and his workers from 16 Sig Regt.

Well done to all concerned both competitors and administrators. We will see you all at Haltern again next year when 28 Sig Regt will no doubt wish to avenge their close defeat by 7 Sig Regt.

7 Sig Regt winners of the Major Units Military Skills Competition with the new trophy

Lt Col B. Chubb *(centre)* and WO1 (RSM) O'Hara receiving the Pistol Trophy from Maj Gen P. R. Davies Comd Comms BAOR

HQ Int and Sy Gp (G) BAOR
BFPO 140

At the end of the last instalment we were in the midst of seemingly endless handover/takeover's—guess what! The Unit is still in the shadows of the big house and the belgie bar is still open, but as can be expected some of our members have now moved on.

Sgt Al Scott and his family left us in 1988 for 39 Sig Regt (V) after a three year tour. The Garrison Rugby team obviously missed his presence as he has twice been seen since, returning for Rhino tours to the Algarve and the like. His departure meant a loss as his post was dis-established and so the section was reduced by 25%.

Sgt Frank Roberts moved into his desk and took over his position, although the telephone number had to be changed from Rhino's to Marlborough Club. **Frank** had been at the helm of the Marlborough Club committee as Vice-Chairman and in March 1988 the club reopened after a major refit.

Cpl Gordon Mundie arrived in February after records had arranged for him to do a swop posting with **Sgt Roberts** to 39 Inf Bde. The handover/takeover took longer than expected and **Frank** left for Northern Ireland in May. **Gordon** in the meantime has spent more time in Northern Ireland than in BAOR.

Cpl Ian Walling was posted in in March instead of going to 1 Armd Div Verden and **Cpl K. C. Connolly** was posted there instead, what a shock after living in a penthouse suite for two years. Since his arrival **Ian**'s driving capability has been under scrutiny, the QM having signed a death certificate for those who must take him out driver training.

SSgt (FofS) 'Gaz' Wilson is the last of the section to leave and is now in the process of handover/takeover to **SSgt (FofS) Ian Horton** straight from his course in Blandford.

It is thought that the QM has asked that references to Golf, Sub Aqua and Skiing be given a low priority! **Gaz** is posted to 30 Sig Regt in June.

School of Signals
Blandford Camp
Dorset

14 TROOP COMMANDERS COURSE

14 Tp Commanders Course arrived at the School of Signals on 14 February. Nearing the end of their course, the young officers visited Trg Gp Royal Signals from 1-3 June.

After a welcoming address from the Comd, **Brig Eastburn**, the course spent an informative couple of days being shown around Catterick and Harrogate. At the end of the visit the course was able to enjoy a weekend's Adventure Training.

The first afternoon was spent near Ingleton as an introduction to caving. Leading the course into the darkness were **2Lts Stewart McConnel** and **Mark Hanby**.

The following two days were spent on an arduous trek over the moors, starting at Barnard Castle and finishing at Keld. A convenient overnight stop was found at the Tan Hill Inn. **Maj John Barrett** accompanied the course during the first day to ensure that they were heading in the right direction. The weekend was a great success after which the officers returned to Blandford to prepare for their postings to Germany at the beginning of July.

14 Tp Commanders Course at the Tan Hill Inn on 4 June
Back row: 2Lts Mark Hanby, Guy Bennett, Adam Parsons, Chris Wood and Geoff Pullen
Front row: 2Lts Stewart McConnell, Kevin Atkinson, Tim Clare and Owen Bryant

Signal Training Centre
Scarborough

FAREWELL MR SYD STEER

It is with great sadness that we announce the departure of one of our most valued members of staff. **Mr Sydney Steer** who joined the Corps in 1952 as a Boy Apprentice at Harrogate. After serving 22 years he joined the staff here in Scarborough in November 1978 and has since that time looked after the accommodation stores within the Barracks, with a great deal of pride, dedication and professionalism. **Syd** will not only be missed work-wise, but also on the social side of life where he was always ready and willing to lend a hand helping behind the bar or cooking one of his delicious curries. He will be missed by all and we wish him and his wife **Elaine** all the very best for the future and in his employment as a Trading Standards Officer.

CHARITY WALK

The challenge this time, the 'White Rose Walk'. Starting at Roseberry Topping and finishing at Sutton Bank, Thirsk, a total of 40 miles. **SSgt Norman Crossley**, his brother **Malcolm** and son **Stephen** started the walk at midnight one cold Friday night. The first stage, **Stephen** was heard to say, was the hardest. He had to slow down so that his father and uncle could keep up with him! However, after a short break and a warm drink at 'Pete's Cafe' (first check-point) they got into their stride and soon made up for lost time. Without the able assistance of **WO2 (RQMS) Peter Reynolds** this walk would not have been possible. His valuable help at the check-points (what was it that you put into their drink?) and the back-up provided to ensure that the walk went without any hitches was very much appreciated. 'Thank you **Peter**'. **Stephen** collected £41 in sponsor money for completing the walk. Well done, **Stephen!** The money was handed over to the CO STC to be donated to local charities.

CHARITIES

The STC has been doing its bit for local charities. For example in January 14 children from Woodlands School for children with special needs were to be seen escorting **Sgt Mick Lawrence** and **Sgt 'Taff' Lewis** to the Theatre Royal York to watch the pantomime 'Humpty Dumpty'. A smashing time was had by all. On their return to Scarborough, now joined by **SSgt Norman Crossley**, all were invited back to the school for a light buffet served by the children.

CARPET BOWLS

When the Police, Fire Service and the Coast Guards all turned up in the 'Jimmy Social Club' it could only mean one thing . . . he had been at it again! **SSgt Norman Crossley**—organising leagues. This time it was Carpet Bowls. Other teams that took part were members of the Royal Signals Association; the Badminton Club and, of course, STC. It proved to be a great success and many new friends were made. The League culminated with a Presentation Evening with the winners and runners-up receiving a cup. The Fire Service was congratulated on coming second. The winners were, of course, STC!

SSgt Norman Crossley seeing off Sgt 'Taff' Lewis, Sgt Mick Lawrence and the children from Woodlands school to the panto

GUEST NIGHT

On Saturday 25 February STC held a Dinner in honour of our Commander, **Brig A. F. Eastburn** and his wife **Anthea**. Also attending were **Lt Col (Retd) F. Orr OBE** and his wife **Pat**. The evening was a great success and we were truly spoilt with a superb meal in splendid surroundings. The Brigadier was most impressed with the sweet (a little on the intoxicating side). The evening continued in the Jimmy Club until the early hours with more than a few games of Carpet Bowls (we've got to keep our hand in). Our thanks as ever must go to **Bill** and **Jean Pemberton** and **Sgt 'Dick' Turpin** and his team for all their efforts in making it a truly memorable evening.

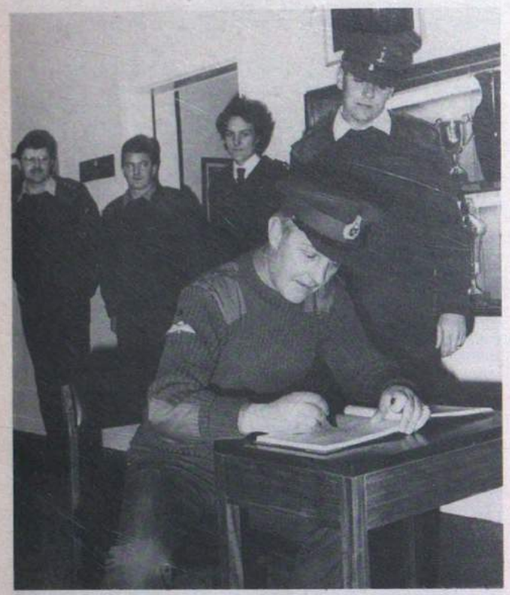
PROMOTION

Just by coincidence lots of QM's and RQ's were all to be seen visiting Scarborough on the same day . . . could it be something to do with **Maj Gordon Wallace MBE** being promoted to Lieutenant Colonel?

Needless to say, a good time was had by all. Our sincere congratulations go to the CO and his wife **Laura** on reaching this pinnacle of his career, and we wish them continued success and a long and happy tour at Scarborough.

News from Regiments

Berlin Sig Regt
BFPO 45



Visit by GOC
The GOC Berlin British Sector, Maj Gen R. J. S. Corbett signs the visitors book on his first visit to the Berlin HQ and Sig Regt. Looking on from *Right to Left* are the CO, Lt Col Mike Collins, The Adjt, Lt Lucy Dickson, Bde Tp Comd, Lt Lawrence McCourt and the Paymaster, Capt Rod Holmes

PRINCESS ROYAL DAY COMPETITION
WINNERS OF MINOR UNITS MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

Sallying forth from the divided city to Kohima Ranges, Haltern on 30 May, a team from the Regiment won the first ever Princess Royal Day Competition for Minor Units.

The CO **Lt Col M. J. P. Collins** and the RSM **WO1 (RSM) R. C. Young** led the way by competing in the pistol contest.

The Military Skills Competition had two parts. A six man team was selected from the nominal roll by **Maj Gen Davies** the Commander Communications BAOR to compete in a march and shoot contest.

Minor Unit teams formed up for a massed start by **Gen Davies** but after only 30m, Berlin was in the lead. And we never lost it. Route marking of the 4km course was pointless as the Minor Units followed Berlin home.

On arrival at the range, the team had to destroy 12 clay discs at 100m. Eight were destroyed in short order with some good shooting; the teams then had time to clean their weapons and have a brew while waiting for the arrival of the next team.

The march and shoot team consisted of: **Lt Lawrence McCourt, Sgt Dave Iverson, Cpl Jim Stillie, LCpl Kev Wright, Sig Rich Darby** and **'Taff' Thomas**.

Meanwhile OC 1 Sqn **Maj Craig McColville** led a four man team in the shooting competition. The OC and **Cpl Hobday** fired SMG and **Sig Collins** and **Marston** fired 9mm pistol. The complete team then fired a defensive shoot with SLR.

Results from both parts of the competition were combined to make Berlin the winners by a generous margin. A handsome trophy of a mounted .303 Lee Enfield rifle was presented to **Lt McCourt** by **Gen Davies**.

The Victorious Team
(Left to Right): Lt Col Collins, Sig Darby, Thomas, Collins, Sgt Iverson, Lt McCourt, LCpl Wright, Cpls Stillie, Hobday, Sig Marston and Maj McColville

HM THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PARADE

26 May, the day of the Queen's Birthday Parade, was glorious which helped make the day a great success, if uncomfortably hot, for the Troops on parade. **The Queen** was represented by **HRH The Dutchess of York**. The Regiment's involvement in the parade was small consisting of a single Landrover commanded by **Sgt Howland** and driven by **Sig 'Matty' Mathieson**.

But it was behind the scenes that most of the Regiment's work took place. The reception in the Jahnplatz was run by the Regiment and we guarded it for a week either side of the parade. **Cpl Hickey** and his crew provided Public Address, we laid line, provided control communications, raised flags, ushered guests and supplied promoting equipment. Low profile jobs but essential to the smooth running of the day and the Regiment was proud to be involved.

RONDO XXXVI

In April, the Squadron participated in the tri-national Ex Rondo sponsored this time by the US Forces. The aim of the exercise is to give Allied signals personnel experience in working together using others equipment. The 21 members of the Squadron who took part were divided among tripartite teams which included two female teams.

After two days of training, the teams began the competition phase which saw them completing various stands throughout West Berlin.

The final day was the most popular with a tough assault course competition as a tiebreaker between the top teams. After this came abseiling courtesy of the Airborne Rangers. This was met with varying degrees of enthusiasm. **WPte McMahon** even learned how to abseil upside down!

After a shower and clean up, the teams moved to the Silverwings Club which (believe it or not) is an airmen's club at Templehof Airfield. Prizes were presented to the winners of Rondo XXXVI. The British team members were: **LCpls Taylor, Smith** and **Darbyshire**.

After a good steak lunch and with beer, the customary singing was led by **LCpls 'Chalky' White** and **'Geordie' Legg**.

Sig Dixon learns why Americans are always smiling as he dons abseiling harness

A special thanks for the smooth running of the exercise must go to **SSgt 'Rondo' Reynolds** who has now done more Rondo's than any sane man should.

LCpl Johnston, Clansman Instructor, translates 'pineapple' into French and American

SPORT
BRIGADE ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Berlin Inf Bde Orienteering Championships took place on Wednesday 19 April. Although most of the Regiment was involved in Ex Rondo at the time, we not only managed to enter a strong team but the Tech Adjt, **Capt Nigel Gill** was the organiser of the competition. Some 100 runners including the Bde Comd took part on two courses in the US Sector of the city.

The team led by **SSgt (YofS) Steve Rose** was involved in a hard fought competition for the Minor Units Trophy. Individually, both the Yeoman and **SSgt Steve Clark** had fine runs on the A course finishing second and eighth respectively. They were well supported by **Cpl Roberts** (fourth) and **Sig Jarvis** (ninth) on the B course. The Regiment eventually finished in second place.

Capt Gill briefing the Bde Comd Brig Oliver and his son

ANGLO-GERMAN SPORTS DAY

The Regiment hosted an Anglo-German Sports Day on Saturday 22 April in the Stadium Barracks. In torrential rain for much of the day teams from the Regiment 1 Kings, 1Ll, RAF Gatow and five German sports teams competed. Events included water polo, squash and football competitions and finished with an obstacle knock-out race. Prizes were presented by the Bde Comd and **Herr Dohm**, Mayor of Wilmersdorf.

HELLO AND GOODBYE
BRIGADE TROOP

Hello to **Sgt Frankel, Cpl Husband, LCpls Reene, Cameron** and their families. Welcome also to **LCpl Linton** straight out of training.

Farewell to **Cpls Brown** and **Collins** off to 7 Sig Regt, **LCpl Byrne, LCpl Johnston** and his new wife to 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. Farewell also to **Sig Hutchinson** posted to civvy street via the BAOR Expedition Base on Sardinia.

SECTOR TROOP

Farewell and congratulations on promotion to **SSgt Clarke** who has winged his way back to Aldershot. **Cpl Booth** left for 19 Ind Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and **WCpl Simpson** for civilian life.

Finally, farewell to technicials **Sgts 'Smurf' Murphy** and **'Fatty' Steele**. The swimming and football teams will miss you.

MINOR UNIT SQUASH LEAGUE 88/89

The Regiment entered two five man teams in this year's Minor Unit Squash League. It was obvious from the very first game that the standard of play within this league was high and it was maintained throughout the season. After a long and hard fought season which lasted for five months. Our Regimental A team emerged as unbeaten champions.

A and B team manager **SSgt (FofS) Kassim**. Team A: **Maj Slater, Mr Slater, Sgt Murphy** and **Cpl Ashley**. Team B: **Lt Col Collins, SSgt (FofS) Kassim, Cpl Cummins, Mr Guy** and **WO2 Taylor**.

Left to Right: Sgt Murphy and FofS Kassim model designer sweatshirts while Cpl Ashley wishes he could afford one

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BFPO 32

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

Ex Flying Falcon started quietly and ran very smoothly as far as the Technical side went (could it be due to not having our illustrious leader **SSgt Mick Tucker** with us?). Under the expert guidance of **Sgt John Barran** the techs put in their usual blinding performance.

Two days into the exercise we found ourselves hitching from location to location after **Cpl Connolly** arrived on exercise and promptly wrote off the Techs' Rover. Golden Blanket award for the exercise goes to **Cpl Pitt** who spent a straight 48 hour spell in his green maggot after being bedded down with 'idleitis'.

FOCUS ON TM TROOP

The Troop has been busy with Ex Flying Falcon. The social highlight of the past couple of months was the Troop bowling evening which was a great success. The main objective of having a good time and throwing balls at wooden pins was achieved. A special thanks to **Cpl 'Kitch' Kitchener** and his wife **Sue** for organising an excellent evening. The next social highlight will be a fishing trip to Kiel. The Troop says farewell to **Cpl John Simons** on posting to 16 Sig Regt and an easy life and welcome to **LCpl Kyle Barker** fresh out of the factory.

SQUADRON SPORT

The Page Trophy Inter Squadron Cricket Competition was held on 9/10 May. The six-a-side format which proved so successful last year was used again.

Finals day saw two evenly contested semi-finals, 2 Sqn v 3 Sqn and HQ Sqn v 201 Sig Sqn. Each match produced fine individual performances particularly from **Cpl Bloake** of HQ Sqn. His runs saw the team safely into the final.

The final was an excellent match played against 2 Sqn in the true spirit of the game. Both teams had the opportunity to win, but 2 Sqn with **LCpl Byard** scoring well, managed to keep up with the run-rate and snatch victory in the final over. A fine effort by the Squadron.

1 SQUADRON

Now with the main part of the early exercise season behind us it is time to reflect with pride, on the last two months. Some hard work has been put in by all members of the Squadron resulting in some very successful exercise. The Squadron has remained mostly intact, notably exceptions being the loss of **Sgt Jack Shenton** and his wife **Gail** to 7 Sig Regt on promotion, **LCpl Nick Devlin, Sig Daz Fennell, Sig Angus Dow** and **Sig Chaz Dunn**. Conversely we now welcome **LCpl 'Hammy' Hamill** and his wife **Karen, Sig 'Jimmy' Seville** and **John Botham** (no relation so no hope for the cricket team!).

April began as March ended, on exercise, this time of course it was Flying Falcon 89. Three trunk nodes were deployed, the absentee being E Troop (041), which minus its switch was unable to participate. However, the manpower was spread evenly to the other nodes, making a change from the usual shortage. The remaining post exercise question is whether **SSgt Neil Ardern** is out of his tree yet, or do we need to send **Sig** 'Pathfinder' **Murphy** to try and find him. **Neil**'s tree was an OP and the pathfinder goes upstairs and across landings, or is is down dales and over hills?).

Hoope, Hope or No Hope of finding where we are going?

With Falcon over it was a continued motion into Ex Hurst Park the Divisional CPX. Once again the OSC coffee percolator was on the bubble as were the OSC staff; **Cpl Al McPhee, FofS 'Willy' Dott** and **YofS Martin Fielding**. There is also a rumour that **SSgt Danny Mills** has volunteered for OSC permanently! After Hurst Park it was over to H Troop (061) to keep the Squadron flag flying as five days later they were off to Soltau for a 7 Bde exercise. The remainder of the Squadron was not at rest either with the in barracks routine to catch up on after three and a half weeks away and the training to do for the Regimental athletics competition.

The Good, The Bad and The Ugly
Cpls Nige Crabtree, Mac McGoldrick and Pete Peplow

Lt 'Eyes Right' Walton and a band of individuals carefully selected by **SSgt Tom Patterson**, brushed up their drill and departed for Hannover to be the British Honour Guard at the 1st Fernmelde Battalion allegiance parade, where they turned out to be the star attraction. It must have made a pleasant change for **Sig Frankie Boyle** to use his legs for something other than running. As for **Sig Mick Gratton** it was a change to do something co-ordinated!

Now at the time of going to press G Troop is on its summer adventure training. A Squadron first line maintenance day is well under way and **Lt Simon Hutchinson** is writing *Wire* notes. Still as **SSgt 'Taff' Taylor** says, 'It's only 212 days to Christmas'. Rumour has it he does a great bargain on second hand cards.

2 SQUADRON
FOCUS ON TECHS
ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Welcome to the Squadron **Cpl Tete 'Dutch' Clogg** and his wife **Birgit** from Northern Ireland and **Cpl 'KC' Connolly** joining us from HQ Sqn.

Congratulations to **LCpl Mark Hitchins** on his recent wedding and welcome to his wife **Dawn**.

The past three months have been very hectic to say the least, this has not been helped with the large turnover of the management team! Since our last update a number of major changes have occurred. Firstly the Sqn OC **Maj Paul Eaton** has departed to Staff College for a well deserved break and **WO2 (SSM) Geoff Ashwell** has left on promotion to RSM at 21 Sig Regt.

EXERCISE HIGHLAND MALT

Since February the Squadron has been well tested on exercise, in particular Ex Highland Malt 2/89 and Ex Flying Falcon. As with any HQ the Div Requires certain types of location and the Div Recce Offr and Sqn 2IC, **Capt Alistair Harwell**, has been very busy trying and in some cases succeeding, in getting good locations for the Squadron.

EXERCISE FLYING FALCON

Ex Flying Falcon started with a Squadron 'first'. The RRBs deployed prior to the Armoured element and during the hours of darkness under the watchful eye of **SSgt (YofS) Guy Benson** and **Sgt Phil Parker**, provided communication for the Regimental deployment phase.

The RRBs did the Squadron proud and provided a chain covering some 160kms allowing the Regiment to be followed down to its locations.

The next day the Armoured element moved by train to their locations. Mentions go to **Lt Kevin Bowers** who actually signed for the train and got the Squadron all there in one piece (apart from Comms Ops) and to **SSgt (YofS) Guy Benson** who travelled for the first time on a train move and was voted the fastest 'choc and block' man on the flat beds. He still managed to get about eight hours sleep prior to Startex. Comms Ops deployed with yet another new team, the old team leader **Capt John Stuart** has since left to go to Warminster for a few months.

The Det Comd Cpl Pete Howson and Crewman SSgt (YofS) Guy Benson 'pose' prior to Startex

PAPA TROOP
ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Welcome to the following new members of the Troop: **Sgt Brian Berrie, LCpl Andy Stewart, Sig Girling, Goddard** and **Jackman**. We hope your tour in Verden is an enjoyable one.

It is always sad to say goodbye and our best wishes go to: **Capt John Stuart** off to Warminster, then 14 Sig Regt, **LCpl Pete Whiddington** who has left the Army, **Sig Barney Barnes** off to 212 Sig Sqn and **Sig Martin Burkinshaw** to Northern Ireland.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **LCpl Trev Allan** who got his well deserved promotion and moves from Comms Plans to a working det.

THE PAST MONTH IN THE TROOP

All of the Troop were obviously well occupied during April, with Ex Flying Falcon and Ex Hurst Park, as with any long exercise, there are always memorable moments, here are just a few of the printable ones:-

We started the exercise with a big bang, the Troop deployed as far as the railhead in Verden before **Sig Tony Darkes** hit the newly received SAS/MC, the next major drama during the move was the idlers came off the new SAS/MC, and one of the final moves the SAS/MC scraped along the side of a juggernaut. All in all the new SAS/MC did well on its first exercise. We will not mention which Signal Squadron the vehicle came from.

The OC **Maj Geoff Cary** presented the limited edition of a Flying Falcon mug to the Tac crew for trying to improve Anglo-German relations (care of **LCpl Graham Oldfield** and **Sig Martin Burkinshaw**).

On the whole, the exercise was a great success. Everyone can take satisfaction from all the hard work and a good result. The Troop now looks forward to a series of Corps Holidays, and then its back to the grindstone in preparation for Scree Slope and White Rhino.

ROVER TROOP
ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Troop welcomes the following lads and hopes they enjoy their tour with 1 Div: **LCpl 'Mo' Morris** from 249 Sig Sqn and **Sig 'Del' Watt** from 3 Div.

We wish the following lads all the best in the future and hope they don't work to hard as they all deserve a rest after the hard work they have put in: **LCpl 'Reg' Preece** off to 30 Sig Regt, **Sig Andy Cartwright** off to 30 Sig Regt, **Sig 'Jonah' Jones** to 249 Sig Sqn and **Sig Richie Collins** to 3 Div.

EXERCISES

The Troop has been very busy in the last few months due to Ex Flying Falcon/Hurst Park 89. Also not mentioned on the exercise calendar are the other activities such as Project Oracle and Fiery Cauldron.

Sig 'Parky' Parkinson still maintains the record for a breakdown on every exercise so far, and **LCpl Bone** demonstrated how it was possible to go through every exercise, still manage to do something wrong and get shouted at (I'm sure people are just picking on him!).

At present the hard working Troop Sergeant is on a riggers course as this will come in handy sometime! The new Troop Sergeant at present is **Sgt 'Sub' Bain** who will shortly be leaving us to go on the Yeomans course.

Things are quiet at the moment however the Troop is preparing itself for a trip to Corsica.

PARACHUTE REINFORCEMENT GROUP—PRG
Report by LCpl Graham Oldfield

The exercise got off to its usual start with an eight hour journey before we got to the PRG.

The Flying Falcon phase passed without many major mishaps or dramas, however, it would probably have gone a lot quicker if **Cpl 'Marco Polo' McHugh** had decided to leave out the 'Tac' visit to the local beauty spots on most routes to various locations, and on some occasions **Sig** 'I'm only the driver' **Keane** couldn't get the seat any lower!

Sig Martin Burklinshaw and **LCpl Graham Oldfield** attempted to improve Anglo-German relations at an un-named crossroads on the outskirts of Detmold, you had to be there to believe it!

Once the Hurst Park phase began things changed slightly. Tac deployed to Paderborn to join elements of 5, 10 and 15 Para. We were expecting things to get 'pretty hot'. . . They did! PRG got their 'rear ends' kicked by the attacking forces, 'Oh to be ground-borne' was one of the quotes from a certain Gunner Sergeant attached to the det.

Thanks to **SSgt (YofS) Guy Benson** for providing all those extra frequencies and other bits of SCAN, where does he get them all from!

Cpl McHugh insists he isn't a 'handbag' while Cpl Oldfied keeps a fair distance!

PAGE TROPHY—CRICKET

On the few occasions when the Squadron can prove its sporting prowess, 10 May will be a day to remember. A scratch team was put together from those available; we expected to lose! However, after a nervous start, the Squadron settled down to some fine displays of batting ability, namely **LCpl Ritchie** (Biff) **Byard** and **SSgt Stu Price**. Not forgetting, **Cpl Mark** (Tonks) **Tivey** who after an horrendous start of being out for a duck proved his worth in the Semi's and the Final.

The finals took place between the Squadron and HQ Squadron which has the lions share of the cricketers, with such exponents of the game as **Capt Ledwards** and **WO2 (SSM) Dave Bennett**. Fortunately we won the toss (the only one throughout the whole event) and put HQ in to bat. With tight fielding, they were held to 98 runs with the loss of 1 wicket, on 10 overs.

The Squadron then made it's presence felt, after the first two overs we were struggling to keep a good average, plus the loss of two wickets, nail biting stuff, however, we won with four balls to spare.

Congratulations are in order to all the Squadron's Team, both players and loyal supporters.

3 SQUADRON
OSCAR TROOP

Firstly welcome to the new Troop members **Cpl 'Dudley' Drummond** and **LCpl 'Slick' Simms** from 244 Sig Sqn, both new to

tracks. Also **LCpl 'Dobbo' Dobson** from 22 Armd Bde and **Sig 'Stu McLean** from N Troop. Farewell to **LCpl 'BOB' Cowley** to Northag and **Sig 'K-B' Karbhari** to Civvy Street, we wish them both the best of luck. Congratulations on promotion to **LCpls 'Scouse' Littler, Mick Madeley** and **'Rooster' Staff**.

The main event of this period was Ex Flying Falcon, an exercise that was always going to be hard work. We are glad to say that after Ex Flying Falcon we provided good communications, did most of the moving, ran the Arty and Bde Excons, and, took all of the outside options whilst 2 Sqn held the staff.

We extend our thanks to the Div Main Recce Officer and his unenviable tasks but we believe he now recces for 3 Sqn with dowsing rods.

The morale for the exercise was always high and much was learnt. Not least by **Sig 'Ady' Sims** who is now a qualified drain rat after unblocking one location. Pack Lift Det prize went to **Sig 'Ginge' Jarvis** with two, the only two. The unluckiest Det was Wavell as both **Cpl 'Coops' Cooper** and **LCpl 'JC' Crier** were backloaded for injury in the first couple of days. Wavell would not go down so the crew did.

Well done to Oscar Tp which includes the RE Lighting Det, LAD and Cooks, we will get together again soon.

LINE TROOP

Line Tp says farewell to **Cpl 'Walt' Husband** and family posted to Berlin Sig Regt (tough life) and to **Cpl Millar** and family to civvy Street . . . Good Luck Lads.

April started off with **Cpl 'Marigold' Stewart** taking up a new post as 'S' Bend in the SQMS Department.

Line Tp set out on Ex Flying Falcon in good spirits, having every faith in their cables lasting the full three weeks. Lo and behold, **Cpl Mark Sala** and his det attached to 2 Sqn had their dreams crushed in the first week. **Cpl Kev McHugh** and his jinxed crew managed (so it seemed) to run over all cables, old ladies and just about anything in the way. We expect they are presently repainting the underside of their vehicle.

For the third time in a row **Sig 'Aitch' Aitchison** won the golden blanket award, with **LCpl 'Big Al' Morton** a close second. They are attempting the world record in September.

NOVEMBER TROOP

April this year was spent either preparing for or on exercise. The exercises were however very different for the Troop. We trialled the use of 40ft container lorries parked alongside each other with the headquarters mounted inside. The trial was very successful as the set up/tear down time for the headquarters was greatly reduced.

The only casualty on the exercise happened at the very beginning. The garage door was struck and then refused to shut. It put up a fight that thwarted the strongest and smartest. The battle had to be adjourned until after the exercise when victory eventually went to November Tp.

The Troop says a fond farewell to **SSgt Kevin Froggett** and his wife **Serena** who after three and a half years in Verden have left us to go to wetter climes. Others to leave the Troop include **LCpl 'Archie' Archer** who is leaving to start life as a civilian. Good luck and best wishes.

From the Troop, also **LCpl 'Fagsy' Fallows** gone to SHQ Tp and **Sig 'Stew' McClean** who has gone to Oscar Tp.

Finally, congratulations to **LCpl 'Eddie' Yates** on his marriage to **Lisa** on 31 March this year.

201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 30

ARRIVALS AND FAREWELLS

First we would like to welcome the following to the Squadron and we wish them every success in their tour: **Lt Nick** and **Emma Caleb, SSgt Mick** and **Miria Ferris, Cpl Nigel** and **Rhoda Towsend, Cpl Peter** and **Beate Smale, LCpl Chris Mulligan, Sig Steve Williamson, Martin Benn** and **Cfn Jason McNeill**.

We say farewell to all those who have recently left us and thank them for all they have done for the Squadron: **SSgt** (now WO2) **John** and **Freda Riley, SSgt** 'Big D' and **Catherine Donovan, Cpl** (now Sgt) **Steve** and **Nora Hartland, LCpls Steve Tindal, 'DM' Davies-Morris, 'Dobo' Dobson**, and **'Monty'** and **Karen Montgomery, Sig Steve Simpson** and **Sean Walsh**.

REGIMENTAL SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING

The Regimental Skill-At-Arms Meeting took place on two days in March at Hohne. The weather conditions were very favourable and the Squadron retained the Champion Squadron title. It was an excellent team effort but the following individuals deserve a mention: **Sig Sean Walsh** (Champion at Arms) and Runner-Up **LCpl Nick Basford, Cpl Dusty Miller** (SMG Winner) and **Lt Mike Rogers** (Young Officer Trophy).

Sig Sean Walsh is presented with the Champion at Arms Shield by Maj Roger Batho

201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn BFPO 30 also won the March and Shoot competition based on the Parachute Cup and followed that with SLR Team trophy. Congratulations to all the team members for their great effort and very rewarding results.

ATHLETICS

The athletics season is now well underway, the Squadron has held its own sports day which was followed by the Regimental competition in which surprisingly we came second. In the Brigade competition we qualified for the Divisional meet by again taking second place to 1 Armd Fd Ambulance. We now look forward to competing in the Morrison Cup and Divisional Championships despite the lack of time for team training.

EXERCISE FLYING FALCON

Following the Ex Flying Falcon Communications Phase the Squadron embarked upon Brigade and Divisional CPXs resulting in a three week deployment in April. We experienced a number of short sharp moves amongst the peaks and troughs of activity. The weather was generally favourable and smelly farms plentiful. Overall, although busy and at times hard, the exercise series provided good training and was satisfying.

JUDO

Sig Mick Turnbull recently entered the Army Senior Individual Championships where he won the Gold Medal and was awarded a place in the Army Team. He then went on to fight in the Inter-Services A Team Championships, in which he was awarded a Silver Medal, the Navy being the winners. **Sig Turnbull** then went on to the Inter-Services Individual Championships and did extremely well by coming away with a Silver Medal and a place on the Combined Services Squad. We congratulate him on such a splendid achievement.

SPONSORED BED PUSH

During the Squadron Fete last year the Squadron's Rugby Club, 'The Stags', raised DM 700 for charity by organising a sponsored bed push. The donation was recently presented to Matron of BMH Hannover as a donation to the Patients Fund. Well done the Stags.

ACF VISIT

The Squadron was tasked with hosting visitors from various ACF contingents for one day in March of this year. Following a comprehensive briefing on the Corps by **Capt Jon Watt**, the Squadron highlighted its variety of employment by organising an inter-contingent competition.

A wide variety of activities were covered including weapon training, line laying, battery charging and mast elevation. A keen interest was shown by all participants for the activities which were co-ordinated by **2Lt Mike Rogers**. It was an enjoyable day for both instructors and ACF visitors. Congratulations go to the winning contingent from Glasgow and Argyll District.

Sgt Steve Harland explaining Battery Charging

LCpl Dave Jack timing the Line Laying competition

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207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 37

It is posting time and everyone appears to be leaving, so all corners of the Royal Signals will soon be imbued with the spirit of the 'Red Rat'. The last two months have been busy for the Squadron; April was Flying Falcon, Montano Rat and Hurst Park, and May was Aintree Rat and Epson Rat. Consequently all the news is 'shop' and tales of Summer Camp, barbecues, etc must wait until the next enthralling episode of Soltau Enders!

SHQ TROOP

Hello's: **WO2 (SSM) Drain** and family, and **SSgt (FofS) Blondell** and family, have an enjoyable tour in Soltau. Goodbye's: **WO2 (SSM) John McAveety** and his wife **Carol** who are off to God's own country and Edinburgh UOTC, and **SSgt (FofS) Chris Sheppard** and **Maria** who are off to 21 Sig Regt.

ALPHA TROOP

One again, hellos and goodbyes dominate the news. Departures: **SSgt Graham Miles** and **Sue** to 3 Sqn, 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, **Cpl 'Lofty' Lofthouse** to SHQ, **LCpl John Davies** and **Petra** to 21 Sig Regt and **LCpl Dickie Dyer** to 30 Sig Regt. Arrivals: a big welcome to **Sig 'Ned' Kelly** and **Ireland**, both straight from the factory, and **Sig Murphy** from 30 Sig Regt. Last but not least **SSgt Geoff Hawkins** and **Fiona** from 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Sqn.

Flying Falcon slipped past, the most memorable occurrences being **Cpl 'Pathfinder' Lofthouse's** navigation. There is not road untravelled, no detour untaken that has not been previously recced by Lofty. To go where no panzer has been before . . . and, if, **LCpl 'Lumberjack' Steel** has anything to do with it, where only the Claims Commission will follow!

BRAVO TROOP

Despite being as busy as everybody else, members of the Troop managed to go on a sponsored canoe to raise funds for **Capt David Hudson's** Thailand expedition. The 113kms from Celle to Verden was canoed in a lightning 31 hrs 50 mins. Bravo Tp also provided the main contribution to the Berlin 25km team.

The changes mean waving goodbye to **SSgt** (shortly to be WO2 (SSM)) **Kev Lodge** and **Wendy**, who are off to Sheffield UOTC. **LCpl 'Seth' Mulligan** to 22 Armd Bde Sig Sqn, **Sig** (now LCpl) **'Des' Coleman** to 249 Sig Sqn and **Sig 'GB' Greatbatch** (ex DTg) to Verden to re-trade as a Tele Op (RR). Best of luck to you all. We would also like to welcome **SSgt Coles** and family from AA Coll Harrogate, **Cpl Evans** from 251 Sig Sqn and **Sig Voyce** from 21 Sig Regt.

SPORT

Above all, congratulations to the Squadron football team, which under the shrewd guidance of **Capt 'El Tel' Hudson** snatched the 'Comd Comms' Cup by the narrowest of margins: ten minutes into the second half saw 33 Armd Bde Sig Sqn 3—0 up, only to end the 90 minutes level at 3—3. An extra half hour failed to produce a result so the nail biting drama of penalties resulted: **Sig** 'Mick the Cat' **Hay** saved one, so 7 Armd Bde Sig Sqn took the trophy.

Sig 'Foo' Harris, Sig 'Baz' Gorden, Sig Paul Partington, Sig 'Mick' Hay, Cfn Farrelly, accompanied by **Cpl Chambers** and **LCpl Bott** from Bde HQ ran the Berlin 25km race. All finished in creditable times, and had an enjoyable weekend in Berlin. OC A was relieved to see the wall still standing, but doubts whether the Irish Bar will see their like again!

Cpl Chambers (Bde), Sig 'Foo' Harris, LCpl Bott (Bde), Sig 'Baz' Gorden, Cfn Farelly, Sig 'Paul' Partington and 'Mick' Hay before the 25km!

212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 36

There always seems to be so much to do and so little time to do it but the Troops all get stuck in and the work is always completed in time. After the Easter break which was welcomed by everyone as a time to recharge the batteries the Squadron braced itself for a busy month of exercises. Firstly, on 3 April elements of Oscar and Papa Tps and detachments from the QMs dept and Tech Tp deployed to Sennelager to provide the static comms for the staff on their annual Brigade Battle Group Trainer. The operators manned the simulators and links to the mobiles, whilst the SAS/MC and Wavell had to back up to the buildings to provide their services. The thankless task of administration was admirably coped with by **SSgt (SQMS) Vaughan** and his men. The task of accommodating so many people went to **Sig** 'Spaceman' **Byrom** who has now left us for the delights of 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt after four years with the Squadron. I am assured he was due to leave before being given the accommodation responsibilities.

When Monday 10 April arrived, and Flying Falcon 89 was about to start, the panzers were loaded onto low loaders and driven to the drop off point. The majority of the lads went down ahead in an Army 'luxury bus' and arrived fully two hours before the panzers. Oscar Tp under **SSgt Bray** deployed as main, and was consequently the first to savour the excellent cooking of **Sgt Kev Chester** ACC on exercise. Since step up were always on det cooking, taking main suddenly became an attractive proposition!

Notable performances on exercise were led by **LCpl** 'No longer a Sig' **Giffen** who was overwhelmingly voted 'Driver of the Year'. It seemed that you needed a calculator to count how many times the Spec Tasks Rover had been bogged in. Not that he was the only one, as LO2 and the Recce Rover will testify! The Squadron owes a big thank-you to many a German farmer!

During the exercise OC O Troop was hosting a French Officer who was visiting the Squadron for two weeks. After a week on exercise, **Lt Burke** took **2Lt P. Ardelet** back to Osnabruck to visit the Regiments in the Garrison. On his departure, plaques were formally exchanged and it certainly seemed that **2Lt Ardelet** had enjoyed his visit. He made a very good impression on everyone that he talked to and will be remembered by many of the Squadron for quite a while, not only because of his rather severe haircut.

After two weeks Flying Falcon and Zodiac Challenge, most of the Squadron stood down for a weekend. This proved to be the tonic that people needed and Ex Hurst Park went very well indeed. **Brig Hall** thanked the Squadron for its efforts on his and the staffs behalf and looked forward to the next opportunity to work with us on exercise. Fortunately, by this stage of the exercise we were only 70kms from Osnabruck and **YofS Pemberton** had looked into his crystal ball (how does he get it to glow like that?) and had cancelled the trains for the return journey. This meant that we were home before most other units on the exercise and were able to enjoy the weekend to the full.

This is the ideal opportunity to congratulate **LCpl** 'Wonderwheels' **Giffen** and **LCpl** 'Cliff Richard' **Hornsby** on their promotions in the field. Could they now tell us what they did with the two Lance Corporals whose jobs they have now?

The Squadron has, in this period, welcomed **Sgt Andy Bellew** to the throng and hope he and his wife enjoy their stay in Osnabruck.

We also bade farewell to **Sgt Millard** who went to Hohne for a tour. Oscar Tp was sorry to see him go and there is now a big gap in the Troop! **Cpl 'Rocky' Ferrer** left us to go to 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, to add to the technical expertise already there. **Sig** 'Skeksy' **Carroll** leaves Papa Tp to try his luck at P Coy and then to serve with 5 AB Bde. **Cpl Jim Smith** left Oscar Tp in this period to sample the special excitement that we all know as 7 Sig Regt. We all hope that he enjoys his time there and learns how to play rugby soon.

The OC, **Maj Colborn**, leads the Squadron in congratulating **LCpl 'Chick' Hickling** RCT on his recent marriage to **Claire** and hopes that they have many happy years together.

The Squadron Rugby Squad fielded two teams for the Garrison seven-a-side tournament and the A Team was disappointed to lose narrowly after extra time in the semi-finals to 12 Armd Wksps. The final was won convincingly by 4 Fd Regt RA, A Team. The rugby team also provided the bulk of the Squadron tug of war team which went up to the Regimental Athletics on 12 May. After the first pull we were clear favourites to win but the toll of one more pull than our opponents in the final proved exacting and we were beaten by 1 Sqn. The following week we were in Hohne for the Divisional competition and out of six teams in the 680kg bracket we were fifth. This is no reflection on the team though since we were the only Minor Unit competing and the Army Champions were in our group too.

2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
York

FOREWORD
by the RSM

Again the Regiment has had an extremely busy period, starting in April with our move across the Germany and Ex Flying Falcon. After four to five weeks we returned in early May to prepare for the Kape Tour during which **2Lt Youngson** and his team visited various schools. It was then time for Squadron Battle Camps, where 2 Sqn were in Scarborough, 1 Sqn in Wathgill Camp near Catterick, and HQ Sqn were in Scotland. The end of May saw the Regiment preparing for the Morrison Cup which had taken a great deal of organising and was a great sussess. Especially as we were the eventual winners! After exercises, organising events, Kape Tours etc the CO, **Lt Col Griffin**, had his own exercise called 'Race the Sun' which involved Troops taking part in a massive relay, covering 200-250km around North Yorkshire.

In the Sergeants' Mess we said farewell to the following: on 1 April 1989 we said farewell to **Sgt Phil Sales**, who was here for his last six months in the Army. During his short stay **Phil** was a superb mess member and was always ready to help the mess. After 22 years service we saw him off in true Sergeants' Mess tradition.

We then said farewell to our Admin Comdt **Lt Col Ted Hodgetts**. The night was one of the most memorable for him, and for me, as our guests for the evening included **Bruce Rioch** (Manager of the Middlesbrough Football Team), and players **Colin Bell** and **David Nish** of past fame and glory. The current team members also there were **Tony Mowbury** (Captain) and **Colin Cooper**, by now you may have realised that **Col Ted Hodgetts** is a life long supporter of Middlesbrough Football Team and, as the photographs show, the night was enjoyed by all.

Recently we dined out **SSgt Gerry Rose**. Again it was a night to remember, not only for **Gerry**, but a number of people who renewed old acquaintances as some of the guests were with **Gerry** during his tour with 21 Sig Regt, as I was. Again, the guest list was kept secret until the last moment so **Gerry** was given a pleasant surprise.

To all who have been dined out over the past few months may I, on behalf of all mess members, wish them and their families all the best of health and success for the future.

The Winning Team
Standing: WO2 Harburn, David Nich, Colin Cooper, Tony Mowbury and WO1 Brian Ewing
Sitting: WO1 (GSM) Wilson, Colin Bell, Lt Col Hodgetts, Bruce Rioch and WO1 (RSM) Hegarty

EXERCISE FLYING FALCON

Although very hard work, the exercise went well. Papa Tp developed their own press, *The Daily Carrotted*, keeping its 'finger on the pulse' of daily comm head life. The Happening Boy reporters in the various departments supported some interesting observations:

THE NEW SRG (SILENT RUNNING GENERATOR)

The 2IC **Maj Peter Richards** decided to remodel the SAS MC Generator and we now have the New SRG. Anyone wanting more information about this marvel of modern technology please contact the Second-In-Command.

'A word in your ear . . .'
Cfn Martin and Sig Aggus discuss the pros and cons of lifting a trailer without a jack during the competition on Ex Flying Falcon

LCpl Smith negotiates the Assault Course in full NBC kit, carrying a Jerry can of fuel

GROUP OF STAFF OFFICERS CAUGHT 'SWINGING' AT MAIN

It was reported yesterday that a group of staff officers have formed a secret group within 2 Div and have spent the last three weeks 'Swinging' from Main to Main.

In a dawn swoop the RMPs caught the group in mid 'swing'. It is believed that at least six of these 'Swinging' parties have already taken place (one every 24 to 48 hrs said one official!) '2 Div Upper Echelons are riddled with these ''swingers'''—from the GOC and COS down.

THE DIARY OF A LOCAL RADCON SUBBI

One day, one particular subaltern decided to get up. 'The little voice inside my head kept telling me it was a bad idea but nevertheless, I braved the world and got up!' The time was 1630 Bravo (1430 Lulu) and half past three in Yorkshire.

Once dressed the subbie strolled around with **Sgt Moriaty**. All was quiet.

'I then set about my business, that being not doing what I am told—but that is my business.' All in all, the night passed without event. Come dawn, however, things started to 'hot up'. Horrible, dark, evil things, (the staff) were starting to awaken from their slumber. People were running for cover as radio silence was lifted. 'Time for me to leave and do some serious soul searching, but first, I had to wrestle with a duvet!'

MILITARY OLYMPICS AT RUTHEN

During one of the weekends, we were 'holed up' at a factory somewhere in Germany, the Regiment held a Military Olympics competition. The various stands laid out around the factory were designed to test our knowledge of Corps trades as well as military skills. The stands included: NBC, First Aid, Line Laying, Fault Finding, Weapon Handling and Tyre Changing to name but a few. Teams of six to eight men competed most of the day and the results proved interesting. Papa Tp Radio Section, led by **Cpl Hamilton** with **LCpls Williams, Hatton, Sig Waters** and **Tighe**, were the overall winners.

Sig Berry and LCpl Curtis take down a mast and SHF dish at Endex

The RSM (**WO1 Hegarty**) had some interesting views on the event seen here discussing them with **Yeoman Drake** and **Foreman Davie**.

During the exercise it just happened to be the CO's Birthday. Pictured here the CO cuts his cake which was held by his driver **LCpl Davies**.

'Well, Yeoman!' (what else the RSM had to say I will leave to your imagination!)

The CO cuts his Birthday Cake held by LCpl Davies

VISIT BY MAJ GEN DAVIES

Comd Comms HQ BAOR, **Maj Gen Peter Davies**, visited us on 9 May (the day before his birthday!) so we arranged a little surprise. 210 Sig Sqn's help was enlisted to 'drop in' with a birthday present.

Maj Gen Davies later presented LS & GC Medals to **SSgt Woodfine** and **Sgt Willis**.

LS & GC Presentations

Left to Right: Lt Col Griffin, Sgt Willis, Maj Gen Davies, SSgt Woodfine and WO1 (RSM) Hegarty. *Seated:* Mrs Willis and Mrs Woodfine

RACE THE SUN

After much preparation and planning the 'Race' was started by the CO's wife at 0500 hrs on Tuesday 6 June 1989. Five teams of three men 'Raced the Sun' around 130 miles of North Yorkshire in 16 legs covering a variety of countryside by a variety of means, ranging from running, cycling, canoeing, marching, assault course to orienteering.

After some 14 hours 1 Sqn were the victors yet 210, 2 and HQ Sqns were still battling it out right to the end with barely 45 minutes separating first and fourth place. Depot the King's Division had a team of only six members who completed the 16 legs in a time of 15 hrs 19 mins. The cup, kindly donated by Rowntree Mackintosh, was presented by **Mrs Rosa Naylor** (wife of the GOC HQ NEDist and HQ 2 Inf Div), to 1 Sqn.

The winning team with Mike Blackburn from Rowntree Mackintosh, Maj Kevin Barrett and Mrs Rosa Naylor (in the centre)

CO'S 'THANK YOU'

The many unsung heros of the event who helped to organise, marshal, chaperon and provide the transport and tea, all need a special thank you. But of course congratulations to all the competitors without whom there could not have been a race.

210 (24 Airmob Bde) Sig Sqn
Catterick

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Robert Baxter**
2IC	**Capt James Morley-Kirk**
AO	**Capt Mick Besant**
OC Comms Tp	**Lt Richard Rands**
SSM	**WO2 Trevor Jones**
YofS	**WO2 Douggie Mac Taggart**
FofS	**SSgt Russ Lifton**
SQMS	**SSgt Glen Brook**

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

Welcome to the following personnel who have recently joined our ranks: **Capt James Morley-Kirk, SSgt Pete Willey** (RAPC), **Cpls Jim Davidson, Ray Smith, Karl Arnold, LCpl 'Toyah' Wilcox** and **Sig Darren Oakes**. We wish farewell and good luck in civvy street to **LCpls 'Scouse' Cardwell** (REME) and **Glen King**. Farewell also to **Sgts Richie Reed** (RAPC), **Pete Russell** (RAOC), **Tony Heaton, LCpl John Clarke** and **Sig Paul Wildish.**

FAMILY MATTERS

Congratulations go to the following: **Cpl Stu** and **Sheila Kingdon** (RCT) on the birth of their daughter; **Cpl Terry** and **Christine Cole, LCpl 'Scouse'** and **Bernadette Hartley** on the birth of their sons. Congratulations also to the following on getting married: **SSgt Glen** and **Suzanne Brook, LCpl Al** and **Heather McPhee**.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations go to **Cpl Nev Moore** (ACC) on his promotion to **Sgt** and **LCpl Mark Furphy** on his promotion to Corporal. Well done.

VISIT OF CHIEF OF GERMAN GENERAL STAFF

On 5 April 210 (24 Airmob Bde) Sig Sqn played host to the German CGS, **Gen Henning von Ondarza**. The purpose of the visit was to see elements of the Airmob Bde in its role.

EXERCISE FLYING FALCON '89

Report by Sig G. Burke

Flying Falcon is an annual exercise for most signal Units. This year it was held in April, later than usual and luckily a good few degrees higher in temperature.

The main aim for 210 Sig Sqn was to rehearse procedures.

The Squadron had a number of shorter local exercises in preparation for Flying Falcon which proved to be an advantage. Echelon saw operator **Cpl Rab Arthur** 'breaking in' his new crewman **Cpl John Hynes**. They provided a logistic net and an SCRA terminal for various resupply tasks. They also tended to the basic needs of the Squadron's AO, **Capt Mick Besant** and his side-kick **Cpl Bob Hindhaugh**.

Hawk and Kestrel, the communication complexes, rehearsed the step-up to main procedures. These ran very smoothly with no hiccups. **LCpl Clive Whitehouse** as usual kept Hawk together, with his optimism and general good humour—honestly!

LCpl Dave Ings guarding the HLS on Ex Flying Falcon

A new development was the command post Lynx. Troop OC, **Lt Richard Rands**, was in charge of this net. There were many serial messages to send and he did most of the talking!

In moments of spare time, members of the Squadron had a chance to abseil from a Lynx helicopter. This was organised by **WO2 (SSM) Trevor Jones** and the exercise was a great success. The ferry trips, as usual, provided the real highlights! No names. No packdrill!

WHITE PEAK MARATHON

Report by Lt R. B. Rands

Tears ran down the faces of 10 grown men as the news about the cancellation of the Lanyard Trophy was broken to 210 (24 Airmob Bde) Sig Sqn's 'winning team'—well we had a chance! Whether it was from disappointment (I don't think so), or relief, I had a replacement event to keep the boys happyl.

Many phone calls later and we 'scraped' into the White Peak Marathon in Matlock. We had eight entries confirmed so **Cpl Al Higgins** was forced to drop out, needing the rest after a long hard soccer season—what a bad excuse! The team consisted of myself, **Sgt 'Bev' Bevan, Cpls Dave Hebden, Rich Wicking, 'Paddy' Rice, Jim Burgess, LCpl 'Toyah' Wilcox** and **Sig Carl Radley**. The weather on the day was 'scorching' yet 200 runners lined up for the start. As the gun went, the whippets dashed away and 210 Sig Sqn settled in half way up the field—running as a squad. All was well up to 14 miles **Sgt 'Bev' Bevan** developed an injury in his left foot and had to retire. The rest of us plodded along up the steady climb—a total of 1,000ft in the first 15 miles. Everyone was replenishing with water at the feed stations, a necessity with the heat. A fantastic job was done by 210's admin team led by **Sgt Steve Haresign**, with **Cpl 'Scouse' Barker** and **Sig Colin Brown** in tow. Their encouragement and sustenance was greeted with relief at many of the more desolate areas of the route.

One thing was certain, someone was bound to 'hit the wall'. Unfortunately the first casualty was **Cpl Jim Burgess** at 19 miles. He dropped off the pack quite rapidly with text book symptoms and finally was forced to stop at 21 miles. At the 20 mile marker the squad well and truly broke up; **Cpl 'Paddy' Rice** and **LCpl 'Toyah' Wilcox** began to suffer but struggled through to the end in just over 4 hrs. **Cpl Dave Hebden, Sig Carl Radley** and I coasted (what a lie) to the finish taking second place in the team competition.

The terrain had been rough, the climb had been steady yet exhausting and the weather had been unbearable—but everyone had worked extremely hard. Next year we will win!

FOOTBALL

Due to exercise commitments the football team was in danger of being relegated. They had three games left. Two against 21 Ord Coy and one against the old enemy 8 Sig Regt Res.

The game against 21 Ord Coy was now a double pointer due to a tactical decision by **Cpl Rab Arthur**. Even though it played well the Squadron team lost 5—2 with goals from **Cpl 'Chippy' Pomfret** and **LCpl 'Waz' King**. That only left 8 Sig Regt Res. The Squadron fielded its strongest side which played well and at half time there was no score. After the half time pep talk the Squadron took the lead. A superb ball from midfield put **Lt Richard Rands** through. he neatly put the ball past the keeper to make it 1—0. The Squadron held on until a fatal mistake by **Cpl Al Higgins** gave them the chance to level the score. 8 Sig Regt Res took the lead with a penalty and then went 3—1 up. But the Squadron didn't lie down and pulled one back with a great goal by **LCpl Percy** 'Poacher' **Parkin**. The final score was 4—2 to 8 Sig Regt Res but the Squadron went out fighting.

Throughout the season the lads played well and did the Squadron proud. Especially well done to **Cpl Al Higgins** who plays with Corps, Army and Combined Services.

GOLF NOTES

Report by Sgt Bill Greig REME

With increasing interest in Golf within the Squadron, we managed to enter a team in the Garrison Summer League. In the first match the team consisting of **Capt Mick Besant, Cpls Rab Arthur, Gaz Lee** and myself finished a creditable sixth.

In the Royal Signals Spring meeting at Catterick Garrison Golf Club on 12 May, we had a few prize winners. In the morning medal

round **Cpl Al Higgins** came first with myself in third place in Div 2, with **Capt Mick Besant** third in Div 3. The Afternoon round, a stableford foursomes/greensomes competition, was won by **Cpl Al Higgins** who was partnered by **Sgt Steve Boyd** of 8 Sig Regt. Our newest member, **Cpl Gaz Lee**, has recently had his handicap cut from 28 to 26, so well done to him and all prize winners. Let's hope for a good season (weather permitting) with maybe a few trophies for the cabinet.

RACE THE SUN

In the early hours of Tuesday 6 June, 0500 hrs to be precise, the great event started. 'Race the Sun' was the Commanding Officers idea to test the Squadron's Admin and, primarily fitness. There were 17 events in all, to be run in the form of a relay around some 120 miles of North Yorkshire. The first event was a run to the River Ouse and a canoe race of some 6km to the next check-point. The first eventers were **Capt James Morley-Kirk, Cpl Al Higgins** and **LCpl 'Toyah' Wilcox**. As a team they did very well and handed over in second place. The second leg was run by **Lt Richard Rands, Cpl Karl Arnold** and **Sig Carl Radley**. Our runners did not let themselves down and maintained second place behind 1 Sqn. Next leg was a cycle race of 35km. Representing the Squadron was **Lt Richard Rands** again, **Sgt Steve Slade** and **Sig Colin Brown**. This intrepid band managed to overcome all opposition and handed over an eight minute lead to the next leg—a 3½ mile hill climb up the White Horse. **Cpl Al Costello, LCpl 'Brummie' Whitehouse** and **Sig Mark Wootley** ran hard and handed over a four minute lead to the next leg—a forced march carrying 35lb of equipment. **Cpls 'Paddy' Rice** and **Jim Burgess** together with **LCpl Al McPhee** were up against excellent opposition from 1 Sqn and arrived exhausted in second place, some 15 minutes behind the leaders. The next leg was another run and representing us were **SSgt Pete Willey** (RAPC), **Sgt Terry Gigg** and **Sig Martin Barlow**. They worked well together and gained some time on the leaders. Next leg was a half marathon and running were **Cpls Dave Hebden** and **John Howe** and **Sgt Johnson** from Bde HQ. They came against some fine runners from the Regiment and ran a very hard race. Next leg was a mountain bike race. Here **Sgt Colin Dennis, Cpls Rick Wicking** and **Rab Arthur** raced out of their skins and reduced the lead of 1 Sqn by nine minutes. The next leg was orienteering. **Capt James Morley-Kirk, Cpl Dave Ruane** and **Sig Garry Burke** were our runners. Unfortunately this was not their day, and the Squadron slipped into last place.

On to the next leg, a fell run. Here **Cpls Al Higgins** and **'Chippy' Pomfret** together with **LCpl 'Toyah' Wilcox** put in a gallant effort and we were back into third place. A forest run was next and **Sgt 'Bev' Bevan, LCpl 'Scouse' Hartley** and **Sig Spark**, put in a gallant effort but unfortunately were up against better opposition.

Cycle orienteering was next and our FofS, **SSgt Russ Lifton, Cpl George Clark** (RCT) and **Sig Darren Oakes** put in a determined effort and managed to claw back some of the time we were adrift of the third placed team. A canoe race over the weirs was next and **Cpl 'Jim' Davidson, Sig McIntyre** and **Cfn Dean Burchmore** (REME) pulled out all the stops to put us back in with a chance of getting a higher place. A 15km march was next and **Lt Richard Rands, Cpl Dave Hebden** and **Sgt 'Nobber' Hayles** really burned up the course. They came in in second place and handed over for the assault course race to **Sgt Terry Gigg, Cpl 'Doc' Docherty** and **LCpl 'Brummie' Whitehouse**. Still managing to keep in second place they handed over for the penultimate leg to **Sgt Colin Dennis, Cpls 'Ossie' Osborne** and **Rich Wicking**. At last to York Barracks for the final event which was a 10 man tow of a ¾ ton trailer around the barracks. The race was now over with the Squadron in second place. We can feel justifiably proud of this result. The whole day was a success, not only for the athletes but also for the excellent admin support co-ordinated by the SSM **WO2 Trevor Jones**. Well done to 1 Sqn who deserved to win. Watch out next year we want that trophy! Our thanks go to **Capts Phil Castle** and **Tim Peacock** for organising this testing course.

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3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 114

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

The large turnover of RHQ personnel is now complete; **Maj Pat Maloney** is firmly ensconced in the Second-In-Command's chair, **Capt Andy Goff** is driving the Operations Cell and, more recently, **Capt Elton Davis** has taken over as Adjutant. Welcome to all and we hope they have an enjoyable tour in Soest. We say farewell and good luck to **Maj Mike Tucker** who has left us for the Staff course and to **Capt David Meyer** who is now enjoying life (?) as SO3 (Comms) in the tower of power in Bielefeld. He hasn't cleared his desk yet, obviously hoping that PB11 will change its mind and post him back. **Capt Meyer's** farewell drinks seemed to last for a month, since his departure the 'Shack's' profits have taken a steep dive along with the Superintendent Clerk's weight, must be some connection there!

May has been a busy month for the Regiment and RHQ was hit with the UAO Validation Team and an A MAN S team in unison. **WO1 Peter Whitbread**, an ex member of the Iron Div Sig Regt, was a member of the A MAN S team; it was nice to welcome him back and we hope that he remembers his loyalties when it comes to writing the report.

INTER SQUADRON SWIMMING AND ATHLETICS

The Inter Squadron Competition took place on 18 May, on a warm day in a cold pool. Despite the conditions all Squadrons battled it out. However, 3 Sqn proved to be the top Squadron winning 5 out of 10 races thanks to a rigorous training programme of two afternoons run by **SSgt** 'Billy the fish' **Spencer**. A fine performance by **Cpl 'Mal' Pavier** (backstroke), **SSgt Ray Spencer** (butterfly), **Sig 'Slim' Falvahan** (breastroke), **Cpl Ivan Oakey** (freestyle) and **WO2 Billy Haslam** (IC Support) won it for 3 Sqn.

RHQ's team led by the Adjt **Capt Elton** 'Doggy Paddle' **Davis** showed its fighting spirit by coming last in every event. For anyone wishing to join the lectures on the butterfly stroke, please contact **2Lt Philippa Chatwin**.

The 2IC Maj Pat Maloney, presents Cpl Mal Pavier with his prize watched by the RSM, WO1 Jim Reeves

The Team
Left to Right: SSgt Spencer, WO2 Haslam, LCpl Thomas, Cpl Oakey, Sig Love, Cpls Clarkson, Pavier, Sig Elliot, Styring and Flavahan

Cpl Blondell wins the old soldiers race followed by the MTO Capt Steve Harrison

INTER SQUADRON ATHLETICS

The Inter Squadron Athletics which were won by 202 Sig Sqn took place on Friday 5 May. Many thanks to **Capt Andy** 'Whippet' **Goff** and **WO2 (QMSI) Wood** for organising the days events.

1 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Rod Thomas**
2IC	**Capt Len Carr**
OC C Tp	**Lt Lance Mitchell**
OC D Tp	**Lt Jim Prior**
OC E Tp	**2Lt David Kinnaird**
OC F Tp	**Lt Patrick Evans**
SSM	**WO2 'Geordie' Dobson**
FofS	**WO2 Steve Bibby**
YofS	**SSgt Joe Murray**
SQMS	**SSgt Ian Brereton**

After three months of pure hell **Capt Len Carr** was happy to see the arrival of the new OC **Maj Rod Thomas**, even if it was only to be a short visit during Ex Flying Falcon in which the OC was to be seen drinking coffee in every vehicle barring the OSC. For those unfamiliar with Ptarmigan, the OSC is the spacious palace from which the system is run (usually by the Squadron Commander) and where there is said to be more ZZZing than in the Squadron lines on a Sunday morning. The Officer Commanding then left the exercise early in order to return to the wetter side of Europe to pick up his wife. He has now returned and we all wish him and his wife **Denise** much happiness and success in their new posting in Korbecke. In addition to the arrival of the new OC we must also say hello to **Lt Jim Prior, Sig Anderson, LCpl Armstrong** and **Sig Elliot**.

We also say farewell to **SSM 'Geordie' Dobson** and wife **Sue**, he departs from the hectic life of 1 Sqn to become the RSM of 13 Sig Regt. We shall all miss him. Further farewells go to **LCpls Everett, Mills** and **Johnston**, leaving the Army for the glamour of civilian life.

Ex Flying Falcon seemed to be an exercise designed solely to practise the movement of Trunk Node 063 around the Corps network and by the end of the exercise even those in OSC were very wary in positioning themselves anywhere near the unfortunate Troop. **Sig 'Baldrick' Murray** set a new record for guards in the Squadron after he flattened his SMG with his POL vehicle in an attempt to design a new and smaller 9mm weapon. Staff College Demonstration was next in the pipeline and unfortunately it happened to be Trunk Node 043's turn to get into the limelight. **Lt Lance Mitchell** managed to hitch a lift in a Challenger and afterwards remarked 'wouldn't it be fun if Ptarmigan was mounted on this machine?'. As it turned out during the Regimental ORT, it was some relief to a German household that his Troop was not mounted on Challenger when his line detachment decided to call complete with vehicle. Although the vehicle was totally written off both **Sig Knight** and **LCpl Mills** walked away shaken but unhurt, as was the German family.

RSIT proved to be as thrilling as always. The Squadron produced the goods despite an ORT and deployment on one of the inspecting days! Anyway life continues as normal with the Squadron deploying on Ex Scree Slope shortly.

It's been a busy time for the Squadron over the last month with Flying Falcon, Staff College Demonstration plus the odd Active Edge stroke ORT. However it has not been all work. The Squadron has taken part in all the Regimental activities in particular the Regimental sailing course, which seemed to be run for the Squadron judging by the number of Squadron personel on it. We even sent an international football team to tour the UK or at least Blackburn. **Capt 'Ninja'**

O'Connor helped to raise money for charity by organising a sponsored run around the Mohnesee which was well supported. On the whole it has been a testing and hard working time for the Squadron but nevertheless an enjoyable one.

ROMEO TROOP'S FLYING FALCON

The Troop deployed in the early evening on the Sunday before the rest of the Regiment was due to move. The Troop Commander deployed with the first of his five drivers, **Sig Kev Hibberd** who by the end of week one was recalled back to camp by the MO. The reason still remains a mystery. Meanwhile in the hills **LCpl Johnson** found a new use for his frying pan which he must have learnt in 30 Sig Regt. The Officer Commanding was again having problems of his own this time with his second driver **Sig Dudley** this did not improve with his third driver **Sig Church**, the Officer Commanding was seen to age visibly in two days **SSgt Cakebread** also had a slight problem, a broken toe, which he described to the Officer Commanding as 'mildly uncomfortable'.

Cpl Stef Newton had a small visit from CRA which resulted in an interesting conversation between the CO and Troop Commander. 23A gained the title of the 'best travelled RRB in BAOR', its crew **LCpl Oldcroft** and **Sig Link** had a great time. This could not be said of **LCpl Heslop** and **Sig Blakeley** who had their RRB die on them. While **LCpl Heslop** toured Germany with his wagon trying to get it repaired, **Sig Blakeley** was gainfully employed by the Officer Commanding as his fourth driver, a task **Blakeley** did not relish. However he was soon replaced by **Sig Knights** who lasted until Endex some 48 hours later.

On Monday 8 May, members of 2 and 3 Sqns built Divisional Main and Tac Headquarters at Sennelager for the Staff College Demonstration. A Trunk Node from 1 Sqn together with Rebros joined a Bde Sqn and 14 Sig Regt to form the remainder of the stand.

Having built it, moved it and rebuilt it, the stand was found to be in outstanding condition and 'very well done', so the boys settled down to learning their scripts. They were to inform the visitors as to their roles in the complex, career profiles, and skills required for the job. The staff visitors had obviously been briefed to ask about the 'Quality of Life'!

The manufacturers of our own equipment arrived and were not to be spared. Totally unprepared for the attack about to be unleashed, they eagerly climbed into the vehicles and innocently, but proudly, asked 'Well, is it working well?'.

Mr Cossor was found shaking in a corner trying to repair a teleprinter, panting for breath; Mr Landrover, ashen and sweating, left clutching pages of 'points to be looked into'; Mr Plessey seemed to have taken the day off or just avoided us altogether—anyway his personal camouflage was excellent!

It was a very cheerful bunch of lads who returned to the admin area at the end of the day, 'war stories' were freely swapped, and the obligatory two bottles were quaffed.

Endex arrived on the Friday with masses of road restrictions, but adequate transport soon returned a very satisfied contingent to San Sebastian for a long weekend.

STAFF COLLEGE DEMO

Report by Cpl Jordan

It has been a busy time for Radio Tp this year, and things were not to let up. With Staff College Demo to prepare for, my boss **2Lt Phil Baker**, tasked me to supply two RRB crews to run the PA system and two RRB's for demonstration purposes. The PA Section commanded by **Cpl Steff Newton** and his motley crew, **Sig Gladys Knights, No-Boddy** and **'Duds' Dudley**.

The demonstration RRB's were commanded by **Cpl Mark Jordan** and his rock steady crew **LCpls 'Johnno' Johnson, 'Stumpty' Shand** and **Sig Dolly Staff, 'Baldrick' Herbert** and the star of the show **Sig 'Oz Cabs' Nixon**.

For those who have not had the 'pleasure' of preparing for Staff College it involves a lot of bull, so anything that is green and does not move gets painted. (**Sig Nixon** is still trying to remove the paint from his person.) After our preparation was complete we set off for that notorious dust bowl known as Sennelager, looking like shiny new pennies and arriving looking a bit dusty and forlorn. Our first couple of days consisted of setting up and rehearsals in preparation for the arrival of the staff.

On the days the staff arrived to look at the various dets, they took a great interest in the 14 Sig Regt detachment but avoided the RRB's like the plague. In the two days about 600 visitors came to 14 Regt Det whilst the RRB's had 27 visitors, 2 came looking for a brew, 3 came looking for girlie magazines, the other 22 showed genuine interest. In all, it turned out to be a quiet event for the RRB's but a few laughs were to be had. One of the best was: Staff officer 'You signal chappies must be quite clever, ever thought of joining Marconi or Plessey when you leave the Army? **Sig Baldrick** 'Grunt, No I want to become a bus driver.' Exit one disillusioned staff officer.

Well after so much excitement RRB Tp awaits next years Staff College Demo with bated breath.

2 SQUADRON

FC 4 BLACKBURN ROVERS 2

Quite an impressive headline, though not as dramatic as it may first appear. We did play football against a Blackburn Rovers X1 although not quite their first team.

The fixture was organised by **Lis Shand** in Blackburn, a relative of **LCpl Tony Shand**, a key member of the squad without whose idea the match may never have taken place.

May Day arrived and the team travelled from Blackpool, where we were accommodated for the weekend, an ideal place for some 'light' recreation, **Cpl Paul Cooney** and **LCpl Jimmy McEwan** can testify to that!

The match kicked off in near perfect conditions, the light wind giving neither team any advantage.

After some cautious football from both teams, in the first 10 minutes 2 Sqn gradually began to find their touch, and some good work in the midfield from **Cpl Stan Deakin, Sig Greg Elliott** and **LCpl Shand** saw the game turn in 2 Sqn's favour. Time and again **Jimmy McEwan** was released down the right to terrorise the Blackburn defence.

The pressure on Blackburn soon began to tell, with mistakes being made frequently, but with 2 Sqn unable to capitalise until **Sig Terry Blakeley** was found unmarked and scored easily past the advancing keeper.

Undaunted by this early setback Blackburn came straight back with some excellent football, only to be thwarted by 2 Sqn's back four **Sig 'Griff' Griffiths, Cpl Paul Cooney, Sig 'Dolly' Staff** and **Cpl Mark Jordan. Cpl Stef Newton** in goal for 2 Sqn had very little to do, except pick up any loose balls that came through.

2 Sqn went 2 up after 25 mins with a fine solo effort from **Sig Griffiths**; collecting the ball on half way, he pushed forward, shot from 20 yards and found the bottom corner.

Continuing pressure from 2 Sqn led to a third goal. This was an opportunist goal, with **LCpl Tony Watt** latching on to a loose ball in the box, not giving the keeper a chance.

Blackburn came back again with some fine play down the right. After a succession of corners, a mistake in 2 Sqn's defence led to a well taken goal from the Blackburn Number 10.

The half time break saw 2 Sqn go in with a 3—1 lead. Almost straight from the re-start **Sig Greg Elliott** made it 4—1 after a goal-mouth scramble. The game continued with most of the play coming from 2 Sqn, however some excellent work by the Blackburn keeper saved his side from a severe hammering. Blackburn pulled one back with a penalty late in the game after **Sig Staff** thought he'd use his hands instead of his head. The match was played with a great deal of spirit and enthusiasm from both sides, and afterwards it was said to be a very entertaining game by the spectators.

2 Sqn returned to Blackpool later in the evening after watching Blackburn Rovers beat Bournemouth 2—0.

Many thanks to Blackburn Rovers FC for finding a team to play us and also for entertaining and looking after us. It is hoped to play a return match next year.

Back Row (Left to Right): Sig Staff, Blakeley, Elliot (L), Cpl Newton, Sig Griffiths, Cpls Cooney and Deakin
Front Row (Left to Right): Cpl Jordan, LCpl Stand and nephew, Sig Elliott (CR), LCpls McEwan and Watt

3 SQUADRON

PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj Bob Brannigan**
	Maj Mike Rough
OC P Tp	**2Lt Neil Fraser**
OC N Tp	**2Lt Howard Hughes**
SSM	**SSgt John Burgess**
YofS	**SSgt Andy Campbell**
FofS	**SSgt Steve Campbell**
SSgt P Tp	**SSgt Ray Spencer**
SSgt N Tp	**SSgt Les Allan**
SSgt S Tp	**SSgt Tony Williams**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Steve Driver**
	Sgt John Murray

HELLO AND GOODBYE

Welcome to **Maj Rough, Sgt Murray, Sig Smith, Styring, Bateman, Hurman** and **Hobbs**.

Cheerio to **Maj Brannigan** to HQ AMF as SO2 PInfo (it exists?), **SSgt Tony Williams** to 206 Sig Sqn, **Sgt Steve Driver** to 1 ADTR, **Cpl 'Jonah' Jones** to Catterick, **Cpl 'Corry' Stoker** to 16 Sig Regt, **Cpl 'Mac' McKenna** to 633 Sig Tp, **Cpl 'Rick' Nolan** to 21 Sig Regt, **LCpl Pete Brooks** to the oil rigs, **Sig John Elliot** to Ireland, **Sig Frederick 'Taff' Treharne** to 633 Sig Tp, **Sig Les Bloor** to civilian employment and **Sig 'Paddy' O'Brian** to 28 Sig Regt.

EXERCISE FLYING FALCON

PAPA GROUP

Papa Gp was deployed after a Regimental plug up on Ex Flying Falcon. The first week was fairly hectic with a move every day, testing **Sgt Steve Drivers** route cards and **2Lt Neil Fraser**'s navigational skills to the limit! This was followed by an eight hour track to meet the worlds press, including International Defence Review!

The exercise was tight for locations so the hard men of Papa had to make do with the odd barracks and a shower.

Amazingly none of the Papa Panzers broke down in three weeks of hard tracking. Still, **Cpl Billy Mill** had an argument with a few autobahn pillars and we managed to write-off November Tp's line rover and a few cables (no names!). **LCpl Phil Duff** and **Sig 'Hoppy' Hopkins** stagged on in Comms Ops and **Sig 'Risk' Waters** stagged on the complex wire. **Sig 'Spud' Hewitt** enjoyed his brief stay and gave the 'Gunners' something to think about!

Tac HQ was deployed at Excon under **Sgt Ray Taylor** and had a hectic but comfortable exercise.

NOVEMBER GROUP

Rear HQ deployed under **Capt Steve Marshall** and **2Lt Hughes**. Convoys were led by **Sig Elliot** using his telepathetic powers, since he had his eyes shut!

SSgt Les 'Kipper' Allan had his first taste of Ptarmigan and, when he wasn't too busy did a couple of one hour stags in Comms Ops. We had a few early departures from the exercise: **Sgt Fisher** (thanks to **Cpl Stoker**) and **Cpl 'Sugar' Caine** for headbutting a mast when the shot failed.

STAFF COLLEGE DEMONSTRATION

Papa deployed Tac HQ under **2Lt Neil Fraser** and **Cpl Mick Clarkson**. The 'Jack Tac' crew spent a week under Opcon 2 Sqn.

November Tp deployed Rear HQ and **Cpl Jarvis** deployed to HQ DAA. Rear was the only stand which had to 'show again . . . not asleep'. The demo gave them some time to prepare for RSIT but it just wasn't enough for the Radio Relay.

Maj David Newbury in a rare moment of worry remarked to the SSM **WO2 Duncan McAllister**: 'We've been encircled.' 'Don't worry Sir, I'll put the wagons in a circle and call the cavalry,' replied the SSM confirming our earlier suspicions.

The new Deputy Chief of Staff was heard to say compassionately: 'Look, I know you're pushed for manpower so don't worry about a driver I'll do it myself . . . I just need somebody to cam and decam the vehicle.'

Cpl Jim Knight was to have some comeback later when he said: 'I think it is fair to warn you that I have only driven the landrover twice so far.' 'What twice today?' enquired DCOS innocently. 'No, twice altogether and never left hand drive.'

But none of these compare with **LCpl 'Thrapper' Thrasher**'s outstanding logic and perspicacity when he asked **Sig Dave King**: 'Where do you want me to put the mast?' 'Over there,' replied **Sig Dave King** indicating the spot.

A couple of minutes passed and then **LCpl 'Thrapper' Thrasher** asked: '. . . and where do you want me to put the pegs?'

Sgt Steve Norris demonstrated the use of the crane on the AFV 434 'ERIC' with his assistant **Cpl 'Scouse' Hoprey** but it was **Sgt Stu Layton** with his driving instruction in the AFV 436 really stole the show. The visitors seemed disappointed by the limited number of reverse gears but fully tested the all-weather sticks and the brakes. The Squadron now looks forward to the return visit.

FOOTBALL—COMD COMMS CUP FINAL

Having gone up 3—0 in the semi-final only to be forced into a replay it was generally felt that the final would be an easier prospect; how wrong such presumption proved to be.

The entire squadron bussed up to Herford on 25 May to give support for the final against 207 Sig Sqn. Right from the start it was clear that not only was it going to be a keen contest as the ball flew from end to end but also that in the overpowering heat, stamina would play an important part in the late stages.

Sgt Jim Gray was the early star of our team and scored a fine break away goal to put us 1—0 into the lead. 207 battled back and **Cpl Ian Clements**, our goalkeeper was soon under a lot of pressure. The backline, including a few veterans like **SSgt Kev Nelson** and **Sgt Sven Marson**, proved that experience leads to anticipation and can defeat a good pair of running legs. **Sig 'Boasey' Boase** was the dark horse of the team; only just selected. **Cpl Ray Lang** and **LCpl Sean Wilkinson** scampered about and harried the opposition. Then **Sgt Jim Gray** struck again and it was 2—0. Just before half time **Sig 'Boasey' Boase** scored a peach of a lob and we were looking comfortable at 3—0.

In the second half, however, the pressure that 207 had exerted in the first half was beinning to bear fruit as our players began to falter in the sweltering heat. Even some timely substitutions did not prevent 207 from looking constantly dangerous and it was no surprise when they eventually scored. It was a surprise when they scored a second and with 15 minutes left all sorts of things could happen. About 12 minutes from time the unimaginable repeat of the semi final occurred when 207 equalised, and without some excellent defence and goal keeping by **Cpl Ian Clements** could well have won.

The prospect of extra time was grim indeed but after a lacklustre first period the team came alive in the second period and playing some very skillful football created one or two half chances. More importantly their pressure prevented 207 from scoring in extra time. Despite their efforts the game finished 3—3 and had to be decided on penalties. We missed two and lost the final on penalties for the second year in succession.

HOCKEY

LCpl Tony Jenner was the sole Squadron representative at the Inter Corps Tournament but the Royal Signals, despite a scratch team did better than they have for years by reaching the final defeating such teams as the Royal Artillery en route.

WINDSURFING—ROYAL SIGNALS CHAMPIONSHIPS 1989

The Squadron team, under the watchful eye of the team captain, **Maj Jo Fletcher**, consisted of the novices **Sgt Jim Gray** and **Cpl Bert Curtin**. The team arrived a day early to get in some much needed training. Day one of the competition which was for individuals saw some very strong winds which caused a lot of problems for the novices, but the OC found no problems at all and went on to win the overall competition. **Cpl Bert Curtin** did well to complete all four races to win the best novice and **Sgt Jim Gray** swam two laps of the Dummer See.

The second day was the team competition and to the relief of many competitors the winds weren't quite so strong. The team knew they were in with a good chance especially with the OC sailing so well. **Sgt Jim Gray** under the threat of death, swore to the OC he would be able to complete the course even if he has to swim round (again). With **Cpl Bert Curtin** again doing well the team came out on top.

So after two days of hard competition the team results were: R Signals Minor Units Winners, Individual Overall Competition Winner—**Maj Jo Fletcher**, Best Novice—**Cpl Bert Curtin**.

Although a little short of equipment the Squadron team won the Royal Signals Minor Units Competition

JNCO/SIG CADRE—EXERCISE BULLSHINE

The medical problems encountered on Ex Flying Falcon had a knock on effect to Ex Bullshine held on 10 May and from a starting list of 18 only 11 completed the course. The course started each day with PT after having risen from their rooftop garret above the accommodation block. The first week was instructional and included drill, PT, map reading, orders, patrolling techniques, NBC and weapon training. The early starts began to take their toll and some, such as **Sig Percy Clark** (Sleepy head) managed to perfect his Olympic head role during the lectures. **Sig 'Pathfinder' Carrick** proved himself to be more dangerous with a map than **Sgt 'Pathfinder' Prowse**.

The second week, however, was the test week and started with a patrol exercise during which each took turns to be the Section Commander. The SSM had obtained some large white rabbits as suitable rations for hungry soldiers but they magically disappeared from their pens overnight and compo had to be used instead. No animal rights militia supporters were seen in the area but **SSgt Nigel Sloane's** wife now has some white earmuffs.

SSgt Kevin Nelson was playing the enemy and had been briefed to probe the defence of a Section a couple of times and then breach it to be reunited with his vehicle. Unfortunately unknown to him the defence perimeter had no breachable gaps, a fact he discovered after four hours of being repelled and chased by the bloodthirsty hordes of the Cadre. **Sgt Prowse** managed to bump start the bumper of his landrover but unfortunately left the rest behind.

The whole exercise was completed with a march off parade accompanied by elements of the 1 QLR band and overviewed by all the DS of the course. Afterwards a photo call and then we all retired en masse to the Squadron Club for a curry lunch and a sad farewell to **Lt Jim Prior** who left for the dizzy heights of Korbecke.

VISIT BY THE ITALIAN ARMY

On 4 May the Squadron hosted a visit by a number of Italian Signal Officers and soldiers from Palermo. The scorching heat made us feel as if we were visiting them. The OC, **Maj Jo Fletcher** introduced the Squadron and its role before they visited a fully set up headquarters. Via two non-technical interpreters it was a minor miracle that they grasped the rudiments of Ptarmigan. They certainly seemed bemused by the variety of green boxes in the vehicles.

Italians going to Pasta Brigade Headquarters. SSM Duncan McAllister looks on

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INSPECTORATE

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202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn BFPO 16

202 (33 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN
POSTINGS OUT

Cpl Lang to 21 Sig Regt on promotion, **Sig Shepherd** to 22 Sig Regt, **LCpl Hawkins** to 609 TACP on promotion, **LCpl Graham** to 14 Sig Regt, **Sig Needham** to 264 Sig Sqn, **Sgt Liebe** to 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, **Cpl Tierney** on discharge, **Sig Battison** to 22 Sig Regt, **LCpl Pook** to 16 Sig Regt, **Cpl Scott** to 7 Sig Regt, **Lt Prior** to 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, **Sig Marvel** to 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn on promotion and **LCpl Ellwood** to 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn.

POSTINGS IN

Cpl Arunasalon to Rhine Tp, **Sig Kielty** to SHQ Tp, **LCpl Clifford** to SHQ Tp and **Pte Lewis** to SHQ Tp.

EXERCISE FLYING FALCON/PICADORS LANCE/ IRON CHARGE 10-28 APRIL

The Squadron deployed for the longest exercise since Iron Hammer last year with limited manpower and fully expecting to be shattered by the end of the three weeks. It was not disappointed.

The first 10 days was Flying Falcon and, as usual, even despite the fact that it was later in the year than usual it snowed on one day. It was generally warm, however, and overcast.

As the 2IC, **Capt Mark Eaton** was having a hot recce the location we visited more woods than usual but this gave the troops the chance to practice their infantry skills. **SSgt Nigel Sloane** can be seen here allowing **LCpl Dave Pook** to go point man in the clearance patrol. Behind stand the indomitable **Cpls 'Smudge' Mithson, 'Spider' Webb** and **'Mitch' Mitchell** looking mean and menacing.

We knew that there were to be some live enemy at the exercise but it was purely by chance that **Capt Lyndon Campbell-Black** spotted a 'left behind jammer' as he helped unreel the quad. The clearance patrol then found two more similar devices together with a couple of live enemy for interrogation. Just as they were beginning to become useful coffee boys, however, they were recalled by Excon.

The Squadron suddenly started to fall by the wayside with **Sig 'Boasey' Boase** and **'Paddy' Gorman** both giving their panzers a Glasgow kiss only to find that 16 tons of vehicle kissed back and they both had split heads; fortunately not too serious. Meanwhile **Sig 'Si' Hubbard** decided to swing through the trees with grace and ease but unfortunately missed a tree and after a short but painful plummet to terra firma was hastily removed to BMH Rinteln, where a cracked vertebra was diagnosed. **Sig Chris Heaton** meanwhile decided that his activity on the exercise had all been too much and succumbed to glandular fever.

These small hitches and in some cases stitches notwithstanding, the exercise moved on apace.

The SSM **WO2 Duncan McAllister** on his first major outing with the Squadron proved that the pressure did not remove his sense of humour!

'Where are you going?'

'Stand to, Sir.'

'Too late you're overrun. There are arrows in the wagons and you have all been killed.' Some say that perhaps he has been watching too many Westerns. So perhaps has **Cpl 'Smudge' Smithson**, Eastender extrodinaire with a message from the LAD.

'They've got a new injun for us.'

'With the number of cowboys here one injun won't make any difference,' came the lightning reply.

The second week saw the appearance of the Brigade Staff and after a brief power struggle between Ex Flying Falcon and Ex Picadors Lance during which **LCpl Dave Pook** was the unsuspecting pawn unwittingly being fed information from two separate exercises and **Capt Lyndon Campbell-Black** was 'gripped' in the Falcon's talons things proceeded on their usual merry way only with the Staff as an additional consideration.

Capt Mark Eaton proved that evasion is preferable to excursion by always being at the Headquarters which did not have command with an almost intuitive ability. We who are about to move into a vertical bog in a wood, salute you.

LCpl Dave Pook leads the clearance patrol

Stand to for Cpl Dave Bartlett and Sig Ian Stringer

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206 (6 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 106

PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj John Thomas MBE**
2IC	**Capt Vyv Thatcher**
OC A Tp	**Lt Ian Birleson**
OC B Tp	**Lt Allen Stringer**
SSM	**WO2 Mcaleer**
YofS	**WO2 Parry**
FofS	**SSgt Newsome**
SQMS	**SSgt Treen**
ORS	**Sgt Glossop**

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

Welcome to the following personnel who have recently joined our ranks: **Lt Allan Stringer** (new OC B), **Sgt Anderson** (new RPC Sgt), and **Sig Garnett** (SQMS Storeman). We wish farewell and good luck to **Capt Jim Morely-Kirk** who, we know, will enjoy 210 Sig Sqn in Sunny North Yorkshire, **Cpl Steve 'Slaphead' Martin** who is off to 7 Sig Regt with the best wishes from all in A Troop to **Steve, June** and family and finally **Cpl Andy Harriott** who leaves for 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt, best wishes again from A Troop to **Andy, Karen** and family.

Congratulations go to The **Rogers** family on the birth of their son **Jack**.

WORLD CUP HENGELO

The annual World Cup Competition in Hengelo is a football competition open to all village, pub or forces league sides in Europe. Ninety-six teams from Turkey, UK, Holland, Switzerland, Belgium and Germany took part in the competition. In the first game **Lt Birleson** and his merry band of footballers were drawn against a German team with a German referee who displayed impartiality when ruling **LCpl Paul Boothman**'s brilliant solo goal to be a hand-ball and when booking **Lt Ian Birleson** for being offside! The game finally ended in a draw thanks to **LCpl Paul Boothman**'s goal from the penalty spot following the German defenders' 'Maradonna'. There then followed three defeats at the hands of Turkish, Dutch and Swiss sides which brings us to the final game which ended in a 0—0 draw. That was one of frustration as the German side played a spoiling tactic. We discovered that the Germans are not as robust as the British soldier on the 50/50 or 'Hospital' ball.

I hasten to add that the referee on this occasion spent most of the match laughing at the German team complaining about our 'hard' football—Good man!

Although we failed to reach the finals on the Sunday a good time was had by all especially **Cpl Dave Welsh** who participated in the drinking, singing and swimming competitions.

EXERCISE FLYING FALCON

'What a change to have Flying Falcon in April rather than freezing February', was the opinion of every Panzer driver and commander in the Squadron. The NBC phases of the exercise brought a few laughs at the expense of the 2IC **Capt Vyv Thatcher** in his NBC proof recce rover. We were amazed how he managed to avoid every location (even at meal times!) when in NBC kit. The picture shows the SQMS (**SSgt Jeff 'Zippy' Treen**) at a crash-out location having taken the phrase 'crash-out' too literally, as can be seen by our half buried ERV. **Maj Thomas** made the mistake of gambling with the Chief of Staff. He wagered that he could move from location A to location B before midnight. Unfortunately for the OC, **Maj Stone** pulled out his ace card and didn't allow us to start the move until after midnight. Another 'funny' occurred when **Lt Dave Kinnaird** of TN63 visited our location. We had problems with Ptarmigan during the exercise and although it wasn't necessarily their fault the problems always happened when we were shooting to TN63. On his visit **Lt Kinnaird** decided to indulge in small talk with the OC and asked him 'How's things?' It was a shell-shocked **Lt Kinnaird** that returned to TN63!

During Ex Flying Falcon we hosted **Mr Paul Stein**, a project manager from MEL. **Paul** seemed to enjoy his time with us and mixed well with the crews. So much so that he caused the 2IC to feel guilty for avoiding the place. The other photograph depicts **LCpl Phil Harden** demonstrating his advanced NBC drills ie, the combat drinking and smoking drills!

4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

The main event over the last few months has been Ex's Flying Falcon and Four Brace, stories from these have already become legends. Details are in the Squadron reports. After the exercises some of the Squadrons managed to complete different activites; HQ Sqn was off to Sunny Vogelsang for an enjoyable Battle Camp whilst 1 Sqn went off on site guard. With Ex Scree Slope coming up life is far from dull in Herford.

1 SQUADRON

OC	**Maj Gordon Rafferty**
2IC	**Capt Nick Borrill**
SSM	**WO2 SSM Peter Halstead**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Dave Brogden RA Signals**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Chas Ward**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Mick Purves**
OC P Tp	**Lt Tony Picknell**
SSgt C Tp	**SSgt Charlie Dubique**
OC K Tp	**Lt Andy Smith**
OC J Tp	**2Lt Graham Addley**

This year's Ex Flying Falcon was scheduled slightly later than normal, kindly allowing all those winter sports enthusiasts to enjoy a holiday during the peak skiing period. The main reason for delaying the exercise was undoubtedly to try and avoid the snow—but alas that was not to be.

To test our ability to communicate over difficult terrain and survive the traumas of long road moves, the Regiment was deployed far south into the Sauerland. Quite surprisingly, 1 Sqn emerged relatively unscathed from the initial move, unlike many of our comrades in the access nodes!

Unfortunately locations were scarce in the area, making recce particularly frustrating. **Sgt Kenny Sykes**, (TN 044) reluctantly had to settle for a car park on one occasion, and has not been the same man since! Likewise **Sgt Kev Jenkins** was forced to move TN054 into a mini-swamp, making life fairly uncomfortable for **2Lt Bret Appleby**, and the boys of Cheetah Tp. Despite the problems imposed by the ground, the Squadron performed extremely well over the exercise period, although all were relieved to arrive back in camp after three weeks, particularly **Cpl Mel Harriden** and **LCpl 'Skippy' Skipp** of Central 347 fame.

SITE GUARD

Our 'rest' period was short lived as the Squadron had been selected for a Site Guard over the period 18-25 May. Training for the Security Force began on 11 May with a series of lectures, and revision of weapon drills. The following few days allowed us to complete some of our mandatory training including an APWT shoot and NBC chamber test. We even held a CFT—on what was probably the hottest day of the year—and a Bank Holiday!

There were fine performances from members of the TOW team (yes they were actually there!) particularly **LCpl Nige Back** and **Cpl 'Bas' Bastow** who carried extra weight (apparently on orders from the SSM). The only thing missing from the run were the seniors!

Having recovered from the blisters and bruises, and retrieved several people from the medical centre, the Squadron moved up to Munster. **Lt Tony Picknell**, in his role as reserve Force Commander, immediately ensured his Platoon was settled in the school, whilst **2Lt Graham Addley** launched straight into the task of guarding the site. All were soon familiar with the routine, particularly our Alarm operators, **Cpls 'Baldrick' Hendry, 'Limp' Corlett, LCpls 'Ludwig' Hurst** and **Boath**, who mastered the systems with ease (not so the voice procedure!). Despite the nature of the task, the week passed relatively quickly, and with few hiccups. Rumour has it that **Sig Wilday** has given up smoking after his confrontation with the Americans and **LCpl Jed Halliday** has been selected for the Regimental Athletics team having recorded a time of 30 secs between towers 2 and 3 (in varying degrees of undress!). Finally one musn't forget **LCpl Gordon Kynoch** who never underestimated the enemy.

INTER-SQUADRON SWIMMING

The Squadron swimming team managed to find a Wednesday afternoon free to partake in the Inter-Squadron Swimming Competition. A considerable amount of talent was discovered during the day, most notably **Cpl 'Speedo' Shrives** and **LCpl 'Exocet' Evans** who won every event they entered. The opposition also fielded some impressive swimmers including OC 3 Sqn, **Maj Richard Barfoot** who 'crawled' his way along the length of the pool, closely followed by the RSM.

Unfortunately, HQ Sqn secured victory in the final event, beating the Squadron into second place.

BIEL MARCHES—SWITZERLAND

Five brave members of the Squadron unknowingly entered themselves for the Biel Marches in Switzerland over the weekend 2-3 June. Under the guidance of **Lts Smith, 'PH' Picknell, LCpl 'Granny' Hurst, Sig 'Bicycle' Briggs** and **Hobson** embarked on a 100km march, starting and ending at Biel.

Each man entered individually, competing against the clock. Under no illusions as to the enormity of the task, the 'Squadron' crossed the line at 2200 hrs 2 June. Six hours later, having completed half the course, and suffering from exposure, the immediate future looked depressing. The situation was further compounded by the knowledge that the eventual winners were just about to cross the line. However, gut determination and pride (apparently) forced the members of the team to complete the course in just over 13 hours, a commendable effort by all. Not satisfied with all the physical activity of the previous evening, certain members of the team managed to summon up sufficient energy to 'hit' the town and add the finishing touches to a fairly challenging weekend!

2 SQUADRON

SHQ	
OC	**Maj Mike Dent**
2IC	**Capt Alistair Ross**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Bill Kelly**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Mick Baron**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Pete Stoddart**
Tech SSgt	**SSgt John Jamieson**
MT Sgts	**Sgts Kev Enfield/John McGowan**

EXERCISE FLYING FALCON

Whilst the heirarchy planned and plotted in preparation for Ex Flying Falcon/Four Brace the 'Troops' were busy working; **LCpls 'Red Fielding** and **Edwards** in the Q's dept and **Cpl 'Geordie' Stobbs** surrounded by drivers **Ken Broadwell** and **Billy Baker** and powerman **LCpls Jim Cameron** and **Paul Carling, Sig Tony Evans, Steve Parker** and **'Absent' Parker** were busy taking things apart and putting them back together again. The technicians working under **Sgt Steve Cherry**'s watchful eye actually managed to ensure everything was ready and working prior to the deployment, a minor miracle given the circumstances.

The 'new' 2IC, **Capt Alistair Ross**, actually managed to find us a location once and then departed not to be seen again for three weeks except to smile and throw his hands in the air and say 'nowhere to go'. After three weeks of searching we finally found somewhere to rest only to be told we were to move again at first light! Such is life in Divisional Main Headquarters!

In between communicating we managed to host 48 VIP visitors, run a defence TEWT for 30 young officers and entertain the SOinC, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB, MBE**, and Comd Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen P. R. Davies**, all on one day and claimed to have enjoyed it, though the OC did look somewhat relieved when everybody had departed. In all a most successful exercise, but the weather could have been kinder!

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

We welcome back the 2IC, again, and congratulate him on his promotion, mind you, he hasn't bought the beers yet! We also welcome **LCpl 'Rodders' Rodwell** from A3 Tp, **Sig 'Aidie' Priestley** from A1 Tp and **Sig Al Watson** from Catterick. We bid farewell to **Sig 'Brooksie' Brooks** who moves to NORTHAG after tidying up the Squadron Office, once, good luck NORTHAG, we'll watch 'Sixth Sense'!

A1 (PAPA) TROOP

OC	**2Lt Damian Quinn**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt John Brooks**
Tp Sgts	**Sgt Steve Talbot**
	Sgt Mark Richmond

EXERCISE FLYING FALCON

The month of April was of course dominated by Ex's Flying Falcon and Four or was it Fore Brace. **Sgt Steve Talbot** returned from a very successful Staff Sergeants course just in time to deploy. Many of the Troop thought he was still suffering from the 'Course side effects' as he began the exercise with new vigour and plenty of 'command and control'.

The three week exercise did not pass without incident. The Squadron OC, **Maj Mike Dent** illustrated his great skill by controlling

a large oil slick that could have caused the greatest disaster this century, at least that's what the Belgians thought!

Sig 'Crabby' Crabb entertained not only the Troop but most of the Headquarters with his version of a 'double twist and pike followed by a triple somersault' when the coil of barbed wire he was unloading from the top of his AFV caught in his combat jacket. Naturally he scored a maximum 9.9 from all those observing and he is now looking forward to being selected for the next Olympics.

The Troop had a successful exercise and although it was nice to be out of barracks everybody was glad to be back on the route home especially **Sig Tim Shears, 'Sprog' Howard** and **'Medic' Faulkner** who decided they had had enough of panzers and hitched a lift in the GOC's helicopter. **Cpl 'Jacko' Jackson** decided to go one step further, he kindly allowed the General to drive his panzer for him, nice one **Jacko!**

The highlight for many was **Sig 'Tommo' Tomlinson**'s promotion in the field by the GOC, **Maj Gen The Hon W. E. Rous OBE**. An occasion he will surely not forget for a good many years.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

The Troop welcomes **Sig** 'Spaceman' **Byron** from 4 Bde, **Sig Nigel Howard, Shaun Essington** and **Stewart Kelly** from Catterick and **Cpl Bruce Ibbotson** and family from UK. We all hope you will enjoy your stay in the 2nd (to none) Sqn and take advantage of the delights offered in Herford.

A3 (RADIO) TROOP

OC	**Lt John Charnock**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Kev Nicholls**

TROOP HF EXERCISE

Prior to Ex Flying Falcon the Troop deployed to the Sauerland to do some comms trials and to practise HF techniques working a link back to Herford. It all went extremely well but there were a few 'downers' not least of which was during the end of exercise barbecue. The chicken did not seem to be cooking very well so **LCpl 'Rodders' Rodwell** decided to speed things up with a liberal sprinkling of benz. During the ensuing funeral pyre the chicken was lost forever.

EXERCISE FLYING FALCON

The highlight of the exercise must have been the 15 min radio check given by **Sig** 'Walter Mitty' **Gray** who it has been discovered, possesses a glass jaw. For his special skills he was declared 'Nugget' of the month! **Sig Neil Llewellyn** did his best to sabotage proceedings throughout the exercise:

SSgt Kev Nicholls	'Get some oil **Llewellyn**'
Sig Neil Llewellyn	'I've got some Staff, it's in the trailer'
SSgt	'Good Lad' . . .
Sig	'but it looks contaminated'
SSgt	'****!! what do you mean it's contaminated'
Sig	'well that's all they had left Staff' etc, etc.

HELLOS AND FAREWELLS

The Troop welcomes **Cpl Andy Harriott** and his family from Soest, **LCpl Gary Gibb** and family from Celle and **Sig Paul Forster** from from A1 Tp. We say a fond farewell to **Sig Pat Shalley** on his move across to A1 Tp and to **LCpl 'Rodders' Rodwell** on his move to SHQ Tp.

3 SQUADRON
ALPHA TROOP

OC Tp	**Lt Paul Vingoe**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt**

The most notable event was Ex Flying Falcon. Sadly we have said goodbye to the Fat Controller; **Sgt Geoff Hawkins** who has gone, on promotion to the First Division. We all wish him and **Fiona** luck and much 'Snicker' eating.

There have been several new arrivals mostly from the factory, **Sig Mick Law, Andy Fazackerly, Mike Harrison** and **Nick Simpson**, all have already settled in well and started to make a name for themselves within the Squadron. **Sig Greg Tyler** has also just arrived from 7 Sig Regt. Congratulations also go to **LCpls Derek O'Malley** and **Simon Donnelly** on their recent promotions.

The Troop performed well on Flying Falcon and reacted well to the very regular changes in complex layout and rewiring. Only a few of the seniors Teddy Bears were found in the corner at the end of the exercise. Even **LCpl Donnelly** managed to eventually give the Air Defence Officer a subset by the end of the exercise. The complex camouflage worked excellently in its new form which is more than can be said for the belly plugs of the vehicles!

Several 'wanted' posters have appeared around the Troop for **Sig Lee Cox** who has not been seen since embarking on his sneaky beaky course, but it has nothing to do with leave or swans I am sure. **Sig Nick Kaczur** who must be having an affair with the leave clerk, and **LCpl Gus Hart** who although he has been sighted managed to escape each time before we could get him into coveralls.

May has been the month of the stand down with the Troop deploying to Varenholz lakes. Noticeably **Sig Owens** who after this month is lucky not be to in a surgical collar. The Troop also fitted in an adventure training day, rock climbing where **Cpl Dave Brudenall** and **LCpl 'Chappy' Chapman** were in true form posing for the cameras making easy climbs look extremely hard.

Between stand downs we have been busy with CMI's, STI's, and CES checks. The seniors have been led to believe the guys are sweating on the tank park when really it has been a liberal covering of sun tan oil (no wonder the tank park has been so overpopulated this last few weeks).

Finally we congratulate the Squadron Commander and his wife **Cathryn** on the birth of their first born, **Hannah** and wish them all luck for the future. We also give our best wishes to the Squadron Yeoman **SSgt (YofS) Steve Wood** on his recent marriage and to **Sig Neil Wellings** on his forthcoming marriage.

BRAVO TROOP

OC Tp	**Lt Vinay Pandya**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Dave Mason**

Sunshine seems to encourage romantic decisions. **LCpl Michael Weston** tied the knot with **Sabine Diddens** on 19 May, the Troop congratulates them both and wishes them all the best for the future. Our best wishes also go to **Sig Danny Turner** on his engagement to **WPte Diane Boustead**. However, the hot weather was not welcomed by **LCpls Andy Turner** and **Mark Hurren** who were on their RSDCC—both successfully completed it—well done. We welcome **Sig Paul** and **Pamela Flaherty** from Alpha Tp, for it is rumoured, an unprecedented transfer fee. We say farewell to two long standing members of the Troop; **Sig Joshua McGarry** and **Dvr 'Nobby' Nobbs** and wish them well for the future.

During the break from exercise the Troop went out for a days trekking in the Harz Mountains. Looking forward to a great day out in the hills the Troop set off kitted out with packed lunches, smiles and sunglasses. **Sgt Mason** drove the PRI minibus and we all enjoyed the view en route. **Cpl Jim Wilson** had obviously done this before and looked the part for the trek, the only thing missing were corks around his hat. Those who volunteered for map reading ensured that we had to follow an interesting route! As the weather got hotter we all ached for some form of release—our prayers were answered by the appearance of an oasis in the form of a beautiful little lake. **Cpl Paul** 'I can't swim, but I'll try' **Henderson** was first in, and he swore blind that the water wasn't cold—never trust a technician! The Troop decided that **Lt Vinay Pandya** might wish to lead by example—he did to a cry which sounded like 'just let me get my boots off' as he hit the water. In summary a very good day out. It is rumoured that the next one may have something to do with ropes and figures of eight.

TM TROOP

Sunday 28 May saw not only a very hot Bank Holiday, but some carefully 'selected' HQ Sqn athletes competing in the Minden half marathon hosted by 4 Armd Div Transport Regt. The starting gun was duly fired at 1030 hrs with the RCT managing to squeeze 600 competitors through a gap the size of a football goal.

Galloping into an early lead, with pacemakers on full tilt, were the TOT, **Capt Mick Woodhouse** and the MTO **Capt Andy Cornet**, closely shadowed by **FofS Terry Witts, Sgts Pete Furness** and **Keith Merrie**. The 10 mile point saw the TOT stop for a battery change, with the FofS reportedly thumbing a lift up the route 61.

First over the finishing line was **Sgt Furness** in 1 hr 32 mins, followed by **Sgt Merrie** in 1 hr 34 mins. With new batteries the TOT cruised across the line in 1 hr 37 mins. The FofS, suffering from a football injury sustained two weeks previously in a match with 7 Sig Regt TM Tp, limped in in a very respectable 1 hr 42 mins.

The Troop was running on behalf of the Sir Malcolm Sargent Cancer Appeal and managed to raise pledges for nearly DM2,000.

Congratulations in the Troop go to **Liz** and **Pete Furness** on the birth of their daughter **Sally**. Goodbyes go to the TOT, **Capt Mick Woodhouse** and **Norma** who departed for 7 Sig Regt. **Cpl Ted Heath** also leaves soon but will be travelling a little bit further, in fact to Australia on Ex Long Look and finally farewell to **Cpl Mark Todd** off on a tour of Belize.

QUARTERMASTER DEPARTMENT

QM(T)	**Maj Brian Young**
RQMS(T)	**WO2 Chris Calow**
Sgt Accountant	**Sgt Gavin Barclay**
Sgt Accountant	**Sgt Mark Blakeley**
URS(MT)	**Sgt John Miles RAOC**
Veh Account	**Mrs Marg Langford**
Demand Clerk	**Mrs Liz Morton**
Clerk/Typist	**Mrs Julie Pearce**

We contributed three boxers to the Headquarters Squadron team which subsequently carried off all three titles in the Inter-Squadron Boxing Competition. **Cpl 'Billy' Knox, LCpl 'Mac' McBride** and **Sig 'Daz' Proctor** won through to the finals and showed fine spirit. (Most of our customers now say please when asking for stores.)

Ex Flying Falcon passed without much incident, unless you were travelling as a passenger with **Sig** 'FMT3' **Thomas** bouncing from location to location. It may have been his first exercise in Germany but he has given 'Crash Moves' a different meaning.

Last month we said a sad farewell to **Mrs Val Henman** who to the dismay of the QM and RQMS is leaving the department after 11½ years service. We wish **Val, Ken** and **Fiona** all the very best for the future.

INTER-SQUADRON SWIMMING GALA

The annual Inter-Squadron Swimming Gala took place in the Health Spa pools in Bad Salzuflen. The initial heats soon indicated that the main protaganists were HQ and 1 Sqns. HQ Sqn had fielded an incredibly strong team—including the RSM. In the end it all came down to the final and HQ just pipped 1 Sqn to win the cup.

The results were: HQ Sqn 41 points—first, 1 Sqn 35 points—second, 3 Sqn 28 points—third and 2 Sqn 26 points—fourth.

Inter Squadron Swimming—Winners HQ Squadron
Back row (left to right): Dvr Brian Wills, Sgt Steve 'Wolfe' Piggins, LCpl Michael McBride, WO1 (RSM) Don Pawlow and LCpl Bob Donaldson
Front row (left to right): Cpl Ian Flipcroft, Pte Paul Ross, Cpls Graham Low, Neil Bedford and LCpl Chris Eddison

The CO, Lt Col A. J. Raper presents Pte Ross with the Inter Squadron swimming cup, WO2 (QMSI) Dennis Delaney on right

A NICE DAY OUT

Not to be outdone by all the events in the Regiment, some members of the wives, namely **Susan Purves, Helen Varley, Elaine Watson** and **Yvonne Hopper** arranged a ladies hockey competition. Teams arrived from Nienburg, Gutersloh, Hildesheim and Osnabruck, but the main threat was a young German guest team from Bielefeld.

During the course of the day the Herford ladies battled their way through to the final. Battled is an accurate description as more than a little blood was spilled. (Who said that they were the weaker sex?)

The final was fought between the ladies of Herford and the German team. Although the Bielefeld team were well prepared and perhaps a little younger the full time score was equal. Despite extra time this remained. It all came down to penalty flicks, alas on the final flick the Herford ladies lost. All in all a very enjoyable day, plans are already afoot to win the cup back again next year. Certainly it left a lot of the watching husbands glad that they play simple sports such as rugby or hang gliding!

Maj Gordon Rafferty presents Runners Up medals to Mrs Yvonne Hopper and Helen Varley the eventual winners; Bielefeld Ladies team in the background

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200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 41

EXERCISE FLYING FALCON
by Cpl R. J. Weeks

'I know' said a rather important officer 'let's not have Flying Falcon in the cold this year. Let's have it in the spring when it's nice and warm'—wrong. I knew the weather on this exercise was going to be bad when it started to rain as we loaded the 43's on the train on Friday morning. Eight hours later it stopped raining but now it was just cold. With the 43's unloaded we set off through Seigen to the amusement of the Seigen folk. They had never seen a British convoy moving at 20kmh. The weekend saw very little activity as we checked our vehicles under the watchful eye of **Capt 'Bush' Renfrey**. As we left our weekend location, on went the cam cream and tin hats, the exercise had started. This was the only dry move.

After an hour or so the B vehicles arrived along with the rest of the Squadron. **SQMS Mick Ara**, was unimpressed as his demand for three weeks sunshine had been returned dues out 1992.

The first week went something like: wait until it rained, move, set up, talk on the VHF wait for Ptarmigan, 'oh it's stopped raining', get Ptarmigan, wait until it rained, move. The last location on the first week was a brewery! That weekend all the vehicles were serviced and faults put right by the excellent REME detachment under **SSgt Chris Price**. With all the vehicles and personnel recharged we left our weekend home for Hameln, in the rain. The second week saw more rain and yet more moves. **Cpl 'Baz' Brooks**, found he had the only 436 with built in shower. With the Staff Officers arriving the exercise settled down, to moving when it stopped raining then setting up in the rain. Due to manning problems, we had the loan of **Sig Christie** and **Jones** from 5 AB Bde who helped out on the Int and Air det's, but with the departure of these two fine soldiers, this left **LCpl Paul Ashford** on his own again. However, the AVLO's driver knew what a 353 looked like and the problem was solved. Out at A2 Ech someone found the Power Sergeant in the sauna that **SSgt Bill Smith** had installed while **Sgt 'Mac' Singh** used the microwave to make real curries.

As the second week ended the order came through to move back to Seigen. Our movement timings coincided with the worst rain yet. As the packets moved in to the half way point, we learnt that SAS 647 had been involved in an accident. Thanks to the quick thinking of **Cpl Hamilton** and **LCpl Avins**, a nasty incident was avoided.

With the number of officer 'casualties' there was a chance that **LCpl Bedford**, would take over the Bde Commanders job, with **Sig Walker** as the COS. However, with endex just round the corner, the exercise brought on what we had all missed. Snow. Several people said that Falcon wasn't Falcon without snow. It lasted long enough to cover the complex, then it rained again. Oh well, never mind, Falcon next year is in February, back to normal weather.

SQMS DEPARTMENT
EXERCISE FLYING FALCON/FOREBRACE

Well it was the time of the year when this most famous of exercises came our way again, the most significant item on this exercise was the fact the 'Q' came out much to the amazement of the department. The exercise was also transformed when **Cpl 'Monty' Moore** decided to inject humour and start rumours about what actually went on in the back of 'Q Sleeps' and on the exercise in general, most of it happening in or around the water bowser.

Here are some extracts from the local exercise paper, *The Gauntlet*:

Day 2: 0450
Stood to in Water Bowser, had a shower while in there and found fat cook stuck in other water tank.

Day 12: 0930
All Brigade staff arrived at Q complex, introduced them to water bowser, not much interest shown on introduction.

Day 15: 0530
QRF stood to in water bowser and found one fat cook, one bush and one lady officer reading instructions on cam cream tube. She told Q that she had been sent there by G3.

Day 22: 1950
Padre arrived in location, on being briefed by Bush (2IC) decided to take communion in water bowser. All Squadron attended service in water bowser.

The complete 'Q Diary' can be read in *The Gauntlet*.

On to the more interesting notes, the department is finally on the move to the new SQMS store and everyone is putting effort into completing the move by 1 July so all the department is very busy indeed.

EXERCISE FIGHTING GAUNTLET I

Time: 0830 hrs Wednesday 17 May 1989 (already half an hour late).
Location: The Ahlsburg feature (we don't know where it is either but we think it was a stray part of the Ardennes).
Weather: Too hot.
Aim Stated: To practise low level tactics and basic military skills.
Implied: To climb every hill many times.

After a relaxing four day stand-down it was time to put heavy packs on sunburnt shoulders and try to avoid blisters. To promote leadership skills of our JNCO's most tasks were carried out at section level. The first task was an 8km march with full kit, this being the first part of the second competition although most sections managed to eliminate themselves by either taking a short cut or doing a short detour, or in some cases not so short cuts/detours.

The next two days involved several teaching stands, all on top of hills, with a night exercise thrown in half way through. The stands were fun or informative, some both. They involved getting hot and sweaty, wet and dangling from bits of rope with heavy boxes but fortunately not at the same time.

The exercise was finished off (and so were we) with a company attack followed by a speed march with tasks (pick up thy log and run). Once again the attacking forces won although they nearly got it wrong (OC 1 P1 confused them by being in the right place for once). The speed march was won by 2 Section which having come second in every other competition was declared overall winner.

Platoon HQ O Group on Exercise Fighting Gauntlet I

4 DIV SAAM FALLING PLATE COMPETITION
by LCpl Bedford

After giving a mixed performance in the 4 Div SAAM competition our motley crew of Pioneers and Signalmen (yes against popular belief, there were members of the Corps in the team, well two of us) decided to go out with a bang(!) on the last competition. As usual this was the falling plate. Having got a bye in the first round we all congratulated ourselves on getting through to the second round 'cos thats as far as thought we would get'. To our amazement after an energetic sprint down the range we knocked our plates down before our opponents (It must have been the wind). With our morale high we set about storming through the rounds, with a few scrapes where the winner was decided by the number of rounds left in the magazine. We particularly enjoyed knocking out the 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt team (unlucky lads) on our whirlwind storm up the tables.

To our disbelief (and everyone elses) we got through to the finals against the Royal Irish Rangers, who used SA80. After a valiant race down the range where even old man **Pete Marsden** managed to keep up and our best shooting performance we didn't manage to beat the superior skill of the infantry.

Overall we were pleased with our result as a Minor Unit using SLR to take second place at the SAAM.

PS When's Bisley?

The Squadron shooting team, finalists in the Falling Plate Competition LCpl Bedford, Pte Smith (RPC), Lt Meers (Standing), Pte Cockburn (RPC) and LCpl Marsden (RPC)

ATHLETICS

On Friday 31 March we went to the Jahne Stadium at Herford to participate in the 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt inter-Squadron athletics competition. Due to the toll of postings and ski accidents, we were unable to field a strong team this year but our fourth position placing out of six Squadrons was a creditable performance. In tune with the upsurge of interest in Tug-of War, we fielded a team for the first time and benefited greatly by the experience. The team is now looking forward to the Morrison Cup Minor Units Competition.

The Squadron Tug-of-War team at the Regimental athletics Competition. LCpl Hall, SSgt Smith, Pte Smith, Cpl Trotman, Sgt Latimer, SSgt (FofS) Griffiths, Sgt Russell (RPC) (Coaching), Cpl Sharp (REME) and LCpl Betts

FOOTBALL

The football team would like to say farewell to **Sgt Jimmy Stevenson RPC**, the team Captain and Coach and thank him for his hard work and successes whilst with the Squadron. We would also like to say 'welcome' to **Sgt Colin Day RAPC**.

Recently the 4 Armd Div league finished with us fighting for fourth place. We are still waiting a date and venue for our semi-final match in the Divisional Challenge Cup.

SHQ

The Orderly Room/UAO survives despite rumours to the contrary. The crew headed by **Sgts Dave Ellis** and **Colin Day**, consists of **LCpl Rich Hanley** and **Sig Alan Stevens** who do their best to hide the mass of correspondence and at the same time cater to the needs of all.

Sadly we said farewell to **LCpl Ralph Basnett** recently, who is on his way to a 'small group of islands off the South American coast', on promotion to Corporal. Congratulations, we will miss your great sense of humour. He also decided to get married before he left so congratulations again from everyone. We all wish him and **Jo** all the best for the future.

LCpl Rich Hanley has only just arrived from the 'Big Regiment' in Herford. He is a Stalwart of the Regiment's Tug-of-War Team. He keeps in training by carrying piles of files from one office to the other. Welcome and we hope you have an enjoyable tour.

Sig Alan Stevens, a follower of the skiing fraternity, is wondering if he can get a skiing course free of charge in civilian life.

By the time this is printed **Sgts Dave Ellis** and **Colin Day** will have left for pastures new; **Sgt Ellis** to the UK for his last six months before retiring from the hectic life of the Orderly Room. **Sgt Day** will be moving 'up the road' to 4 Armd Wksps REME. All the best to them and their families.

7 Sig Regt
BFPO 15

REGIMENTAL UPDATE

For all Corps Units in 1 BR Corps the first half of the year is invariably hectic. For 7 Sig Regt it has been an especially busy time. On top of normal exercise commitments we held a very successful Regimental Exercise during which the officers and men were pushed to the limits of their endurance. We practised Battle Casualty Replacement procedures and simulated the arrival of replacements by retraining officers and men to perform tasks to which they were unused. This training was carried out overnight while everyone was exhausted from recent manoeuvres and the proceedings were filmed by SSVC. **Sig Tom Kennedy** certainly enjoyed his temporary elevation to the position of OC A5 Tp.

What was not filmed was the extraordinary scene which greeted us when we returned to base after the weekend's exertions. We attended a Church Service after dark in a field in the middle of desolate countryside. We looked out over the field to a Flat Platform Truck some 150 yards away. The truck was bathed in the glow of several floodlights. It was a cold, windy evening and the whole of the Regiment was gathered, looking at the small figure of the Padre standing on the truck in the distance. Suddenly the air was rent by the strains of an organ hidden in the darkness. The Padre spoke to us in a voice made sonorous by the PA system. His exhortations rang out over the heads of the congregation and filled the air. Many sheep must have been startled to be addressed so passionately by the disembodied voice and passing poachers must have thought that they were witnessing a Close Encounter. It was an experience that we will not quickly forget.

The sporting highlight of the year was of course the winning of the Army Cup by the rugby team. **RSM** (now Capt) **Andy Hickling** and the team worked extremely hard to secure the Cup and this success will undoubtedly enhance the reputation of the Corps as a whole.

The CO, **Lt Col Bob Hussey**, implemented the changes that will take the Regiment in the direction he has mapped out for it. One of his main interests is Officer Training and all the young officers are benefiting from his wide experience in that field. In particular, presentations and debates are enhanced by the fact that they are given in the Officers' Mess prior to a Regimental dinner. This makes the occasions much more relaxed in spite of the fact that they are usually attended by VIPs.

Capt Brian Greenwood has been increasing his experience rapidly by occupying three different offices in the last couple of months. After moving from Z Troop to Ops he now graces the chair of OC HQ Sqn, recently vacated by **Maj Frank Worrall** who now wears only the hat of QM(T). **Frank** leaves us shortly and we wish him and **Sue** all the best. They will be sorely missed.

Lt Glen Harwood, the quiet, unassuming Families Officer and OC PRI has been moved from his post, promoted, and shipped off to 3 Sqn to take over as 2IC from **Capt Tom Friend. Glen**, although naturally mortified, has decided to soldier on and has now bravely asked for an extension in a touching attempt to hide his pain from unsympathetic eyes. Families need not despair however since their welfare is now safely entrusted to the tender ministrations of new boy **Lt Dave Marsden** to whom we extend a warm welcome.

The PRI has been selling IBM compatible PCs for some time now and the Paymaster, **Capt Martin Lodge**, has finally abandoned his old non-compatible and taken the plunge. We are told that this is his single biggest financial investment ever but he is recovering well and will be back at work soon. The fact that **WO1 Allison** in SFA has also bought a PC should not be taken as indicative of any form of plot but the managers of the central pay computer may well be advised to increase their vigilance against hackers.

In short the Regiment is in good heart and is looking forward to a more relaxed summer period—hopefully.

GOALS FOR HILLSBOROUGH

The boys of 4 Sqn, 7 Sig Regt, thought up a unique, albeit a demanding way of earning a day off work. They decided to mount a 24 hour five-a-side football competition to raise money in aid of the Hillsborough Disaster Fund. It was all the idea of **Cpl Phil Green** and **LCpl Martin O'Gara** who don't come from Liverpool or particularly support them but just love the game of football. They put in all the hard work required to organise the event and enlisted the support and backing of all the members of 4 Sqn.

Six teams, of roughly the same ability, were picked from the Squadron. A support team was provided from those not actually playing, to provide food and drinks and generally to look after the teams and keep them going. Each team played opposing teams on a rotating basis, irrespective of which team won, giving the teams breaks of not more than one hour for meals etc. Each game lasted 15 minutes, without a change over at half time, and play only stopped for as long as it took to change over teams at the end of each game. Each team averaged a total of eight hours actual play, and a total of 32 games.

The event took place in Maresfield Gymnasium on Wednesday 10 May. The competition was started at 0900 hrs by the CO of the Regiment, **Lt Col R. M. J. Hussey** who made the first 'drop-ball'. The games started off at a fairly fast pace with heavy scoring but soon settled down as players realised they had a long way to go. Several members of the Squadron play in the Regimental Football Team and they joined the Regimental Team in the afternoon to play a full match before returning to play on through the night. The five-a-side teams were relieved by members of 3 Sqn while the Regimental Footballers were away.

Each team member obtained sponsorship to complete the 24 hour period, which will, when collected, exceed DM2,000. This will be sent to the Hillsborough Disaster Fund. The amount will be augmented by the proceeds of a raffle for a football strip donated by Borussia Munchen Gladbach.

Our grateful thanks go to **WO2 (CSM) 'Ginger' Dixon**, of HQ Regt 1 BR Corps and all the referees he organised from the 4 Div area who gave up their time. Without them the whole event could not have taken place. Thanks also to the chefs for keeping us fed and watered throughout the night, and thanks to the Print Shop for the posters and to everyone else who helped to make the event the success it was. Team C won the competition by scoring 124 goals and amassing 41 points.

The 'Goals for Hillsborough' Teams

ORIENTEERING

On Saturday 22 April, two teams of four men from 1 Sqn took part in the annual Herford Orienteering Marches. This is a military skills competition organised by the Reservistenkameradenschaft Herford. This is the German equivalent of a TA Regiment.

The competition consists of an 11km orienteering run with a difference. The exact route followed on the run is naturally worked out by the teams but all competitors must pass through all the check-points in the correct order. Where the event differs from normal orienteering is in the nature of three of the check-points. These are in fact military skills stands.

The competition is held as separate events for the regular soldiers and for the TA although the ground covered is the same. The nature of the military skills stands are not revealed until the day of the competition so that the teams are not filled with relevant experts.

This year the skills tested were grenade throwing. The grenades were dummy but had to be thrown accurately into a target area. Success elicited a two minute time bonus. Tent erection; here a two man Bundeswehr tent had to be unpacked, erected and repacked at speed. Five minute bonus. Use of compass; bearings were taken of prominent objects using a Bundeswehr prismatic compass. A correct bearing was worth a five minute time bonus.

Although the tests were not difficult in themselves accuracy and speed were needed to secure as many seconds bonus as possible since the results from the stands played a significant part in the overall result.

The competition was won by a 22 Sig Regt team. We secured creditable results and were placed fifth (B team) and seventh (A team). Over 50 teams took part and we therefore felt that we had done well at our first attempt at the competition. Next year we will do even better.

A Team: **Lt 'The Bear Chapman, SSgt 'Wally' Westrop, Sgts 'Rocket Ron' Haslam** and **'Kev' Smith.**

B Team: **2Lt 'Billy' Smart, Cpl 'George' Workman, LCpl 'Roy' Carter** and **Sig 'Howesy' Howes.**

Finally **Rupert 'The Bear' Chapman** is to be congratulated on his recent promotion and for the celebratory coke that he bought the boys.

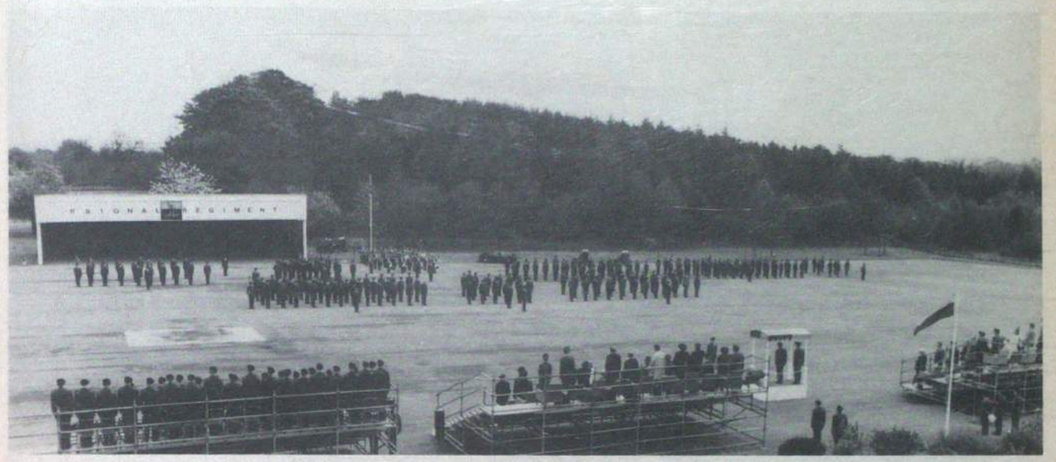
FLYING FALCON '89

2Lt Jonathan Smart has managed to capture a scene from our favourite exercise from his new vantage point as Trunk Node Commander.

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.

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison



11 Sig Regt on parade to mark 25 years of residence in Helles Barracks

25TH ANNIVERSARY PARADE

On Friday 12 May 1989 a parade was held to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Regiment's occupation of Helles Barracks. The Reviewing Officer, **Brig T. G. H. Jackson OBE**,was the CO when, on the 13 May 1964, Helles Barracks became the Regiment's home. It was therefore both appropriate and gratifying that the Brigadier should be reviewing the Regiment in the same Barracks 25 years on.

The parade was formed by recruits under training (1 and 2 Troops, Battleaxe and Kohima Tps), junior and senior NCO's attending mid career courses (Royal Signals Staff Sergeants and Detachment Commander Courses and Leadership Troop), members of 347 (North Yorkshire) Sqn Home Service Force and music was played by the Band of the 1 Bn the Prince of Wales Own Regiment of Yorkshire. During the parade the Reviewing Officer presented Corps cap badges to members of No 2 Troop who had just completed their third week of recruit training, and the Commanding Officer's award of an 'A' grading to the top students of the Royal Signals Staff Sergeants' Course — **Sgt Billy Freear**, 264 Sig Sqn and the Royal Signals Detachment Commanders' Course—**LCpl 'Scouse' Ramsden**, 5 (AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn.

1 SQUADRON

A fine evening in April saw a gathering of the huntin', shootin' and fishin' set in the amenities centre. The occasion was a farewell in honour of 'Top Gun' **Maj Barney Hill** and his wife, and sometime ghillie, **Pam**.

In recognition of **Barney**'s sterling efforts in the field of wildlife conservation, (deep-freezing), moleskins and fishing hats were de-rigueur for all Squadron personnel. The presentation was a porcelain, depicting a barbour-clad Dalesman and his dog out rough shooting, and bore a passing resemblance to its recipient and his own dog, Didi (the former suitably glamourised).

The evening was organised by **Lt** 'Trapper' **Nick Walker** and included an impromptu poem by **Cpl Eddie Goff** entitled 'Aye Bloody Aye'.

We wish **Barney** and **Pam** all happiness in their retirement and welcome **Maj Malcolm Robinson** as the new OC in 1 Sqn.

Best Recruit: **Sig Leslie**
Best Shot: **Sig Binks**
Best Endeavour: **Sig Dyer**

Course 8902 has been memorable for a number of reasons, not least of which was the fact it was **Cpl Pete Plevins** final one before leaving the Army for a Career in the Fire Brigade. It was fitting, therefore that he managed to finish on a high by winning the overall Champion Section Award.

The remainder of the course went extremely well with two good exercises and once again a sterling effort in the Sponsored Bed Push by all concerned, earning almost £900 for the Friarage Hospital Special Care Unit.

FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

We would like to take this opportunity to say a fond farewell to **Pete** and **Sandra Plevin** who are leaving us for civvy street, they will be greatly missed by everyone. We would also like to welcome **Andy** and **Wendy Townsend** into the fold and hope their stay is a happy one.

Congratulations also to go **Les** and **Julie Stimson** on the birth of a baby daughter, who luckily managed to appear before 1 April.

Finally as always we wish all the very best to the members of Course 8902 in their future careers.

Col M. J. C. Galloway inspects Sig Dyer (Best Endeavour)

Back Row (left to right): Carter, Osbaldestin, Allan, Horner, Wilson, Harding, Leahy, Hughes and McCutcheon
Third Row (left to right): Collins, Binks, Page, Maher, O'Connor, Usher, Robinson, Dyer, Helm and White
Second Row (left to right): Beaver, Taylor, Hawkins, Knights, Ward, Lane, Leslie, Barker, Holden, Brotherston and Waters
First Row (left to right): Cpls L. D. Stimson, P. J. Plevin, Sgt N. R. Coatsworth, Lt N. A. Walker (Royal Signals), Capt J. R. Illingworth (Royal Signals), Cpls S. M. Conway, D. Savage and Townsend

Photo by Joseph Krieger

4 TROOP PERSONALITIES

OC	**Lt Steve Wheatley**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Scotty Sherrard**
Tp Cpls	**Cpl Eddie Goff**
	Chris Hymas
	Tony Slaney
	Jock Lambe

4 Troop Adult Recruit Course 8901 was run in conjunction with 5 Troop Adult Recruit Course and a fierce competition ensued. Four events took place during the course. Cross-country, Assault course, Log race and the Drill competition. 4 Troop swept the board, winning all four of the competitions.

The Troop then went on to raise £1,100 for the Friarage Baby Care Unit and £100 for the Children's Ward in DKMH with the sponsored bed-push around Catterick Training Area. The awards for 4 Troop on the parents evening and after the Pass Off were as follows:-

Best Recruit:	**Sig Gulfoyle**
Best Shot:	**Sig Nizhar**
Best Endeavour:	**Sig Makings**
Best Section:	**Cpl Goff 2 Section**

After the course had dispersed the troop settled down to a long break which caused a starburst effect amongst the staff.

Cpl Lambe was posted to Menden on promotion, **Lt Wheatley** seconded to 5 Troop with **Cpl Hymas** and **Cpl Goff**. **Sgt Sherrard** and **Cpl Slaney** went over to 2 Troop. Thankfully these are only temporary and the Troop staff should be re-united for the next Adult Recruit Course at the end of July.

Our best wishes go to **Jock Lambe** and family in their new posting.

Gp Capt Ryan Station Commander RAF Catterick inspecting 4 Troop—Sig Wilson third from right

Battleaxe lines up prior to start of run

BATTLEAXE TROOP
COAST TO COAST

'That's what we called it and that's what we did.'

Battleaxe Tp's sponsored charity event was to run from the West Coast of Gretna to the East Coast in Tynemouth, a total distance of approximately 74 miles, in aid of the North of England's Children's Cancer Research fund and also The St John's Centre, Catterick.

It all started on a cold bleak Friday morning, 2 June 1989 at 0300 hours. The Troop was awakened by the dreaded and much feared **Cpl Mick 'Trebor' O'Brien**. After a quick wash and shave in the local swamp, it was down to the local food bar known as "Q' Norris's Late Night Diner', for some delicious home cooking. With that quickly digested we were bundled onto the luxury transport, a 39 seater Army special. In no time at all everybody was deep in sleep, only to be woken by the sound of screaming wild hungry animals . . . it was the advance party, lead by the demented and cruel **Sgt Henry**, followed in hot pursuit by the infamous, laughing **Sgt Strefford**. There were other well known villains in the party, more of them later.

After being ejected from the transport we were herded into a small Hotel called the First House in Scotland, Weddings our speciality Hotel/Motel/Caravan Park, Block Bookings welcome.

As the running fever started to take effect, runners had to be chained to stop them from escaping too soon. As zero hour approached a local jailer appeared from the direction of the local Police Station, demanding a souvenir from the Troop, we tried to give him the SSM but he wasn't there, so, after much debating and soul searching, **JSig Richards**, a local native, came up with a 11 Sig Regt plaque and quickly delivered it, without much argument.

After a quick gathering of the clan and a photo, the torture run began. They forced us to do three mile relays each comprising of three juniors and one member of the Cadre, in an unending slog, all uphill. They tried to hold us back but they couldn't, and it wasn't unusual for us to do three miles in eighteen minutes, in our efforts to break the Cadre's back. Still they came at us with more teams to take over, and it wasn't long before we were two hours ahead of time. To halt the advance of the mighty Battleaxe they unleashed us on the town folk of Tynemouth and in their effort to rid the small population of 'us' they forced £180 into our hands, cups, pillow cases and anything else that would carry money and begged us to leave. With the Cadre's bellies full, we reorganised one mile from the finishing point, the Cadre laughing as we all struggled to get free of their wicked and sick jibes at our injuries (blisters).

Hurriedly we moved on 800, 600, 300, 100m, the end was in sight, what we had trained so hard to escape was nearly over . . . the coast of Tynemouth. The Cadre had succeeded.

As we gathered to await our fate, a car drew close, a big black car, it stopped and out stepped the well known and respected Mayoress of Tynemouth, dressed in her smart suit and dripping in gold. She thanked us for our efforts.

Our final destiny had been decided, we were to be given another change . . . Battlecamp.

JSig Richards presents the plaque outside Old Toll House Gretna Green

OC Tp with Lady Mayoress of Tynemouth, Mrs Bennett

The Cast: Leader of the Recce Party—**Capt Dave Gallagher**, 2IC—**Sgt Dave Henry**, Court Jester—**Sgt Strefford**, Pain Healer—**Brian the Medic**, Suppliers of Anything—**WO2 (RQMS) Henning, Sgt Grey**, Chariot Drivers—**Cpls 'Cas' Castro, Eddie Edwards** and **'Script' Mick O'Brien**.

Stop Press: The run raised over £1,000 cash with a further £1,000 promised.

3 SQUADRON
SHQ
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Steve Smith**
2IC	**Capt Charlie Manning**
SSM	**WO2 Mick Bohanan**
SQMS	**SSgt Keith Sandy**
Storeman	**Mr Douglas Thorpe**
Clerk	**Mrs Rene Cox**

TRAINING WING
SSgt Jim MacLean
SSgt Roly Thompson
Sgt Bob Dunleavy
Sgt John Lennon

This has been a busy period for the Squadron with three Troops Passing Off in March. We are now settling down from the effects of a three Troop Parade. **SSM Mick Bohanan** then grasped the opportunity to fly off to Hong Kong to charge his batteries, where, within 24 hours of landing a typhoon swept the Island followed by rioting of students. We were all rather concerned as to his welfare but were reassured by reports that he was only holding a parade rehearsal. (Chinese systle.)

Well back to some work which starts with Battle Camp and the first miracle this year. All of SHQ plus Trg Wing wearing uniform and departing for far away places (Otterburn) where **Sgt Bob Dunleavy** was last seen still sticking pins in his Programme Board, asking, 'is it left off the Al', and **SSgt Jim MacLean** smirking saying, 'sorry chaps can't make this one-Medex'.

WELCOME

We welcome **Capt Manning** as our new 2IC and are sure he will ably fill the gap left by **Capt Roger Harris** on his move.

BEST WISHES

Our best wishes go to **SSgt (SQMS) Keith Sandy** who is at present undergoing treatment in BMH Woolwich.

FAREWELLS

As the Troop draws to a close on 23 June we will be saying our goodbyes to most of the Troop Cadre. Firstly:

Capt Dave Gallagher is returning to his military studies wing duties. From all the 'Boys' and Cadre we wish him all the best in his future career and thanks for giving 110% in everything he did.

Next **Sgt Dave Henry** after years in the job is off to 8 Sig Regt to start back in his trade . . . cutting grass; again a big thanks to him for all he has done for the Troop.

Lastly **Cpl 'Cas' Castro** is off to RAF Gutersloh yet again starting back in his trade. Everybody thanks you for all your support.

To all in the Cadre that are leaving and their families we wish them every happiness for the future.

ARRIVALS

Also a big warm welcome to our new Troop OC **Lt Ian Meers** who is taking over from **Capt Gallagher**. May his stay here be enjoyable and rewarding.

The Royal Guard of Oman

Signals Technical Officer

If you are leaving the Services in the next few months:

applications are invited for the above post from suitably qualified persons with experience, leadership, enthusiasm and drive to provide technical support on telecommunications for the RGO. The post involves organising and maintaining a workshop for the repair/maintenance of radio communication and associated equipment.

Applicants should be computer literate, possess a common sense approach and ability to analyse problems.

Qualifications: HNC or C&G in Telecommunications or Electronic Engineering. Previous experience in an electronic workshop and with computers is essential.

Candidates should be in good health and not exceed 55 years of age.

The post is based in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman. An attractive remuneration package includes:

Salary:	Equivalent to **£18,620** per annum paid in local currency tax free.	**Leave:**	60 days per year taken in two intervals with economy class tickets provided for employee, spouse and up to two children.
Accommodation:	Free apartment and utilities for employee and family.	**Transport:**	Car provided free.

Prospective candidates should sent full CV together with a photograph, contact address and telephone number to J. Grieve, Recruitment Manager at: **Charles Kendall & Partners Ltd, 7 Albert Court, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BJ. Tel: 01 589 1256.**

13 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

VISIT OF MAJ GEN ALEXANDER

Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB MBE paid a farewell visit to 13 Sig Regt. A busy programme was scheduled, making sure that in the short time he was here, no department was left out, least of all the Sergeants' Mess, who had only two weeks previously seen Comd (BR) RCZ presenting eight LS & GC Medals. On this occasion the Mess saw five more presented. It was a fitting way for him to say farewell to a handful of his longer serving Senior Ranks.

Visit SOinC
(Left to right) Rear: WO1 (RSM) Neil, Sgt Petty, SSgt O'Dare, Sgt Ellis, SSgts Clancy, Chapman and Lt Col J. H. Roberts (CO)
(Left to right) Front: Marlon Clancy, Mrs Petty, Mrs O'Dare, SOinC, Mrs Clancy, Mrs Chapman and Keith Clancy

YOUTH CLUB DONATION

The Rothenbach Youth Club passed a special Christmas gift to the Tierheim Animal Home of Heinsberg—a cheque for DM1,000.

The children of the club, whose ages range from 6-16 years, are all dependants of servicemen stationed at 13 Sig Regt. The method of raising the money was novel to say the least—a 'Sponsored Disco' where the children had to dance non stop for 12 hours.

Twenty members of the club, led by **Maj Brian Maltby** and **WO2 John Chudleigh** visited the Tierheim to hand over the cheque. They were met by the animal home chairman **Dr Remer**, the manager **Herr Vosenkaul** and the family **Zwirbel** who run the home.

The delights of the visit showed in the eyes of the children as they strolled through the cages. A large brown mongrel called Ingo took everybody's fancy. Having now adopted the home for future assistance, the children left in the knowledge that their money would be well spent.

Youth Club Donation
Members of 13 Sig Regt and the Rothenbach Youth Club handover a DM1000 cheque to members of the Tierheim Animal Home

EXERCISE OLYMPIC RINGER

Ex Olympic Ringer was an adventurous training expedition to Greece organised by 13 Sig Regt with the participation of 2 RMP. The aim was to complete a series of treks through the mountains of Ellis and Arcadia in the Peloponnese.

Ever mindful of the need for financial stringency, the journey to Greece was by the cheapest means possible; train, train and train . . . 3,500 miles travelling Goat Class on the infamous 'Hellas Express'—all the sights, sounds and smells of a South European market in a railway carriage!

On arrival, each day's walking was organised by a different JNCO who had total responsibility for planning, briefing, navigating and guiding the party to their next destination. This was usually a site of some archaeological interest, such as the ruins of Ancient Olympia or Corinth.

A particularly long trek passed by the foul-smelling sulphurous waters at the Caves of the Angrides in Kaiafa. Here the Centaur Nessus is said to have bathed his wounds following an altercation with Hercules. Two weary members of the party tested their healing powers, but neither reported any dramatic improvement!

One day's trek had to be abandoned when the party unwittingly found itself at the centre of an earthquake zone. The town of Neokhori was badly damaged by earth tremors and its population was living in tents pitched in the streets. Greek soldiers who were organising disaster relief advised us not to stay too long. Whilst we waited for a train, in a station requisitioned for the homeless, loud-speakers broke into a stream of demonic Greek. Not understanding a single word we stayed put, until friendly locals explained that this was a warning of an imminent tremor. The train arrived before the earthquake—much to the chagrin of most of the party.

The trek which produced the most spectacular view was that to the Acrocorinth—citadel of the ancient city of Corinth. Here, in the temple of Aphrodite perched some 600m high on a steep mountain, 1,000 sacred courtesans initiated devotees into the mysteries of love. We arrived 2,000 years too late for any initiations but the view from the Byzantine and Crusader ruins was breath-taking, though not as breath-taking as the climb up!

Before making the return journey, the expedition party managed a quick look around Athens, visiting the Acropolis and numerous other ruins. Two people who saw more than most, were **Cpls Carl Friskney** and **Billy Weston** who, having completed all the walking, ran the Athens Marathon. The route is a killer; it certainly was for Pheippedes, the original runner in 490 BC who, having finished, cried 'Rejoice, we conquer' and promptly dropped dead! The first 20 miles are uphill after which the route runs down through the poisonous fumes of the city. Both men completed the course in good times and immediately vowed never to do it again!

Olympic Ringer
'Greek Crusaders'

INTER SQUADRON PISTOL COMPETITION

The Regimental Inter Squadron Pistol Competition was held on 6 March based upon the Army Pistol Match Championship.

A particularly high standard was achieved by all participants with eventual team winners being 2 Sqn. Results were as follows:

Team Competition:
1st 2 Sqn
2nd 1 Sqn

3rd 3 Sqn
4th HQ Sqn
5th H Troop

Individual:
1st **WO1 Andy Jones**
2nd **Sgt Derek Graham**
3rd **Sgt Mark Gould**

Tile Competition
1st HQ Sqn
2nd 1 Sqn
3rd 2 Sqn

VOLLEYBALL

On the Regimental side the volleyball team has had a mixed season. Changes in team members have meant a rather unsettled year, an early exit in the RCZ Cup saw the Regiment out of the BAOR finals, however in the league the team is currently top of its section and is eagerly awaiting the championship play-offs in June.

On the Inter Troop league another excellent season has finally finished with the same four teams playing off for the medals and in a most memorable final SHQ 1 Sqn beat X (the old C Troop/Watch) Watch 3—1 thanks to some good defensive play by the old hands in the SHQ team and some good old Aussie grit.

Volleyball
Opposing finalists in a more relaxed pose

1 SQUADRON INDOOR SOCCER

An Inter Troop five-a-side soccer competition was held on 15 April to enhance esprit de corps and to decide the Inter Troop soccer champions.

The competition took off at a hair raising pace, with no goals being scored in the first game between Alpha Tp and Bravo Tp. **Sig** 'Spoon Feet' **Rowland** missed the crucial penalty, which allowed Alpha Tp to continue through. Pace remained hectic; what was lacking in skill was certainly made up through endeavour.

SHQ Tp, although old in tooth (and legs) was craftily knocking off younger opposition with some skilful football, only to see their efforts wasted in the semi-final when firstly **WO1 Frize** and then their attached Australian, **Capt** 'What's a Penalty?' **Van Kuyk** both missed sudden death penalties.

The two finals (plate and main) resulted in some attractive soccer, with all spectators appreciating the high level and good spirit in which the games were played. Final results saw Bravo Tp (Wanderers) beating Alpha Tp (Academicals) 2—1 in the main competition and Bravo Tp (United) overcoming Oscar Tp 3—1 in the plate.

1 Sqn OC **Maj Jim Doherty** presented the shield and medals to all winners whilst also expressing his appreciation and congratulations to firstly the organiser **SSgt Dave Smy** and then to all competitors.

3 SQUADRON UPDATE
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Stephen Andrews**
2IC	**Capt Phil Richardson MBE**
SSM	**WO2 Pete Grainger**
FofS	**WO2 Roy Wilson**
SQMS	**SSgt Dave Cawkwell**
ORS	**Sgt Ron Watson**

HELLOS AND FAREWELLS

The past few months have resulted in the following farewells: **WO2 (SSM) Keith Hibbert, SSgts John Webster, Dee Lidstone, Paul Freeman** and **Sgt Terry Skee** to the Regiment. **Cpls John Naylor, Dale Wright, Kenny Swaine, LCpls Mark Wells, Paul Butler** and **Mark Cook** to civilian life and **Sgt Lorraine Youel** (RAPC) to RPO Glasgow. Bon voyage.

Welcome to: **WO2 (SSM) Pete Grainger, Sgt Steve Ridlington** from det, **Cpl Paul Dunn, LCpls Shaun Clark, Steve Garner, Darren Hepburn, Andrew Johnstone, Stuart Moffat, Sig Alan Crockett** and **Neil Horsley**. Enjoy a successful tour in Berlin.

VISIT OF COMD COMMS

On 15 and 16 March the Comd Comms BAOR **Maj Gen P. R. Davies** visited Berlin. On 15 March he presented **WO2 'Dickie' Pickup** and **SSgt Adrian Tindall** with their LS & GC Medals in the Garrison Sergeants' Mess. On 16 March **Maj Gen Davies** visited the Squadron, accompanied by the CO **Lt Col Roberts**. During the visit the General received a brief on Squadron activities and spoke to many members of the Squadron.

3 Sqn visit of Comd Comms
(Left to right): SSgt Tindall and family, Comd Comms BAOR Maj Gen P. R. Davies and WO2 Dickie and family

MILITARY TRAINING

The final short military training course in the training year was completed in March thus ensuring most of the Squadron personnel had completed their mandatory training for the year. On 6 March the Squadron team, consisting of **WO1 John Clark, WO2 Pete Grainger** and **Cpl Guy Wesley**, travelled to Birgelen for the Inter Squadron Pistol Shooting Competition. Although we failed to win any prizes we were not embarrassed. Well done 2 Sqn—we'll be ready next year. Finally preparations are well advanced for the visit of the Regimental Training Wing ensuring we get the 89/90 training year off to a good start.

SQUADRON SOCIAL—A CARIBBEAN VALENTINE'S NIGHT

Dress in Berlin on a cold February night does not normally include Bermuda shorts, T-shirts or grass skirts. However, the Squadron Valentine's 'hop' had the somewhat unusual addition for this time of year—a Caribbean theme.

Just about everybody braved the elements, turning up suitably dressed for a day on the beach. **Cpl Kenny Swaine**, sported a natty line in a grass skirt with just a coconut hanging from a piece of string to keep him warm.

Entertainment was provided by Ron Saints disco complete with coconut flavoured smoke and plenty of 'ethnic sounds'. The coconut smoke must have been pretty potent stuff, even the OC **Maj Andrews** was seen throwing himself about the dance floor.

A Caribbean style buffet was most enjoyable. A veteran of Belize was heard to mumble 'never 'ad no banana fritters when I was in the Caribbean, where's the rice 'n beans?'.

SACW Dawn Worrell, one of our RAF guests and **LCpl Pete Moreman** won the prizes for the most colourfully dressed. Both wore hideously loud creations that made the sun look dull. The biggest laughs of the evening were reserved for the limbo dancing contest. People of all shapes and sizes entered. **LCpl** 'Too Tall' **Webb** asked for a handicap, claiming he'd never get his 6ft 7in frame under the bar. By this stage of the game the coconut smoke must have been getting to **WO2 Kev Mulloy**. He made a late bid for glory, trying to limbo people half his age. **Cpl Doc O'Doherty** and his wife **Chris** eventually scooped the prizes, both getting under the bar at 1m, **Chris** with the greatest of ease. **LCpl Tina Low** gave her a good run for her money, managing to squeeze herself under a very low bar.

3 SQUADRON CROSS COUNTRY SEASON

Having won both Berlin Infantry Brigade Minor Units Championships and League in the previous season it was difficult at the outset to see how 3 Sqn could improve on that achievement.

The season got off to a good start when a strong team was despatched to Birgelen for the Regimental Inter Squadron race early in September. 3 Sqn was entering the competition for the first time in many years and the long journey turned out to be a fruitful one. **Cpl Ian Williams** led the race from the gun and managed to drag **SSgt Chels Facer** with him most of the way, securing first and second places. A number of good performances followed in their wake, notably **Cpl Carl Friskney** (sixth) and **Cpl Phil Churm** (tenth) and together with the remainder of the team finishing in the first 20, 3 Sqn took the Inter Squadron trophy for the first time.

A week later the first Berlin League meeting took place and it was obvious from that first race that the Squadron faced some stiff opposition in the Minor Units Competition, primarily from a strong Ordnance Services team. All the races were close affairs, with **Cpl Mick O'Doherty** in particular acquitting himself well. Unfortunately, **Ian Williams** was away on a course throughout the entire season but the regular improvement of **Sgts Mick Keech** and **Les Vass** always ensured a healthy team position.

In December, on a treacherous course covered in fresh snow the Squadron defended its Berlin Brigade title. The leading places in the Minor Units race went according to form, but the extra effort from the likes of **Sgt Phil Gordon** and last minute stand in **Cpl Noel Evans** enabled the Squadron to retain the trophy by an increased margin.

The league races resumed in the new year and in the past this has been the time when the 3 Sqn team has shown its strength. This year however it was not to be, Ordnance Services maintained their strong challenge and the Squadron had to settle for second best for the first time in three years. However, there was good news on the ladies side. Last year the Squadron had been unable to field a ladies team but this year under the banner of Charlottenburg Ladies they virtually swept the board. **Mrs Pat Brown** on loan from 1 KOSB was overall first lady and **Mrs Christine O'Doherty** was second. **Mrs Sheila Facer** was first senior lady and together with **Sgt Lorraine Youel** they won both the League and Berlin Brigade Championship.

The season finished as it had begun for 3 Sqn, on a high note. As a prologue to the prize giving ceremony, a 4 × 3 mile relay race was held at RAF Gatow. Strengthened by the temporary return of **Ian Williams** the team took revenge over Ordnance Services, winning the Minor Units race by a large margin. To emphasise the size of this achievement the team of, **Vass, Facer, Williams** and **O'Doherty** was beaten by only one Major Unit, an RAF Gatow team containing three RAF(G) runners. At the prize giving that followed, in addition to those already mentioned, **Les Vass** was also awarded the prize for the season's most improved runner.

So all in all another splendid season for running in 3 Sqn. A measure of the interest in the sport can be gauged by the fact that over 50 members of the Squadron have entered in this year's 25km Berlin city road race.

Finally a big thank you must go to **Capt Jim Dodds** who inherited the job of league secretary half way through what proved a difficult season administratively, and to **SSgt Mick Smart** who compiled and despatched the race results.

3 Sqn Cross Country
(Left to right) Rear: Sgts Vass, Keech, Cpl O'Doherty, Gp Capt Eustace (Station Commander), SSgt Facer, Capt Dodds and Cpl Williams
(Left to right) Front: Sgt Yovel, LCpl Gray, Mrs O'Doherty and Mrs Facer

16 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

EXERCISE CROSSBOW '89

Ex Crossbow is a military skills competition run by BR RCZ annually. 16 Sig Regt entered two male teams and one female team. Each team consisting of eight members.

Our team leader was **2Lt Ward**. She was assisted by **SSgt Warnes** and the rest of the intrepid crew were—**Cpl Chinery, LCpls Hollingworth, Wheat, Ptes Potter, Matheson** and **Thompson**.

The first day was the cross country, made more dificult by the scorching heat and a certain team member who wanted extra time. The team finished in a creditable third place. We then moved into our first location and made bashas. After a brain-straining orders session we had a good night's sleep; and were eager for whatever the DS could throw at us the next morning (really we were!).

The second day started with map reading. A little problem over distances was found, but nevermind. **Pte Matheson** achieved the feat of being able to hold her compass 5m away from her watch! Onto two stands of NBC which was fun, and extremely hot. We were glowing quite nicely just putting our suits on—but at least it kept the mossies off!

After a hard day free from any major crisis we left to dig in on Arsbeck and stay out of trouble. That was easier said than done. Using our vivid imaginations, we quickly set up our trip flare and loads of trip wires. This was done without the knowledge of the DS who were sneaking around trying to find us. One of the DS discovered us by setting off our trip flare—but at least it worked!

The third day was a wet one . . . we started with the assault course. This was fun and we managed to complete the course in 16 minutes, with no casualties—even though **Pte Thompson** doesn't like 10ft walls. Next was the river crossing. Being roughy-toughy WRACs, we stripped off (much to the crowd of DS's surprise) and bimbled across. On the command task, we dried off and incurred no penalty points. **Cpl Chinery** managed to get everyone's kit across dry by showing them how to wrap it up. This was followed by first aid and then off to the ranges and weapon handling.

The night held some lovely surprises as we trundled off to RV in a car park and then walk to our OP locations. A mega night was spent observing 'enemy' activity and getting well and truly bitten by any insect that could bite. I think we had identified 50 species by the end of the night. We rejoined our landrover and **LCpl Wheat** described her night—spent camming the rover. We moved off again, back to Arsbeck and caught up on a few hours kip—then good old rolled oats for breakfast.

Last day—Oh, did we think it would never end. This was mainly field craft stands. A well done to **2Lt Ward** for her orders—98%; done I may add before we had a visit by **Col A. A. Kelly** (who was impressed with morale—need I say more?). A lesson was learned by all in judging distances, but we did well on the Soviet Recognition stand—dropping very few points. Last but by no means least was the NBC gas chamber—Help! A thank you to **Cpl Burns** here, say no more; we all had a lovely blue suntan afterwards.

We left to move into yet another location and celebrate with a meal (**2Lt Ward** knows what I mean). A few hours rest before preparing for the dreaded CFT. **Pte Thompson** was left behind due to an injury sustained the previous week.

The CFT . . . it was **LCpl Wheat** who kept us going and kept the pace up. All that could be heard were a few little phrases that we had been singing all week. Arsbeck heard us coming and it was quite a sight seeing us run it (so we were told—I didn't think we'd make it!). Thank you to everyone in the team for keeping going.

All we had left was to shoot and wait for the result. We did the shoot and came second overall, out of five WRAC teams.

Thanks to our supporters for the beers and to BR RCZ for organising such an interesting competition. See you next year!

2 SQUADRON
ROMEO TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp OC	**Lt K. Osterburg**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt T. Benson**
Tech SSgt	**SSgt A. Singleton**
Tech Sgt	**Sgt T. Davies**
RR Sgt	**Sgt G. Henderson**

GOODBYES, HELLOS AND CONGRATULATIONS

Firstly we must say goodbye to **Cpl George Roper** who is off to 1 Sqn and **Cpl Shoogie Cowan** who is entering the wilds of the real world, we're sure you'll be successful.

Hellos to **LCpl Wilson** and family, **Sgt Glen Henderson** and family, **Cpls Gaz Stoker, Nick Goodwin, Bredin, LCpl Hinton** and **Sig Lennie**.

Congratulations to **Sig Moorby** on his promotion to Lance Corporal. **Cpl Tony** and **Sally Mee** on the birth of their second child and to **Sig Townsend** and **Cpl Roper** for their shining performances in the recent windsurfing competitions.

EXERCISE CROSSBOW 89

Ex Crossbow is a five day military skills competition for all RCZ Units. This year 27 teams were involved, with 16 Sig Regt entering two male and one female team. Being the previous holders of the competition the teams had a lot to live up to.

Events that led to 2 Sqn's Victory are:-

Day 1—All the teams met at Bracht and basha-ed up for the first night. As 16 arrived and set about getting its house in order, team members found themselves in an already heavily populated copse. Hardly a detached 'Des Res'!

The first task was a straight 3 miles in BFT kit. We were assured that the course was quite friendly being 90% flat. The orginator of this statement shall not be named, (to protect the guilty) as a plan of the course would look quite at home in **Chris Bonnington**'s 'My Favourite Mountain Ranges'. Despite the hot weather and sandy conditions, both Regimental Teams did well coming second and third. Special mention must go to **Sgt Tom** 'I don't snore' **Davies** for a spectacular dive to the ground. Despite the rest of the team believing he was looking for buried treasure, **Tom** still claims he was tripped from behind.

Day 2—This was when 2 Sqn showed the rest what they were up against. Firstly **Sig Toby 'Tarzan' Fernbank** took five attempts on the rope swing, doubtless practising for the cameras. This high standard was later matched by other members of the team whilst practising for the competition shoot. Special mention here to 'Gun team' **Sig Pip** 'I couldn't hit a barn door' **Henderson** and **Dave** 'Honest I was an infantry gunner' **Dowall**. Now we know why he transferred.

Day 3—At the recognition stand **Cpl 'Jake the Peg' Marshall** earned ever-lasting fame by complaining that the test was unfair as they had scraped all the red stars off the models.

Day 4—This was one of the major testing phases of the exercise as the entire day was spent at stands on Lerth Training Area. Here a certain member of the team found that an extra surprise was in store: **Sgt Tom** 'Man at Q&M' **Davies** managed to change his large NBC suit for a small one. On a more service note, one Signalman did have a valid complaint with 'This nerve agent is murder!' Nice one **Mouse**.

Day 5—This was the day of the march and shoot. The less said about this the better.

There were three night exercises during the competition. On the OP phase 2 Sqn team managed to avoid detection by the DS despite the shoring competition in the Op admin area which kept the guards on their toes.

The overall competition was won by 2 Sqn, 16 Sig Regt captained by **SSgt Pete Griffiths**. The girls team achieved second place in women's competition.

Just for the record the winning team consisted of: **SSgt Pete Griffiths, Sgt Tom Davies, Cpl 'Geordie' Marshall, Sig 'Pip' Henderson, 'Mouse' Fielding, Toby Fernbank, 'Danger' Penfold** and **Dave Dowall**.

LEICESTER TROPHY

The Troop excelled itself again on the sporting front by winning the Leicester Trophy Athletics. Romeo Tp fought off the strong opposition but with such team work who else really stood a chance.

EXERCISE FLYING FALCON

With this exercise now in the dark recesses of our memories, I would just like to give a mention to the man who, without whose help, the LAD would have had a quiet exercise. Yes, **Sig Toby Fernbank** must take all the glory for bogging in at each location and then trying a somersault with a Radio Relay Wagon.

REGIMENTAL SPORT ATHLETICS

The season has begun well with the Regiment coming a commendable fifth in the Morrison Cup, with fine performances all round.

In the BAOR individuals **SSgt 'Chalky' White** won the 400m hurdles. Good performances were also obtained by **Sig Hobbs** in the long and triple jump and **Capt Chris Richards** in the 800m.

The Regiment also had success at the Army Individual Athletics with **SSgt 'Chalky' White** getting the bronze in the 400m hurdles. Silvers were obtained by **Sig Hobbs** in the junior long and triple jump and by **Lt Karen Osterburg** in the women's discus.

ORIENTEERING

The season 1988/89 has been a most rewarding period for the Regimental Orienteering team, with major success at RCZ level and an appearance at the Army/BAOR championships for the first time in several years. The squad has seen many faces change over the past year but the following regulars are worthy of note: **SSgts Tony Singleton** (SNCO ic and Capt), **Alan Geddes** (now JCUFI), **Tom Benson, Sgt 'Roy' Grimsley, Cpls 'Geordie' Marshall, Steve Moore, Alan Keen, 'Shoogie' Cowan** (now **Mr Cowan**), **Pete Chapple, 'Max' Hurd, LCpl Russ Thorpe, Sig 'Taff' O'Connor** and **'Johnno' Johnson**.

1988/89 SEASON HONOURS

RCZ Orienteering Championships—Winners Major Units and RCZ Orienteering League—Runners up.

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS RCZ CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sgt Singleton	M21 3rd
Sgt Grimsley	M35 1st
Sig Johnson	M19 1st

INDIVIDUAL HONOURS RCZ LEAGUE

SSgt Singleton	M21 2nd
Sgt Grimsley	M35 1st
Sig Johnson	M19 1st
Cpl Marshall	M21 14th

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Communications

Leaving the Services, but still want to use your communications skills? The Foreign and Commonwealth Office looks after British interests overseas and is currently recruiting

Telecommunications and Cypher Officers

to join their friendly, professional teams in London and Milton Keynes, responsible for operating communications links between the UK and Diplomatic Missions around the world. After a satisfactory period of service at home, opportunities exist to work at some overseas Missions including Washington, Paris and Canberra, etc.

You must be between 21 and 55 and have a sound background in telecommunications equipment and procedures. Recent operational experience in a modern Comcen, good typing ability and knowledge of crypto is essential. Experience of Message Switch, VDU and tape relay work is an advantage.

Current starting salary is £6,108 rising by annual increments to £9,821 pa. Salary is significantly enhanced by shift disturbance allowance, and weekend and public holiday duties attract premium payments. In addition, staff working in Central London receive £1,750 pa London Weighting. (Salaries and London Weighting now under review.)

If you are a British citizen, with at least one parent who is or was British, or a Commonwealth citizen or citizen of the Irish Republic for at least 30 years, take the first step now by telephoning 01-210 8136 or 8116 for an application form.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Foreign & Commonwealth Office is an Equal Opportunities employer. Applications from Registered Disabled welcome.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE AIR SUPPORT REGIMENT

On 22 May 21 Sig Regt celebrated 30 year's of association with the Royal Air Force. The Regiment holds a unique position in the Army being the only Air Formation Signal Regiment in existence, and because of this is allowed to fly the Royal Air Force crest on the Regimental Flag; an honour granted in 1984 on the occasion of our 'Silver' Anniversary.

It was decided to hold a Regimental Weekend and ensure that it involved the family in a wide variety of activities.

Due to our role the Regiment has officers and men stationed at all Royal Air Force stations in Germany with its Heaquarters and main body based at Royal Air Force Wildenrath. So it was at Wildenrath that the Regiment gathered on a glorious Friday evening to see the weekend get off to a marvellous start with a display by the Corps' own Free Fall Parachute Display Team the Blue Helmets, who on landing presented the CO, **Lt Col P. Whitemore** with the Regimental Flag.

Once raised the weekend was underway and the silence of the flag raising ceremony was broken by the thunderous roar of the Motor Cycle Display Team of the Corps, the White Helmets. After a magnificent display enjoyed by the young and not so young, and despite a few worried faces about the damage the fire jump may cause to the rugby pitch, the officers and seniors played host at a Cocktail Party to the Regiment's friends and work colleagues in the Army and Royal Air Force. In keeping with the theme of a family weekend the junior members of the Regiment danced the night away to a live group and disco.

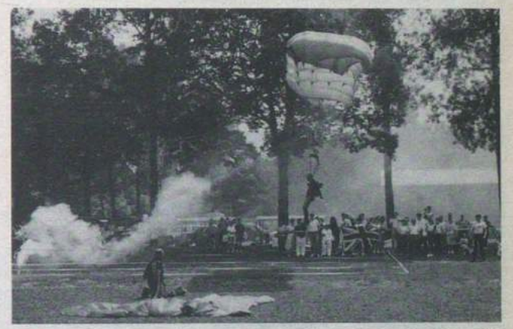
A few tired eyes were to be found on the Saturday morning when the Troops and Squadrons of the Regiment put their final touches to their stalls for the Village Fete. Again blessed with splendid weather and with all the old favourite attractions including another super display by the Blue Helmets and a performance by the Wildenrath Police Dogs and their handlers, DM4,000 was raised for charity. The CO, RSM and other likeable personalities got wet on the ducking stool and without doubt the fete was enjoyed by all who attended. It was the turn on the Saturday evening for the officers and seniors to celebrate the Birthday and a Ball was held in the Station Sergeants' Mess, a splendid occasion which went on into the early hours of Sunday.

Sunday morning came all too soon, the Regiment paraded in what is affectionately known as Hangar 7 (1 and 2 Sqn garages), and to a backdrop of two Phantom Aircraft and bordered by the Regiment's vehicles, the weekend was drawn to a close with a commemorative church service.

Friday now seemed such a long time ago, the Regiment started its journey back to its respective airfields, tired but having enjoyed what has been a truly family weekend.

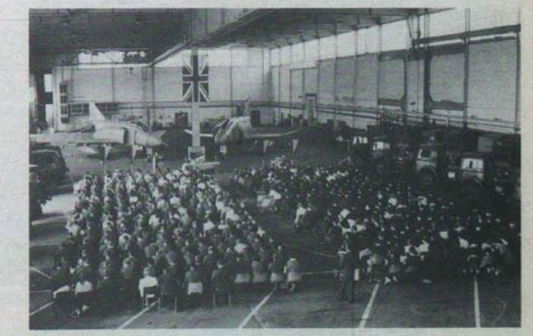
Happy 30th birthday '21'.

The CO of 21 Sig Regt, Col P. Whitemore hands over a plaque in exchange for the Regimental Flag, delivered from 8,000ft by the OC of the Blue Helmets Free Fall Display Team Capt M. Cooper, to mark the commencement of the 30th Anniversary Celebrations. In the background the White Helmets ready to commence their part of the show



The Blue Helmets arrive to mark the start of 21 Sig Regt (Air Support) 30th Anniversary Village Fete in the Peterholz Compound at Wildenrath

The Regimental Fete gets under way. Some younger members of the Regiment make their contribution to the Joint Station Charity



The Commemoration Service held in Hangar 7

The Regimental Shooting Team is shown with their trophies gained at the RCZ Shooting Competition held at Haltern 24-28 April. Trophies include RCZ Major Units Winners, SMG Team Match Winners, B Class Champion at Army (RCZ) Sig (Kenno) Kenworthy, Falling Plate Winners, LMG Team Winners

CHAMPION OF GERMANY

Once again **Sgt Tom Pollard** has found fame and success on the Squash Court.

After what, in his own words, was a disappointing start to the season) mainly due to the lack of fitness, events took a turn for the better after Christmas. **Tom** not only represented, but was Champion of both the Corps and BAOR. He became the number two player in the Army and represented the team on a tour of Berlin. Following this he represented the Combined Services on their highly successful tour of Hong Kong.

Away from the services scene and in his final tournament of the season he was to find an even greater prize awaiting him, on the German civilian circuit. In Berlin yet again he came out as the winner of the German National Club Championships.

Apart from the honour of being a National Champion the victory brought with it the prize of a flight to Miami combined with a Caribbean Cruise.

Not a bad season, what's that I hear, join the Army and be a professional?

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON
MIKE TROOP

Once again it is Mike Tp's turn to write an article for *The Wire*. Probably because everyone is trying to find out if the rumour that Technicians don't do any work is true or not? As soon as the Troop SSgt **Sgt Derek** 'You haven't paid your Troop funds yet' **Smeaton** told the lads, they were queuing up outside his office door in an attempt to become the next Robert Maxwell. **Sgt Smeaton** takes over from **SSgt Hadge** 'Grandad' **Watkins** to whom Mike Tp bids a fond farewell as he has just been posted to Cyprus by pulling a few strings in the right places. Also on the way out (not literally) is the person who must be Mike Tp's longest serving technician, clocking up around four years plus, **Mark** 'where's my posting order' **Farmer**. In fact with two or three of the lads off to England soon for their upgrading courses, this leaves Mike Tp very thin on the ground. Even Foreman **WO1 George Crabb** has been issued a tool box. So if there are any technicians out there who fancy working with us in Mike Tp, get your applications into the new Tech Adjt, **Capt Challoner** who Mike Tp would also like to welcome into the hardest working Regiment this side of Mars.

Congratulations go out to **Sgt Denny Ball** and his wife **Jo** on their recent marriage and also **Cpl Mark Tushingham** and his wife **Lisa**, who have recently tied the knot too. The lads would like to congratulate **Sgt Denny Ball** on passing his HGV course before his retirement.

Workwise Mike Tp is as busy as ever. Radio section is busy on leave, and training for athletics. Maintenance section under the watchful eye of **Sgt Andy Marston-Weston**, have been bombarded with broken kit after the last exercise. In modification section Bill and Ben the MOD men have been busy completing all the outstanding mods required on the Regiment's installations. Bill and Ben being **Sgt 'Bill' Spence Robson** and **Cpl 'Ben' Blenky Blenkhorn**, and last but by no means least 2nd Line Inspection section, has **Cpls Mark Farmer** and **Neil Stewart** who are out there inspecting the Regiment's wagons for battle worthiness, come rain or shine.

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Dick Good**
2IC Des	**Capt Paul Hodgkiss**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Paul Smyth**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Reg Whitehead**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Nick Nicholson**
SQMS	**SSgt John Gillan**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Lennie King**
SQN Clerk	**Sig 'Titch' Petre**

FAREWELLS

Does someone know something we don't? The following have left for pastures new: **Capt Graham McNeill** to take over as OC 2 Sqn, **Cpl McLennan** who is going to try his luck as a latter day 'Dixon of Dock Green', **LCpl 'Monty' Montague** whose posting to Cyprus got cancelled and is now going to Berlin instead (give it a go, you can hack it!), **LCpl Bob Mundell** who has gone down the other end of camp to M Troop, **LCpl Dave Hutchinson** who has gone to sunny 4 Div (Stag on) and finally goodbye to **LCpl Richie Wilson** who has left for 16 Sig Regt. Good Luck to everybody.

WELCOMES

The Squadron welcomes the newcomers and hopes they have an enjoyable tour: **2Lt Ashley Stocker** (From Fresh), **Sgt Steve** and **Shirley Rosenthal, Sgt Barlow, LCpls Fraser, Robinson, Hudson, Sig Barlow** and last but not least **SSgt Samm**.

NEWS FROM THE SQUADRON

As normal work has been swings and roundabouts, busy and slack (but why so much busy!). Flying Falcon was the last big exercise and saw SSgt **Sgt Vinnie Braggs** death defying leap from the back of the admin wagon in a hair raising attempt to join the Royal Signals Free Fall Bedford Team—result one arm broken in about three or four places.

At present TN039 with **Lt Jan McKee** and **SSgt Tim Cowan** (as in Trunk Node Tim) are in Sardinia enjoying their summer camp. When you come back the Officer Commanding's got some work for you. The OC Sqn, **Maj Dick Good**, has come up with a great idea which will combine his favourite sport, Horse Riding, with Mil Trg—Orienteering on horseback. Will PRI stand the cost of a string of polo ponies?

During May about half of the Squadron (or so it seemed) went on a one day jump course to Bad Lippspringe—**Cpl Smith, LCpls Reason, Eyes, Sig Knowles, Anderson** and **Barlow**.

Sig 'Geordie' Anderson's title of Super Satisfied Soldier has now been confirmed after his morning of posing in front of the Regimental photographer's camera.

May also saw the Regimental Athletics Competition and an excellent day was had by everyone. 1 Sqn came second by just one point (isn't it always the case) and **Maj Good** congratulates the Squadron and all who took part, particularly **SSgt Killen, Sig Renwick, LCpl Francis, Cpls Farrell** and **Bennett**.

And, finally a short story. If there anyone out there who hasn't heard about **Capt Paul Hodgkiss**'s new car? One person who shall remain nameless (**2Lt Ashley Stocker**!) saw the wonderful machine being washed one day and asked in all seriousness—'Is that really your car **Paul**, or are you washing it for someone else?'. Welcome to the Squadron **Ashley**. (The car by the way is a Bright Yellow Citroen).

SPOTLIGHT ON 3 SQUADRON
SHQ TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd	**Maj Bob Bates**
SSM	**WO2 Joe Fairbairn**
SQMS	**SSgt Des Faherty**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Pete Searle**
Sqn Clerk	**Cpl Bomber Crayford**
ACPO Stores Clerk	**Cpl Paul Rogers**

DEPARTURES

Cpl 'Bomber' **Crayford** and family move down the road to RHQ, the workhouse of the Regiment, to become Orderly Room Corporal, we wish him and his family all the best.

ARRIVALS

We welcome the new Squadron Clerk **Cpl Steve James**, from 2 Sqn, and hope he has a busy and pleasant time in 'The Elite Squadron'.

ACPO
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Brian Billsberry**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Colin Turner**
FofS Des	**WO2 (FofS) Dave Stewart**
PPS 1	**SSgt Kev East**
PPS 2	**SSgt Graeme Hillhouse**
PPS 2 Des	**SSgt Dave Campbell**
Draughtsman	**Sig Alistair Jacob**
Draughtswoman / Clerk	**Mrs Lisa Coltman** **Mrs Michelle Matthew**

ACPO (Airfield Communications Planning Office) is part of 3 Sqn, 21 Sig Regt and is co-located with HQ RAF(G) in the dungeons of JHQ at Rheindahlen.

The main function of the office is the planning, control and supervision of all RAF(G) land based Line and Fibre Optic communications systems.

We say farewell to **FofS Colin Turner** and wish him luck and congratulations on his promotion and posting to 28 Sig Regt—Good luck **Colin**. Also leaving is **SSgt Graeme Hillhouse**—Best wishes to you **Diane** and **Leah**. We all wish you the very best of luck in civilian life. Welcome to **WO2 (FofS) Dave Stewart** and his wife **Silvia** and family. He arrives from the Regiment on promotion. Another new arrival is **SSgt Dave Campbell** and his wife **Sue**, also on promotion from 259 Sig Sqn. We hope you have an enjoyable and successful tour with ACPO.

COMMANDING OFFICERS ANNUAL INSPECTION OF 3 SQUADRON
N TROOP
Sgt Farrell
Cpl Sartorius
Cpl Parrett
LCpl Sherwood
LCpl Keenan
Sig McLeod
Cfn Hurst

The week started well for the Commanding Officers annual Squadron inspection. Having arrived and assembled at SHQ of 3 Sqn the Commanding Officer had his formal inspection of the Squadron which went quite well, apart from the Colonel taking exception to the way a few berets were shaped. The climax of the day came when the RSM, instead of sending us on expected CFTs or BFTs, chose three people from each Troop and sent us all on an initiative test. K Troop must have thought they had the luck of the draw as most people didn't have a clue where half the places on Wildenrath are. Such items included on the RSM's list (and you only had one hour) were:-

Picture of Ronald Reagan, Signature of a Major Webb who had left four years ago, a BH pencil (a what?), a NAAFI receipt for DM12.36 and a live chicken.

And the list seemed endless. So 'N' Troop being 'N' Troop decided that if nothing else the chicken would suffice. After finding a farm and someone daft enough to lend us a chicken the fun began. **LCpl 'Paddy' Keenan** refused point blank to go into the coop, which left the job to **Cpl 'Scouse' Sartorius** and **Sig McLeod**.

You would have thought we were trying to catch Vultures the way **Sig McLeod** ran away after we cornered one of them, and it did the most terrible thing a chicken can do. It hopped up and squarked at us. I wish he would run that fast on a BFT. So we managed to chase a few into the hen house and **Sig McLeod** decided that it seemed too much like home from home for him to enter the chickens domain. So **Cpl Sartorius** donned his protective clothing (combat jacket of course) and managed to get hold of one and stick it in a sack. Much to the relief of the other two chickens (I mean soldiers) who had come to give me a hand. That was that, and having collected a few more fitbits we decided we had done enough. And wasn't the Colonel impressed, he made us the winners of the competition and even got the beers in.

Commanding Officer's Inspection

FAREWELLS

Cpl Neil Inman and wife **Karen** have recently left for sunnier parts. Cyprus has called again.

Cpl Roy Gradwell and **Denise** have moved just down the road to Wildenrath. This leaves the Troop without a physical training expert but life goes on.

LCpl Charlie Farley has decided to try his luck in civvy street.

Good luck to all who have left the Troop and thanks for all your hard work.

H TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp SSgt	**SSgt Steve Dobson**
Maint Sgt	**Sgt Steve Brealey**
Project Sgt	**Sgt 'Pip' Piper**
SNCO i/c Tech	**Sgt Bill Stadius**
MT Cpl	**Cpl 'Geordie' Brown**
Tp Clerk	**Mrs Sue Brough**

DEPARTURES

Yes—You've spotted it—no Officer Commanding H Troop at the moment. **Capt Keith Russell** and **Joan** have left us for 38 Sig Regt (V) in Sheffield. Best of luck to both of you.

LCpl 'Jonno' Johnson also leaves us for sunnier parts of Belize after successfully completing his RSDCC. Good luck from all at H Troop.

ARRIVALS

Welcome to Bruggen to **Cpl Eddie Pluskota** from Cyprus and to three more 'brand new' Signalmen from 8 Sig Regt—**Sig Simmons, Jervis** and **Shaw**.

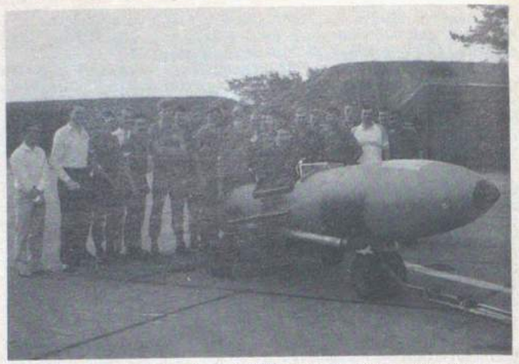
CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations on recent promotions go to **Cpl John Egan** and **LCpl 'Wilba' Wilson** who has taken a trip down South for his troubles.

TROOP COMMANDER'S FLYING DAY

The 17 May saw **Capt Keith Russell**'s last Squadron Commanders Conference which was held in Laarbruch. Being a busy man, the OC decided to fly in by Tornado. The OC was told to arrive early and, after being kitted out was taken to his aircraft, which to his great surprise was not a Tornado at all but an H Troop construction courtesy of **Cpl John Tadman**. The OC accepted a lift in our flightless

The real thing!
Thumbs up but spot the look of fear!



Capt Keith Russell with H Troop's flightless aircraft

aircraft in preference to the real thing, with a look of fear growing with every yard (note the brave grimace hiding behind the mask!) After an hour in the air, the Tornado landed safely in Laarbruch. After the Conference, the Officers and SNCOs retired to the Mess where they were bombarded with endless war stories from the now more relaxed **Capt Russell**. A note of caution to members of 38 Sig Regt—be prepared to re-live every minue of the OC's flight every day for the next six months!

N TROOP

ARRIVALS

Welcome to N Troop from sunny Cyprus for **Sgt 'Dino' Farrell** and his wife **Sue** and family. We hope you have an enjoyable tour at Gutersloh as the Project Sergeant. Welcome also to **Sig Moriarty** who has come all the way from Wildenrath, good luck to you whilst you are with us and your planned move to civvy street later in the year. Welcome to three new Tele Mechanics straight from the factory **Sig Pearce, Bradbury** and **Barber**, good luck to you all.

BIRTHS

Congratulations are in order for two members of the Troop and their families. Firstly to **LCpl Joe McGinness** and his wife **Elaine** on the birth of their son **Joseph Owen** at BMH Rinteln on Saturday 25 March 1989 at 2330 hrs. Congratulations also to **LCpl 'Lucky' Luckhurst** and his wife **Michelle** on the birth of their daughter **Jessika** on 13 May. Well done to both families and all the best for the future.

KARTING

The 1981 Akrotiri International Kart Road Race was held in April. Twenty one teams competed in this years event with entries from Cyprus, Greece, UK, Germany and Holland. Congratulations go to **Sgt Phil Hill** of N Troop and team-mate **Cpl Steve Pauls** from 230 Sqn RAF Gutersloh on winning the event.

Finally, congratulations to **Capt Gary Mason** OC N Troop on becoming a grandfather on 24 May.

INTER SQUADRON CRICKET COMPETITION

The inter Squadron cricket competition was held on the 23 May. 3 Sqn progressed to the final by beating 2 Sqn and by narrowly defeating 4 Sqn in a closely contested game. 3 Sqn winning with just 3 balls to spare.

The final was against 1 Sqn who won the toss and elected to put us into bat. Going by our previous games we knew we had a good chance of winning. Unfortunately due to a batting collapse, caused by excellent bowling by 1 Sqn, we only managed to score 55 runs. 1 Sqn went into bat and although we managed to contain them for the early part of their innings they ran out winners by nine wickets.

Special mention must go to **Sig Dickinson** who batted and bowled superbly throughout the competition.

4 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC O Tp	**Capt Andy Hickling**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Ray Patrickson**
Tp Sgt (Wildenrath)	**Sgt Gary Hill**
Tp Sgt (Gutersloh)	**Sgt Chris Spencer**

O Troop, as informed readers will know, is a split Troop within 4 Sqn, 21 Sig Regt. The Wildenrath end looked after by a Tg SSgt is mainly Tele Operator (Radio) personnel, and provides VHF RRB.

The Gutersloh part of the Troop (or sharp end as they prefer to be known), is commanded by a Tg Sgt and provides the MAOT detachments for the RAF.

O Troop Wildenrath has had a hectic couple of months, with various exercises and deployments squeezing even more life from our ancient, but lovingly maintained 3/4 ton FFRs. (110s where are you?).

The Regiment deployed on exercise in early March. This was loosely described as a shake up for the Regiment, which had yet to put up a cam net in anger in 1989. Naturally this did not apply to the diehards of 4 Sqn who already had a Support Helicopter exercise to their credit in February. Still, we couldn't let 1 and 2 Sqns out of the camp gates unescorted, so we decided to tag along. This exercise was fairly uneventful for the Troop, although the Rebros did move a lot more than usual which made it all the more interesting. Thanks to the MAOTs here for sending out four of their guys (under mild pressure) to bolster the crews. Thanks to **Cpls Sid Payne, 'FJ' Ford** and **Sig 'BF' Edwards** and **'Shep' Shepherd. Sig Sam Parke** fresh in from 249 Sig Sqn, tried to reach a location without a map, but the less said about that the better. (Do they use maps in Norway?). **Sgt Gary Hill**, our Radio Tech Sergeant re-traded for the exercise and commanded RRB1—and a very good job he made of it too, assisted by **Sig Paul Pomeroy**.

Onto the big exercise in April, Flying Falcon, which was notable for two things as far as the Troop was concerned: **Cpl 'Jock' Kenny** made it to the exercise, and **Cpl Harry Fellows** did not!

Cpl Chris Middleton had an exercise he would rather forget. Just to make it clear **Chris**, Hermanns Denkmal is not just outside Porta Westfalica, it's closer to Detmold! In addition, your Lemon Chicken cooked with loving care is not likely to feature in any gourmet publication. Easy on the Lemon next time please, **Cpl 'Ogga' Hodgson** is still trying to straighten his face out. Still, it did make a change from the Hedgehog pie and nettle soup over on **Cpl Jim Crabbs** RRB 3. How he gets all those horses in the 9 × 9 and still finds room for his **Sig Simon Staddon** and **Jason Craine** is a mystery.

Back in camp, the Troop keeps busy chasing the new OC **Capt Andy Hickling** on his very popular Troop runs, although **Sig 'Paddy' Bickerstaff** and **John Bannister** don't appear to be enjoying them as much as the rest of us.

Armour-plated shoulder blades are very much the order of the day as the Det Commanders try to wind each other up on a daily basis, led by the chief wooden-spoonist **Jim Crabb**.

ARRIVALS

The Troop would like to say welcome to the following: **Capt Andy Hickling** and his wife **Jane** from 7 Sig Regt, **Cpl Jim Hook**, all the way from Gutersloh, **Sig Sam Parke** and his wife **Bernadette** from 249 Sig Sqn, and **Sig John Ellis** from 14 Sig Regt. Have a good tour.

FAREWELLS

All the best to the following: **Sgt Jim Paine** and his wife **Sandra** who are off to UK, **Cpl Dick Tredwell** and his wife **Carmen**, also to Sutton Coldfield and **Cpl Paul Watts** and his wife **Pauline** who have gone across to 1 Troop.

REGIMENTAL WEEKEND

The Troop ran the Treasure Island stall at the village fete and won the best presented stall prize from the Commanding Officer. Well done to **Cpl 'Jock' Kenny, 'Ogga' Hodgson** and **Sig John Bannister** and **John Dixon**.

22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

EXERCISE FLYING FALCON

Ex Flying Falcon produced many reminders which will live on long after the exercise if forgotten. Here is one:-

THE CHARS LAMENT

Two little clerks sitting in a tent
making brews quite content.
Cpl Watt and **Driver Kent,**
two more croutons in the tent.
Cpl Vikse and **Cpl Dew,**
two more croutons make a brew.
'Cpl Doidge, two more brews,
one for **Bob** and one for **Drew.'**
'Cpl Doidge, another tea.
I know you'll make with abundant glee.'
'Coops a couple of brews,
the Yof S has awoken from his snooze.'
'Coops make that three,
CP22 would like a tea.'
'Coops make that four,
Ops has drunk his and wants more.'
'Coops make that five,
The CO has just arrived.'
Flying Falcon what can I say,
making brews passes the day.
Two, three, four or five,
mak'em different. I'll survive.

Cpl Doidge A Brew . . .

Anon

12TH INTERNATIONAL HERFORD MARCH

The 12th International Herford March 1989 is a competition open to all NATO forces serving in Germany and organised by the Bundeswehr. The event took place in Falkendike (a hamlet on the edge of Herford) on the morning of Saturday 22 April.

Our two teams (listed opposite) arrived at the start line with sleep in their eyes and Zulu time in their heads as Ex Flying Falcon was still in full swing. Released from exercise on the promise of a good result, both teams viewed the opposition with mixed feelings as some of them looked decidedly girlish and others deceptively grey haired.

The truth of the matter was soon explained to us by our Bundeswehr hosts, the competition has been steadily growing in renown and prestige over recent years as teams from all NATO Forces in Germany wish to enter. For the second year now women have also participated, alongside the many Reservist and Regular teams.

All teams wearing boots, combats, and carrying weapons had to complete a 12km course taking in six checkpoints orienteering their best route along the way. At three of the checkpoints the clock was stopped and the teams given (military type) tasks to complete in a given time. The tasks this year seemed tame compared with the full bore shooting, river crossing, stretcher races, and death slide of previous years, but enthusiasm wasn't lacking as we threw grenades (inert), erected tents, and took compass bearings.

At the end of the day the ability to read a map and cover difficult ground proved to be the two soldiering skills that mattered most. In the 'Active Truppe' category the Brits took first, second and third prizes with the Americans happy just to complete the course in time for lunch. The results were as follows:-

Team	Time	Bonus Time	Final Time
22 Sig Regt (A)	59 mins	16 mins	43 mins
16/5 Royal Lancers	63 mins	10 mins	53 mins
22 Sig Regt (B)	68 mins	14 mins	54 mins

Many thanks to the Reservistenkameradschaft Herford for adminstering and adjudicating what was an enjoyable, good spirited, (and much sweeter for winning) day out.

Team A	**Team B**
Sgt Anderson	**Cpl Dullaghan**
Cpl Smith	**Cpl Schott**
Sig Carpenter	**LCpl Taylor**
Sig Meek	**Sig Skilling**

MOENCHENGLADBACH MARATHON

OC HQ is a marathon man,
Nine under his belt, so to 10 was his plan.
He entered a team for the REME/RAF race,
Moenchengladbach or bust, and he's set the pace.

We started with 12, but it's hard to compete,
With so busy a schedule and no time to meet.
So we settled at five, of various ages,
A vicar, a Traffic, OC and two 'babies'.

By the middle of May we were up at our peak,
Running on average round 70 each week.
OC HQ did the admin to boot,
With his good lady wife doing drink stops enroute.

To 'Gladbach we journied, that Sunday in May,
Report 7.30, by 8 we're away.
A crowd of 400 crossed over the line—
A marvellous feeling, but soon to decline.

OC and the 'babies' set up a good pace,
More sedately, the Traffic and Vicar gave chase,
With temperatures soaring to 80 degrees,
42 Klicks to go seemed a terrible tease.

The heat and the pace took its toll, sad to say,
OC fell to cramp, some 10ks on his way.
Drink stops were a blessing, the crowds were superb,
With their hoses and sponges and encouraging word.

The 'babes' they pushed on to an excellent time,
3.13 and just over, they sprinted the line.
The Vicar said 'someone has answered my plea',
and though bloodstained, he finished at 3.33.

Poor Traffic had wife thinking 'surely he's gone',
Then he entered the stadium—3.51.
Much quaffing of liquid, much shaking of hands,
A sense of fulfilment, one of the gang.

Would you do it again—most certainly not
But—perhaps, on reflection, if it wasn't so hot.
We might just consider a better time in,
Tell me, what did you say were the dates for Berlin?

OC:	**Maj Peter Cain**	47
Traffic:	**Capt Pete Baron**	42
Padre:	**Rev Stephen Robbins**	36
Babes:	**2Lt Bob Munro**	25
	Cpl Mike Dullaghan	28

Moenchengladbach Marathon
Maj Peter Cain, Lt Bob Munro, Cpl Mike Dullaghan, Padre Stephen Robbins and Capt Pete Baron

MT TROOP REPORT

The Regimental MT has been very busy during the last few months with a lot of goings and not too many comings. We have said goodbye to the following members: **Cpl Denton**, to 16 Sig Regt, **LCpl Carr** to 249 Sig Sqn, **Sig Martin, Taylor** and **Scarr** who now all call themselves Mr. We wish them all a lot of luck in the future. On the comings side of life, we would like to welcome **Sig Seddon** (can this man really do the work of three?) and **Cpl Gillingham**.

For the majority of April the Troop was deployed on ex Flying Falcon, having set up the Regimental Echelon. It soon became apparent that we should have set up as a Field Hospital, as most of the members of the RCT attached to the Troop seemed to be set on either killing themselves or going down with some unknown tropical disease.

Cpl Kev Baxter the RTA NCO of the unit is seriously considering opening a library as he has so much good reading material, or better still getting a job with claims commission North West Europe. I am sure he'd have no problem settling in, as they all know him on first name terms.

2 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Tony Manders**
2IC	**Capt Dave Lumb**
SSM	**WO2 Martin Smith**
SQMS	**SSgt Wally Drain**
SQMS Det	**SSgt Mick Brown**
YofS	**SSgt Pete McInally**
FofS	**SSgt Gary Annetts**
Trg IC	**Sgt Phil Price**
Clerk	**Sig Spaciey Cook**

ARRIVALS AND FAREWELLS

The Squadron said farewell recently to **Capt Tim Wadey** on his departure to Northern Ireland. We have in his place **Capt Dave Lumb** and his wife **Brenda** from HQ Sqn. **SSgt Wally Drain** will be leaving shortly on promotion to WO2 and our best wishes go with him and his wife **Jackie**.

ECHO TROOP REPORT

Tp OC	**2Lt J. C. Leader**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt D. R. Hall**
RR Sgt	**Sgt G. Wilkinson**

EXERCISE FLYING FALCON '89
THE MYSTERY OF THE SELF DRIVE LANDROVER

'There I was on guard minding my own business' muttered **Cpl Atkinson** (REME) in a state of shock, 'and all of a sudden this landrover came hurtling past the guard post; funny thing was I couldn't see a driver in it'. Bodies were diving for cover everywhere as one of TN 013's 'self drive' landrovers went rolling off down the hill. 'I told the REME that the handbrake was dicky', pleaded **Sig Singh** who had just 'parked up' the aforementioned vehicle. This was just one of TN 013's dramas over this exercise.

Two days later **Cpl Burrell**, having been in the Regiment only a number of hours, managed to break his ankle on a wood clearance patrol. 'My leg went one way and my body went the other' he groaned, writhing in pain in the back of a landrover on the way to the local Krankenhaus.

Just as morale reached a peak as Endex was called one of the Radio Relay vehicles managed to 'wedge itself' between two trees.

Who said 013 was an unlucky number for a Trunk Node?

EXERCISE DECI TIDE (SARDINIA '89)

Expedition members: **2Lt Stevens** (expedition leader), **Sgt Kennedy** (2IC), **Cpls Phillips, Dullaghan, Ashcroft, Gigg, O'Donnell** and **Sig Gosnold**.

Before the journey, foot of Monta Spada

2Lt Stevens led his team of willing volunteers from the Hercules out into the sunshine of Decimomanu where it had been raining that morning. Our four star luxury coach did resemble a 4 ton truck (different colour), but no-one grumbled as we were headed for our villa by the Med. The villa must have been double-booked, but the staff there had erected tents for us in the garden.

OIC villa gave us a brief—water undrinkable, locals hostile, bars out of bounds, scorpions dangerous, local police biased, Italian Military Police honest, bright and helpful (we all nodded agreement), the air is free but be warned the scenery is breathtaking! Welcome to Sardinia! Encouraged by the staff we left the villa.

The 'coach' dropped us off at a village called Fonni high in the Gennargentu mountains. **Sgt Kennedy** bought some gas from a Hi-Fi shop and we trekked off into the hills. After walking for only a matter of minutes all resemblance between map and ground was lost. This eventually led to a couple of wild Sardinian sheep dogs (left to protect flocks) chasing the party across scrub fields. At our first campsite **Sig Gosnold** (now LCpl) proved his fire-lighting ability, but despite a late tea everyone slept well. The day after we made our first real ascent climbing Monta Spada (1,500m). At the next campsite a hostile, angry looking local with an axe chopped down a tree for us and our flickering fire became a blazing bonfire! Tea was early.

Next day we had an early start for 'The Peak' of the expedition. A long walk climbing 800m through deep snow lasted all morning. Finally, though, at 1330 hrs there were eight men with bulky bergens all huddled together on the summit of Punta La Mamora. Between breaths everyone agreed that 1,833m is a fair old height. Sitting awkwardly on top of Sardinia we looked for a route down; maybe the map would help—but it didn't. For the first 100m the deep snow made the falling look like bobsleighing, but we were really falling. The snow gave way to solid, severe, slippery rocks. Willing volunteers were being replaced by worried individuals with unfinished business in another country. Clinging to the wet walls of a narrow ravine that lesser men would have described as a waterfall, **2Lt Stevens** was satisfied that this was adventurous.

That evening, trekking in the direction of civilisation, **Cpl 'Oddy' O'Donnell** won the award for best actor. He really looked exhausted. We even put his tent up for him and supplied a hot brew—good stunt **Oddy**! Two days R & R at Arbatrax healed the blisters and encouraged stories. None better than **Cpl Brian Ashcroft**, no-one could follow his story about the wild boar . . . so the owner promptly closed the restaurant whilst shaking his head and muttering about volume control.

After cleaning the villa we left. The 'coach' delivered us to the departure terminal. As we left it started to rain but no-one grumbled because the Hercules had been replaced by a VC10.

Atop Monta Spada Cpl Ashcroft, 2Lt Stevens, Sgt Kennedy, Cpl Phillips, Sig Gosnold, Cpl Dullaghan and Cpl Gigg

EXERCISE ROMAN BLEEP 1

Ex Roman Bleep is one of a series of exchange training exercises involving 22 Sig Regt and Signal Units from Italy. Roman Bleep 1 phase one took place between 1 and 16 May when two officers, five Warrant Officers and two SNCOs from 46 Sig Bn 'Mongibello' Palermo Sicily arrived at Lippstadt. During this phase, 1 Sqn was the host Unit and **Capt Dave Wright** and **SSgt John Smith** acted as hosting officers, they were helped by **LCpl Constanza Calabrese** WRAC from 4 Sqn 16 Sig Regt. **LCpl Calabrese** acted as interpreter and did an excellent job.

The programme for the visit included a visit to 202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn hosted by **Maj Joe Fletcher**. The Italians visited the Army Staff College Demo at Sennelager and the RAF RCDS Demo. They also visited JHQ to see the BAOR and NORTHAG Commcens. The visit concluded with a tour of HMS *Ark Royal*. The second phase of Roman Bleep 1 involves members of 1 Sqn visiting Sicily in October this year.

The Italians still smiling after a crushing 5 minutes driving in the back of a 432

VISIT BY THE MAYOR OF KING'S LYNN

On the 7 April his Worship the Mayor, **Maj (Retd) Leslie Dutton** visited a Signal display put on by 3 Sqn. **Councillor Dutton** is the Mayor of King's Lynn which has close ties with our sister Regiment here in Churchill Barracks, 49 Fd Regt RA. We were asked to provide a demonstration of Ptarmigan because the Mayor is an ex Royal Signals officer. His career in the Corps started in 1940 giving him 30 years service in all. During the war years he saw service firstly with 51 Light Anti-Aircraft Sig Tp in the UK, before becoming part of the 6 Armd Div Sigs. It was during this time that he joined the 12 RHA (now HAC) Sig Tp and served with them in the UK and North Africa. During peacetime he specialised mainly in Commonwealth communications but also spent some time on attachment to the Royal Air Force and towards the end of his service career was with NATO in Germany. Both he and his wife were shown around various items of Ptarmigan equipment and showed great agility in getting in and out of the vehicles. He was very interested in the equipment and enjoyed talking to the Troops.

Visit by the Mayor and Mayoress of Kings Lynn Sig 'Dez' Dixon, LCpl 'Jock' Harris, LCpl 'Mac' MacIntyre, Maj (Retd) Dutton Mayor of Kings Lynn, LCpl Hitchen, Mrs Toni Dutton Mayoress of Kings Lynn, Cpl Carl Smales and Capt Dobson

FOXTROT TROOP REPORT
PERSONALITIES

OC Tp	**2Lt Mick Stevens**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Andy Trivett**
Tp RR Sgt	**Sgt John Phipps**
Tp Tech Sgt	**Sgt Al Owen**

Ex Wintex and Flying Falcon came and went with numerous enemy attacks keeping everyone on their toes. There are even times when the enemy didn't attack and people were kept on their toes. **Sig Connell** and the talking bush had half the Node running across the countryside. The last day of Flying Falcon saw celebrations for the promotion of **LCpl Passant** and the departure of **LCpl Line** from the Army. A convenient stagnant pool served as an impromptu bath.

The School Summer Fete saw the Troop running a smashing time stall. After **Cpl Drake** and **LCpl Gemmell** spent two nights scouring the married quarters for empty ten packs the stand was now ready with catapults and nuts being acquired. **2Lt Stevens, SSgt Trivett** and **Sig Walker** joined the previous two to make up the stall manning. The day was a great success and the stall made DM100 for school books.

Now the Troop is looking forward to the long summer with Exercises, Summer Camp and maybe even a holiday if we can fit it in. The Troop also sends best wishes to **Cpl McKenna, LCpl Passant, Cpl Hodgson** and **Sig Tindale** on their forthcoming marriages.

HOHENFELDE BREWERY VISIT

The recreational highlight of the last couple of months in 4 Sqn took place on 11 May when **Sgt Mick Ralph** of Lima Troop organised a trip to the Hohenfelde Brewery. Although the brewery is a small family concern, employing only 30 people, the hospitality which they extended to us was quite outstanding.

An excellent cold buffet together with a more than sufficient amount of beer ensured that the Troops were soon in good spirits and joining enthusiastically in community singing led by our two attached subalterns **2Lt Fiona Say** and **John Gillespie**. The one unsolved mystery remains—did **WO2 (SSM) Keith Leighton** win the balloon trip?

Special thanks are extended to **Doktor Kreutziger** and **Doktor Schultze**, our hosts, and to **Sgt Ralph**, the organiser, and to all who attended.

Sgt Ralph presents Doktor Krentziger with a Regimental plaque

THE END OF THE RUGBY SEASON

The euphoria and excitement generated by achieving the BAOR final at the end of the year followed by our defeat had left the rugby squad certainly wiser and undoubtedly somewhat chastened by the experience. However, the new year came and the league and fixtures continued apace. The added spice of engineering the Divisional Final to a day when it meant that pre training and preparation necessitated maximum time off Ex Wintex and Flying Falcon did however lift the flagging spirits of the squad.

Our opponents in the Divisional Final were yet again our old sparring partners, 22 Engr Regt, and we played on a wet and windy day in early March.

Some very close and determined play by the greatly experienced side of the Engineers led to a thrilling game from start to finish. However the determination and spirit of our team held through to the very end and we won by the narrowest of margins 7—6.

The occasion was valedictory one for our captain and RSM **WO1 Trevor Johnson** who despite advancing years had used his seniority and position to lead and direct the team (and again a place in the side). His style and enthusiasm will be much missed by all in the squad and he has yet much to offer in pastures new.

The Unit Rugby Team BAOR Finalists 1988/89 Season Divisional Winners March 1989

GARRISON REGIMENTAL FOOTBALL TEAM
FC PALETTE JUBILEE TOURNAMENT

A Regimental Football Team with seven members from each Regiment took part in a tournament comprising 16 teams from as far away as Hamburg and Enschede in Holland.

The competition was designed for four groups playing on a league basis with the winner and runner-up in each group forming a further two groups to compete in a second league knock-out on the Sunday.

The Regimental side won its group on the Saturday and competed in Group 2 on the Sunday which ended with the side being placed second and subsequently competing against the winners of Group 1 in the semi-final.

The winners of Group 1 (NATO Belgium Army Side) had convincingly beaten all opponents in both the Saturday and the Sunday groups. This left the Regimental side with a very difficult task to overcome, but overcome they did with a very comfortable 5—2 win.

So to the final, played against a very strong Dutch team from Enschede. The game was played at a tremendous pace with both side playing really hard. Unfortunately the score of 1—0 against us did not reflect the effort put in by the side.

Summing up, this was a very creditable performance over the two days by members of 22 Sig Regt and 49 Fd Regt Royal Artillery in a competition that contained teams of noted ability. To achieve runners-up place this year might hopefully next year lead to first place.

28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
BFPO 35

RHQ
by Cpl Robertson

Little has changed, apart from the removal of the foundations from the walls of RHQ! Farewell is bid to two historical figures from the Regiment. Firstly, **LCpl 'Billy' Kidd** has removed his roots from the Pampas terminal and has ventured to the wilderness of the Corps Area (3rd Div). We wish him and his family our best wishes in their new surroundings. Secondly, to **LCpl** 'Ears' **Glendinning**, who has crossed the Irish Sea. Again our best wishes are extended.

Welcomes are extended to **Cpl Steve Hayes** and his family who have returned to the Regiment from Hong Kong (does everyone come back here?). We hope he soon settles into the hectic, pacey life in the RHQ Coffee Room.

2Lt Jacky Foster has departed into the Combat Zone of 1 Sqn, where she will assume the appointment of OC Foxtrot Tp. Having spent many days and much money in the PRI, building her private collection of specialist survival aids (much of which she will need), she now looks forward to the challenge of unarmed combat against the mighty TARE Failure Syndrome. Good luck. This sad departure leaves the Adjutant, **Capt Andrew Trimble** and his humble partner **Lt Ralf**, alone again to battle with the never ending shower of paper that reaches his desk at 1630 hrs daily.

BOXING

A search was conducted within the RHQ Field Force to find its boldest and bravest warriors to battle for the Squadron in the Inter-Squadron Boxing competition held on 19 May 1989. **Sig** 'Shifty' **Shipsey**, 'Kruncher, **Kelly** and 'Mauler' **Mason** came forth and despite narrow defeats, did themselves proud in the ring. Well done.

1 SQUADRON
FOXTROT TROOP NEWS
FAREWELLS

Since our last report a number of changes have occurred. **WO2 (FofS) Tom Sharp** departed on promotion to 1 Inf Bde. Next to leave was **Cpl Paul Bridon** to 13 Sig Regt, **Sig 'Brummie' Ford** to 5 AB Bde and **Cpl Roy Jakins** to the Yorkshire Constabulary. **LCpl Shaun Meadows** to 19 Inf Bde and **Sgt Geoff Head**, who on the last report, received congratulations for finally leaving camp and making it to an exercise, finds himself posted to 8 Sig Regt, (do they do exercises there?).

We wish them and their families all the best for the future.

NEW ADDITIONS

Congratulations to **Cpl Paul** and **Liz Bridon** on the birth of **Emma Lee** and also to **Cpl 'Taff'** and **Ruth Hughes** on the birth of the 'Tafflet'. Welcome to the Troop to **LCpl Michael Prince, Pte 'Kirky' Kirkwood, Pte Emma Elmett, LCpl Doreen Marr** and, lastly, **Pte Karen Barker**. We hope you can adjust quickly to the pace and the modern equipment. Now a name change for **LCpl 'Pockers' Pocklington** to **LCpl Anne Smith**; may all your troubles be small ones.

PROMOTIONS

Recent promotions include **Cpls Jim Yule, Dave Coleman, Tony Shutler, LCpl 'Ev' Evemy** and **Cpl Paul Smith**, (watch the ROC roster). Also, a late addition, **LCpl 'Scouse' Corrigan**.

INTER TROOP COMPETITIONS

It has been very hectic to say the least with six-a-side soccer, small bore shooting, cricket and athletics. I'll keep the results simple in that we won the shooting and came close to winning some others.

HUSTLE AND BUSTLE

With all the competitions, readers may find it hard to understand how we had time to prepare for the Annual TUV with our ever growing fleet of vehicles. We also had to submit teams for the RCZ March and Shoot, Ex Cross Bow, Mandatory Test Week, Regimental Range Week, Snow Queen and NSG It's A Knockout. Not forgetting the aerobics on the drill square: glad to say it wasn't an RSM's parade but early morning PT for the Regiment. If that wasn't hectic enough, the next two months look horrendous. Still, the Troop Staff Sergeant and Sergeant will cope! As it's the Tennis season and with tennis goes the Troop OC, **Lt** (soon to be Capt) **Wheatley Price**, (a pity about the new car). We hope you enjoy your posting to the School of Signals and get plenty of time for your tennis, volleyball, tennis, basketball, tennis, climbing, tennis, running and of course . . . tennis.

GOLF TROOP NEWS

The Troop has been quieter since the end of the exercise season (NORTHAG exercise season that is!). There have been a number of changes in the Troop personnel. We would like to welcome the following: **2Lt Paul King, SSgt Roy Snape, WCpl Alison Glover, LCpl Al Alexander-High, LCpl 'Fish' Herring, Sig Ian McKilop** and **WPtes Sam Rowley, Vicky Tyson** and **Tracy Williams**.

On the sporting front the Troop has done somewhat better than previously. We retained the trophy in the cricket competition, and also won the Inter Troop Football competition. A fine performance all round by the athletic team earned the Troop a commendable second place, with outstanding performances by **Sgt Bob Breheney** in the long jump, and the 4 × 400m team of **Sgt John Wayman, LCpls Paul Taylor, Alexander-High** and **Sgt Bob Breheney**. Having no exercises lately has allowed the Troop to improve its Military Skills and complete the mandatory tests. Congratulations should go to the girls of the Troop who participated in the RCZ March and Shoot competition and retained the trophy for the second year. The Regimental range week (or Regimental swimming week, thanks to the weather) went well with most of the Troop passing their weapon tests.

The Troop would personally like to thank **2Lt Paul** 'Pathfinder' **King** for his contribution to the Wednesday sports afternoons. He planned a paper chase which was intended to take 30 minutes . . . one to two hours later the dishevelled Troop returned muttering . . . he'll have to go.

Finally, we sadly said farewell to: **Lt Dave Chattaway, Sgts John Badder, Dave Marshall, Cpl Mark Roberts, LCpl Cathy Connoly, Cpl Angie Hynds, LCpl 'Spider' Webb** and **Sig Mark Stimson**. Good luck to them all.

2 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Brian Peel**
2IC	**Capt Carol Lee**
OC O Tp	**Capt Mark Davis**
OC P Tp	**SSgt Joe Harris**
FofS P Tp	**WO2 (FofS) Paul Wilson**
FofS O Tp	**SSgt (FofS) Ray Wilson**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Barry Lewis**
YofS Ops	**WO2 (YofS) Dai Jones**
YofS Trg	**SSgt (YofS) Trev Gower**
Sqn Clk	**Cpl Ian Bayley**

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS FAREWELLS

It is with fond memories that the Squadron says farewell to **Maj Andrew Bowering** and **Keridwen**. We wish them Bon Voyage and a happy tour in Liverpool. The cigar smoke and the bed have now disappeared from the OC's office and we await the arrival of **Maj Peter Costello** in August. The Squadron is being commanded by **Capt Brian** 'I'll start as I mean to go on' **Peel** in the Interim period.

Maj Andrew Bowering signing the bills as he hands over the Squadron to Capt Brian Peel

OSCAR TROOP NEWS

PERSONALITIES

OC Tp	**Capt Mark Davis**
Tp Sgt	**SSgt Les Robinson**
Tp Sgts	**Sgt Mark Read**
	Sgt Rich Cookson
	Sgt John Dennis

In between the usual events like Ex Wintex, TUV, and Regimental Mandatory Training, Oscar Tp continued to excel in the Inter Troop Competition, winning the tennis and coming second in the cricket and the BFT Competition. A temporary lapse in this high standard was observed in the Troop Athletics when we finished fifth. **Cpl Andy** 'Donkey' **Duncan** contributed to a fine 400m race leading from the gun and was only just pipped at the post.

INTER SQUADRON BOXING

Oscar Tp provided four boxers for the Squadron team: **LCpls Dave Alderson, Kid Curry, 'Biffa' Bancroft** (flairs finest) and **Cpl 'Willy' Reilly**. All produced memorable performances, along with **Cpl Vince Tibbs** of Papa Tp, to win their fights and bring home the trophy to 2 Sqn. **LCpl 'Biffa' Bancroft** produced the only knockout of the night and **Cpl 'Willy' Reilly** was awarded the Best Boxer Trophy.

HELLOS

The Troop welcomes **Cpls Pakinham-Bishop, King, LCpls Booth, Bedbrough, Sig Hook, Lester** and **Fraser**.

FAREWELLS

Gone, but not forgotten, are **Sgt Paul Flintham** on promotion and **Cpl Tony Morland**. Congratulations are extended to **Cpl Colin Brooks** and **Penny** on the arrival of baby **Sarah, Cpl Paul Garret** and **Diane** on their recent marriage, and **LCpls Deano Flint** and **Brian Whitehead** on their hard earned promotions.

PAPA TROOP

PERSONALITIES

Tp OC	**SSgt Joe Harris**
Tp SSgt	**Sgt Jon Duckworth**

The Troop has had a major management change over: **Capt Carol Lee** has moved to a nicotine free zone in the Sqn 2IC's office, leaving **SSgt Joe Harris** in command of the Troop until the new Troop OC arrives in July.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

As in previous months the departures outnumbered the arrivals. Our best wishes go out to **Cpl Rab Graham** in Belize and then NI. **LCpl** 'Sick Chit' **Braund** and family in 3 Bde. **LCpl Dave** 'Hello Sailor' **Green** 30 Sig Regt and, finally, **Mr John Grime**.

Welcome to Papa Tp to: **LCpl** 'Seems like a nice boy' **Coates** from V Troop. **LCpl** 'Pathfinder' **Howe**, only two days late from 3 Div, and **Sig** 'Chalkie' **Robinson** from the factory.

Congratulations to **Cpl** 'Malkie' **McCallum** for becoming top student on his RSDCC and to **LCpl** 'Daz' **Mulley** on surviving his. **Sgt Jon Duckworth** is convinced he is a better man for passing his RSSSC.

IT'S A KNOCKOUT

Report by LCpl Craig Auld

On a glorious day in May the might of the Dutch, Belgian, German and British forces gathered in St Tonis to do battle and generally have a good time in the NSG It's A Knockout competition.

The event was superbly organised by Papa Tp, under the guidance of **SSgt Joe Harris**, and went according to plan including the blowing up of the PA system to silence **Cpl Nick Hawkins**, 28 Sig Regt's answer to Eddy Waring.

After much hard fought competition 28 Sig Support Sqn had modified the rules sufficiently to win.

PAPA TROOP V SERGEANTS' MESS SELECT FOOTBALL

Report by Cpl Mark Giles

On Thursday 18 May Papa Tp took on the all-conquering Sergeants' Mess football team. During the keenly but sportingly contested game several moments stood out, the first being **RSM Bob O'Hara** horrendously shooting over the bar from the 6 yard box with Papa keeper, **Wayne Coates**, flat out on the ground. This miss set the trend for the experienced mess side with **SSM Brian** 'Give us a touch' **Parkhill** receiving the crowds customary 'E-AW' calls of appreciation for a similar effort. But by half time the Sergeants' Mess had managed to grab a goal although 0—0 would have been a fairer reflection.

After a 10 minute spell of intense pressure at the start of the second half, when Papa threatened to overrun the mess XI, the older heads moved up a gear. Papa Tp's own heads dropped after they conceded the second goal, then a further five!

Papa Troop Team

Back Row: Sig Paul Leslie, Cpl Ian Bayley, LCpl Craig Auld, Cpl Steggs Storey, LCpls Wayne Coates, Steve Turner, Sig Alex Higgins and Andy Greeland

Front Row: SSgt Joe Harris, Cpl Nick Hawkins, Sig Kev Robertson, Cpl Jeff Hymas, Sig Rick O'Neil, Cpls Mark Giles, and Mark May

7—0 seemed a bit rough as Papa wilted in the heat, although they had two goals disallowed, including one by **Paul Leslie** which had the players and crowd convinced that ref **Kev Reeves** had been paid off by **SSgt Joe** 'Want to buy a motor' **Harris**. Still, there were no hard feelings as Papa got even by winning the third half. Papa now turn towards playing a local German team whilst the Sergeants' Mess hope to repeat the result against Oscar Tp—we'll see.

SUPPORT SQUADRON

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Peter Robinson**
2IC	**Capt Keith Jones**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Bill Woodmason**

The Squadron continues to be the busiest organisation in the Regiment, providing excellent services by keeping everyone well fed and clothed and looking after their vehicles. Over the last couple of months we have provided cooks and VMs for Ex Snow Queen, Butt Parties for the RCZ Skill at Arms Meeting and admin staff for adventurous training camps in Sardinia.

While all this has been going on, Support 'Bravo' won the Winter Champion Troop Trophy after allowing Support 'Alpha' to win, for the third consecutive time, the Inter Troop BFT Competition—our over 40s achieving some incredible scores yet again. Over the next couple of months we have a NORTHAG exercise, a team of techs going walk-about in the Eifel, Regimental Adventurous Training Camp at Silberhutte and Regimental Battle Camp at Vogelsang. It promises to be a hectic summer season and we will find someone to write about it in the next *Wire* notes.

The successful Support Bravo team was:
Sgt Gouldson, LCpl Whitehead, Sgts Lucas, McCourt, LCpls Albiston, Towers, Sig Makin, LCpl Smith, Capt Phillips, Cpl Cameron, LCpl Taulbut, Cpls Kay, Booth and Garlick

INTER TROOP ATHLETICS 5 MAY 1989

The inter-troop athletics competition took place in warm sunshine in the Jahn Sportanlage St Tonis on 5 May. The scoring was very close with Support Bravo ultimately repeating their success of the winter competition and running out worthy winners.

Many excellent performances were turned, notably **Cpl Tibbs** in the 1,500m and **SSgt Turnbull** in the 5,000m.

The veterans competition was a limited field this year but, as in the past, was dominated by **WO2 (YofS) Mick Chapman**.

Sgt Wayman soars high in the long jump adjudicated by SSgt (FofS) Wilson

WO2 (YofS) Mick Chapman receives his medal from Mrs Pandy Chubb

RCZ MARCH AND SHOOT COMPETITION

Thirty-five men started the training for the March and Shoot competition, and after undergoing various forms of torture subjected to them by **SSgt (SSI) Colin Donnelly**, the final team of twenty-six were selected by **WO2 (SSM) Bill Woodmason**.

The team under **Capt Chris Millard** went on to win the event by covering eight miles over difficult terrain in a very creditable time of under 1 hr 27 mins—the fastest time of the day.

WRAC MARCH AND SHOOT

Sqn Comd to Tp Comd 'What are you doing on Friday 28 April?'

Tp Comd frantically scans diary only to discover an empty page; failing inspiration the reply comes back 'Nothing planned Sir.'

Sqn Comd 'Good, you are to organise the WRAC March and Shoot Team . . . you have three weeks . . . go.'

Tp Comd 'Yes Sir' and rapidly makes an exit before the next lemon lands.

Sqn Comd 'Oh, by the way . . . we won it last year and we must retain the trophy!'

After quick consultation with the gym staff and training wing a ruthless programme is planned. Week one sees all the WRAC running around the woods at a very early hour in the morning, afternoon and any other time in the day which is in danger of remaining unfilled. Week two leaves a squad of 12 (8 plus 4 reserves) doing some more strenuous training under the beasting eye of **LCpl Marie Woods**, our resident AIPT and OIC stopwatch. Injuries, convenient and otherwise, bring the numbers down slowly. Week three starts with shooting practice, and some expert tuition from **WO2 (SSM) 'BP' Parkhill** and **Sgt Bob Hope** ensures that standards are improved across the board.

Competition day arrives and despite a nearly forgotten ID Card, some definitely forgotten packed lunches (who mentioned the packed lunches?) and the minibus losing the sump plug and running out of oil, the team arrived at the start point on time.

The level of fitness in the team was high and the eight miles up hill, down dale, along the straight and round the bend was covered by the team in well under the bogey time, thus gaining maximum points for the march. However, on completion of the march phase, one other team had also gained maximum points and so the shoot would decide the competition.

28 (BR) Sig Regt then achieved the highest score for the shoot and won the competition overall, retaining the non-existent trophy for the second year running.

Having collected the medals, the team celebrated with a few bottles of bubbly and looked forward to making it a hat-trick next year. The team comprised: **Capt Carol Lee, Lt Debbie Wheatley Price** (Team Captain), **2Lt Foster, SSgt Jeffery, LCpls Goodwin, Cottage, Woods** and **Pte Williams**.

WRAC EXERCISE CROSSBOW 1989

It was with some trepidation that the eight 'volunteers' of the WRAC team wheel-wobbled their way to the Dutch border for Ex Crossbow 1989. Our fears were confirmed when we had to compete in a two mile cross country race that afternoon, a race which was more like running across some desert in the heat and dust.

The team after winning the RCZ March and Shoot Competition

The competition continued for three days and basically consisted of stands, both during the day and night. The more memorable moments were the assault course, with **LCpl Mandy Precious** throwing herself into the pit below the rope swing and coming back for more; **LCpl Anne Smith's** gallantry in mopping up a stomach wound with her combat jacket; and **Pte Tracy William's** desperate attempts to prevent disaster on the command task, by clinging onto the end of a pole in mid-air.

The night activities included routine in defence and OPs, which involved being eaten alive by mosquitos and watching the DS rush around in Soviet uniforms, flashing lights. Other happenings during the night included **Pte Val Bocker's** discovery of a newly dug, unmarked, cesspit next to her basha and a continued listening watch over **Pte Lindsay Joyce** who at times threatened to give the position away.

By the end of the three days the Regiment was in the joint lead with 16 Sig Regt, so that the march and shoot became the deciding factor. After a gruelling eight mile march the team came in with the fastest WRAC time of 1 hr 46 mins and after some good shooting secured first place. An excellent effort by everyone in the team.

The team was: **2Lt Jacky Foster, Sgt Gina Cutts, LCpls Mandy Precious, Anne Smith, Ptes Val Bocker, Lindsay Joyce, Sam Rowley** and **Tracy Williams**.

BR RCZ SAAM

After two weeks of team training in the Regiment, most of which was done on the 25m range, the team went to Haltern Ranges for the BR RCZ SAAM, an event which lasted five days.

It rained for the majority of the time but this was not enough to put the 'dampers' on the team members.

The teams successes were as follows: Master Champion at Arms—**Cpl Buckingham**, Roberts Rifle Match—**Cpl Buckingham**, Service Rifle Match Individual Winner—**Cpl Buckingham**, First placed in Comd BR RCZ, Top 10 competition—**Cpl Buckingham**, Winner of Individual SMG competition—**Capt M. Corcoran** and Second Individual Pistol Competition—**Capt M. Corcoran**.

The team was placed second in the BR RCZ SAAM overall competition. The team was in good spirits throughout the whole competition and received just rewards for the training and effort they had put in.

BR RCZ SAAM
Back Row (left to right): Cpls Hughes, Grinnell, O'Neil, Palmer, Corrigan and Sgt Payne
Front Row (left to right): Sig Croxton, Cpl Buckingham, Maj Evans, Pte Hardy and Cpl Compton

NORTHAG SAAM

After recovering from the celebrations of the RCZ SAAM the team was back in training for three days prior to the NORTHAG SAAM the following week. The NORTHAG competition turned out to be a far more relaxed and informal competition, but the team continued on a slightly more serious note and finished second in the major units competition. The individual successes were as follows: Master Champion at Arms—**Cpl Hughes**, Champion Shot (Williams Trophy—**Cpl Hughes**, Third Individual Rifle—**Cpl Hughes**, First Individual Pistol—**Pte Harding**, Third Individual SMG—**Pte Harding** and Second Individual Pistol—**Cpl Buckingham**.

NORTHAG SIGNAL GROUP TRIATHLON 1989

The NORTHAG Sig Gp Triathlon Competition took place in blazing sunshine in Maastricht on 23 May, sponsored by NORTHAG Air Support Radio Sqn.

The Regiment entered two teams and **Capts Rod Gladwin** and **Keith Jones** RPC made up the entry as individual veterans.

The running course was particularly hard as it made its way from the pool along the Belgian border, over the caves at JOC Maastricht and up St Petersburg to the range. It was made doubly difficult by temperatures of 25°C.

The first team managed the highest score of the day, with the second team achieving a creditable fifth place. **SSgt Glen Pennington** deposed **Capt Gladwin** as the veteran champion by 63 points and so lifted the trophy.

The winning team was: **Sgts Gus Alexander, Steve McCourt, LCpls 'Scouse' Corrigan** and **'Bartie' Bartliff**.

Fifth team place went to: **SSgt Glen Pennington, Sgt Chris Gouldson, Cpl 'Parky' Parkinson** and **Sig Steve Kelly**.

Cpl Andy Garlick turned in a creditable performance as an individual entry.

All triathletes are to be congratulated on their fine personal performances and this result should be encouraging for next year's entry.

NORTHAG Signal Group Triathlon 1989 Winners
Winning Team: LCpl 'Bartie' Bartliff, Sgts 'Gus' Alexander, Steve McCourt and LCpl 'Scouse' Corrigan

Competitors
Capt K. E. Jones RPC, Sig Kelly, Cpl Parkinson, LCpl Garlick, Sgt Gouldson, Capt R. H. Gladwin, SSgt Pennington, LCpl Bartliff, Sgts Alexander, McCourt and LCpl Corrigan

30 Sig Regt
Blandford Camp

UNTAG DEPLOYMENT

After a hectic start to the United Nations deployment to Namibia life is now beginning to move at a more sensible pace. The United Nations Transitional Assistance Group (UNTAG) Signal Squadron, drawn almost entirely from 30 Sig Regt, arrived in Namibia on 9 April.

Within 48 hours approximately half the Squadron deployed to the Angolan/Namibian border together with a Field Troop of Australian Engineers to set up and man a number of assembly points. A group of approximately 1,700 SWAPO had infiltrated Namibia and was threatening the peace plan. The intention was that this group would surrender themselves to our various checkpoints and then subsequently be granted a safe passage back to Angola.

Each assembly point was manned by five military monitors from a variety of countries, five Royal Signals soldiers and five Australian Engineers. In addition the South African Defence Force (SADF) provided a platoon of infantry with the Angolans providing another platoon near our checkpoint but within their national boundary. There was no doubt however about the greatest presence—the Press! Wherever you turned, a news team or a photographer seemed to be there already. At the assembly points we were encouraged to do the exact opposite of what every soldier is taught in basic training. For instance, putting on bright lights at dusk to light up our positions, keeping our lights on and fires burning after dark and generally looking non-aggressive. After two weeks we were all pulled back to Windhoek, the capital of Namibia. Only nine SWAPO fighters had reported to our assembly points, the bulk of them having made their own way back to their Angolan bases. It was a fantastic experience for everyone involved and a great way to begin the operation.

During the assembly point phase the remainder of the Squadron had not been idle. A merchant ship loaded with the majority of our equipment had docked at Walvis Bay a South African port, west of Namibia. In a mine plated landrover the port was about a day's drive across the Namib desert from Windhoek. This is a most impressive desert famous for the height of its sand dunes and its arid climate.

Once the Squadron had re-assembled near Windhoek, equipment was distributed and six detachments were prepared to move out to various locations in Namibia. Their task was to provide communcation to various United Nations agencies from Dutch civilian police, to Pakistani Army Officers to civilian electoral representatives.

We now have nine outstations, some are in very civilised surroundings like **Cpl John Murray** at the Namibian holiday resort of Swakopmund. His detachment is remoted into the laundry room of a civilian house. Their only problem is how to fit a 200ft multi frequency dipole into the garden which measures 40ft sq. Fortunately the great expanse of the Skeleton Coast desert is just beyond the back wall. However, a change in frequency involves tackling a challenging obstacled course; two flights of stairs, jump the flower bed, under the volleyball net (cunningly arranged at neck height), over the 6ft back wall, fall into a storm drain and finally a short climb up a sand dune to the first mast—too tired to change the antenna. **Sig Pete Cherry** holds the record of 3 mins 10 secs for a round trip and tune up.

Others are not situated in such luxury accommodation. The three detachments in the northern area of Ovamboland for example, are sharing cramped space with Malaysians and Australians. **Sgt Sean Wratten** and his merry crew are sited in a large SF base controlled by the South African Defence Force. Regularly the camp exercises its hearts and minds policy by waking up the whole camp and the adjacent town with fire from its SF machine guns and heavy calibre weapons in the early hours of the morning.

In contrast **Cpl Don Matthews** commands a detachment with few local distractions. His local shopping centre, 5km away, consists of one shop which sells nothing of any use to anyone and a post office which no one can find.

Perhaps the most isolated of all is **LCpl 'Stew' Metcalf** and **Sig Chris Flounders**. At short notice three detachments were formed each with two men and a civilian SATCOM ground terminal, of which Opuwo was one. **LCpl Metcalf** commands the sand dune which is called Opuwo in the heart of Kaokoland. The local tribesmen are very primitive, they protect themselves from the sun with a mixture of animal fat and ochre smeared over their bodies, giving them a strange red appearance, and an even stranger aroma!

The bulk of the Squadron is employed at Windhoek in or around the UNTAG HQ. Providing **Maj 'Young Bill' Kent** is not clogging the system with epic sized signals then two slick, highly professional communication centres are operated. One is situated in the heart of the HQ, the other 10km away in the Squadron's tented camp at Leopards Valley. Although the level of comfort cannot be compared with the Ritz the facilities of the capital help to make our tour quite pleasant.

In summary, the morale of the British contingent is sky high despite the poor facilities and the considerable difficulties of the deployment. Everyone enjoys doing an exciting job and we are all looking forward to the challenge of the months ahead.

Cpl Meadowcroft involved in a hearts and minds project!

Returning from assembly points on Canadian C130: Cpls Mathews, Lockeridge, Butler and Sutcliffe

SADF Rovers on their way North

TM Tp 1988—One for the Album

NOTES FROM TM TROOP
by Cpl Ray 'Stumpy' Dunn

TM Tp houses a collection of highly trained, highly motivated and highly paid A1 soldiers, all grafting to ensure the success of the Regiment's commitments. After the first Op Prosperous deployment and sundry other roulements we thought a quick Troop update was needed so here we go:-

Troop Commander:	**WO1 (FofS) 'Big Bad Bob' Thompson** who tries to ensure we all have enough work to do.
Wksps FofS:	**SSgt Dave 'Boffin' Long**—SATCOM whiz kid.
RC Radio:	**Sgt 'Owzat' Dean Richardson**, when he's not playing cricket. Assistants: **LCpl 'I'm 'Ard' Porter, Cpl 'Taff' Cadwgan** and **LCpl 'Baby Tech' Adamson**.
IC TE:	**Cpl 'Pops' Shotton**—Oldest Man in the Troop, rumoured to be signing on for another Cyprus tour!
IC 3 Sqn:	**Sgt 'Sailor Boy' Thorpe-Willet**. Assistants: **Cpls 'When's my course' Ingleby** and **'Jake' Cave**.

This represents a proportion of the total strength of 70 plus most of whom are currently in Namibia, Cyprus, Belize or elsewhere. We think this is because the tels inspection is next week! One notable name missing here is our illustrious Tp Sgt **Sgt 'Cleared for Take Off' Edge** who was last seen somewhere over Heathrow en route to Sweden!

EXERCISE NIMBLE FINGER III

Ex Nimble Finger III was a 1 Sqn training exercise run between Blandford and Catterick. **Cpl Rich Cressey** ran the TRC 521 Short at Blandford under the watchful eys of **FofS Terry Inman**. **YofS Dave Marriott** had drawn the short straw and travelled up to Catterick with the TRC 521 Long together with detachment commander, **Sig Neil Pollitt**. The crew worked hard to set up after delays during the journey, so hard in fact that the Yeoman showed great pleasure in displaying his blistered hands to anyone who was interested.

Once both crews had settled down the 521's worked well. **Sgt Ray Edge**'s technical team, consisting of **LCpls Adrian Butcher** and **James Beach**, kept the equipment working. The return journey to Blandford was straightforward with no major 'happenings'.

Ex Nimble Finger III was a successful exercise, being a useful learning experience for all concerned. The Squadron now looks forward to Ex Nimble Finger IV!

FREEDOM OF ALDERNEY

On Monday 29 May, 30 Sig Regt and HMS *Alderney* were granted the Freedom of the States of Alderney. In a unique ceremony, **Lt Jane Lawrence WRAC** and a Naval Representative received scrolls on behalf of their Units from the President of Alderney. The Regiment led by **Maj Neil Couch** then exercised its right to march through the streets of St Annes with swords drawn and bayonets fixed, accompanied by a Naval contingent and the music of the Corps Band.

The parade marked a 20 year association between 30 Sig Regt and the Island. Each year soldiers, mainly from 3 Sqn, enjoy adventurous training there and undertake various community projects. The parade also marked the start of exchange visits between the Regiment and HMS *Alderney*, a Fishery Protection Vessel.

The organisation of the exercise (Norman Quest), especially travel arrangements, had to remain flexible right up to the last minute. Four methods of transport were finally used—civilian ferry, hydrofoil, landing craft and civil airline. Much to the relief of **Capt Lewis-Taylor** no one got lost or fell overboard or suffered sea sickness. Navigation on the island was easy enough—it's only four miles long by two miles wide!

Whilst the parade format had been well rehearsed at Blandford, the finishing touches were to be made at the campsite. However anyone who has attempted weapon drill dressed in track suit and training shoes will understand that serious practice is out of the question as **WO1 (RSM) Haywood** soon found out. The few days prior to the parade were spent defeating the locals at football and darts, and relaxing in the sun. Those unlucky enough to miss the Church Service went clay pigeon shooting and the Corps Band played the Retreat to an enthusiastic crowd.

On the day of the parade itself, the CO **Maj Andy Whiddett** presented the President with a porcelain swan, and received a huge silver cup on behalf of the Regiment. The parade was a great success, and no one lost balance or fell over executing 180° turns on the cobbled streets. The islanders were out in force cheering and waving, confirming the high regard they have for the Regiment.

Capt Graham Lewis-Taylor leads the parade through the streets of St Annes

31 Greater London) Sig Regt (V)
Hammersmith

RHQ

There have been many changes in the Hammersmith team since we last produced an article for *The Wire*. We have a new Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Lionel French**, a new RSM, **WO1 Mick Orrell**, a new Training Major, **Allan Duncan**, a new MT Warrant Officer, **WO1 Andy Wilson**, a new Yeoman, **SSgt Frank McCubbin**, and a new CO's driver, **Cpl Hank Cowlan**, all of whom arrived within the space of three months. In our case, 'new broom' involved changing the cleaning contractors! Golf has suddenly become a popular activity and one of the two Regimental teams came fourth at the Corps Spring meeting. Matches against 36 Sig Regt (V) have resulted in draws and we are always looking for opportunities to widen our fixture list. Departures from RHQ have included the 2IC, **Maj Jim Mill**, who leaves us on retirement after some 14 years with the Regiment. We wish both him and his family every happiness in the future. **Lt Tim Smith** is now at RMAS where he no doubt continues to offer advice on the role of women in the Army.

RECRUITING

Under the new CO, the word 'recruiting' has taken on a whole new meaning and everything that we do is related either to swelling our numbers or retaining those who we already have. In London the National Employers Liaison Committee (NELC) initiative is well advanced and the Regiment has played an active part in a number of receptions and briefings. We held our own reception at The Innholders Hall where 65 employers were hosted by their TA employees thus strengthening the links with those Companies. Many exployers had little knowledge either of the TA or that their employees were members.

Inholders Reception 1989
LCpl Cheshire guarding the Regimental Colours

EXERCISE WINTEX

The Regiment once again took part in Ex Wintex and took the opportunity of carrying out recces for next year's overseas exercise. A lot of ground was covered by the Troop Commanders and PSIs who somehow survived the rigours of the 'Base Camp'. The five course Dinner attended by **Brig Garton** at the end of the exercise was a life saver for those WRAC members who had found 'self-catering' to be a real struggle.

PRIZES

The map reading award goes to **Lt Carolyn Oxlee** for travelling to Heathrow to catch a Brussels flight which departed from Gatwick. She caught it.

The 'Brass Neck' award to the Ops Officer for wearing a pair of (new) running shoes.

The 'Look the Part' award to **Lts Carolyn Oxlee** and **Felicity Bowden** for being directed to the Gents at a Belgian service station.

47 (MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON

During the last few months the Squadron has taken part in a number of Regimental exercises and taken steps to raise our recruiting profile. At the same time a few dedicated men and women trained extremely hard, to enter two teams in the Courage Trophy military skills competition. After a gruelling two days, culminating in a difficult assault course competition, the male team finished fifth out of over thirty other teams. This was for us a great triumph as they finished twentieth last year, and they were up against tough opposition. The team ably led by **Lt Fraser Skirrow** included **Cpl Gilfrin, LCpls Giles, Grant, Bawn, Sig Cumino** and **Huxtable**. Thanks and a big well done must also go to our girls team which was placed 28th, a valiant effort for our first ever female team. The team consisted of **Lt Lynn Smith** (Royal New Zealand Signals), **LCpls Evans, Green, Bassey, Ptes Hickey** and **Williams**.

Courage Trophy 1989
The 47 Sqn ladies runners up team led by 2Lt Lynn Smith Royal New Zealand Signals

A SAD FAREWELL

It is with much regret that we bid farewell to **Capt Eileen Carter MBE TD** our PSAO for over 16 years. Her complete history of dedicated service spanning nearly 40 years in the Corps would be impossible to cover here, but we were all very proud when she was awarded the MBE in the New Year Honours List.

We will all miss her very much and take this opportunity to wish her every success in the future.

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V)
Glasgow

51 (HIGHLAND) SIGNAL SQUADRON
SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Sadiq Ahmed**
2IC	**Capt George Findlay**
PSAO	**Capt Bob Esson**
OC 511 Tp	**Lt Linda Duncan**
OC 512 Tp	**Capt John Geddes**
OC 513 Tp	**2Lt John Mackie**
OC 514 Tp	**2Lt Tom McCappin**
SSM	**WO2 Donald Webster**
SQMS (NRPS)	**SSgt George 'Podge' Fraser**
PSI	**SSgt Ian Walker**
Tech	**Sgt Chris 'I'm posted' Braid**

REGIMENTAL SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING

The Squadron ran and organised the Regimental Skill-At-Arms Meeting which was held during the period 11/12 March on Barry Budden Ranges, Monifieth. Despite scrupulous umpiring and marshalling the Squadron managed to emerge as outright winners of the overall competition. The Regimental results were as follows:-

	First	Second
Best Squadron	51 Sqn	61 Sqn
Best Male Team	51 Sqn 'A'	51 Sqn 'B'
Best WRAC Team	51 Sqn	61 Sqn
Falling Plate	69 Sqn 'B'	52 Sqn 'A'
Pistol Tile	52 Sqn 'C'	51 Sqn
Best Rifle	**WO2 Payn** 61 Sqn	**2Lt Timothy** 52 Sqn
Best SMG (Male)	**Cpl Graham** 52 Sqn	**SSgt Smart** 51 Sqn
Best SMG (WRAC)	**Pte McGurn** 52 Sqn	**Lt Watson** 61 Sqn
Best LMG	**WO2 Payn)** 61 Sqn **Sgt McKay)**	**Cpl Calder)** 61 Sqn **LCpl Young)**
Best Pistol	**2Lt D'Arcy** 52 Sqn	**Lt Watson** 61 Sqn
Best WRAC	**2Lt D'Arcy** 52 Sqn	**Lt Watson** 61 Sqn

51 Highland Sqn winning teams

NEW OFFICERS

The Squadron was pleased to welcome two newly commissioned Officers.

2Lt Tom McCappin who is a post graduate student studying Pharmacology for his PhD at the University of Aberdeen Medical College. He joined 51 Sqn two years ago as a Signalman. His potential was soon realised and he was appointed an Officer Cadet. **Tom** is our first 'Fast Track' entry Officer.

Lt Morna Strachan WRAC—After 15 years service **Morna** applied and was successful at the District Commissioning Board and commissioned in the rank of Lieutenant.

Introduced to the Officers' Mess at the end of Annual Camp in Barry Buddon **Morna** was stretchered out of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess in mummified style.

CONGRATULATORY

The marriage took place on 17 June between **Cpl Karen Nicol WRAC** and **Cpl Robert Burr. Bob** and **Karen** have known one another within the Squadron for several years. All members of the Squadron wish the happy couple health, wealth and happiness for the future.

REGIMENTAL EXERCISE—CULTYBRAGGAN

Over the weekend 13/14 August we ran an excellent exercise at Cultybraggan. We were surprised to find 666 Sqn AAC (V) occupying the Officers' Mess and other facilities earmarked for us until we discovered that the CO **Lt Col Mike Anderson** is related to the OC of the AAC Sqn.

A fair pint of blood was demanded and all our recruits were given a five minute ride in a helicopter. Shown below are members of the Squadron familiarising themselves with the helicopter and standard drills for entry.

Also during the course of this exercise we carried out the erection and dismantling of our Conrad systems with great success as shown below.

PROMOTION

To end on a high note the Officers' and Sergeants' shared Mess facilities and we are pleased to report that **Sgt Keith Anderson** received his promotion from the CO during the evening 'get together'.

They were not all smiles on their return?

Guess Who?

What is this then?

All is revealed—Lt Morna Strachan and Sgt Heather Ingram

Sgt Keith Anderson receiving his SSgt crowns from the CO, Lt Col Mike Anderson. As can be seen it all got a bit too much for Capt Willie Barron who obviously had an extremely hazardous day

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

The Regiment has experienced a very busy period over the past two months, being involved with both Regimental and District activities.

A major event in the calendar was the North West District Skill at Arms Meeting which was scheduled for the weekend of 29/30 April, for which we were the host Unit and main administator.

As the build up to this event takes at least two months hard graft by the Quartermaster's Department, it was no surprise to find the QM, **Maj Bob Fortune** continually absorbed in 'in-depth' reading of the previous year's post exercise report. His only problem was that the report did not say where the manpower was coming from!

To ease the situation the previous weekend was scheduled as the RSAAM whereby each Squadron was invited to enter three teams of ten men/women (with a possible 120 team members to play with, the QM seemed to take on a new lease of life and recommenced his golfing activities).

The RSAAM turned out to be a very successful weekend which produced the usual competitiveness from all Squadrons. The WRAC team from 80 Sqn Chester took the team trophy and the individual best shot was **OCdt Vivienne Myles**. The overall winners of the event were the 'A' team of 42 Sig Sqn (V) Manchester.

It was during this event that we were again honoured with the presence of the Mayor of Knowsley, **Cllr P. J. Curran**, who had expressed a wish to present the Regiment with a trophy, to be known as the 'Mayor's Cup'. It had been decided that the cup should be awarded annually to the most 'efficient' Squadron. It was therefore fitting that the Mayor should present the cup during his period in office.

During the Skill-at-Arms Meeting on Saturday 22 April the Mayor was invited to present the cup to the winning Squadron which after a very tight result (so we are told) turned out to be 59 Sig Sqn from Edge Lane Liverpool. The OC, **Maj Mervyn Deighton TD** accepted the award on behalf of the Squadron. As the CO, **Lt Col David Gardiner** was the sole invigilator of the scores, the final result became the best kept secret of the decade.

After the presentation the Mayor stayed to watch some of the shooting and talk to members of the Regiment. He was then invited back to the Officers Dinner Night in the evening where other guests included the GOC NWDist, **Maj Gen A. B. Crowfoot CBE** and Comd 11 Sig Bde (V), **Brig C. T. Garton**. The Regiment competed successfully in the NWDist SAAM and became the only non-Infantry Unit in the District to qualify for Bisley this year.

PS ACTIVITIES

The Regimental skiing at Aviemore this year was pushed to the end of the season in April because of Ex Wintex deployment. This turned out to be a bonus because after a poor winter there was plenty of snow at this time.

Three permanent staff, **Maj Paul Gorford, WO2 (ORQMS) Marie Watkinson** and **Sgt Tony Crampton** (Ski Instructor) escaped from their offices for a week. Twelve TA took time off work and made the most of the excellent skiing conditions on the Cairngorm slopes.

Two of the beginners **Sig O'Hara** and **Byrne** took the prizes as most improved skiiers and were ready for downhill races by Friday! Interestingly both of these are now at 11 Sig Regt having decided to take the plunge and become Regulars. They were helped to make this decision by tales of Snow Queens in Germany.

As in previous years our skiiers were based at the excellent accommodation provided by the Rothiemurchus Lodge run by HQ Scotland. This really is a very valuable and well run facility which is recommended for use by Units both in the Summer and Winter.

OC 59 Sig Sqn receiving the coveted 'Mayor's Cup' from the Mayor of Knowsley

The CO presents a print depicting the Freedom of Knowsley Parade to the Mayor and Mayoress of Knowsley during the RSAAM

HILLSBOROUGH SPONSORED WALK

Soldiers from all four Squadron's of the Regiment took part in a sponsored walk from Hillsborough in Sheffield to Anfield in Liverpool in aid of the Hillsborough Disaster Fund.

All four teams consisting of both male and female volunteers assembled at Lepping Lane, Hillsborough on Friday 12 May to commence the gruelling 78 mile route between the two cities. They left at 2130 hrs with the object of completing the walk in 18 hours. The intention was to walk the teams in half hour stints in relay formation. However, due to enthusiasm, some teams managed to walk the whole route on their own!

The overall event was organised by **Cpl** 'Robbo' **Robertson** and **SSgt 'Boots' McFarland** of HQ Sqn in Huyton. The plan was that each team would be supported by a vehicle and medical cover consisting of **Sig Les Moorcroft, Mick Marshall** and **Pte Karen Wycherley**. Arrangements were made with local police for escort duties through the built up areas (little did they know that members of 42 Sqn Manchester would be inviting them to donate as well!) but they did and received a good response from the amazed policemen 'digging deep' for loose change at 0230 hrs!

The weather was not overly kind with the teams being greeted by a downpour of rain in Hillsborough and sleet/snow during their trek over the Snake Pass. However, spirits were not dampened and the teams all made the deadline of 1500 hrs on Saturday 13 May at Anfield.

On arrival at Anfield Football Stadium the teams were met by Liverpool player **Phil Thompson** and the CO, **Lt Col David Gardiner**, after which they were all invited into the Directors Lounge for tea and biscuits.

The fruits of the team efforts are still rolling in from sponsors with an expectation of a final four figure sum. Well done everyone on a magnificent effort.

EXERCISE FLYING DOLPHIN

Report by 2Lt J. K. Davies WRAC

On 29 April five intrepid members of 42 Sig Sqn set off on a sailing adventure and were joined by skipper **Cpl Frank** 'Pugwash' **Jones**. The sailing party consisted of **Lt Lynn** 'I've signed for this' **Gregg, 2Lt Jackie** 'The Demic' **Davies, SSI Mick** 'I'm too old for this caper' **Wilton, Cpl Maurice** 'Raybanns' **Aarons** and **Cpl Sue** 'Smidge' **Edge**. On arriving at Gosport we met up with **Frank** and **Quicksilver** and kitted up ourselves and the boat.

A crow's nest view of 42 Sig Sqn's sailing crew. *(Left to right):* Mick Wilton, Lynne Gregg, Sue Edge, Maurice Aarons and Frank Jones (Skipper)

Sunday morning dawned rather early and **Frank** had us body-building by sail training and constantly tacking. We lunched on the move and eventually arrived in Cowes, Isle of Wight. The following morning in Club UK Marina a 4ft Basking Shark was being very inquisitive but for some reason, no one volunteered for man overboard drills!

Leaving the Isle of Wight via the Needles proved to be quite exciting especially when **Mick** took the helm and tried to roll **Quicksilver**. Needless to say, there was lots of shouting along with hysterics from **Maurice**. The weather gradually become more foggy and the wind dropped but we managed to tack into Poole. However, as we entered the harbour, the fog cleared to leave a glorious day. **Maurice** presented us with a delicious curry and had by now got over his earlier fears of wanting to abandon ship and swim to a nearby buoy!

The following day **Frank** decided we would sail to Alderney and Guernsey so a 0500 hrs start was in order. However, after sailing 15 miles the visibility was only 50 yards so a wise decision was made to sail, aided by the engine to Weymouth. We stayed in Weymouth a further day, again due to the sea mist which could be seen beyond the harbour wall.

A challenge to trivial pursuit ensued in a fast and furious game which was won by the two more mature members of the crew! The diving museum and the gym were visited and I was hoisted up the mast in the bosun's chair much to the amusement of passers by.

On Thursday we tacked over to Yarmouth via Lulworth Gunnery Ranges! After a couple of hours in Yarmouth we left to sail to Cowes arriving at 0400 hrs. Only three hours sleep we then sailed to Gosport, stopping at Stokes Bay en route. Here we practised anchor drills and dinghy manoeuvring! **Lynne** and **Sue** were excellent at going round in circles but they didn't quite get the hang of rowing in a straight line! On arrival at Gosport we had a tour around the port and then prepared the boat for handing back the next day.

The trip in all was a great success and much was learned. I would like to thank **Frank** on behalf of the crew from 42 Sig Sqn for all his hard work and for putting up with us through times of stress. See you next year **Pugwash!**

NEWS FROM 80 SIGNAL SQUADRON—CHESTER

On 7 April, two stalwart members of 80 Sqn, **Sgt Chris Wood** and **LCpl George O'Connor** took on the challenge of walking the Cotswold Way for charity in aid of the Trust for Metabolic Disease in Children. The journey was to take them from Chipping Camden to Bath, 100 miles of beautiful but hilly countryside.

Although being fit they soon realised the physical feat they had undertaken, especially when the 40lb packs they were carrying felt like 400lbs. To make matters worse on the second night it poured with rain and thrown in for good measure were gale force winds.

From then on the going got tougher and with aching muscles and blisters galore, they suffered on until Wednesday 12 when the decision to 'dump' the 40lb packs was made and the thought of spending a night in a bed and breakfast lodging house spurred them on.

On Thursday 13 April at 1330 hours, they arrived in Bath completely exhausted but delighted at having completed 97½ miles of the walk.

Both are now back in Chester recovering from their ordeal and busily collecting their sponsorship donations (with a limp).

LCpl George O'Connor hoping the going gets no tougher on the Cotswold Way

UKLF ORIENTEERING—80 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Report by Lt Andy Payne OC HF Tp

The Squadron entered a team for the UKLF Orienteering Championship held at Swynnerton on 21/22 April. With some measure of success in Corps Championships the team members were eager to get started, however, due to a problem with the course, the TA men's team relay competition on the Saturday was declared void so it was all down to the individual events on Sunday.

This event took place at Kingswood near Monmouth and was entered by **Lt Andy Payne, Sig John McNulty, Steve Paddock, OCdt Vivienne Myles** and **Maj Jean Payne** from HQ Sqn Huyton.

Congratulations go to **Steve Paddock** who won the men's 17-18 year old class Regular and TA. **Steve** is a relative newcomer to the sport and took time off from his A level studies to attend the meeting. Congratulations also go to **Maj Jean Payne** who won the TA Ladies Individual Trophy.

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

MILITARY TATTOO—DRAYTON MANOR PARK

Following months of careful planning, preparation and some frustrated efforts, the day of the Tattoo finally dawned. On Saturday 13 May, a day which will be etched on the memory of all members of the Regiment, display teams and detachments from our Squadrons based in Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Shrewsbury and Rugby descended on Drayton Manor Park in the early hours and set up their static displays in and around the Display Arena. Our teams were joined by display teams from guest units and other organisations. Set up and ready to go live all teams nervously anticipated the arrival of the general public and prayed to some obscure Sun God that the weather would improve. Thankfully it did!

This unique and hugely successful event was the largest ever organised and produced by a Territorial Army Regiment in the Midlands and possibly the UK and attracted at least 5,000 visitors and spectators.

The following article is a detailed account of the event by the Unit Press Officer **Capt Dennis Hawksworth:**

THE TATTOO—OR A DAY IN THE LIFE OF 35 SIG REGT

The big day dawned overcast, blustery and slightly chilly. It followed several damp and dreary days so everyone expected the worst; everyone except the Tattoo Co-ordinator **Maj Brian Foxon** who obviously had contact with some heavenly power and by some miracle arranged for the sun to appear from time to time, the rain to move on and the wind to settle, which allowed the Blue Helmets to put on a brilliant display.

The general public, TA families and guests of the Regiment were entertained and treated to a feast of magnificent Arena Displays by The Corps Band, The White Helmets, The Blue Helmets, The Royal Signals Junior Leaders Squadron Gymnastic Team and equally superb displays from the West Midland Police Pipes and Drums and the Staffordshire Police Dog Display Team. In addition to the Regiment's Static Communication and Recruiting Displays, which proved very popular, Recruiting Stands were also provided by The Army Air Corps and The Prince of Wales Division as well as the Corps 'Quicksilver' display which attracted an enormous amount of interest from both the public and territorial soldier alike.

Guests of the Regiment included the DSO-in-C(A) **Brig Tom Wheawell**, Comd 11 Sig Bde (V) **Brig Conrad Garton**, The Lord Mayor of Birmingham and the Mayors of Shrewsbury and Tamworth who, judging by their expressions, all had a most enjoyable time.

Following the departure of the public, The Corps Band gave a splendid display of their musical ability by performing a 'Retreat' ceremony, which entertained not only the Officers, WOs and SNCOs and their guests but also a fair sized crowd of caravanners who appeared to have taken root in Drayton Manor Park. The Bands explosive rendering of the 1812 overture (additional special effects courtesy of the QM Dept) made an impressive finale. Finally this memorable day was rounded off with an Officers Mess Dinner Dance held in the Tower Ballroom at Drayton Manor where the odd committee member could be seen visibly wilting after so much work, but also breathing a huge sigh of relief that it was all over.

As a major recruiting effort the day was a tremendous success as it attracted a great number of enquiries for the Regular and Territorial Army. As an added bonus for the Regiment, it also gave us the opportunity to give our families and friends an insight into what we do during exercises and training weekends.

Maj Paul Fathers, Maj Brian Foxon and Capt George Cairns (background) with two of the guest Mayors

Lt Col David Dobson the CO demonstrating role reversal by being entertained by official guests

The Hon Col, Col Mike Beatty deep in conversation with the Bde Comd, Brig Conrad Garton

Our glorious Recruiting Team: SSgt Madden (centre) can be seen propping up Maj Tony Jones (left) and WO2 (SSM) Cotton outside the Regiment's Recruiting Display Tent

FOOTNOTE

The success of the Tattoo, which was the brainchild of the CO **Lt Col David Dobson**, was due in no small part to the hard work and efforts of his planning committee headed by the Project Offr **Maj Brian Foxon** and composed of **Capt Suzy Reed, Maj Paul Renecle, Maj David Hardy, Capt Ian Dudding**, (our brand new and now shell shocked Quartermaster who was faced with the task of organising and erecting the Display Arena shortly after his arrival) and last but not least the RSM **WO1 Mick O'Hare**.

Rumours that the Committee has been invited to organise the Edinburgh Tattoo are not true! Are they?

ARCTIC TRAINING—EXERCISE WHITE CAP

On 3 April a selected party from the Regiment led by the CO headed north for arduous arctic training in the Caledonian Highlands. On arrival the party was based at the Rothiemurchus Lodge and briefed by our skiing coach **Capt Suzy Reed** who is a member of the British Army Ladies Ski Team. She was assisted by **Miss Josie Turpin** and **Capt David Corrie**.

Training began earnestly and ambitiously on Monday with the Giant Slalom. Even first time skiers were required to negotiate the large granite blocks and other obstacles that appeared from beneath the snow. By midweek it was necessary to move onto the Slalom as an ever increasing number of obstacles emerged across the piste.

One newcomer to skiing, **Cpl Fred Armstrong** decided that the downhill and ski jumping were his favourite methods of getting from A to B in the fastest possible time. His sheared off ski poles however, caused some anxiety amongst bystanders; some comments about Eddie Eagle disappeared into the cold highland wind.

Having survived the week and to maintain maximum mental agility to compensate for the physical agility that expired on the slopes, a quiz was organised and we competed against teams from the Army Apprentices College Harrogate and the Army Air Corps. We didn't win!

Despite being late in the ski season and having to endure adverse weather conditions Ex White Cap was a great success. The 12 beginners who attended are now very competent a snow plough turns and the intermediate and advance group showed great improvement and we all managed to grasp the basic elements of survival under arctic conditions.

The beginners group under the instruction of Miss Josie Turpin enjoying a far from common occurrence—a sunny day in the Cairngorms

The intermediate group from left to right: Capt Suzy Reed, Cpl Kay Yeubrey, Pte Dott Watt, Sgt Ron Mosely, Sig Phil Faulkner, LCpl Jane Heaselgrove, OCdt Alan Jacobs, Cpl Lynn Yeubrey, Sig David Jones and Cpl Eilleen Monaghan

WESTERN DISTRICT PATROL COMPETITION

Teams from 58, 89 and 95 Sqn took part in the tough Western District Patrol Competition during the weekend 22/23 April at Ternhill.

58 Squadron
Front row: Sig Ian Platt, SSgt Karen Baugh, Lt Chris Edwards, Sig Allan Stewart and Jack Nibloe
Back row: Cpl Sharon Capel, Sgt Kevin Robinson, LCpl Clive Johnson, Sig Lee Scally and LCpl 'Baggers' Bagguley

89 Squadron
Front row: Sgt Mick Clarke, Sig Griffiths, 2Lt David Hooper, LCpl Dave Fitzpatrick and Sig Colin Marshall
Back row: Sig John Blakemore, Sgt Mick Purdy, Sig Rob Kidney, Bryan Gilroy and LCpl Steve Thomas

95 Squadron
Front row: Sig Gary Latham, David Dewfall, Cpl Kevin Graves and Sig Craig Kinsey
Back row: 2Lt Davie Threadgold, Sig James Dimmock, Andrew Freeman, Sgt Pete Mouland and OCdt Richard Morris

They competed against teams from the Infantry, Yeomanry, Artillery and Engineers in tests of military skills, weapon training, map reading and first aid before a night shooting competition and a night orienteering exercise. Next morning they completed a nine mile route march in two hours before the falling plate competition.

All teams entered thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and produced very creditable results. Two teams had members of the WRAC who showed the Infantry that the Territorial Army recruits and produces excellent male and female soldiers.

The following is a humorous and tongue in cheek account of the competition by **Sgt Mick Clarke** of 89 Sqn:

PATROL REFLECTIONS OR HOW WE MISSED GLORY BY AN INCH ON THE MAP

When asked how well we did in the competition by various members of the Squadron, my reply **'I** think we came lower than a rattle snakes .....s' was not a true indication of the final result or team effort.

To set the record straight; after setting off early Friday evening we were all in good spirits, fit, healthy and raring to go. On arrival at Ternhill we settled down for a good nights sleep our thoughts on the competition. Any hopes of a refreshing sleep was dashed by the constant crashing of a door which could not be located and anyone who managed to sleep through the noise deserves the Rip Van Winkle award.

Saturday started well enough, a good breakfast and off we went. We performed quite well on the NBC and map reading stand or so we thought. Over lunch we put in some practise for the next stand which consisted of first aid, military skills and NBC2. We didn't do too badly here either, except for the family of spiders found in one of our team members weapon (he shall remain anonymous until his new nickname is adopted).

Some questions left us a little bewildered and we found it difficult to give a contact report on a tank moving towards our location and we now know that a mortar does not take a 7.62 or 9mm round. We did manage to do better in judging distances and vehicle maintenance. This was followed by another welcome meal break which was to **Sig** (12 meals a day) **Griffs** liking. Replenished we moved into the night habour area and began to dig in and prepare our bashas which would have fetched about £25,000 apiece if we moved them about 100 miles South East.

The team then split up into two sections for the night shoot and night navigation phase. Our spirits were still high. The night shoot team moved out and attempted to do what night shoot teams do; if someone had informed them that knocking over the targets was part of the task they might have done better, but it was all good fun. The night navigation section didn't fare much better; off they went into the dark to climb what appeared to be rather forboding mountains. The first few checkpoints went well and the team leader **2Lt David Hooper** was proud of himself, until we were 50 yards short of the summit. 'I'll do the last 50 yards and check us in' he said, 'you lot go around the side and I'll meet you at the bottom.' Disaster struck, which part of the bottom did he mean. Eventually and by a stroke of luck, we met in someones back garden at approximately 0330 hrs.

Back to the start point, slightly disorientated but only 11 minutes late we gained an admirable 130 points and were promptly disqualified—even this set-back did not dent our spirit or determination. We then waited for transport to take us back to the hide, and waited, and waited so we lit a fire to keep us warm and to act as a transport beacon. Eventually the transport turned up and we got back to the hide at 0530 hrs only to be greeted by a stand-to 30 minutes later. We bit the bullet, packed up and moved out and started the battle march. A pleasant walk with falling plates at the end. No chance! The walk wasn't pleasant and the plates didn't fall. Our spirits were consigned to the dustbin.

Finally some real food followed by the prize giving. Needless to say, we didn't win anything not even the wooden spoon (which was a relief) and then we commented philosophically on the weekend; **LCpl Thomas** said it was character building, **Sig Kidney** said it was tiring, **Sgt Purdy** said this is what the TA is all about and **Sig Griffs** said is there any more food? The final word went to our leader **Mr Hooper**, he asked who is coming next year? The humorous replies have been censored but we do expect to field a much wiser and more experienced team next time.

HQ SQUADRON HOST POTENTIAL RECRUIT

HQ Sqn and the Regimental Recruit Training Team received an unusual request from **Ian Levington** aged six who wanted to join the Regiment. Never a Regiment to turn down recruits **Ian** was asked to come along for an interview and assessment. **WO1 (SMI) Bill Eccleston** arranged for kit to be issued to **Ian** and **Maj Tony Jones** ensured he was well briefed on the Regiment's role. Regrettably he was unable to pass out but he has been invited to join us in 10 years time.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

WESTERN DISTRICT SMALL BORE SHOOTING

The Western District Small Bore Shooting Competition was held at Kingsbury Ranges on Sunday 14 May. The Regiment entered two teams and individual competitors from 58 and 95 Sqn and they competed against strong competition from the Infantry and other Arms throughout Western District.

Our teams acquitted themselves well and **Cpl Smith** of 58 Sqn won the Pistol Competition. He was the last competitor to shoot and he won by one point on his very last shot. A remarkable achievement which brought great credit to his Regiment and Squadron.

Cpl Smith was presented with his Trophy by **Maj Gen Ward** GOC Western District.

Cpl Smith of 58 Sqn being presented with his Trophy by the GOC Western District Maj Gen Ward

ORIENTEERING

On 12 February the Western District Orienteering Championships took place at Wyre Forest in Worcestershire. The Regiment entered two teams from 48 and 89 Sqns. 89 Sqn won the overall competition by a considerable margin and can take great pride in their achievement.

Individual results also brought great credit on the Regiment with **Sgt Paul Fundak** finishing runner up on a most difficult course, **Sgt Mick Purdy** taking first place on the intermediate B course and **Sig Tony** 'Feed me' **Griffiths** achieved a creditable fourth place on the C course (his first competitive run).

89 Sqn's success in this competition is particularly pleasing as the Squadron had not entered the competition since 1983 or won it since the late 70's.

THE LONDON MARATHON

by Sgt Kate Williams—RHQ

On Sunday 23 April the Chief Clerk **SSgt Rod Shelton-Smith** and I plus approximately 22,000 other participants set out to run the London Marathon. It was my debut and **Rod's** (being an old hand at these things) second. We both managed to complete the distance and in personal best times—**Rod** managed 4 hrs 9 mins (a creditable 15 minutes faster than last year) and I ran 3 hrs 38 mins. This I hope to improve on next year—yes, I am going to enter again even though the first thought that entered my mind when I passed the finishing line was 'Never again'. I've had a few weeks to rethink since then.

We both ran the marathon in aid of local charities—mine was St Josephs Hospice renovation appeal (Harborne) and **Rod's** PHAB (Physically Handicapped and Able Bodied) Codsall Branch. At the last count sponsorship for St Josephs is estimated at £200 and PHAB £500.

Sgt Kate Williams and SSgt Rod Shelton-Smith sporting their medals and sponsored ADT T Shirts which were presented to them on completion of the 1989 Marathon

36 Sig Regt (V)
Wanstead

COMMISSIONING PARADE

Congratulations to **2Lts Mark Smith** and **John McManus** who completed the final phase of their Officer training with their Commissioning Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on Saturday 20 May. Both are serving with 45 (Essex) Sig Sqn (V).

2Lt Mark Smith (left) and 2Lt John McManus with the CO Lt Col C. P. Conlon after the Commissioning Parade

MOUNTVOY TROPHY

The weekend 20/21 May was the annual competition between teams from all the Squadrons, the Regiment moved to Shorncliffe for the weekend and the competition was held at Lydd Ranges. The rivalry between the teams was keen and everyone pushed themselves to try and win. There were some novel ways thought up to get the teams across the lake without getting their uniforms wet, the Padre **Capt Setchell** was present at this event and rumour has it that a lot of the teams were re-baptised. There was a high standard of shooting on the range work that was part of the competition and this is where the LAD out shot everyone else and became the eventual winners. I would like to thank everyone who was in charge or assisted in running the event for their hard work and effort and making my job as controller that much easier.

Action photograph from the Mountvoy Trophy. Comment being made 'I told you it would have been easier to bring bottles of beer'

SAFE AND SKILLED DRIVING

Congratulations to **SSgt O'Brien, Cpl Jamieson** and **Sig Ford** on their achievement of third place in the London District Safe and Skilled Driving Competition. We look forward to them doing as well, if not even better in the UKLF Finals at Leconfield on 17/18 June.

ARRIVALS AND FAREWELLS

The Regiment said farewell to the following PSIs and we wish them and their families all the best in their new postings: **SSgt Billy Watts, Sgts Steve King** and **Phil Billingham**. The Regiment also welcomes: **Sgts Dave Humphries, Steve Beswick** and **Pat Millar WRAC** and we hope that they and their families have a happy tour in the Regiment.

54 SQUADRON

EXERCISE HIGH LIVING 89

Or lets find snow in May. The beautiful countryside of North Wales was the setting for the Squadron's adventure training. Low cloud, fog and snow didn't prevent those members of the Squadron who attended from enjoying themselves (or at least thats what **Lt Wesley Blewett** the Exercise Organiser told them).

Abseiling, always popular, was run by **SSgt (YofS) Alan Oakman, Sgt 'Taff' Thomas** the PSI at Norwich and **Lt Alan Murrel ACF**.

Windsurfing and canoeing took place on, or in the case of the participants in, the Menai. We were lucky to have had access to the excellent facilities and the expert instructors available from the Welsh Sports Council at 'Plas Menai'.

Where is Mount Snowdon? **Sgt Glen Baker** that well known sage from Bedford asks through misted glasses, and so the hillwalking and mountain leadership phase of the exercise was scratched on the first day, due to inclement weather (yet another understatement).

Many thanks go to those persons behind the scenes 'but for whom nothing would have happened' as someone famous once said, and 'no one would have been fed', **SQMS Frank Sharp**, 1989. The food, as ever, was excellent, supplied as usual by **Sgt Chris Francis** ably assisted by **Sig Kevin Westley** and **Alan Wiseman**. Last but not least **Capt Gyda Warren WRAC** the Squadron's Training Officer who took on the task of Orderly Officer.

Back row: Sgts Robinson, Basey, Sig Marcuzzo, Murley, Mrs Penny Blewett and Capt Gyda Warren WRAC
Front row: LCpl Kelly and Sig Seaton

Is it necessary? A dubious Cpl Styles abseiling

37 Sig Regt (V)
Bristol

SOUTH WEST DISTRICT SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING
MAY 1989

It was at about 2330 hrs on Friday night that the last of the four Squadron Shooting teams arrived at Tidworth for the briefing by **Sgt 'Bonzo' Head** of 53 Sqn. Team Tactics having been sorted out an hour or so later we got our heads down.

Morning! Following breakfast, courtesy of the Royal Hussars (PWO) we headed for the Ranges at Bulford. Unfortunately 67 Sqn, determined to continue their emulation of the 'Run the Gauntlet' teams' style of driving, (which had begun in earnest at the Regiment SAAM when they had bogged in their 110 up to its axles), decided to reverse down a main road and into the path of an oncoming Vauxhall Cavalier which, thus driven, was well and truly smitten! The LR suffered the loss of a few flecks of paint.

The hits on the targets were even more numerous and by the end of the day, the Regiment had comprehensively swept the board for the fourth successive time. The detailed results were as follows:

Team Match	Squadron	Position
Major Unit Championship		1st
Champion Team	53	1st
Fire Team	57	1st
Fire Team	53	2nd
Team Rifle	53	1st
LMG	53	1st
Falling Plate	53	1st

In the individual matches, **Capt John Newton** of 57 Sqn won the Pistol match with a score that beat the Regular Army Champion. In addition **Sgt 'Bonzo' Head** came overall second in both the Rifle and LMG Competitions. Last but by no means least, **Sig Mark Heenan** of 57 Sqn came second in the Champion Young Soldier Competition. Bisley Beckons!

There is no more silver to be won! 53 Sig Sqn winners of Regt SAAM
Standing (left to right): Sgt Fred Newton, Sig David Owens, LCpl Robert Pearce and Sgt 'Bonzo' Head BEM
Kneeling (left to right): Sig Davies, 2Lt David Watson and Cpl Carl Walker

Is this mine?
CO Lt Col Jonathan Cox presents Sig Mark Heenan of 57 Sig Sqn with the best B shot trophy

We do feed them sometimes during training weekends
Standing (left to right): Sgt Phil Silby ACC, LCpls Chris Irish and Andrew Chamberlain (REME)
Kneeling: Cpl Fred Dicks ACC making a few adjustments

Knit one pearl two. Cpl Anne Pearse does the knitting while Cpl Debbie Nash feeds the wool!

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

The past few months has seen a flurry of activity within the Regimental Headquarters, Sheffield.

What with the bi-annual Regimental Audit, Stores board, Health and Safety inspection, officers documents inspection and visit of the Commander Finance, things have been hopping!

I am pleased to report that we have been issued with a clean bill of health much to the relief of **Lt Col Paul Acda**, our new Commanding Officer.

The new RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Phil Budden** is now firmly in the chair but insists that his HO/TO photograph is submitted for posterity.

'Volunteer for service with the TA—you know it makes sense' . . .! This is the new motto adopted by both our YofS and RQMS. **WO2 (YofS) Gus Colville**—soon to depart on posting (and promotion) to Hong Kong, and **WO2 (RQMS) 'CD' Clark-Darby** who has just heard of his impending posting to SHAPE! **SSgt George Greaves** (our friendly 64 Sqn PSI), awaits news of his forthcoming posting with bated breath.

Capt Keith Russell, our newly arrived Quartermaster was last seen in the clothing stores with a dustbin full of G1098 ledgers muttering something about 'dues out' and 'Imprest Accounts' . . . isn't life grand!

'Well . . . that's the long and short of it'—RSM McLennan *(right)* hands over the appointment to RSM Budden

46 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) DERBY

During the past two months the Squadron has been busy with exercises and competitive events. The Squadron said farewell to the Commanding Officer **Lt Col Steve Coltman** who was presented with a piece of Derbyshire china from the Squadron and a pair of Leicester foxes and sweatshirt from the Leicester Detachment.

The Squadron held a sports day in which all troops competed for the sports trophy. After an enjoyable 'hot' day, Leicester Detachment just pipped Squadron Headquarters to the post and won the trophy which was presented by the 2IC **Capt Mike Petty**.

We played 87 Sig Sqn at volleyball one evening and won both games. 87 are out for revenge. The Squadron has bid farewell to the following members, **Pte Erica Rhodes** who has left us to join the Regular Army; we wish her well in her career. **LCpl Clair Knipe**, married recently and is now moving from the area and **Cpl Graham Perkin** who is transferring to 34 Sig Regt (V), due to a change of career. You will all be missed.

64 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) SHEFFIELD

Events in Sheffield have been overshadowed by the tragic loss of life at Hillsborough. 64 Sqn has been involved in fund raising when the Tug-of-War Teams, and others, were invited to join South Yorkshire Transport and South Yorkshire Fire Service in a 'Sponsored Bus Pull'. At present, the total raised stands at over £1,500.

Sgt Dave Burton led the Squadron representation in the Annual Raft Race at Thorne to raise money for local charities.

On the military front **2Lt Bill Carr** had trained the Regimental (Squadron!) team for the Lanyard Trophy, which has unfortunately been postponed. They are eagerly awaiting a new date.

The ground hasn't changed, but the equipment certainly has! Members of 9 Armd and 148 Inf Bde Assn (TA) visiting 87 Sqn during Ex Ringing Anvil. For some, the first return to Proteus Staging area for 30 years
(Left to right): Dick Shepherd, Tom Worthing, Bill Clarke, Mike Coates, John Boswell and WO2 (SSM) Mike Piechota

REGSAAM 89. The ladies winning team (HQ Sqn)
(Left to right): LCpl Ball, Cpl Cundy, Pte Waller, LCpl Widdows and Sgt Hannell

Lt Ann Stenning presents the CO with a Leicester Det sweatshirt

71 (Yeo) Sig Regt
Bexleyheath

REGIMENTAL TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY: 1969-1989

To mark our Twentieth Birthday numerous activities were organised without any disruption to the trade and military training programmes.

The Regiment was honoured to host all but one of our previous Commanding Officers and guests. There were (dates show when they commanded the Regiment):

1969-1971	**Col A. P. Baker**
1971-1973	**Brig P. A. Daly CBE**
1973-1975	**Lt Col B. O. Haw**
1975-1977	**Col J. M. Craig TD, DL**
1977-1979	**Brig C. A. Brown**
1979-1983	**Col D. S. Casstles TD, DL**
1983-1986	**Col R. M. Yolland**
1986-1988	**Lt Col M. D. Patterson**
1988 to date	**Lt Col A. P. Verey TD**

Guests included our Honorary Colonel, **Col G. S. P. Carden CBE, TD, DL** and **Maj Gen T. A. Richardson**.

In the beginning—at the crack of dawn on Saturday 22 April with the RSM, **WO1 Bob McKenzie** ensuring that the local population of Lydd village did not sleep in whilst he shouted commands and other things at the Regiment during their first drill rehearsal. It did not take long to put them into shape on the square although some were already feeling dizzy—this first rehearsal was over by 0800 hrs and off the troops went to their respective trade and military lessons, some were muttering 'Why did they call this celebrating?'.

The parade commenced at 1800 hrs and was commanded by the Regimental Second-in-Command, **Maj Simon Frost**. At 1810 hrs the Honorary Colonel and Commanding Officer arrived, reviewed the parade and presented the TA medal to **WO1 (YofS) Dave Swann** and **WO2 (FofS) Neil Edwards**.

The Honorary Colonel then addressed the Regiment and took the salute at the March Past. A very successful parade enjoyed by everyone.

WO1 (YofS) David Swann receiving the TEM

WO2 (FofS) Neil Edwards

The CO and Sig Chinnock destroying hours of dedicated pastry skills

70 (ESSEX YEOMANRY) SIG SQN

EXERCISE TRAVELLING MERCHANT

In the deep dark depths of the minds of **Capt Jonathan Crowther** and **Lt Paul Wooler** a plan for Ex Travelling Merchant was hatched. It involved both 882 and 907 Tps deploying to the unfamiliar training area of Thetford for a radio/commcen exercise.

After **SSgt Frank 'Courses' Evans** (PSI 907) and **Sgt Andrew 'Ginge' Robinson** (PSI Tech) had used up more favours on the OBN in obtaining equipment which we are not scaled for, the exercise could go ahead as planned.

Although only 24 men and women attended the weekend a good, if not testing time was had by all. **Cpl Jenny** 'ACP 127' **Bastow** commanded the commcen side and **Sgt Ian** 'Metal' **Metcalfe** along with **Cpl Micky Fidgeon** the radio.

The Det Comds were briefed and the two outstations deployed under the command of **Cpls Paul** 'PF' **Fowler** and **John** 'organised' **Taylor** whilst **Sgt John Bell** took the reins at control. Communications eventually worked after **Capt Crowther** instructed the dets to earth the ATR to everything else that moved. Drill messages and Trivial Pursuit questions provided the traffic.

It was about 15 hours after initial deployment that **Cpl Taylor** finally got the hint that his four red eyed crew members wanted some shut-eye. Rumour has it he was trying to beat **SSgt Richard** 'insomniac' **Pieper**.

The OC Sqn **Maj Stephen** 'Ski Trip' **Foakes** visited the area on Saturday afternoon. It was at this time that **Cpl Taylor** decided to send his transmission violation.

On the Sunday morning we all departed for our own TAC's to dig all the kit out of the vehicles, only here did we discover 882 Tp had 907's kit and vice versa. A few phone calls later the problems were solved and 882 Tp adjourned to the bar.

All in all, just another normal weekend's work.

WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS

We welcome **Cpl Hammond** and his family to the Regiment (PSI—Whipps Cross).

Congratulations **Cpls Les Watts** and **Dave Abbott** on their deserving promotion to Sergeant.

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ASN

News from Squadrons

1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215 Sig Sqn) Tidworth

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Tony Russ**
2IC	**Capt Bruce Avison**
Adjt	**Maj Simon Firbank LI**
QM	**Maj Stan Hargreaves**
OC A Tp	**Capt Mark Castle-Smith**
OC B Tp	**Lt Mark Billingham**
OC C Tp	**Capt Rick Mather**
Tfc Offr	**Capt Dave Gilchrist**
TCO	**Capt Keith Meakin RCT**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Fred Payet**
FofS	**WO1 (FofS) Tom Sharpe**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) John Clark**
YofS	**SSgt Bill Stack**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt (ORSQMS) Dave Flynn**
Odds and Sods	**2Lt Rab Mulholland**

1989—A QUIET YEAR!

Following quite a hectic year in 1988 we looked forward to lots of empty spaces in the programme for 1989. However, things being as they are, HQ UKMF, HQ 2 Sig Bde et al got their heads together and continued to ensure that we didn't become bored. As ever, men are detached to various Units around the world: **LCpl Billy Barnes** and **Sig Adie Howarth** are with 1 D and D in NI, **Sig Paul Davie** in Cyprus; **Cpl Bob Dillett, LCpl 'Grif' Griffiths** and **Sig 'Ted' Heath** are recently returned from a foray to Belize, and we are due to assist both 1 D and D and 1 Queens in NI later in the year.

EXERCISE PENNINE LINK

Over the recent years, HQ 1 Inf Bde has exercise in BBGT(N) at Catterick, and separately, the Logistic Support Gp at the Log Trainer in Grantham. This year, following the emergence of UKMF from the marriage of HQ 1 Inf Bde and LSG, the COS decided to link the two exercises by telephone and use logistic play to influence the battle at the front. This sounded a reasonable task until the COS's comms plan appeared on the 2IC's deck.

Comms outline Ex Pennine Link drawn up on the train somewhere between Peterborough and York on the initial recce.

In addition to this, the Bruin link was to stretch from Catterick to Grantham! All credit to 3 Sqn, 30 Sig Regt for a carefully recce'd and successful link. Naturally the biggest problem of the week was not communications but administration. Forty members of the Squadron have specifically asked not to be mentioned in case their wives read this and realise that their husbands can do the washing up, mopping up, clear tables etc, etc.

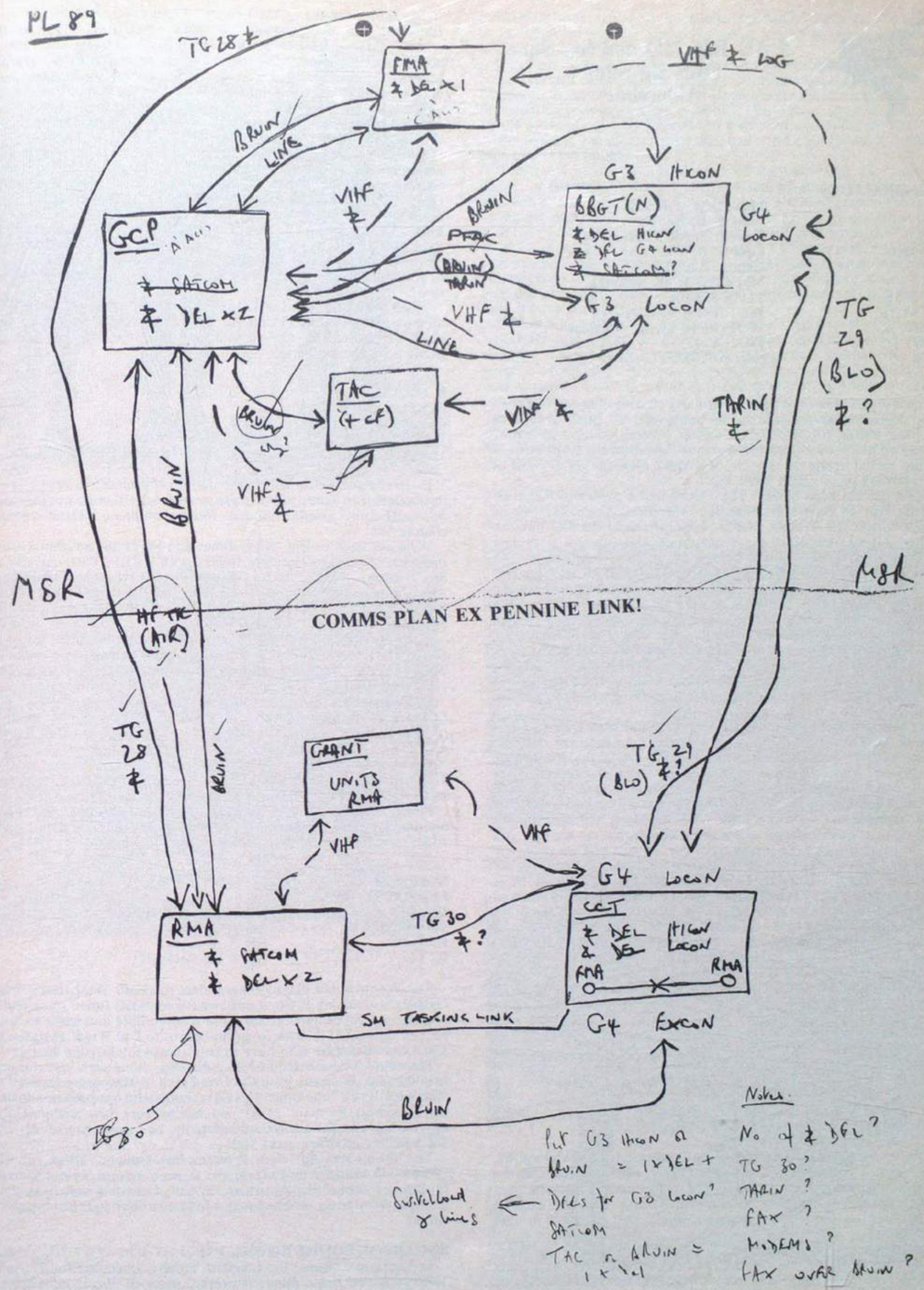
EXERCISE TEN TORS 89

Ex Ten Tors is a timed navigational march across Dartmoor, for youngsters at schools and colleges across Britain. The Squadron, like last year, provided safety and control comms from Okehampton Camp to 17 locations over the moors, with pairs of signallers joining Tor Parties on (some) quite inhospitable high ground. This is an excellent exercise for any Signal Unit, allowing soldiers the chance to undertake basic signalling away from the distractions of box bodies, kettles, microwaves etc, and, at the same time, allowing them to mix with other Arms and Services in a difficult environment.

Party Political Piece over, they also had a ruddy good time! Most Tors were relatively close to an alehouse, and we enjoyed the company of WRNS and WRAF at the parties.

Map Reader of the Week—**LCpl 'Johnno' Johnson**—wrong side of the Motorway Roadworks cones.

Allies of the Week—**LCpl 'Skull' Freeman** and **Sig 'Runaway' Walsh**—for a stout defence of their Tor. The United States Marine Corps also manning the Tor, repulsed a number of assaults on the Marine Corps pennant flown there.



5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj M. W. Edwards**
2IC	**Capt P. B. Knobel**
	Capt J. Turner (Designate)
Ops Offr	**Capt S. R. Workman**
AO	**Capt J. Aspinall**
QM	**Maj (QM) J. M. Kirkman**
OC B Tp	**2Lt J. J. Cole**
OC M Tp	**WO2 (FofS) P. Gaffney**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) M. A. Granitza**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) G. M. McCrindle**
CClk	**SSgt (ORQMS) C. Clark**

SHQ

The last period has not been particularly exciting. The boys have all been deploying as individuals, in pairs, and as small groups to America, Belize, BAOR, France, and of course the usual sprinkling of 'say no more' locations. However the Squadron has spent most of the last period letting the new OC **Maj Mark Edwards** get to know us and allowing us to get to know him.

But it has not been boring. The Troops had a chance to find their exercise feet on their own, then the Operations Team has had its chance to test the Troops, and to demonstrate to the OC how we deploy. After a slow start, the improvement was substantial, ending on a higher note, but with all fully aware of short-comings.

It was also a time for the new RSM, **WO1 (RSM) M. A. Granitza**, to see how the Squadron has changed. In between swopping lantern swinging stories with the OC, he was heard to compliment the Operations Team on 'the best Headquarters set-up' he has ever seen. Not a bad start. Welcome back to him and his wife **Glyn** from the temptations of the UOTC, we hope you have a happy tour. Simultaneously, we lost the old RSM, now **Lt Jess Harper**, and his wife **Carol**. Best of luck in Cyprus, from what we hear the Diving School has gained a full time instructor already! We hope to see you at ABF Day.

We have also just lost our Admin Officer, **Capt Dick Hamilton** and his wife **June** to the CTTs. Thank you for all your time and effort in dealing with the Squadron 'problem children' and in the direction of the PRI etc. Although it was a thankless job, we did appreciate your efforts and hope you have a happy tour up in Wrexham; all the best. Welcome to his replacement, after being away for only one tour, **Capt John Aspinall** and his wife **Carole**. The Squadron will take time to readjust to a 'quiet' version of the old **Aspinall**, but we are sure you will do us all proud in your new post; best of luck and we hope you enjoy this tour as much if not more than your last.

Soon to leave us is 2IC, **Capt Bruce Knobel**. Right now he is handing over to **Capt John Turner**, leaving **Capt Scott Workman** in Operations to act as the stability and experience whilst all the other appointments change over. As this is written, both are on the first Leading Parachute Battalion Group Exercise (LPBG) Ex Blue Lanyard since April. The OC, who would otherwise be on the exercise, is missing it for the very best of reasons—he has become a father! Congratulations to him and his wife **Erica** on the birth of **Katie**.

A TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC Tp	**Capt J. Turner**
Tp Sgts	**Sgt C. G. McGinley**
	Sgt G. Lee
OOA RLD 1	**Sgt R. G. Nixon**
OOA RLD 2	**Sgt G. K. Cripps**

After a well deserved Easter leave the Troop returned in high spirits, under the new command of **Capt John Turner**, newly arrived from the White Helmets in Catterick. No sooner had he arrived, than he went to Brize Norton to complete his parachute course. Now he's in SHQ taking over as Second-in-Command. Well, best of luck in that appointment.

The Belize roulement scraped the remaining flesh off the bone, taking away badly needed crewman and det commanders. As a result another crew reshuffle was required before the new Exercise Season commenced.

The postponement of the Lanyard Trophy was a disappointment for some, but the Squadron 20 miler which took place on the scheduled day at least let **Sgt Bob Nixon** vent his wrath and finish a commendable second. Likewise, congratulations to **LCpl 'Murph' Murphy** for his second place on his Det Commanders Course; at least you were only beaten by another member of the Squadron!

Welcome back to **Sig J. D. Hogg** after a short tour in Northern Ireland, only to be whisked away to Morocco with **Sig Tam Dick** and the rest of 2 Para.

Congratulations to **Sgt 'Gaz' Lee** on his promotion, sooner than we had expected, to Sergeant. Not long before you take over as R Signals Sergeant with 16 Lt AD Regt in Lincoln. Best of luck with the Gunners and thanks for your efforts in the Troop. Another warm farewell to **Cpl 'Buck' Rogers** who leaves us for Civ Div; all the best **Buck**. The same goes to **Sgt 'Compo' Cripps**, who had only just returned from Belize, who leaves us for a PSI job in London. Look on the bright side, you may not have been allowed to leave as early as you wished, but at least you'll be in the centre of all the job offers now!

Finally, with most of the Troop currently on Ex Blue Lanyard, we all look forward to two weeks Adventure Training in Jersey; we only hope the Operations Officer can pull this one off, not like the promised Chinook Jump!

B TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC Tp	**2Lt J. J. Cole**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt F. Hutchinson**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt J. W. O'Driscoll**

Farewells and welcomes are the major occurrences in Bravo Tp in this period. The Troop and Squadron exercises although not flawless, were sufficiently good to leave us feeling confident without seeming complacent.

Welcome back to **Cpl 'Nige' Jones** and **Sig 'Phil' Smithurst** from their detachments to Northern Ireland with 1 RRF. Welcome also to **Sig 'Brummy' Ford** from BAOR, already P Coy passed; good luck with the parachute course. The Troop bids farewell to **Cpl 'Jack' Payne** (now a married man according to his Stag Night invitees!) and **Sigs 'Kev' Hook** and **'Woody' Wood**.

Congratulations to **Sgt 'Chilly' Chillcott** on his promotion whilst in Belize. On his return he will be moving almost immediately across to 2 Para to take over from **Sgt Catchpole** who seemed to have left us years ago. **Chilly**, best of luck in 2 Para, don't let it go to your head!

Recent occurrences include **Sig John Dougan**'s free fall course and **LCpl 'Foz' Forster**'s Moroccan exercise; **Cpl 'Smudge' Smith**'s triathlon training seems to be paying off (it should be, the time he gets off to train!), good luck in the Army Championships. The three 'speedsters' of the Troop appear to be excelling in the Cross Country Team, (despite **'Nanook of the North' Brown**'s supposed navigational error which put him 57th in the Squadron South Downs Tab).

Finally congratulations to **LCpl 'Foz' Forster** and **Sig 'Phil' Smithurst** and **'Jason Bros Boy' Tinnion** on P Coy. You didn't want to go adventure training in Jersey anyway did you?

M TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC Tp	**WO2 (FofS) P. Gaffney**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt J. S. Black**
IC Tech	**Sgt N. Preston**
IC TE	**Sgt J. A. Lockert**

The Troop would like to congratulate the FofS **WO2 (FofS) Paul Gaffney** for passing P Coy—not bad for an 'Old Timer'. It is really good to see, an example to all those who hesitate and make excuses for not doing it. Likewise, congratulations to **Cpl 'Fred' Hargreaves** and **LCpl Nick Jose** who have recently passed their para course.

We would like to welcome **Mrs Julie Day**, along with her whippet, to Aldershot. Welcome back **Cpl Pete Fearn**. A temporary farewell to 'Get Your Block Jobs Done' **Cpl Clive Smith** who has been nominated the Squadron Barman. Mind you having seen his 'Arthur Daly' approach in the Bar he will, undoubtedly, be coming out of this Jiff Job smelling of roses; good luck.

The Troop sent **Sgt Nick Preston, Cpl 'Sungod' Read** and **Sig 'Woody' Woodward** on Ex Trumpet Dance—a Joint Service exercise in America comprising American, British, Canadian and Australian Troops. All of them returned with a load of stories and the obligatory suntan.

SQUADRON SOUTH DOWNS TAB

For various reasons, the Lanyard Trophy scheduled for 27 April 1989 could not take place. However, some of the lads had been training fairly hard for it, mainly in their own time. Furthermore, we had the transport, forecast, and time, to stage something for the Squadron to avoid disappointment. It was decided to run a 20 mile route on 26 April 1989 (Wed pm sport!) along the South Downs instead, running West to East, finishing at Devil's Dyke Pub.

LCpls Grattrick and Cheshire and Sig Shuck posing whilst resting on the South Downs 20 miler

LCpl Oliver and Cpl Archer enjoying themselves

It turned out to be a beautiful day for it. The comms and admin support were in place for an early start, and the Squadron arrived at the start en masse at 0930 hrs. At the start the usual whippets set off at a run, others paced themselves, and then you had 'Biff', the AO's dog going wild with anticipation.

A tremendous effort was put in by all, only the AO and 'Biff', and one other, had to pull out at the last but one check-point. 'Biff' had made the AO run twice the scheduled distance! The morale and spirit of the blokes was a treat to see, with only the news that **2Lt John Cole** had won upsetting them slightly; no one appeared to like the idea of 'Rodney' winning! Well done **John**, good effort, good example.

PUBLIC DUTIES: ROUTE LINING IN LONDON

On 2 May 1989, the President of Nigeria was to fly into Heathrow and travel by train to Victoria Station. There he was to be met by **HM the Queen**. They would then be driven up Victoria Street to Parliament Square, along Whitehall to The Mall, and down The Mall to Buckingham Palace. The entire route would be lined by flags, soldiers, airmen and their officers.

It came as a shock to discover that this announcement involved us! It was revealed that 5 AB Bde was to provide approximately 140 men, 44 coming from the Squadron. Drill, ceremonial drill, in the middle of London, with the public watching! Visions of disaster flashed across my mind, quickly followed by a search through the forecast of events to see if I could get out of this. Unfortunately this did not seem possible, I was lumbered.

With most of the Squadron away on exercises, courses, detachments, or detailed off for the Lanyard Trophy admin or teams, the selection of two officers, two SNCOs, two Right Markers and the rest of the two and a half Companies was surprisingly difficult. However with the usual RSM like persuasion men were found, a mixture of all of the Corps serving in the Squadron. Drill with the new SA80 commenced. The officers meantime watched the soldiers progress, initially with some concern, then with more confidence. Our three qualified drill instructors, who had been keeping their talents a secret until then, were achieving miracles.

2 Para was detailed as the Responsible Unit, and briefings and rehearsals started. The two and a half Companies slowly took shape, and the officers joined in. Surprisingly little officer drill practice and rehearsals took place. Answers to questions like 'how do we fall out?' were answered with 'try it and see'. The results of such faith was the 'entertainment' for the boys. Dress rehearsals, ground recces at ludicrous times of the morning, and all other preparations over, we steeled ourselves for the day. Then one of the half Company SNCOs, who shall also remain nameless, gets pneumonia! In Summer? A Log Bn SNCO was found to stand in.

The morning of 2 May arrived with all of us waiting on Montgomery Square the prescribed two hours! The Police escort to Horse Guards Parade waited for us near the end of the M3. After cramming ourselves onto the bus in civvies, carrying all our uniforms,

2Lt John Cole Salutes The Queen

No 12 Half Company marker Cpl 'Stu' Archer awaits the arrival of his half company. The leading elements of the parade approach

weapons, swords, etc, we met the escort as detailed, and then worsened the traffic chaos, caused by the London Transport strike, by forcing traffic to give way to our convoy. I have to admit, it was a lovely feeling sitting there with all of the traffic standing still, swerving around cursing and frustrated drivers, following a daring Met Motorcycle Policeman who obviously enjoys his work. We arrived at Horse Guards Parade with plenty of time to spare.

The whole parade, approximately 700 odd, including Bands, Gunners and Guards, all formed up at approximately 1100 hrs, for the march off. The two Squadron half Companies led the Brigade Column, following behind the Parachute Regiment Band. As the half Companies reached their Right Markers who had already positioned themselves adjacent to their respective markers, be they Cashpoint dispensers or lamp posts, they peeled off and halted on the right hand side of the road. Being the last two half Companies to reach their locations meant all the attention was on us, well, the local attention. The various instructions to form two ranks from three, to advance one rank across the road, extend, etc etc, then had to be carried out. As we had found in the various rehearsals, the goalposts, in the form of the procedures and format of the parade, changed again: the Band attempted to knock me over as they returned to the end of the Brigade Column! This wasn't to be the last change!

'The Presidents plane will be 40 minutes late, do not Patrol' was the next change. This however had to be ignored as those standing in the direct sunlight began to wilt despite the repetitive commands to 'Shun, Change Arms, Stand at Ease'. The decision to make the 'Stand at Ease' position with an SA80 with the butt of the weapon held in the hand, with the forearm horizontal to the ground, needs revising! However, finally, the sounds of horses signalled the approach of **HM The Queen** and her guest, The President of Nigeria. Each group of approaching horsemen, be they Police or Cavalry required a new word of command; the noise of the horses almost totally drowning out the words of command. Finally, the first of four 'squares' of Cavalry, **'Royal Salute'**. We all saluted her and waited, in the salute, for the parade to pass.

After the fourth 'square' had all passed the reverse Commands commenced. Another shift of the goalposts, we had to wait for all of the spare cars etc! Anyway, after the entire cavalcade had disappeared, the Guards WO gave the 'all clear' and we continued reversing the original instructions employed to form up. The reverse Route (covered in obstacles left by the horses), marched as a Brigade Group again, but with us at the rear this time brought us back to the Horse Guards Parade and the buses. The usual 'well dones', slapping on backs, etc took place prior to the change back to civvies, and on to the bus again.

JOCOMMEX 33/89
Report by Sig James

The 33/89 Jocommex was sponsored by the Squadron, with Bravo Tp taking on the task. It was to be a Morse link between SE District Commcen and HMS *Anglesey*.

I was on board HMS *Anglesey*, assisting the RN with their end, as part of the exchange of operators. The exercise was due to take place on 20 April, however I boarded on 15 April to fit in with their sailing schedule; the Ship was taking part in Fishery Protection in the SW approaches.

During the five days prior to the exercise, I was lucky enough to be involved in the boarding of a suspect vessel. We donned Dayglo Orange Survival Suits, and were cross-decked via a Gemini. However after examination, with me being nothing more than an observer, the vessel was found to be legal.

The actual exercise proved to be a very worthwhile experience, giving me a good insight into Naval equipment and procedures. Comms were very good, with a 92.5% success rate being achieved. All of the operators, at both ends, were slick and efficient, although I have to admit it is a great deal easier on ship. The Leading Radio Operator from HMS *Anglesey* was very impressed with our performance and complimented us on it.

As a goodwill gesture, prior to leaving Ship, we exchanged plaques. This was my first Jocommex, and as long as I am the exchange operator, I am more than willing to go again.

THE BLANDFORD TOWER RUN

Some of the Squadron Cross Country Team took part in the Blandford Tower Run on 14 May. We were hoping to win the competition for the third year running, and we did!

The team did us proud, winning convincingly, with **Cpl 'Smudge' Smith** coming in first R Signals individual, and the rest of the team achieving places ranging from 7th to 19th. The Team and their positions were as follows:-

Cpl 'Smudge' Smith	2nd
Cpl 'Bernie' Bernstein	7th
LCpl Chris Brown	9th
Cpl Rick Buxton	12th
Cpl Dave Chapman	19th

An excellent performance by all and an enjoyable and well organised event run by the School of Signals. Well done lads, how about making it four year's running?

AIRBORNE SIGNALS: COMMISSIONED PAINTING

The ex-OC, now **Lt Col Chris Wright**, during his short tour in the Squadron realised that there were no current paintings in the Squadron, indeed in the Corps, depicting Airborne Signals as we know it today. In an effort to correct this 'lapse' he decided to commission such a painting.

The painting itself shows a 'typical' Leading Parachute Battalion (LPBG) deployment from the Parachute Tactical (Para Tac) Headquarters point of view. The Para Tac HQ itself in its Phasor Dome tents and the associated communications systems—VHF, HF Data, Tacsat—are shown in the foreground, with parachuting, Pax and Heavy Drop, happening in the background. The Squadron is very pleased with it, with copies being sold as fast as they are being framed. Any ex-members of the Squadron will instantly recognise some if not most, of the scene.

For those of you out there who are interested in buying a copy of the painting, you can do so in the Squadron, or obtain slightly more expensive copies from the Corps Museum in Blandford.

The Squadron Officers receive the Airborne Signals painting from the artist
Terry Harrison (the Artist), Capts Scott Workman, Dick Hamilton, Maj (QM) John Kirkman, Capt Bruce Knobel and Maj (now Lt Col) Chris Wright

19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209 Sig Sqn) Colchester

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Richard Hoole**
2IC	**Capt Dave Raleigh**
QM	**Capt (QM) Bob Lockwood**
AO	**Capt Adrienne Winchester WRAC**
OC O Tp	**Capt Mike Griffiths**
OC N Tp	**Capt Richard Quinlan**
OC P Tp	**Sgt Steve Rook**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Dave Simpson**
MTWO	**WO1 Mick Hewitt RCT**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Mal Allerton**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Dennis Prince**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) Tom Ferry**
ASM	**WO2 (AQMS) Colin Fenwick**
CC	**WO2 (ORQMS) John Manley**

INTRODUCTION

Over the past few months we have seen the change over of Squadron Commanders. **Maj Richard Hoole** arrived from the MOD and **Maj John Davies** retired from the Army. We wish him well in the City.

We took part on Ex Flying Falcon during April and are at present heavily involved in RAAT and other tasks. What should have been a quiet year has exploded with a bang. We look forward to our week's adventures training near Plymouth later in July.

November Tp is looking forward to, as the Squadron Commander calls it, a pro-creative year! Life will continue to be fun and rewarding in the Troop, with sailing, board sailing, diving, skydiving, football and rugby. Welcomed into the Troop, in time for these events we have **Cpls John Leach** and **Dale Brunton** and their wives **Tania, Sylvia** and families; also **LCpl Brankin** and **Sig** 'Spike' **Milliken**. Leaving us for pastures new are **Cpl Pete Morgan, Cpl Mark Bendall, Cpl Chris Holmes, Cpl Simon Newton** (congrats to you and **Gillian** on your marriage), **Cpl Dave Cooke, LCpl Curtis, Cpl** 'Ski' **Maciejewski** on promotion and intended posting, and **Sig 'Geordie' Cousins** (congrats on your marriage). Congratulations go to **LCpl Dave Copley** on his promotion and last but not least hello to **Sig Andy Mortlock** attached to BFFI—'We have not forgotten thee.'

SQUADRON NBC TRAINING CADRE
by Cpl D. Wroe N Troop

Monday 15 May 0745 hrs. Twenty highly motivated specially selected soldiers arrive for the start of their NBC Cadre week. Five days in which to turn 20 dubious characters into a team of specialists. Not an enviable task but one taken on by the 'Boss' **Capt Richard Quinlan** and **Sgt Calum Downie**. A brief introduction followed by the 'Entry Test'. Entry Test! What Entry Test? A crescendo of voices uses the final five minutes before the test to iron out the finer points of NBC like, what does the 'B' stand for? We narrow it down to two or three possibilities and feel a little better prepared for the forthcoming ordeal. An hour and a half later and it was over. Most people felt they had achieved enough so as not to be thrown head first from the classroom. The sceptical, the enlightened and the clueless settled themselves for the weeks training.

The training programme showed early starts and late finishes and an average of ten lessons per day plus homework and lectures. The fear of wearisome hours of NBC and 'deathly viewfoil' never really materialised. Quite quickly people began to realise there was more to NBC than 'Mask in Nine'! The NBC Threat, Concepts of Defence, Individual Protection and of course the CS Chamber ('You can't have NBC without CS') brought day one to an end. One day down four to go, one-fifth a specialist and already we learn't more about NBC than I had in my previous five years.

Days two and three became more intense and the schedule tighter. Wednesday afternoon sport came and went. Note books were filled, brain cells expanded, pens emptied and the 'pads' got fat on Cookhouse food. Progress tests contradicted our belief that nothing was being retained; and all the time our lectures were being prepared, viewfoils and teaching aids collected. Thursday was the day of the final exam brought forward from Friday because the final day was to be taken up completely with personal lectures. I just wish someone had told me. For some the tests paled into insignificance as the prospect of taking a lesson loomed large.

Friday, the final day, the day when everything comes together. You know your subject, you've prepared your lesson and you are ready for any searching questions or constructive criticism that comes your way, or so the theory goes. This was the bit that had to be got right. After all we were to be the instructors from now on. Experience of taking a class varied enormously, from the seasoned to the complete first timer. By this time next week lesson taking should be second nature.

So here we are. The 'Team'. The 'Nucleus of Nuclear Knowledge'. The 'Brains of Biological Barbarity'. The Connoisseurs of Chemical Cocktails. To be let loose on the Squadron, veterans of the CS chamber spreading our new found knowledge.

By the way what does the 'B' stand for in NBC?

REGIMENTAL INFORMATION TEAM

This season has seen a change in personalities with the team now being led by **SSgt Brian Mountain** assisted by the following members, **Cpls Dale Burton** and **Pel Tubb, LCpls Steve Mayell** and **Steven Whitfield, Sig 'Sandy' Sandeman, Andy Snells, Pete Watts** and **'Dusty' Miller** using the following vehicles SAS/MC, Wavell, Radio Relay, Saxon and a ¾ ton FFR.

The arrival of the Saxon within the Squadron has proved a popular addition to the team but unfortunately due to mileage restrictions we are unable to take it to all shows. The team made an early start to the season, making it's first visit back in January to Ipswich School and we are now in the busy period when we are out every weekend. The highlight to date must be the Southend Air Show when we had brilliant sunshine and an estimated 500,000 people visiting over the two main days.

The programme for this season is as follows:-

12 Jan	Ipswich School
2 Mar	Kimbolton School
4 Apr	East Anglia Holiday Group
11 May	Harlow Tech College
16 May	Kings Lynn College
27-29 May	Southend Air Show
4 Jun	Shoeburyness Fair
10 Jun	Colne High School Fete
15-18 Jun	Essex County Show
24 Jun	Colchester Garrison Open Day
4- 7 Jul	Army Exhibition For Schools
25 Sep- 8 Oct	Kape Tour

QM'S DEPARTMENT
PERSONALITIES

QM	**Capt (QM) Bob Lockwood**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) Tom Ferry**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Phil Jones**

Since our last entry in *The Wire* it has been a busy few months for the Troop. In April most of the Troop deployed to Germany. **SSgt Phil Jones** and **LCpl 'Mac' McDonald** remained behind with the job of clearing the workload from the RAOC.

After three weeks of driving all over Germany in the lovely winter the rest of the lads returned, with much whingeing from **Sig Sutton**.

One of the many tasks the Troop has had is to supply some of it's members on Ex Petit Mash to help the Medics out and show their QM how Signals Storemen do it.

We have just had a lovely time at STANTA running around in noddy suits on the Squadron NBC Week, covering all aspects of NBC. It had to be the only week that the weather was sweltering just to get everyone sweating. I am glad to report that everyone passed with flying colours.

We have lost one member of the Troop, **Sig 'Robbo' Robson** to the LAD to help out with the FATSO and FAMTO which is bad because we all have to make the QMs tea now.

The Troop would also like to congratulate **LCpl McDonald** on successfully passing his RSDCC and promotion to Corporal.

TM TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**WO2 (FofS) Allerton**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Bob Drysdale**
IC Radio	**Sgt Andy Davie**
IC TE	**Sgt Calum Downie**

The Squadron took a massive step forward recently with the formation of TM Tp. With **WO2 (FofS) Mal Allerton** at the helm and **Sgt Bob Drysdale** as Troop Sergeant we are now boldly going where no one went before, mainly on Cassims and exercises.

The Radio Section, ably led by **Sgt Andy Davie** comprises **Cpl Steve Armstrong** who is about to leave for Long Look in Australia, and that dynamic duo **LCpl Craig Brankin** and **LCpl Steve Hazelwood**.

In the darkest corner of the workshop sits **Cpl 'Oggy' Ogden** holding the Radio Relay Section together whilst **Sgt 'Buntering' Bob Drysdale** holds the reins of the Troop admin.

Sgt Calum Downie leads an overworked TE Section comprising **Cpls Adie Eaton, Al Aimer** and **Martin Silvey** who happily deploy on numerous tasks, particularly subset rebuilding, RAAT tasks and Ptarmigan Mods.

The new Troop looks forward to the day in the dim and distant future when we will all be together, in work at the same time.

SWIMMING
EASTERN DISTRICT SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS
31 MAY 1989

After weeks endeavouring to train and organise a water polo team, amongst an array of Squadron exercises and commitments, the day of reckoning was finally upon us.

Twenty minutes were taken out of the referee's already busy schedule to explain the rules and regulations to our teams. Strangely enough we started to feel confident, this being further boosted when we discovered that the Comms and Sy Gp were in a different league from us—in more ways than one!

Our new found confidence suddenly drained away however, at the discovery that 45 Fd Regt RA—the only Major Unit to enter the competition—was the opposition in our first match.

Any doubts about our ability were soon to be dispelled after a dazzling display (of fouling) by **Sgt Stu Read**, and **Sig '264' Brooks** in defence, **Sig** 'The Cat' **Farrar** in goal, only conceded one, whilst up front **Cpl Tony Waddington** (Team Captain), fired in 10 goals to win our league, and book us a place in the finals against the favourites Comms and Sy.

This game proved to be a difficult one for both team, going in to the final quarter with Comms and Sy leading 5—3. The favourites emerged the winners with the final score 8—3, guaranteeing both teams a place in July's zone finals.

After a well earned 20 minutes rest the team swimming events began, **Cpl Tony Waddington** had a fine victory in the individual freestyle only to find himself straight back in the water to come a close (tired) second in the backstroke. They say bad news comes in threes and sure enough he was in the water, yet again, swimming the butterfly leg of the medley relay. (Thanks to all the lads who helped him out at the finish!)

Along with sterling performances from **LCpl Ainsley, Sgt Read, Sig Brooks, Farrar, Cpl Ogden, Sig Phillips** and **Lumsden** we managed second place overall behind Comms and Sy. The position also guaranteeing us a place in the zone finals which we are greatly looking forward to. Now maybe, we can get down to some training! (Hint Sir!).

227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT)
BFPO 18

PRINCESS ROYAL DAY COMPETITION
by Sgt Mick McDonald

The Princess Royal Day competition took place at Haltern training area on 30 May. As we were able to nominate our own shooting team, a quick check of shooting records enabled us to nominate the lucky four, **WO1 (FofS) Graham Atkinson, Sgt Pete Fox, Sig Neil Cawthorne** and **Lee Naylor**.

The six man march and shoot team was to be selected by Comd Comms BAOR. No time was wasted in training the team, even travelling as far as Krefeld to find a free range. Consequently, by the time the march and shoot team was selected, the first team already had a great deal of practice in the shoots they would be required to fire on the day.

22 May was a time for sighs of relief and groans of anguish as the march and shoot team was announced: **Capt Steve Wallis, Sgt Graham Perch, Cpl Rob Melotte, LCpl Graham Fletcher, Sig Paul Dacey (Junior)** and **Darren Olford**.

After a few more days range work, (with sun umbrella throughfully provided by **Capt Steve Wallis**) we travelled to Haltern on the evening before the competition. On the big day itself, all team members shot extremely well and special praise goes to **Sig Paul Dacey** for a fine pistol shoot which earned him an increase in pocket money from his 'dad' **(Sgt McDonald)** and his first mention in *The Wire*.

The Squadron Commander, **Maj Brian Robinson** and SSM, **WO2 'Taff' Williams** also took part in the pistol shoot, the result of which was mercifully not included in the overall total!

The start of the march and shoot saw us in a very strong position, lying in first place with everything depending on the march and shoot. After hacking their way around a 5km course, the team arrived fresh, smiling and hardly breathing heavily (surely some mistake) at the firing point where, sadly, due to some confusion over which target belonged to which team, we expended about one third of our ammunition on the wrong target (not the only team to do so, I hasten to add).

The end of the march and shoot saw us in a final position of fourth out of ten teams, a very creditable performance indeed. Special mention should be made of the photographic abilities of our Team Coach, **Sgt Mick McDonald**, for snapping away merrily, blissfully unaware of the lack of anything vaguely resembling film in his camera.

Although the end result was disappointing in view of our early success, we now have the nucleus of a Unit shooting team, so next year, we should be back on the shooting scene after a few years' absence.

LCpl Smith being caught and overtaken by LCpl Crosbie and his section

MILITARY TRAINING

Once again Ex Long Walk 2 was postponed due to a hopelessly inaccurate weather forecast from the local airport. Since their prediction was for rain, strong winds, and all the plagues of the Old Testament, we actually had continuous sun and high temperatures.

Many UK Army personnel did however, participate in Ex Board Warrior, held in the Maastricht area on 19 April 1989. The exercise consisted of a 20km navigation phase followed by a river crossing, using initiative and any available equipment. Please, Sarge, my initiative isn't long enough . . .

WINDSURFING

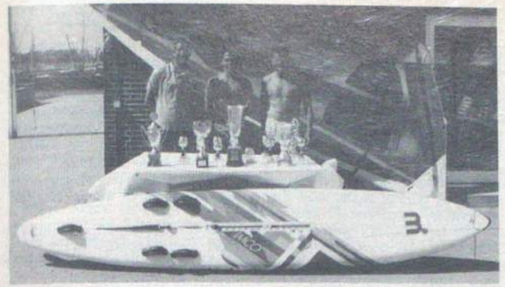
The Squadron again travelled the furthest to defend the Thompson Cup at the BAOR (Royal Signals) Championships.

Ideal weather conditions and superb organisation by **Capt Phil Daisey** and the Dummersee Yacht Club, saw the best of the Minor Units windsurfing teams in BAOR battling for the Minor Unit Championships 1989.

Maj Joe Fletcher, 202 Sig Sqn, sailed extremely well, and proved impossible to catch, sailing the new, Corps bought, IMCO Board/Rig combination, 227 continued to sail the Mistral UDS competition boards in an attempt to further one class racing in the Corps.

High winds and a vicious chop made for tremendously exciting racing, which tested all sailors to their limits. All credit to 202, we look forward to taking up the challenge again at the BFG Championships in July.

PS: Any sponsors willing to provide new equipment for this Unit would be welcomed.



BAOR (Royal Signals) Minor Unit Championship 1989 Runners Up WO1 (RSM) John Mold, LCpl Tony Smith and WO1 (FofS) Graham Atkinson

ORIENTEERING

The Squadron has had a very encouraging orienteering season—with some nine new members introduced to the sport and the old professionals still running the contours.

The RCZ League found individual success in the following categories: **Maj G. Thomas** Winner M40; **Maj B. Robinson** Winner M45 and **Capt C. O'Nians** Winner Womens Prize.

The Squadron took the RCZ League Minor Unit title. The Army and BAOR Championships brought further success with: **Maj G. Thomas** winning the M40 Class in both events and **Capt C O'Nians** the Womens Services BAOR event, and in the Army Championships running out of class overall third place.

EXERCISE DECI BEAR

Capt C. S. O'Nians	Leader, Ornithology Study
Sgt D. G. Perch	2IC
Sgt S. R. Nobbs	Accountant
Sgt J. Holt	Herpetology Study
Cpl G. T. Burton	Ornithology Study
LCpl E. N. Openshaw	Stores Accountant
Sig D. J. Olford	
Sig L. Naylor	

On 11 April 1989 eight members of the Squadron set off on Ex Deci Bear, an Adventurous Training Expedition to 'sunny' Sardinia. The aims of the expedition were to hill walk in the Gennargentu Mountains, to Toprope and Abseil in the Arbatax area and to carry out two Scientific Studies—Ornithology and Herpetology (Bird and Reptile watching).

The party arrived at RAF Decimomannu via RAF Wildenrath to warm but cloudy weather, and a look forward to things to come, rain. From RAF Decimomannu the party was transported via the capital Cagliari to the BAOR Expedition Base (Villa Cooper) in the pleasant residential area of Capitana situated on the South Coast. The first impressions of Sardinia were one of the eucalyptus trees and poor drivers. The Villa Cooper is set on the coast and surrounded by the security of a perimeter wall and grilled windows, as all the villas seen to be, just like home. The aroma of citrus blossom was overpowering. On the journey it was interesting to note that the meadows were a blaze of colour—on the outskirts of Cagliari children were begging as vehicles stopped at traffic lights. A mother with a very small, dirty baby handed the cigarette she was smoking to a small child; whilst she came forward with hand held out—the child smoked the cigarette.

The following day Wednesday 12 April the expedition members departed for the drop off point some two and a half hours drive north and inland to the village of Seulo at a height of almost 800m in the lower Gennargentu range. By now it was 1300 hrs and the party was commencing the climb of 537m to the peak of Mount Perdedu at 1,334m. This was a real eye opener for the days to come, with its false summits, one after the other. The weather was warm but overcast, our packs were heavy with the next four days supply of clothing, equipment, food and water. At 1530 hrs we conquered Mount Perdedu, but the weather was changing and it was decidedly cooler. Morale was high and the whippets **LCpl Openshaw, Sig Naylor** and **Olford**, kept chasing the old timer **Cpl Burton** at the back. The terrain was a mixture of grass and large smooth boulders, with cows and wild horses. Large lily type flowers grew in clumps, along with early purple orchid, wild tyme, gnarled olive trees and squat mature oaks. The bush—a vast mixture of deciduous shrub—is called the marquis. We were fascinated by the Dung Beetles which pushed their 'dung' backwards and uphill, until a certain person kicked them back down again. We also had to divert our route slightly as we came upon a cow which had just given birth.

Up to this point the map had been correct; however, the terrain on the north side of Mount Perdedu was more hostile and very steep and we had no choice but to follow a track into the gorge of the River Flumendosa, a descent of 775m with the maquis deep enough to hide an army. At 1900 hrs we pitched the tents by the river and with a camp fire burning brightly we settled to our evening meal. The fire was promptly extinguished by a thunderous downpour and we retired quickly for the night, four to a tent, wet but warm. The next day Thursday 13 April we awoke to find the ground covered in white—it had been a sleepless night for most with the sound of thunder, rain and hail beating down on the tents. The weather was cool but clear for the next few hours and we spent that time locating a suitable crossing point of the swollen River Flumendosa—it had risen over 2ft during the night. Not only did we have to find a calm river crossing but suitable terrain on the other side. We prepared to cross the river and the rain started again; it was to remain with us for the next 48 hours. So much for 'sunny' Sardinia.

Once across the river we prepared to climb Bruncu Capriolu. We could not take our original route as it was impossible to reach that area on the northern side of the river. We instead climbed a large re-entrant that contained a stream of white water bouncing over boulders. It was in the early stages of the climb we saw Mufflon, a small stocky hill deer, the male of which has curly horns. This particular group had some very small young, one of which treated us to a viewing twice as it ran about looking for its mother. The going was tough, and the maquis impenetrable at times; but the hail and rain kept us cool. It did little for our sense of humour. However, late in the afternoon we reached the next two peaks Sa Preda Niedda 1,149m and Bruncu Capriolu 1,173m.

By this time we were behind schedule, the weather was unfriendly and we were looking for somewhere sheltered to camp; there was not really any flat area on the hills and of course we were by this time well above the tree level. We pitched the tents in the lee of a large rocky outcrop and retired for the night, which brought more rain and hail. The following morning was very cold with a fierce wind. It was decided to change the route to a lower level for safety reasons. Between the eight of us we had only three semi-dry sleeping bags. Later it was discovered that this particular weather was quite out of the norm and unexpected for Sardinia in April, even in the mountains. We headed east towards Lake Flumendosa. The terrain was thick with hail which at a distance made the mountains look as though they were covered in snow. **Sgt Perch, Sig Naylor** and **Olford** had on short socks, hoping to entice the sun but it didn't work. In fact the hail felt like needles on the backs of their legs. We gradually made our way east, with the weather not easing, but at least by moving we could keep warm. Much later that day we came across a shepherds hut—a strongly built structure with a barn for animals and shepherds living area with a fire place. It was a godsend—after hanging our tents to dry, collecting fire wood, and eating we sat by a warm fire. The hut had metal shutter windows and door. During the evening several pigs were noticed outside. It was almost like a TV set. We all huddled near the door looking out through the rain at trotting pigs with their ears flapping. **Capt O'Nians** had a close encounter with the pigs whilst disturbing them the following morning not realising that they had spent the night in a nearby old stone hut. Who was the more frightened?

Next morning Saturday 15 April the sun showed amongst the now white clouds. Everyone's kit was dry, and morale was high. With the sun out our snake hunter **Sgt Holt** was looking forward with high

hopes. We set off again towards Lake Flumendosa which is in fact a reservoir; the western end had an enormous dam—by this time the weather had turned warm with blue sky. The water level in the lake was low by some 40m. Apparently it had not rained for two years!

We entered the village Villanona Strisaili, where we purchased bread, ham, cheese and fruit. Our finance man **Sgt Nobbs** started to get the hang of the lira. We had intended to purchase food for our evening meal but other than that mentioned no other choice was available. We decided to pool our food reserves and make a soup. However, that evening, miles from anywhere, at an area called Santa Barbara we found a suitable place to camp—and a pizzeria. Very good map reading! It was a most unusual area with large smooth boulders amongst small olive, oak and cork trees. That night some were awoken by the monotonous call of the Scops Owl—or it was the contented noise of snoring?

So Sunday 16 April found us walking down to the small town high in the mountains called Villa Granda Strisaili for a pre arranged pickup by the BAOR Base Support Staff to take the party to our next phase—Top Roping and Abseiling. This day was our first day of sun and blue sky but we were kept cool by a slight breeze.

The town, like many others in Sardinia, had distinguishing characteristics—the apartments and houses were unfinished with living quarters maybe below or above roughly cemented breeze blocks. Apparently no rates are paid until a building has been completed and therefore it takes a long time to complete!

By 1530 hrs we had arrived at a camp site near Arbatax, a small port on the East Coast. It was a good base for the next five days, near the beach and about a kilometre from Arbatax. We had a successful Top Roping and Abseiling phase, with everyone attempting to climb and abseil. The more we did the more confident the climbers/abseilers became, until falls and slips became regular; good confidence building stuff!

During this period the Scientific Studies continued. The Herpetology study had proved interesting—many types of lizard but only one type of snake were seen—this was one area where the other expedition members showed approval.

The Ornithology study had continued throughout the expedition; however, the days amongst the high Gennargentu Range were disappointing, and it is possible that given better weather conditions more Raptors would have been sighted. The lower hills and coastal area proved very interesting—with over 60 positively identified species.

All in all the expedition was very successful—four expedition members were introduced to trekking for the first time, and others gained valuable experience. Our thanks go to the Base Support staff for all their help—it really was a most worthwhile expedition.

238 (London) Sig Sqn
Chelsea Barracks

BATTLE CAMP 1/89

It was decided that the first Battle Camp would take place in April and once again we would visit 'sunny' St Martin's Plain Camp near Folkestone. So the great day arrived. Saturday 1 April the DS set off to set up 'Base Location' and for once **Cpl 'Brummie' Seaton** actually managed to get the ambulance to arrive at the same time as the rest of the vehicles, although **SSgt Geoff Baldry** did attempt to ruin this great accomplishment when he decided to join the Motorway Maintenance crews on the M20.

The format for the training remained the same in that members of the Squadron would take part over two weeks, which enabled maximum participation. On arrival at St Martin's Plain Camp Chief Red Coats, **Capt John Isherwood** and **WO2 (SSM) Gus Hales**, officially welcomed all campers, then the fun started with a BFT within the camp under the direction of **Sgt Sandy Brown** and **Sig Bob Garlick** our newly trained AIPT. On the Sunday afternoon the students were given instructions on the following subjects; clearance of buildings, setting up of VCPs, searching of vehicles and finally the defence of a key point. All of this was done in brilliant sunshine. From then on each day was to start at 0630 hrs with a 'beasting' from certain members of the DS on so called PT.

On the second day of each week the students put into practice what they had been taught the previous day. This was done under the two Platoon Sergeants—**Sgts Howie Richardson** and **Dai Rennison**. They both now knew that **Cpl 'Brummie' Seaton** is not an easy person to push around, as **Cpl Seaton** disguised as a 'stroppy civvie' demanded to know why all these soldiers were doing strange things on his land. A night navigation exercise took place on the Monday evenings, with the course set by **Sgt Tracy** 'TD' **Dodd** and **Cpl 'Taff' Loughlin**. Special mention must go to **LCpls Tony Lynch** and **Stu Bull** as their sections achieved the two fastest times.

Tuesay mornings proved to be a great success in that everyone got two breakfasts, the second one being eating and drinking drills in the respirator testing chamber! Rumour has it that **Cpl Kev Salisbury** will never close his eyes again.

In the afternoon **SSgt 'M20' Baldry** took the students on advance to contact on what must be the biggest hill in the Folkestone area, and as if that was not enough, the weather certainly didn't help. Winter had made an unexpected appearance in the form of a raging blizzard, but despite the conditions everyone gave their all, including **Pte 'Pebbles' MacPhail** who refused to give in until **Capt Isherwood** persuaded her to follow him down the hill. This was followed by an easier day which began in the indoor Cine Target trainer on Hythe Ranges. On the Wednesday afternoons a casualty simulation exercise was organised and run by **Cpl Seaton**. The only problem encountered was when the civilian staff of the camp came to enquire if we required the emergency services to be called!

The conclusion of the week was the exercise which commenced on Thursday. Over the exercise period all the various aspects of training were to be covered, but unknown to the students there was going to be a great amount of disruption, which was later to be confirmed by **Sig Malcolm**. The most disruption, however, was caused when our two 4 ton vehicles were 'sabotaged' and had to be recovered by REME Wksps, Ashford. Relief finally came for DS and students alike at 0830 on the Friday when Endex was called. After 'the big clean up' it was back to Chelsea Barracks where we could all settle down to shift work and sports afternoons; well at least until September Battle Camp.

The enemy: Sgt 'JB' Bragg and (Local) Sgt 'Taff' Loughlin relax in between harassing the Troops (spot the poser phone!)

EXERCISE CRAVEN FAULT

Report by Capt Mike Dunn

During one of the few idle moments of my life (ie one not spent playing golf) as a typical hard working(?), conscientious Captain in the Corps, I decided to organise a walking trip to one of the most picturesque areas in England. Our walk started in Grassington on 22 May and ended in Stainford Near Settle, North Yorkshire on 25 May, with a day spent walking around Malham Tarn.

Obviously with this physically arduous exercise and the potentially life threatening extremes of heat and sunshine one had to contend with, fluid intake was vital. Fortunately, **Cpl Jez Hornsby** had this in hand and came along armed with the Good Pub Guide.

WSgt Tracy Dodd proved herself to be excellent as our admin support SNCO. The mere 'treat' of walking with us sent her into a 'tizzy' of activity which resulted in coffee, food, . . . in fact, name it and it was done! (well almost).

Newly promoted **LCpl Jock Plunkett** enjoyed his new found authority entirely at **Sig Ian Tait's** (the token Signalman) expense. **Tait** wishes to take this opportunity to point out to Glasgow that he will shortly be the only Tele Op (Tg) Signalman left in the Troop! **LCpl Tony Lynch**, however, believes that to be one too many!

Finally, thanks to **Cpl Ian Campbell** who did so much to organise the exercise but couldn't make the trip himself!

FOOTBALL SEASON 1988/89

Report by Sgt Sandy Brown

'Welcome to the Squadron, you're in charge of the football team.' My initial interview over, I set about my task of trying to find 11 footballers in Chelsea Barracks. I didn't know it at the time, but I had more chance of finding a Chelsea Pensioner doing an eight minute BFT.

The season was almost upon us, a few players confessed to having kicked a ball, a new strip was paid for by the return of **Cpl Brian** 'Honest I'm sober' **Vaughan's** empty beer bottles and **LCpl** 'Stroller' **Young** was still worried about where the sixth corner flag was going to come from.

Our first event of the season was the district six-a-side in which we gave the big boys the fright of their lives. Our regular goalkeeper, **WO2 Gus** 'The Cat' **Hales** was on leave so our chances looked rather slim at the outset. However, **Cpl Taff** 'There's no way I'm playing in goal' **Loughlin** came to our rescue and put paid to the myth that he was a goal scorer by playing out of his skin in goal. We reached the semi finals and lost on a recount 6—1 to the eventual winners, 17 Trg Regt RA.

Everything was going to plan, even our early cup exits so we could concentrate on the league, then came one of our more remarkable games. Still unbeaten and top of the league we played the team of the Royal Military School of Music. 'Easy', 'Clowns', 'Muppets', and this was only a few of the comments from our up and coming team about our musically minded opponents. After 10 minutes of the first half, as I was taking my fourth kick off, I thought this can't be, we have 'the cat' back between the sticks, possibly our strongest team we could field and yet we are 3—0 down.

Before we settled down into our stride we lost **Sig** 'Rubber Legs' **Smith** who was felled by a well placed header from **'Taff' Loughlin**, who thought that **'Smudge'** was trying to steal his thunder by scoring a goal. As half time approached and **'Smudge'** was being rushed to the medical centre on a stakeboard we were winning 4—3.

In the second half another tragedy was to rock our team. **Cpl Mark** 'How's your tackle' **Rothwell** was reduced to a whimpering heap by a swift kick. After the lads stopped laughing and **Mark's** squeals were muffled by the linesman's flag, on came 'Speedy' **Jim Plunkett** to show us his pace! The game came to an end as **Sig Bob** 'inject me' **Garlick** rounded off a fine game by notching on his birthday. Final whistle 11—5, what a game.

The season finished for us with three games in five days, and after only being defeated once in our league programme the league title was ours.

During the season I had to drag players from anywhere and everywhere and I would like to thank heads of departments for going short on your work force and allowing the lads the time off to play. Special thanks to **LCpl Tony Young** (now 1 Inf Bde) for his help in running the team, **Cpls Gary Crouch, Paul Brickell, Capt Mike Dunn, Sgts Bob Dodds, Howie Richardson, John Bragg, Sig Jason** 'Where's Webby' **Malcolm, Ian Tait** and skipper **Sig** 'I'm off for a Corps trial' **Runchman**. On a final note I would like to remind those of our team and supporters who were present, of my 60 yard goal. Laugh! I nearly bought a round. Well done everyone.

INTER TROOP POTTED SPORTS

As if getting up at some ungodly hour on a Friday morning for a State Visit rehearsal was not enough to warrant an afternoon off, a large proportion of the Squadron was to endure a session of physical torture at the hands of our PTI, **Cpl Karla Rayment**, before being allowed a weekend off.

Following in the footsteps of her predecessors, **Cpl Rayment** had devised six 'fun' games/command tasks for us all to enjoy. In addition to normal gym items such as beams, mats, ropes and medicine balls, other props to be used included boxing gloves, respirators, blindfolds, a supermarket shopping trolley, flippers and eggs! So if you didn't receive actual bodily harm as a result of the activities you could get salmonella poisoning instead. Fortunately for the competitors, each game was only two minutes long (two minutes too long in most cases), but as can be appreciated from the list of props above, an exhausting but good time was had by all. At the end of the 'battle' Radio Tp 'odds and sods team' surprised everyone by coming first. Well done to all participants and to **Cpl Rayment** for organising the event.

The results were as follows: First—Radio Tp 3: **Capt Mike Dunn, Sgt 'JB' Bragg, LCpl 'Gibbo' Gibson** (absconded from 249 Sig Sqn), **Sig 'Jock' Plunkett** and **Bob Nairn**; Second—Oscar Tp: **Capt John Isherwood, Cpl Janette Dallimore, LCpls Tony Lynch** and **Nicki Humphries**; Third—Radio Tp 1: **Cpls Jez Hornsby, 'Brummie' Seaton, LCpls Chris Bailey, Dave Chambers, Mick Labram** and **Sig Roy Brunt**; Fourth—Oscar Tp 2: **Sgt Dai Rennison, LCpl Grant McNee, Ptes Gillian Wakerley** and **'P-J' Price Jones**; Fifth—SHQ: **Maj Peter Dick-Peter, Capt Therese Crook, Sgts Keith Hearn, Sandy Brown, LCpl Julie Bradshaw** and **Sig Colin Geraghty**; Sixth—Radio Tp 2: **Cpl Kev Salisbury, LCpls Stu Bull, Jane Pudney, Sig Crow Webster** and **Ian Tait.**

Posing for the camera, Oscar Tp team 1, *(left to right):* LCpls Lynch, Humphries, Capt Isherwood and Cpl Dallimore

DEPARTURES/ARRIVALS/CONGRATULATORY

Farewell and good luck to the many personalities of the Squadron who have moved on to pastures new: **LCpl Sammy Anderson** (on promotion to Corporal) to 233 Sig Sqn, **LCpl 'Sid' Siddans** also to 233, **LCpl Tony Young** to 1 Inf Bde, **LCpl Sheldon Woodfine** and newly promoted **LCpl 'Runch' Runchamn** to NI, **LCpl Bob Nairn** (also newly promoted) to 3 ADSR, **LCpl Jane Pudney** to 240 Sig Sqn, **Pte Linda Strachan** to 16 Sig Regt, and to **Cpls Andy** and **Monika Martin, Joe Whittaker, Cath Smith** (now **Mrs Baker**) and **LCpl Neil Turton** who have all recently departed for Civvy Street.

Welcome to all new Squadron personnel; **Sgt Brian Cowling, Cpls 'Boogie'** and **Helen Knights, Norman** and **Margaret Small, Ian** and **Sandra Campbell, 'Tel' Taylor, John** and **Charmaine Lynch** and **Alan Robson, LCpls Stu Bull** and **Julie Bradshaw** and **Ptes 'P-J' Price-Jones, Karen Hill** and **Sarah Taylor.**

Congratulations to the above mentioned newly promoted (and posted) and to **'Jock' Plunkett** on promotion to Corporal. Last and by no means least, congratulations to **Sgt Steve** and **Linda Matthews** on their recent addition to the family in the form of baby **Emily.**

244 Sig Sqn (AS)
RAF, Brize Norton

NOTES ON SHQ

OC	**Maj A. J. Hutt**
2IC	**Capt T. J. Pengelley**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Humble**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) Atkinson**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Pywell**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Howells**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt (ORSQMS) Morrissey**
Trg SNCO	**SSgt Martin-Pitt**
Clerks	**Cpl Smith**
	LCpl Edwards

ARRIVALS

A few new faces have arrived recently **Maj A. J. Hutt** took over command of the Squadron on 14 April and quickly settled into his new post. Another new arrival is **WO2 (SSM) Humble** who joined us from 5 (AB) Bde Sig Sqn.

DEPARTURES

SSgt (ORSQMS) Morrissey departed for pastures new—(Hong Kong) on 20 June 1989 after almost three years here. We wish him and his wife, **Tamara**, all the best for the future.

RED HAND GANG
by SSgt (ORSQMS) Terry Morrissey

As my time in 244 Sig Sqn better known as 'The Red Hand Gang' comes to an end, I thought I would put pen to paper and commit my experiences of the last three years here at RAF Brize Norton, and in what better publication than *The Wire*.

It all started in April 1986 when I received my posting order to 244 Sig Sqn as Chief Clerk. Admittedly I knew very little of the Squadron except the fact that they are based at RAF Brize Norton. Little did I know that they had Troops stationed at RAF Upavon (70 miles away) and a TA Troop based in Cardiff (95 miles away)—an administrative nightmare, soldiers scattered everywhere, or so I thought!

On arrival in August 1986 I booked into the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess—second nightmare! The Mess belongs to the RAF and what a difference from the Army Mess I had just left. Being a 'Brown Job' in a 'Blue' Mess is a new experience. I was beginning to wonder what I had come to—was this Records way of getting back at me after I had just completed a tour with the glamorous 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

Things could only improve—and so they did. After the settling in period I took over the duties of Chief Clerk and actually found the job more of a challenge than I could ever have imagined. The difference in procedures of serving in the UK again, a TA Troop!, soldiers exercising with the AMF(L), UKMF, 5 (AB) Bde, UKSH Force, 15 different Unit Identity Numbers to name but a few—and with just two clerks.

But for any clerks thinking of volunteering to serve with the Squadron—don't despair, it's not as complex and complicated as it seems at first. Once in the stride of things, the weeks passed and the work flowed and I started enjoying things. What I did realise was that whilst I was working away in the office with my 'Army' of clerks (one Corporal and one Lance Corporal) other members of the Squadron would be disappearing on exercise to Hong Kong, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Morocco, the Caribbean, the Oman, Italy, Turkey to name just a few places, the list seemed endless. It was agreed that a member of the clerical staff would also deploy and now as I leave, clerks have served in Turkey, Norway, Denmark and Germany with future exercises this year in Norway, Italy and Sardinia looking very promising.

By the time you read this I shall have left the 'Red Hand Gang' and be in my new job as Chief Clerk of the Joint Service Signal Staff serving in Hong Kong. **SSgt Graham Smith** takes over from in in Brize Norton assisted by **Cpl Vince Smith** who leaves the Army in March 1990 and **LCpl Eddie Edwards** who is earmarked to go to 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn in due course, therefore if there are any clerks out there who wish to serve in a busy independent Signal Squadron, and enjoy exercising abroad, marching around the countryside and contributing to our Air Support role, then they should ensure that 244 Sig Sqn (Air Support) is first choice on the Posting Preference Proforma.

I would like to thank all members of the Squadron both past and present who have made my tour here both challenging and pleasurable and I wish you all the very best for the future and I hope to see you again—maybe at the 'Red Hand Gang' Reunions!

EXERCISE FINAL TAB
by SSgt Barry Martin-Pitt

As those past and present members of the Squadron will know, for the past two and a half years, Friday afternoons have been reserved for the Squadron March or 'Tab' as it is better known. Therefore it seemed only fitting that on the final day of **Maj R. D. Symonds'** command that the lads should take him on a final Tab.

After a few miles through various water obstacles the ex-OC came face to face with a stretcher which, of course, he was to be carried on. With the SSM **(WO2 Humble)** giving orders 'Pick Up Stretcher', 'Prepare To Change', 'Change'—after a relatively smooth ride and to the amazement of the RAF on the back gate, who actually saluted the OC, (no they didn't recognise you Sir, they were well briefed).

The march finished at the 'Bird in Hand' and as you can see the Chief Clerk is there as ever with some light refreshment for the outgoing OC.

Maj Symonds was then presented with a statuette of a soldier in his favourite order of dress by **Sig Sutherland**. I am sure he will not forget his tour here.

All members of 244 Sig Sqn (AS) would like to wish **Maj Symonds** and his wife **Myra** all the best for the future.

Maj Symonds enjoying his ride, being carried by Sig Davies, LCpl O'Neil, Cpls Pearson and Rogerson

Sig Sutherland *(right)* presenting the statuette to Maj R. D. Symonds

254 Sig Sqn (UNFICYP)
BFPO 567

April and May saw the Squadron in the Dancon March, the Britcon Medal Parade and Ex Aphrodites Amble. The Squadron also had the opportunity to entertain the new Force Commander, **Maj Gen Milner**. On the sporting side, the Squadron won the All Island Orienteering Championship.

DANCON MARCH
by Cpl Yates

The first day started at 0450 hrs with the team arriving at the start point with 25lbs of webbing (honest) for weighing on. The Race or as the Danes like to call it the Scenic walk, consisted of several uphill and more uphill stages, 25 painful kms in total, and that was just day one.

The prospect of another 25kms on Day 2 in under four and a half hours was 'rather daunting' as a certain **Capt** 'Frenchie' **Rousseau** would say. The march started off at quite a brisk pace until the team came to a section which would provide even rock leaders with problems. After scaling the summit the team carried on up and up with the same type of march as the first day.

The team all finished the 50kms in under eight and a half hours. Looking back, it was quite enjoyable in a masochistic sort of way.

BRITCON MEDAL PARADE—THE VIEW FROM THE FLAGS
by Sgt Lance Thornton-Granville

The Britcon Medal Parade is a bi-annual one where a representative number of soldiers from the British contingent are presented with their UN (Cyprus) Medal. It is a time when all elements of the contingent are on parade together. As I arrived after the initial manpower requirement list came out, I volunteered, in absentia, to be SNCO I/C Flag Party.

To assist me in this task I was able to call on the steady hands of **Cpl 'Alf' Norrie** and **Sig 'Thrappo' Rapson**. First rehearsal was 24 April. My total party of eight (one for the flag of each serving contingent) practised our 90 second stint to the strains of 'Sundown; all flags lowered at the same rate. Four rehearsals and five minutes work later saw the big day arrive.

First on were the men of C Sqn Life Guards then the four Batteries of 3 RHA marched on. Following the inspection by the new Force Commander **Maj Gen Milner**, medals were presented. The parade continued with a march past and then we were on. One and a half minutes of Sundown and it was all over bar the march/drive past.

Once everyone had thinned out, it was off to the Mess for a little refreshment. Now. Must start working on a swerve for October.

EXERCISE APHRODITES AMBLE
by Cpl Nick Turner

Ex Aphrodites Amble took place between 1 and 6 May. It was split into two three day phases. The first day entailed a shoot, NBC First Aid, Map Reading, Command Tasks, and a basic signalling skills exercise.

Once completed the Sections then moved by four Tonners from Dhekelia to the Evdhimou area where sections were briefed for Day 2. A few hours kip under the stars in a poncho and it was time to set up again and start 'The March to Freedom' 24kms (as the crow flies) via eight checkpoints in the glorious Cyprus sun. The march finished at the Evdhimou beach front where the sections arrived hot, sweaty with plenty of sore feet and blisters, to see the DS at base camp all hard at work, improving their suntans!

The third day the tired legs and sore feet were given the chance to bathe in the Med, but with the swimming test scheduled for 0600 hrs, obviously somebody somewhere has a sense of humour. Other activities included sea canoeing, windsurfing, raft-building and just in case you were game for more, you could run it off by what else but orienteering!

The times of the marches varied and so did the distances covered, no names no Packdrill. Cries of 'trust your compass' 'where are we?', 'I'm not lost' could be heard and others too, not for printing.

The winner of the competition was B2 section led by **Cpl Nick Turner**, well backed up by his team of **Sig Shawn Morgan**, and three Canadians **Kerru Smith, Brian Fullarton** and **Jan Verveille**. They were presented with the winners trophies by the Force Commander who afterwards had lunch with the Squadron at the 'Wire Inn'.

VISIT OF MAJ GEN C. MILNER OMM CD FORCE COMMANDER UNFICYP

On Thursday 11 May the Squadron had the honour of being visited by the new Force Commander **Maj Gen Milner**. He was met outside the SHQ by the OC **Maj Jerry Peck** and the SSM **WO2 Bill Henderson**. After the initial greetings were exchanged the General was

Force Commander, Maj Gen Milner presents Cpl Stevie Behan with his UN Medal

given a briefing on the role of the Squadron within UNFICYP by the OC, by the YofS **WO1 Nick Hammett** and the FofS **SSgt Gi Whiteford**. He also met the 2IC **Capt Richard Giles**, OC Radio Tp **Capt Don Rousseau** and the SO Tels **Capt Herwig Geordie Müeller**. The General went on to visit the other departments and personnel within the Squadron including the Tech Wksps, Line Dept, Commcen and finally to the airfield where he was met by **SSgt Benny Bennett** and all the personnel of Radio Tp. During his visit the General took a very keen interest in all aspects of the Squadron, especially future projects. After the formalities were finished he attended an afternoon lunch with the Squadron in the 'Wire Inn', and presented the Aphrodites Amble trophies and certificates to the winning section and the runners up.

Capt Don Rousseau, SSgt (FofS) 'Gi' Whiteford, Maj Gen Milner, Capt Bernie Derible, Maj Jerry Peck and WO1 (YofS) Nick Hammett

UNFICYP SAFE AND SKILLED DRIVING COMPETITION
by Sgt Pete Hancock

This bi-annual event saw five out of the seven Support Regt team members drawn from the Squadron. The fact that **Sgt Pete Hancock** was nominated team Captain may have had some bearing on this fact. **Cpl Nick Turner** excelled in the 'Heavy' group, coming second in the individuals and helping the Regiment to first place. In the 'Light' class **Cpls Al Giles, Stevie Behan** and **LCpl Andy Ploughman** came second, resulting in an overall second place for Support Regt.

TECH AND LINE TROOP
by Sig Rapson

The Troop would like to say farewell to the following and to wish them luck in the future, **Cpls Andy Sutton, Kel Watson, 'Bing' Crosbie, Sig 'Trappo' Rapson** and a special goodbye to **LCpl 'Taff' Skinner**. New arrivals in the Troop include **Sgt Roy** 'back again' **Jarvis, Cpl Al Giles, LCpl Mick Drury** and **Pte Brian Fullarton** (Canadian Signals). We hope you have an enjoyable tour and make the most of the Cypriot summer.

Recent competitions within the Squadron have seen Tech and Line Tp very well represented. They have been last in the six-a-side football, but redeemed themselves with a fine second in the hockey competition and an outstanding victory in the orienteering. Notable performances were produced by **Cpls Kel Watson, Ev Evans, Alf Norrie** and **Sgt Holden. Brian Fullarton** is noted for his Canadian hockey skills.

Ex Aphrodites Amble is a Squadron exercise aimed at testing soldiers at the various military skills and putting them through their paces on a forced match of 30kms. Day one was military skills which consisted of NBC, SA80, map reading, first aid, basic signalling and leadership. Our Canadian **Cpl Dave Adams** led from the front on the leadership showing us 'Brits' the way it should be done. **Cpl 'Bing' Crosbie** was overall fifth in the SA80 shooting competition, very good considering it was the first time he had fired the weapon. **LCpl Mick Drury** was a little 'miffed' on the basic signalling skills stand as his pole crossing had points deducted because it was not 'quite right'. The forced march sorted out the men from the boys, the Troop had 100% pass, no drop outs on the way round. **Sig 'Tosh' Pope** demonstrated his youthfulness **Cpl 'Bing' Crosbie** his age, **Sig 'Trappo' Rapson** showed how a PTI should do it, **Sgt Pete Hancock** followed the scenic route, and **Sgt Stan Holden** took the mountainous route. However, all completed the course in a creditable time. Mention must be made of **Sgts Roy Jarvis, Graeme Hossell** and **Cpl Norrie**, who whilst not competing in a section endured the 'hardships' of manning the checkpoints; never mind maybe next time.

SHQ PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Lynn Relph**
2IC	**Capt Mick Fogg**
SSM	**WO2 Tim Wallis**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt Neil March**
Training SNCO	**SSgt Mick Doherty**
Orderly Room Cpl	**Cpl Peat**

WELCOME AND FAREWELL

We welcome our new Chief Clerk **SSgt Neil March** and his wife **Dawn**, and say farewell and thank you to **SSgt Clyde Atherley** and **Jan** and wish them all the best in their new posting.

VISITS

During the past two months we have visits from a number of senior officers. The first to visit us in March was the Deputy Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army) **Brig T. H. Wheawell**. The Brigadier spent two days with the Squadron visiting Episkopi and Akrotiri, where he met the majority of the Squadron at work and wives and children at lunch in the Jimmy Club.

In April we had our formal ARU inspection by **Maj Gen J. P. W. Friedburger OBE**, Commander British Forces Cyprus. The inspection started with a Quarter Guard, which was commanded by **SSgt (SQMS) Stu Mullen**. A lot of time and effort was spent in preparation for the day, which turned out to be a success, or as the 2IC, **Capt Mick Fogg** put it—adequate.

A couple of days later we were visited by the Chaplain General, **The Rev J. Harkness OBE, QMC**. During lunch in the Jimmy Club he presented **Sig Steve Lews** with his Army (Cyprus) Swimming Colours.

Keep your unit notes **SHORT!**

259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

Brig T. H. Wheawell talking to Sgt Dave Bradford, with Lt Tim Craven and Sgt 'Ako' Atkinson looking on

CBF Cyprus talking to WO2 (SSM) Tim Wallis with Maj Lynn Relph hoping the Quarter Guard will be OK

CBF Cyprus inspecting the Quarter Guard
(Left to right): Cpl Creighton, Sig Lewis, Cpl Wood, Sig Biggins, Pickles, Lewis-Walker and Cpl Berney

AIRFIELD TROOP

OC Tp	**Lt T. R. Craven**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt K. Fitzpatrick**
Line Sgts	**Sgt K. John**
	Sgt T. Nicholas
Tech Sgts	**Sgt D. Atkinson**
	Sgt A. Pinsent
	Sgt D. Bradford

January saw the arrival of **Lt Tim Craven** as OC Tp and **Cpl Wise** with his abundance of technical knowledge pointed out the difference between 50 pair cable and a hose pipe, just to make certain that he knew it! However the new OC has changed the filing system and installed a Word Processor. What was his job before? We welcome him and his wife **Doreen** and hope they have an enjoyable tour.

HALF MARATHON

March saw the Cyprus Services Marathon which the Troop actively took part in on one of the hottest days this year. Members running were: **Sgt Ken John, Cpls 'Ernie' Wise, Bob Leyland, Sig 'Pambos' Durrand, 'De De' Watts, Billy Lilburn** and **'Ces Pit' Cecil**.

All followed by **Lt Tim Craven**—some good times were made.

Airfield Troop Marathon Team
(Left to right): Sgt Ken John, Lt Tim Craven, Cpl 'Ernie' Wise, Sig 'Taff The Chin' Lougher, Sig 'Pambos' Durrand, Sig (now LCpl) Billy Lilburn and Sig 'Ces' Cecil
Lying! Sig 'Di Di' Watts

VISITS OF 81 SQUADRON (V)

The first team of 81 Sqn (V) visited during the period 12-26 May. Their task well cut out for them, they enjoyed their visit tremendously. A character within the team was **Sig Caloe**, who has served as a Signalman in the TA/Army for 36 years and is proud of the fact. We wish him all the success in his new job on retirement from the TA at the grand age of 53.

CBF Cyprus asking Sig Wray how his summer training is going, with Cpl Steve Wheatley in support

NEW ARRIVALS

We welcome the following new arrivals: **Sgt Tony** and **Debbie Pinsent, Sgt Dave** and **Elfridge Bradford, Cpl 'Yogi'** and **Jane Cauldwell, Cpl 'BJ'** and **Julia Forbes-Wilson, LCpl Martin** and **Donna Goodhand, Sig Andy Maylett, 'Riggers' Rigby** and **LCpl 'Taff' Roberts** from afar—Episkopi.

DEPARTURES

Sgt Glenn and **Marion Renshaw, Sig 'Pambos' Durrand** and **LCpl 'Gaz'** and **Dawn Cuss** to Episkopi.

BABY ALERT

Apologies to **Cpl 'Jock'** and **Rhona Stenhouse** for omitting the arrival of **Stacey** on 12 December 1988 in the last issue of *The Wire*.

EXERCISE

Ex Runway Delight was a field training exercise held for 259 Sig Sqn, 254 Sig Sqn and 262 Sig Sqn on Evdhimou Training Area during the period 15-19 May 1989. The aim of the exercise was to practise basic field skills. The weather was extremely hot but the students enjoyed the fresh air and a helicopter insertion, the walking and section attacks were not to everyones liking. An enjoyable and rewarding five days was had by all. **Lt Craven, Sgt Atkinson** and **Cpl Leyland** were DS ably assisted by **SSgt Doherty** and 'whose a Marine?' **SSgt Fullwood! Cpl Leyland** showed his common sence when tasked to help the OC carry a stretcher he said: Follow me Sir! (where else, we would like to know, could he go) when carrying the back of the stretcher? but follow him!

262 Sig Sqn
BFPO 58

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Colin Bachelor**
AO	**Lt Jane Heywood**
SSM	**WO2 Dave Thomas**
YofS	**WO2 Bill Jackson**
FofS	**WO2 Peter White**
SQMS	**SSgt Dave Edgecombe**
Chief Clerk	**Sgt Trevor Glover**

CAN YOU SIGN FOR A SIGNAL SQUADRON SIR?

It was all go in Dhekelia on Monday 3 April—a big day for **Capt Colin Bachelor** as he took over the reins of the Squadron when **Maj Nigel Cory** fled Cyprus for BAOR.

Maj Nigel Cory certainly left in style. After ascending the main radio tower he was 'towed out' modelling a rather outsize pair of yellow papier maché ski boots—as befitted the Commodore of Dhekelia Water Sports Club who spends the winter months tormenting those less able skiers as a ski instructor at Troodos. Well done to the 'Art Department' in Comms Tp for the Officer Commanding's stylish apparel!

The day finished at the Bitsa (where else?) with the ceremonial removal of various moustaches **Maj Nigel Cory** leading the way raised £100 for various charities. As the party continued four members made contributions too, **Sgts Gary Corrigan, Gary Rhodes, Cpl Lee Thompson** and **Sig Rod Helps**.

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

There have been a number of other departures. Congratulations and good luck to **Cpl Donny Robertson** on passing RCB he's now off to RAEC Beconsfield and then to RMA Sandhurst. Goodbye and good luck to **Sgt Tim** and **Carol Wynn, Sgt Martin** and **Michelle Jackson** to **Sgt Sharon Ley, Cpl Nick** and **Jackie Smith, Cpl Trev Cotter, Sgt Nick Shaw, Cpl 'Taff' Thomas** and **Pte Karen Hill**.

Hello and welcome to **Sgt John** and **Julie Garhard, Cpl Andy** and **Karen Maynard** and **Cpl Robert Wymer**. Best wishes and good luck to **Pte Karen Murray** nee **Taylor)** on her recent marriage to **Sgt Lee Murray RAMC**.

FOCUS ON MAINTENANCE TROOP

262 Sig Sqn is located in the Eastern Sovereign Base area of Cyprus and consists of two Troops and a small SHQ. This issue we're focusing on Maint Tp—and it's Comms 'Spot Light' next time!

TE SECTION

The last few months has seen vast changes in TE Section. The new Commcen has been installed with new modern equipment (to us anyway) and our antiquated equipment has gone.

There has also been a big changeover in man/women power with the imminent departure of our glorious leader **Sgt Sharon Ley**, the slimline **Sgt Martin Jackson** and super strider Diego **Cpl Martin Abraham**. All replaced by **Sgt Dave** 'the spot' **Doody, Cpl** 'Fence Climber' **Phil Leach** and **Cpl Robert Wymer**.

The section would like to thank Radio Relay for their kind donation after the 'close' bowling challenge.

RADIO WORKSHOPS
by Sgt Tim Wynn

Whilst the remainder of the Squadron basks in sunshine and consumes vast quantities of refreshment, there remains a small body of dedicated Radio Technicians lead by **Sgt Tim Wynn** who have the enviable good luck to be marooned in 48 (Cyp) Wksps REME and quietly and efficiently TCOB (take care of business!).

The Squadron hardly noticed when **Cpl 'Flanny' Flaneghan** departed for 8 Sig Regt clutching his presentation Squadron pullover and smirking to himself. How he managed to get away with 90% of the REME's tools in his luggage remains a mystery!

Cpl 'Mates' Murphy arrived and had been beavering away for months before 'Guido' asked him for his arrival proforma! Then when **Cpl 'Donny' Robertson** left after more than three and a half years on the island it was weeks before he was missed by the Foreman! Good luck **Donny** at Sandhurst; if you ever get that commission in the Pay Corps we hope you never become our Paymaster. The workshops coffee swindle actually lost money whilst you were here!

Sgt Steve 'Stig' Elliott was promoted at last for managing to perform as a soldier for a week with 259 Sig Sqn—but then how would they know?

Finally **Sgt Tim Wynn** the world's best Windsurfer (nearly) departs for Blandford this summer and takes this opportunity to warn the Squadron in advance so they can save up for his Gozomme in August. If anyone is interested please don't present me with **Flanny**'s cardigan!

RADIO RELAY DEN

The Gang:-	
IC	**Sgt Alan 'The Boss' Dixon**
2IC	**Sgt Mick Scott**
IC Troop	**Sgt 'Chuck' Robertson**
	Sgt John Garhard
	Sgt Nick Shaw
	Sgt Russ Dale
	Cpl Mick Garbett
	Cpl Lee Thompson
	Cpl George Stebbing

The last couple of months have not been over exciting—especially as it has rained more than five times. I hope you're all feeling sorry for us!

We say hello to **Sgt John Garhard** and his wife **Julie** with their sons **Dave** and **Michael**.

Work has been fast and furious with bags of shift work, but now with the summer months approaching, the beach is calling us and hopefully the Radio will be sympathetic to our cause.

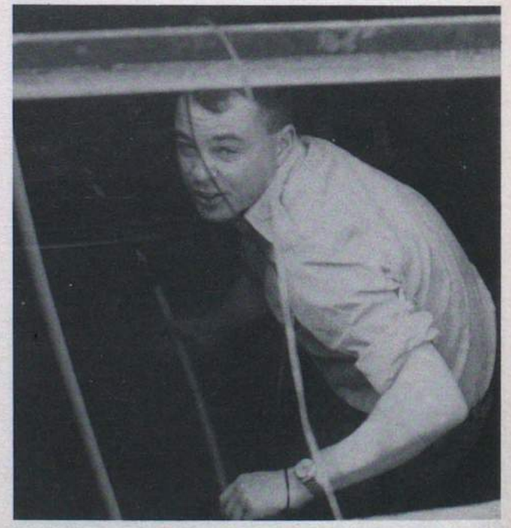
LINE TROOP

All the Line Section would like to congratulate **SSgt Nigel Grant** and his wife **Jackie** on the birth of their baby daughter **Samantha**, who weighed in at 7lb 8oz. Hope you're looking forward to many sleepless nights!

We must say goodbye to **Cpl 'Taff' Thomas**, who is leaving us for 8 Inf Bde and **LCpl 'Bonnie' Tyler** who left us only after a few months, to go back to 21 Sig Regt. Have a nice time Flasher!

We would like to say a big hello to **LCpl 'Lambie'** 'Falklands Detachment' **Lamb**, look forward to a couple of tours with the UN **Lambie**.

We must also welcome back **LCpl 'Taff' 'Jaffa' Skinner** who has returned to our ranks from another tour with the UN, and bye to **Sig Mick Drury** who replaced him, you might get more notice next time **Mick**!



LCpl Lamb gets his hands dirty, as he always does when Line Tp is tasked with putting a new cable in to the Commcen, when it moved locations to the DOC last month

SIX-A-SIDE FOOTBALL COMPETITION

The annual six-a-side football competition took place at King Richard School in Dhekelia. The event was well supported with teams from all departments including **Cpl Sally Oldridge**'s WRAC team with such stars as **LCpl Fern White, Pte Karen O'Connor** and **Sgt Val Holsgrove**. The competition was a tremendous success and thoroughly enjoyed by all the families—as was the lunch time barbecue. In an evenly contested final Comms Tp was beaten by SHQ—hard luck Comms who were also last years runners up. Many thanks for an excellent event to the organiser and referee **Sgt Thomson** and **LCpl Garry Kirk**.

The photo shows the winning SHQ Team; back row (left to right): **SSgt Des Watson, WO2 (YofS) Bill Jackson, Cpl 'Mitch' Ashley**, front row (left to right): **OC Capt Colin Bachelor, Sig Neil Frank** and **LCpl 'Dusty' Miller**. Still on the sporting front **Lt Jane Heywood** and **Sgt Martin Jackson** completed a Hockey Association Coaches course—beware all you budding Shaun Kerleys! **Lt Jane Heywood** was also a member of the Army Cyprus Womens Hockey Team which defeated the WRAF by 13—0! But life will not be peaceful for long with the recent return of **LCpl Dave McInnes** fresh from his AIPT course and an excellent grade at Aldershot.

LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL PRESENTATION

Tuesday 25 April was a day to remember for two Squadron members and their families. The Squadron assembled at the Bitsa Club as **WO2 (YofS) Bill Jackson** and **Cpl Nick Smith**, both of Comms Tp, received their LS & GC Medals. The medals were presented by DACOS CIS 1, **Lt Col Dick Thwaites** and the citations were read by **Lt Jane Heywood**.

But surprises were still in store! **Mrs Phyllis Jackson** was about to have her dubious past as a WRAC driver revealed to the Squadron. After the formalities of the LS & GC citation it was announced that an award of the General Service Medal (Northern Ireland) was to be made to the Yeoman's wife, **Phyllis. Phyllis Jackson** had served as a WRAC Lance Corporal driver in Northern Ireland in 1974 but had never received her medal—so at what better time than at her husband's LS & GC presentation? There were of course rumours that it wasn't so much for 'Campaign Service' but for being married to the Yeoman for 14 years! Congratulations to all concerned, a memorable day for **Cpl Nick Smith** and **Jackie** and their children, **Carl** and **Lindsey**; and young **Gary Jackson** still bemused as both his parents received their respective medals—and of course **Phyllis** who certainly had a day to remember.

Lt Col Thwaites presents Mrs Phyllis Jackson with her General Service Medal, WO2 Bill Jackson the proud husband looks on

Back row (left to right): Lt Col Dick Thwaites, WO2 (YofS) Bill Jackson, Cpl Nick Smith and OC Capt Colin Bachelor
Front row (left to right): Mrs Phyllis Jackson and Mrs Jackie Smith

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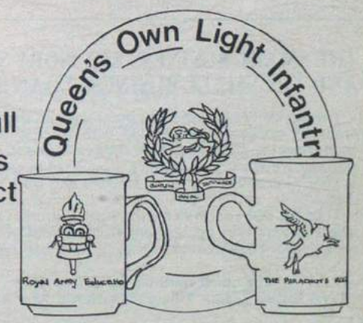

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DERBY BRANCH

Report by Mrs Dorothy Williamson—Chairman and Entertainments Secretary

Our serving committee was re-elected at the AGM which took place in March. I express my thanks and appreciation to the committee, members and PSIs of 46 Sqn for their help and support in 1988.

The younger members of the Branch are increasing in numbers, most of them serving with the TA—they are also making news. Our disco pair, **Cpl Mark** and **Karen Adams** are the proud parents of a daughter, **Cpl R. Corbett**, better known as 'Gonzer' and **Cpl P. Ward** have announced their engagement. On 27 May **Cpl Royston Webb** married **LCpl Sue Tunnicliff**, this makes father, son and daughter-in-law serving members. On 10 June **LCpl D. Snow** married **Miss Tracy Fern** and we wish **Sgt P. Turner** and **Mrs Sue Twigg** every happiness for their wedding on 19 August. So what with engagements, weddings and births we are all kept very busy.

Our member **Lt Vanda Leary** is around again after a nasty operation and we hope she will regain good health soon.

The committee look forward to their visit to Annual Camp in September when they will be guests of 46 Sqn.

Our life member **Erica Rhodes** has now joined the regulars and from the tone of her letters she is thoroughly enjoying it all.

LCpl D. Snow marries Miss Tracy Fern

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.

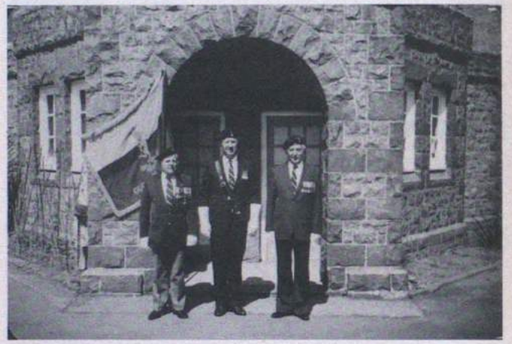
The Small Business Advisory Officer,
Royal British Legion Village, Maidstone, Kent ME20 7NL.

GUERNSEY BRANCH

On 23 May **Her Majesty The Queen** and **His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh** visited the Island and we were able to participate in the celebration. Chairman **John Rudkin** represented us as the Bailiff, presented the Loyal Address and the Standard was borne by **Vic Jinks**. Escorts were **Alvaro Salazar** and **Len Barbe**. It was most pleasing that wives **Margaret Jinks, Betty Salazar** and **Dot Barbe** were also present at the ceremony. Many Branch members were involved in the activities that day—among them **Alec Forty**, who played a prominent part throughout, both in the planning and execution of events.

Members of the Branch visisted **Sig Wayne Dunbar** of 30 Sig Regt in Guernsey's Princess Elizabeth Hospital. **Wayne**, who was on the Island of Alderney as a member of the Regiment being awarded the Freedom of Alderney, was the victim of a road accident and the severity of his injuries necessitated his transfer to hospital in Guernsey. The Branch wishes **Wayne** a rapid and complete recovery and hopes that one day he will re-visit the Island in happier circumstances.

On Wednesday 7 June, 44 members and guests held a Branch Dinner at Cobo Bay Hotel. After the meal they enjoyed a talk given by the States of Guernsey Harbourmaster, **Capt T. A. Spencer**. His address was both informative and witty recalling the advances in shipping, and its associated industries, since he entered the Service in 1953.



Len Barbé, Vic Jinks and Alvaro Salazar

THE WAR WIDOWS ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN

A Service of Thanksgiving in Commemoration of the Men who gave their lives for their Country, especially those with no known grave was held at St Clement Danes Church on Sunday 25 June 1989. The Service was Conducted by the **Rev M. J. Stokes QHC RAF** and the Sermon was preached by **The Venerable M. H. G. Henley QHC LTh** Chaplain of the Fleet. The War Widow's Prayer was read by **Mrs Kay Todd**, Vice-President of the Association, a wreath was laid on the Altar by **Olive Lancaster** and the Lessons were read by **Grace Cook** and **Helen Rosbottom**. Any war widow, or close family member who wishes to know more about the Association should write to the Honorary Secretary **Mrs P. Rigby**, 81 Gargrave Road, Skipton-in-Craven BD23 1QN.

JERSEY BRANCH

Greetings from sunny Jersey and the most southerly Branch of the Association in the British Isles.

On 25 May **Her Majesty The Queen** visited the Island and opened the new Elizabeth Harbour terminal.

On this beautiful sunny morning the Royal British Legion and other Service Associations paraded with their Standards to greet **Her Majesty**.

In the photograph are the Royal Signals Association representatives, left to right **Ronnie Eouzan** (Standard Bearer) **Ken Le Montais, Ray Help, Eddie Warren** (Chairman), **Ken Tasker** and **Harry Bell** (Secretary). Seated in his electric wheelchair **Ted Blampied** (one of our oldest long serving members). In the background the Royal Yacht *Britannia*.

SHEFFIELD BRANCH

A well attended Annual General Meeting re-elected, unapposed, all the Branch Officers: Secretary **F. Stockdale Esq BEM**, Chairman **F. Powell Esq JP**, Treasurer **F. G. Elwood Esq**.

The Annual Dinner was held on Friday 14 April, at 38 Sig Regt (V), a very enjoyable evening. An excellent dinner followed by superb entertainment was provided by (SSM) **J. Hodgson JP** and friends.

Our special guests were **Lt Col Leslie Wright TD DL** and **Dave Greenbrook** from RHQ, and the newly arrived **WO1 Phil Budden**, to whom we offer a warm welcome to Sheffield. Unfortunately our worthy Secretary **Franch Stockdale** and his wife could not attend as they were away on a convalescent holiday at Southport British Legion Home.

We are members of a local Ex-Service Associations Games League (EAGLE), we usually manage to win one trophy. This year, however, it was the 'Wooden Spoon' for bottom of the league. It is a real one, massive and too big to put on the Mess wall!

Arrangements are now under way for our annual outing, Chester is the venue with a buffet laid on at some hostelry on the way home.

The Branch is affiliated to the Sheffield and District Joint Council of Ex-Service Associations, and for the second year running, our Branch Chairman, **Mr F. Powell JP** has been elected the Chairman. Nice work **Fred** and congratulations.

As this is written we look forward to the Catterick Reunion. A party of 20 will be attending and we hope the weather will be kind, especially for the Retreat Ceremony.

MONTE CASSINO VETERANS

Report by Jane Knight

Veterans of the Italian campaign, British and Commonwealth, Poles and Germans, attended a five day programme of events organised by the Monte Cassino Veterans Association and the City of Cassino to commemorate the 45th Anniversary of the battles which resulted in the total destruction of the Abbey, founded by Saint Benedict in the 6th Century. Enemy positions around the monastery had dominated the entire valley preventing our advance across the Rapido river.

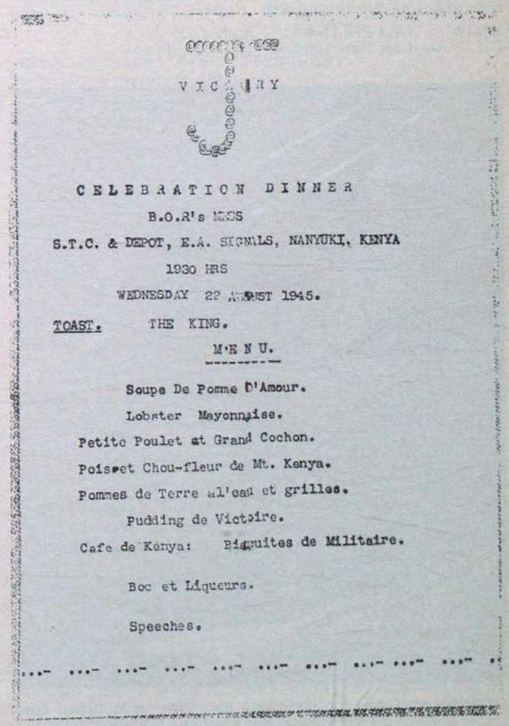
Ceremonies at the three cemeteries were conducted by the Deans of Oxford and Bristol and the Benedictine Officiates of the Abbey. A Mass celebrated in the great Abbey, perfectly restored, was attended by all denominations and followed by the dedication of two new stained glass windows to the British and Commonwealth and the Polish forces respectively.

There were festivities too. Dancing to music provided by the Band of the Queen's Own Highlanders which gave concerts and, with their Pipes and Drums, led the Veterans' Parade of Commonwealth, Polish and German ex-services and the Partisans.

Every hotel was full, from Cassino to the coast. The end of the programme saw most move off to a coastal resort for the following week, but many strange tales had been told and many footsteps retraced before we left Cassino. There was the Engineer who found his toolbox after 45 years!

KENYA—1945

Mr James Cumming (ex Cpl 1944-48) has sent the menu of the Celebration Dinner held in the BORs Mess at Nanyuki, Kenya on 22 August 1945. He recalls that the late **David Arnott** was Sergeant in charge of the occasion, the RSM was **WO1 Lea** and **Lt Col Bob Tanner** attended the dinner. On posting from Kenya several personnel served in Egypt and Palestine with 3 Inf Div Sigs and 1 Armd Div Sigs before demob. **Mr Cumming** is a life member of the RSA and lives in Ayr, Scotland.



VICTORY

CELEBRATION DINNER

B.O.R's MESS

S.T.C. & DEPOT, E.A. SIGNALS, NANYUKI, KENYA

1930 HRS

WEDNESDAY 22 AUGUST 1945.

TOAST. THE KING.

M·E N U.

Soupe De Pomme D'Amour.

Lobster Mayonnaise.

Petite Poulet at Grand Cochon.

Poisset Chou-fleur de Mt. Kenya.

Pommes de Terre al'eau et grilles.

Pudding de Victoire.

Cafe de Kenya: Biscuites de Militaire.

Boc et Liqueurs.

Speeches.

BOARDSAILING

Having just returned from the Corps UK Windsurfing Championships here is a very brief resume.

Some 27 sailors came together at Browndown for this first Corps UK Championships. The weather was very good with various wind-strengths from 1-6 providing a challenge for all levels of ability. Very brief details of the results are:-

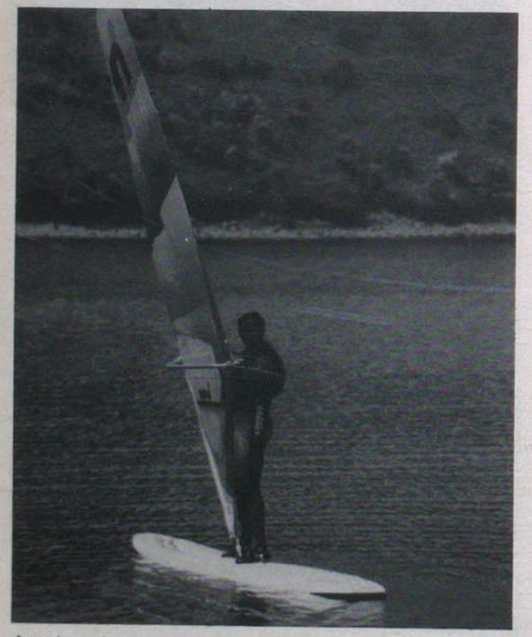
Overall UK Corps Champion	—	**WO1 Steve Bailes** School of Signals
Lightweight Champion	—	**Maj Brian Pettifer** Electronics Branch REME
Heavyweight Champion	—	**Cpl Sammy Anderson** 233 Sig Sqn
Unit Champions	—	**249 Sig Sqn**

Coincidentally in the post today came the results of the Corps BAOR event from **Capt Phil Daisey**. Twenty Corps sailors took part at the Dummersee Yacht Club with the following results:-

Overall BAOR Corps Champion and Heavyweight Champion	—	**Maj Jo Fletcher** 202 Sig Sqn
Superheavyweight Champion	—	**Sig Richard Townsend** 16 Sig Regt
Lightweight Champion	—	**Sgt Carey** 13 Sig Regt
Major Unit Champions	—	**16 Sig Regt 'A'**
Minor Unit Champions	—	**202 Sig Sqn**

A quick look forward now and a 'plug' for the Corps-wide event which is scheduled to take place at Browndown over the period 30 August-2 September. Both individual and Unit team events will be catered for and going by the previously mentioned results the signs augur well for an excellent turn-out. Please support the event and help to make it the best Corps Windsurfing Championships yet. Details from your Unit Windsurfing Rep or from:-

BAOR — **Capt Phil Daisey** Krefeld 329
UK — **Capt Dave Gilchrist** Tidworth Mil 2403



Amazing what you can do with a pacestick. WO1 (RSM) Fred Payet does it his way

Windsurfers under pressure
(Left to right): 2Lt 'Rab' Mulholland, Cpl 'Crispy' Bacon, Dvr Elsie Lea-Glms, LCpl 'Jonno' Johnson, WO1 (RSM) Fred Payet and LCpl 'Nobby' Hall
Seated: Sig 'Smudge' Smith, Sgt Rob Warren and Capt Dave Gilchrist

GOLF

CAPTAIN'S REPORT INTER-CORPS GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS ROYAL LYTHAM 1989

The team Championships took place in excellent weather on the Links of Royal Lytham and St Annes Golf Course following the individual Army Championships. Notable performances had been achieved in the individual Championships by **WO2 Chris Carveth** (HQ Trg Bde) and **Maj Willy Brewin** (HQ BAOR) who both reached the quarter finals and were selected to represent the Army in this year's international against the French and Belgian Armies in June. **Sig Rob Hare** (14 Sig Regt) and **Sig Jez McGrane** (8 Sig Regt) reached the last 16 and their performance showed great promise for the future.

This year, for the first time, the Corps entered two teams in the Inter-Corps competition. The teams were:-

A Team
Maj Willy Brewin (HQ BAOR)
Maj Len Yates (HQ Scotland)
WO2 Chris Carveth (HQ Trg Bde)
Cpl Simon Boyd (8 Sig Regt)

B Team
WO2 Andy Marshall (14 Sig Regt)
Sgt Brian Cullen (22 Sig Regt)
Sgt Eddie Doubtfire (2 Sig Bde)
Sig Rob Hare (14 Sig Regt)
Sig Jez McGrane (8 Sig Regt)

Both teams played well despite an early move into the Plate Competition and, as luck would have it, the two Signals teams met in the semi final. Notwithstanding some excellent golf from **Sig Rob Hare**, who held on to **Maj Willy Brewin** to lose by only one hole, and a much relished win by **Sgt Brian Cullen** over **Cpl Simon Boyd**, the A Team progressed to the final against the RCT.

In very calm conditions, which tamed the notorious Royal Lytham course, the RCT prevailed by one hole in an exciting final. After two matches were complete the teams were level. Then **Cpl Simon Boyd** came in three down to conclude an unhappy week for him in which he had not played to his potential. The last match saw **Maj Len Yates** three up in the middle of the 18th fairway and his opponent ankle deep in the rough on the left. The stage was set for a dramatic Signals win until his RCT opponent hit a miraculous shot from 175 yards into the middle of the green to win the hole by a shot and the match by a hole.

Although we didn't collect any trophies at this year's meeting, the future looks bright for Corps Golf. The performances by the B Team, particularly **Hare, McGrane** and **Cullen,** showed great promise and we look forward to using this previously untapped talent to build for next year.

RUGBY

CORPS RUGBY REPORT 1988/89

Reports on the games played in the first half of the season and against the ACC at the beginning of February have already appeared in *The Wire*. Reports on five remaining games are given below. In summary the results for the season are:-

Date	Opponents	Venue	Result	Score
22 Oct	Wimborne II	Blandford	Won	23—12
26 Oct	RAOC	Colerne	Lost	10—35
2 Nov	RAPC	Worthy Down	Won	60—0
9 Nov	RMCS	Shrivenham	Won	20—0
1 Feb	ACC	Blandford	Won	67—6
20 Feb	RA	Blandford	Lost	3—10
22 Feb	REME	Blandford	Lost	11—16
24 Feb	RCT	Aldershot	Won	6—4
2 Mar	Salisbury II	Salisbury	Won	6—0
8 Mar	RE	Chatham	Lost	8—44

Played 10, Won 6, Lost 4; Points For 214, Points Against 127.

The season has been mixed and the hard games have been lost. The games against the weaker sides have helped keep the overall point count respectable but this merely serves to conceal the fact that the Corps is weak in UK. That said however there have been some good individual performances and some individuals and units have given good support to Corps rugby throughout the season. The fact that 52 players have worn a Corps shirt this season shows the lack of continuity but perhaps is an indication of the reserves that are available to be exploited.

The problems noted last season about coaching have not been satisfactorily resolved. **Maj Chris Wright** and **WO2 Gus Hales** have both given some time to the task but have not been available to provide the much needed continuity. We are therefore still looking for a willing volunteer who can spend the time coaching the Corps team. The need for this was shown up most starkly against the RAOC and the RE when we were soundly beaten by sides that were both well drilled and powerfully agressive. The surprising thing is that all those who both played and watched the games knew what was required and yet we were unable to produce the necessary style of play. Coaching is the answer allied to a greater preponderance of players who are playing regular club rugby and doing their best to improve their individual skills.

The side was captained for most of the season by **Sgt Dean Richardson** and he like many others can look back on some good moments. However the commitment at times has been hard to find and all those who wish to play should be making greater efforts to support the cause of Corps rugby.

Finally many thanks to all the units that have managed to spare players during the season. That said however the response to Signal messages has at times been so poor as to encourage the belief that the best way to keep a secret is to send a message to certain unit rugby officers asking for responses about the availability of players.

So if the cap fits wear it!

ROYAL SIGNALS V ROYAL ARTILLERY 20 FEBRUARY
Result: Royal Signals 3 Royal Artillery 10

The game was played in a strong wind but with sunshining. The wind made the game very one sided and gave the side playing into it little opportunity to sustain territorial advantage.

The game got off to a slow start as both teams sized each other up and the Corps side got into the rhythm of playing against better opposition. Neither side was able to gain much advantage in the opening stages, the Gunners put in some good attacking runs and the Corps counter-attacked energetically especially when the Gunners kicks were carried too far by the wind. Half way through the half **Sgt Tiny Phillips** came close with a penalty attempt but apart from that both sides made too many errors and the defences were secure. The Gunners eventually went ahead through the quick thinking of their fly-half who dummied a free kick to touch and quickly opened out play for the winger to go over in the corner. The try was unconverted but the Gunners were able to maintain the pressure, assisted to some extent by poor clearance kicking from several of the Corps side. The Gunners got a penalty for a ruck offence just on half time so that the half time score was 7—0 to the Gunners.

In the second half the Corps exerted lots of pressure but could not score. Possession from the set pieces was wasted or only given slowly; the forwards allowed themselves to be robbed of the ball in the mauls and the handling errors continued to be too frequent for the game to develop into anything of a spectacle. Unfortunately **Cpl Stanley Matthews** had to leave the field with a damaged shoulder and was replaced by **Cpl Vinny Fallon** who had a useful return to the Corps side. Counter attacks were the order of the day and the Corps very nearly scored from an excellent run by **LCpl Steve Bartliff** which unfortunately ended with a dropped pass. However the pressure was soon afterwards turned into points as **Cpl Micky Walker** converted an easy penalty after a Gunner offence at a ruck.

The Corps continued to win lots of possession from both lineouts and scrums but much of it was slowly delivered and the Gunners managed to win most of the good second phase possession. However the Corps possession and all the pressure were not translated into points mainly due to handling errors and continued solid Gunner defence. The last act of the game was for the Gunners to score another penalty so making the final score 10—3 in their favour.

As a display of skill the game was disappointing although there were moments of excellent running. The hard driving into the rucks was again missing and so possession was always slow although there could not be said to be any lack of courage in defence. The referee had a good game and kept the game flowing as far as it was possible, at the same time he ensured that the fringes of the scrums, rucks and mauls were policed and numerous penalties for offside by the threequarters were awarded against both sides. All in all a disappointment for the Corps as it was a game of missed opportunities that could so easily have won the match.

Team: **Sgt McNelly, Cpl Glean, Sgt Atkins, Cpl Walker, LCpl Bartliff, Sgt Richardson** (Capt), **Cpl Cassidy, Sgt Wallace, Cpl Norris, Cpl Matthews, Cpl Vowles, Capt Stephenson, Lt Cooper, Capt Jones,**and **Sgt Phillips.**
Substitute: **Cpl Fallon.**

ROYAL SIGNALS V REME 22 FEBRUARY
Result: Royal Signals 11 REME 16

The weather was again windy, this made progress against the wind difficult and the penalty for allowing the opposition to kick down wind potentially severe. Unfortunately, as against the RA the Corps did not take advantage of the conditions and did not exert continuous pressure when playing with the elements. Some heroic but totally unsuccessful attempts to run the ball out of defence, rather than putting in long safe clearance kicks, lost much ground and made the game much more of a slog for the forwards than was necessary. Add to this some very poor tackling and it was not surprising that after eight minutes REME went ahead with an excellent try from good forward play, which took them to the edge of the 22 area and allowed their strong running backs to score near the posts.

This score seemed to arouse the Corps spirit however and sustained forward pressure led to a penalty that was converted by **Cpl Mick Walker**. Shortly after this, **LCpl Neil Sorley** scored a scorching try following a miss move from a tap penalty. This try was very nearly converted by **Sgt Tiny Phillips** from close to the touchline. Having gone into the lead the bad habits returned and REME came back strongly with some good forward play. This was mainly based on good scrummaging which constantly put the Corps under pressure and meant that it was always difficult to cross the gain line with the ball in the hand. However poor clearances allowed REME to maintain pressure and they scored another good try through their backs to make the score 10—7 at half time.

After the break it was surprising that the Corps did not have more problems because REME was really dominating the scrums and spoiling the plentiful possession that the Corps jumpers were getting in the lineouts. However each side scored one try and REME converted theirs to make the final score 16—11. The undoubted highlight for the Corps was to see **Cpl Vinny Fallon**, who had again substituted at prop during the second half, take a good pass from **Sgt Dean Richardson** following a typical jinking run, to run 30m at scorching pace to score a spectacular try near the posts.

Sadly again this was a game that one felt could have been won with a bit more care, application, fire and perhaps the odd bit of luck. Certainly the poor clearance from defence allowed the opposition to maintain pressure, whilst the poor scrummaging made crossing the goal line akin to Hannibal's task. All that aside a rather more physically aggressive and hard driving approach to the game would

certainly improve the performance. Perhaps as happened last season the best performances are being saved until last!

Team: **Sgt McNelly, Cpl Glean, Cpl Walker, LCpl Sorely, Cpl Kelly, Sgt Richardson** (Capt), **Cpl Cassidy, Sgt Wallace, LCpl Malvern, Sig Woods, Capt Stephenson, LCpl Campbell, Lt Copper, Lt Payne,** and **Sgt Phillips**.
Substitute: **Cpl Fallon**.

ROYAL SIGNALS V RCT 24 FEBRUARY
Result: Royal Signals 6 RCT 4

The match was played at Aldershot in appalling conditions with heavy rain for much of the match. The conditions dominated the pattern of play although the RCT probably coped with them better than the Corps. The RCT won the toss and elected to play with the wind.

The game got off to a fast start and both sides tried to play some enterprising rugby. The RCT at first made the best of the weather and kept the Corps well pinned back on the defence which was sound and solid in the forwards. However the RCT backs showed the weakness of the Corps tackling in the backs and ran in a good try after eight minutes play; the try was not converted. The first half continued in a similar manner with solid defence keeping the score unchanged. Unfortunately **Sgt Bobby Snow** had to leave the field after a nasty kick on the head. He was replaced by **Lt Graham Fletcher** who had an excellent game, particularly in the loose. The score at half time was unchanged and the teams changed ends with the Corps fully expecting the RCT lead to be short lived.

The second half was typical of those games where the elements are expected to make the difference and allow a simple victory. The RCT confounded these expectations by some excellent tackling, running and kicking out of defence, all of which were a lesson to the Corps. However some good forward work mid-way through the half allowed **Cpl 'Cas' Cassidy** to go over in the corner. The conversion was made to look simple by **Cpl 'Zoo' Williams** who had a most impressive game at flanker. The Corps hung on to this lead and the final score was 6—4. The Corps won any amount of scrum and lineout possession but could not penetrate the stout defence of the RCT. The Corps backs seemed to be having a hard time summoning up any enthusiasm for playing in the very difficult conditions which the forwards seemed to revel in, apart from difficulties with catching the ball in the lineouts. The result was fair enough but the score nowhere near reflected the domination of the Corps forwards. However it was enough on such an awful day to be the winners.

Team: **Cpl Walker, Cpl Glean, Sgt Atkins, LCpl Sorely, Cpl Stanley-Jones, Sgt Richardson** (Capt), **Cpl Cassidy, Sgt Wallace, Sgt Snow, Cpl Fallon, Lt Egan, Capt Stephenson, Cpl Williams, Cpl Burton** and **Lt Whitehall**.
Substitute: **Lt Fletcher**.

ROYAL SIGNALS V SALISBURY II 2 MARCH
Result: Royal Signals 6 Salisbury II 0

As in the past the game was played under lights at Salisbury. The weather at the start was fine although there had been heavy rain earlier during the day and the pitch was rather tacky. Unfortunately the weather broke after 10 minutes of the match and it rained for the rest of the evening. This destroyed the match as anything of a spectacle thereafter.

The game started at a cracking pace and within four mintues the Corps went into the lead with an excellent try that came from a counter attack following a poor clearance kick by the Salisbury defence. **Sgt Ian McNelly** caught the ball on the 10m line and set off at speed to link up with the rest of the backs. A slick passing movement and some determined running involving most of the backs ended with **LCpl Steve Bartliff** scoring behind the posts. **Sgt 'Tiny' Phillips** converted easily. Shortly afterwards the rain came down in torrents and the game ceased to be anything other than a struggle for survival. Both sides tried hard to play some attractive rugby but the conditions were far too difficult to control the ball easily which resulted in lots of unforced errors. However the Corps team was never seriously worried by the opposition and as there were no further points scored the match ended with victory for the Corps.

Team: **Sgt McNelly, LCpl Bartliff, Cpl Glean, Sgt Atkins, Cpl Kelly, Sgt Richardson** (Capt), **Lt Burgin, Sgt Wallace, Lt Fletcher, Cpl Matthews, Lt Egan, Lt Davies, Capt Jones, Lt Cooper** and **Sgt Phillips**.
Substitute: **Sig Ford**.

ROYAL SIGNALS V ROYAL ENGINEERS 8 MARCH
Result: Royal Signals 8 Royal Engineers 44

The match was preceded by considerable anxiety resulting from the lack of response from units about the availability of players. Finally however a useful side was assembled at Chatham in beautiful weather giving perfect conditions for a fast open game. This was mainly the way the game turned out and the Sappers took advantage of the conditions and gave a very polished performance of powerful rugby.

The Corps kicked off and it was clear from the outset that the Sappers were well organised and strong. Some strong defence from the Corps in the centre kept the Sappers in check initially but the Corps was unable to win a clean lineout ball and was pressurised in the scrums so that all possession was obtained going backwards. In contrast the Sappers were aggressive in the loose and able to generate momentum which together with excellent close passing and support eventually overwhelmed the Corps defence. The Sappers were particularly strong at half back and some rather weak tackling allowed the RE half back pair too much freedom to cross the gain line and link up with the back row. From this point the repeated drives taking out the Corps defence created overlaps which led to scores.

The first half therefore saw the Sappers score four tries and take a 22—0 lead. The second half continued in much the same way but the Corps defence improved somewhat. In addition the Corps scored two excellent tries. The first came from a counter attack started by **Sgt 'Ginge' Cable** who caught a poor Sapper clearance and set up a back move that ended with a very strong run by **Cpl 'Cass' Cassidy** to score near the corner. This rather motivated the Sappers to come back strongly again but they were not having things all their own way as **Cpl 'Tank' Sherman** was determined to show them. He led some very spirited drives in the loose and gave glimpses of what might have been. One such strong drive led to **LCpl Pete Curtis** breaking away down the blind side to be brought down close to the line, **Lt John Egan** following up close behind was able to fall on the ball as it was knocked back by the Sapper defence to score a well deserved try. Unfortunately neither of the tries was converted. The Sappers kept up the pressure to the end and the final score was 44—8.

The final result showed the dominance of the Sappers which resulted from excellent close passing and backing up, aggressive driving into the tackle and some powerful rucking. The Corps was not disgraced at all and stuck to the task to the end as the two tries showed. Some good points emerged such as the encouraging performance from **LCpl Carl Richardson** at fly half coming in at short notice to take over from his Sergeant namesake who preferred the delights of the skislope; then there was some excellent tackling from **Sgt 'Ginge' Cable** and of all people 'H' who was clearly trying to make up for his non-participation during the RCT match. Therefore one should not be too despondent about the score which was a credit to the Sappers rather than a black day for the Corps.

Team: **Cpl Cassidy, Cpl Glean, Sgt Cable, LCpl Sorley, Cpl Fisher, LCpl Richardson, Lt Burgin** (Capt), **Sgt Keevash, Lt Fletcher, Cpl Sherman, Lt Egan, Capt Stephenson, Cpl Vowles, LCpl Curtis** and **Sgt Phillips**.

SHOOTING

259 SIGNAL SQUADRON WIN NESAM

The quest to win the 1989 Near East Skill-at-Arms Meeting (NESAM) had its seed sown some 14 years ago when a young signalman shot as a reserve on the 259 team that won NESAM 75 and then went on to be runners up in the Minor Unit Championship at RASAM 75. That signalman is now **SSgt Kev Fitzpatrick** and he is once more a member of 259. Having taken a Squadron shooting team to NESAM in both 1987 and 1988 with some success, but without winning the Unit Championship, **SSgt Fitzpatrick** was determined that 1989 would be the year for 259 to be Champions again.

Having assessed the shooting ability of the Squadron it soon became obvious that there were a number of people who had competitive shooting experience and they would act as the nucleus of the team. Added to these were a number of younger members of the Squadron and a training squad of about a dozen was established. Training began in January and the value of the recently acquired SA80/Light Support weapon system was soon appreciated. Despite bad reports about the inadequacies of the Iron sight, as issued to the Corps the SA80 appeared to be very effective out to 300m, while the LSW with the Optical sight performed well at twice that range.

As well as having to adapt to the new weapons many of the competitions had been updated which meant retraining for the experienced shots as well as learning from scratch for the new team members. However as the season progressed scores began to improve and the team shaped up. Many days were spent getting up in the early hours of the morning in order to spend long practice sessions on Dhekelia or Akrotiri ranges.

Time soon marched on and NESAM was upon us. On 14 May the team travelled to Dhekelia for the events of the next three days.

Early on the morning of Monday 15 May the team assembled on the ranges for the first events. For the riflemen in the team this meant the Green Howards Cup, a Gallery Range match shot at ranges from 100-300m. All four of the rifle team had good shoots, in particular **Capt Iain Standen**, who put up a 147/200 which put him third in the individual events. At the end of the day with all the scores calculated the team found itself lying first in the rifle championship, one point ahead of 3 Coy 2 Coldstream Guards who were shooting with Optical sights!

When not shooting the rifle all of the team had to shoot the Pistol match. Again some good scores were achieved and at the end of the day the team was also lying in first placed in the Pistol match but with our most feared rivals 17 Ord Bn still to shoot that match. However everyone retired to dinner and bed feeling justifiably confident.

The first event on the second day was the LSW match with **Capt Standen** and **SSgt Fitzpatrick** representing the team. Both shot well scoring 109 and 113 respectively giving a good team score of 222/340. Subsequent details failed to produce scores to match these until the final run when 3 Coy 2 Coldstream Guards shot a 135 and an 87 to tie on 222. Unfortunately due to tight timings and the lack of range space it was not possible to have a tie shoot and 3 Coy won the event on a countback!

The next match was the Whitehead, a converted gallery match, and it was in this event that the team had hoped to post some very good shoots. However this was not to be and everyone shot well below average with the result that we dropped to second in the rifle championship at that stage. Spurred on to better things by this little setback it was over to the gallery range for the final rifle match the FIBUA. This is a short range shoot designed to simulate fighting in built up areas and is specifically devised for the SA80. Here things began to go right again with some good scores, particularly an excellent 145/200 by **LCpl Dickerson**.

Despite having finished the events that made up the Unit Championship there was still more shooting to be done. So as the stats team added up all the scores it was over to the Pistol range again for the Pistol Tiles. The 'A' team reached the quarter-finals but were knocked out by P&SS RAF Akrotiri (the eventual winners). By this time the buzz of the overall team results was beginning to filter through and a trip to the stats tent put smiles on everyones faces. The poor result in the Whitehead had not done too much to affect the overall positions but meant that we were runners up to 3 Coy 2 Coldstream Guards in the Rifle Championship by a mere 13 points. In the Pistrol match 17 Ord Bn failed to produce the required scores and we won the match by 30 points. These two results coupled with the second place in the LSW match, meant that we had won the overall Unit Championship. In addition **Capt Standen, SSgt Fitzpatrick** and **LCpl Dickerson** were all placed in the top 20 Rifle shots, while **Maj French, Capt Standen** and **LCpl Dickerson** were all placed in the top 18 Pistol shots, and all would have to shoot in the finals on the following day. Once again the team left the range very happy and in good heart.

The final morning saw the arrival of support in the form of the Sqn Comd **Maj Lynn Relph** and **WO2 (SSM) Wallis**. The first event of the morning was the final for the top 18 pistol shots. All the team shot well but **Capt Standen** was beaten into second place by **Sgt Thompson** of 17 Ord Bn after tieing for first place (the countback strikes again). Immediately after the Pistol final it was across to the gallery range for the top 20 rifle shots to compete. Again 259 interest was high with **LCpl Dickerson** at fourth position, **Capt Standen** seventh and **SSgt Fitzpatrick** at 18th. The shoot was the Green Howards again and as the results began to come through all the team were having good shoots. **LCpl Dickerson** finished in fifth place, **SSgt Fitzpatrick** moved up one place to 17th, while **Capt Standen** shot 168/200 (20 points better than anyone else in the final) to move up to second place.

The final event as always was the Falling Plates match and it was here that the Infantry armed with Optic sights had a real advantage and the result was a win for 3 Coy 2 Coldstream Guards.

Prize giving saw the Squadron collect an impressive collection of silver including the coveted Unit Championship Shield and a place to compete at RASAM.

The team would like to thank the OC and all members of the Squadron who have put up with the team's absence from duty on numerous occasions and without whose support this victory would not have been possible.

Team
Maj Colin French, Capt Iain Standen, SSgt Kev Fitzpatrick, Cpl 'Yogi' Cauldwell and **LCpl 'Dicky' Dickerson.**

Reserves and Falling Plates/Pistol Tiles Teams
Sgt Steve Ferguson, Cpl 'Taff' Bull, Sig 'Fraggle' Sutton and **Cpl 'Ernie' Wise.**

259 Signal Squadron NESAM Unit Champions
Rear (left to right): Sgt Steve Ferguson, Cpl 'Yogi' Cauldwell, Maj Colin French, LCpl 'Dicky' Dickerson and Sig Fraggle Sutton
Front (left to right): Cpl 'Ernie' Wise, SSgt Kev Fitzpatrick, Capt Iain Standen and Cpl 'Taff' Bull

Maj Gen J. P. W. Friedberger CBE CBF Cyprus presenting the NESAM Champion Unit Shield to SSgt Kev Fitzpatrick

Results

Rifle Matches	2nd
LSW Match	2nd
Pistol Match	1st
Unit Championship	1st

Individual Results

Pistol Match Winner	**Capt Standen**
Champion at Arms Runner-Up	**Capt Standen**

Commander Land Forces Cyprus Rifle 20

Capt Standen	2nd
LCpl Dickerson	5th
SSgt Fitzpatrick	17th

Commander Land Forces Cyprus Pistol 18

Capt Standen	2nd
Maj French	9th
LCpl Dickerson	18th

Winner Rifle Championship Series B (Iron Sight)
Capt Standen

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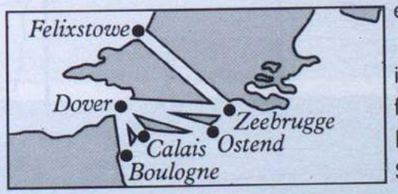

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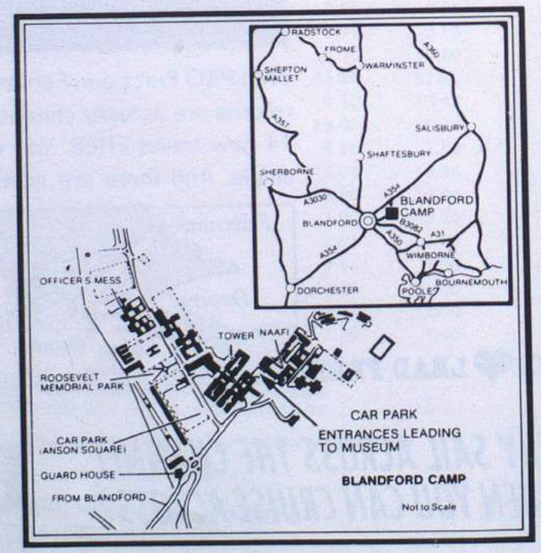

THE wire

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The Wire

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Editor Lt Col K. E. P. Andrews MBE
Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs
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OUR COVER PICTURE
The start of the UK Inter-Unit Windsurfing Championship 1989 at Browndown Camp in the Solent. *Photo by Lt Col J. S. Doody*

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION

From 1 January 1990 the price of *The Wire* will be £1. We have maintained it at 70p for a long time—perhaps too long. If any of our older long serving members of the Association find that they cannot afford £1 then the Chairman is quite prepared to consider exceptions as long as they are put through Association Branches, or, in exceptional circumstances, direct to RHQ.

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION RATE

The Wire will be £1 per copy from January 1990. 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 1 December 1989. We have to define our printing commitment for the January issue by this date and your co-operation in meeting this request will be most helpful. If you pay by Bankers Order, please advise your Bank accordingly.

The Accountant
Royal Signals Association
RHQ Royal Signals
56 Regency Street
LONDON SW1P 4AD

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NOTES FROM THE OFFICE OF THE REGIMENTAL COLONEL

STAFF SERGEANT KEVIN FROGGETT

It is with the utmost regret that we report the death of SSgt Kevin Arthur Froggett which occurred on 16 September 1989 whilst on duty in Northern Ireland. On behalf of the Corps and the Association we extend our deepest sympathy to his widow Serena and their children Emma, Lian, Jonathan and Michael.

BIRTWISTLE PENNANT OF MERIT FOR RECRUITING 1988/89

For the first time, comparison of the Birtwistle reports was not easy. The increase in unit commitment to recruiting over 1988/89 was considerable, and this was reflected in Pennant reports.

SOinC(A) has awarded the Pennant to 30 Sig Regt. The Unit is congratulated for maintaining a consistently high level of effort in support of recruiting despite the demands of operations in Namibia and elsewhere. 14 Sig Regt (EW) and 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn are commended on being close runners-up.

While there has been much improvement in recruiting performance and in the writing of Birtwistle reports, the SOinC(A) is aware that certain units continue to pay insufficient attention to the area in which the medium and long term future of the Corps is at stake. Everyone is encouraged to play his or her part in support of recruiting, for both soldiers and officers.

OLD RMA REUNION

Before the Second World War, officers in the Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers and Royal Signals were trained at the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich. The Academy, founded by Royal Warrant in 1741 and known as The Shop, closed on Saturday 2 September 1939 never to reopen. Since the establishment produced more officers concerned with the founding of the Corps, its importance to Royal Signals should not be forgotten.

Lt Col L. V. McNaught-Davis was commissioned into the Corps from The Shop in 1939. About three years ago he suggested celebrating the closure with a Reunion of all the surviving officers trained at the Academy. The proposal was accepted by the Gunners and Sappers and planned for Saturday 2 September 1989, a most appropriate date.

Seventy Royal Signals officrs were among the more than 400 ex-Gentleman Cadets, as The Shop officer cadets were known, who attended the Reunion, many accompanied by their wives. The Corps was represented by the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock** and the Signal Officer in Chief (Army) **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook**. The visitors were assisted by **Lt Stephen Wheatley** from 11 Sig Regt and **Lt Graham Ingles** from 244 Sig Sqn, and entertained at lunch by the Corps Band playing a programme which included items of music regularly heard on Shop parades.

The reward for all who worked on the Reunion was in the expressions of pleasure at the opportunity to meet again at the Academy. Not only were the Gentleman Cadets able to view much of The Shop as they experienced it, but **Lt Col McNaught-Davis** had provided an exhibition of photographs and memorabilia to help recall life at Woolwich more than 50 years ago. The list of the Royal Signals officers present contained many distinguished names, including the doyen of the occasion **Maj Gen D. A. L. Wade**. He was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1916 and joined the Corps on formation in 1920. As must be expected, he had many fascinating tales to tell.

The many letters of appreciation received after the Reunion showed how much store is set by membership of the Corps. It was an honour and pleasure to be in the company of so many distinguished soldiers.

PARA 90

The Golden Jubilee of British Airborne Forces, to be celebrated in 1990, will have three aims:-

To commemorate the achievement of Airborne Forces.
To establish a permanent memorial.
To raise funds for Airborne Forces Charities.

Royal Signals, having been much involved with Airborne Forces, will play a part in PARA 90.

One of the early tasks is to get in touch with as many members of Airborne Forces as possible to ensure that all who wish to be included in the celebrations are given the opportunity to do so. The back cover of this issue of *The Wire* has been dedicated to that end. If you were an Airborne Signaller but are not known to 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, please get in touch with **Capt John Aspinall**, the Admin Officer.

The Golden Jubilee will have a programme running almost throughout 1990. The events detailed below are as currently known:-

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Date	Location	Event
4 Feb	Leicester Cathedral	Band Concert
23 Feb	Birmingha	St Valentine's Ball
17 Mar	Manchester Airport	Ringway Celebrations
25 Mar	Aldershot	Rhine Crossing Service
29 Apr	Cardiff	Church Parade
30 May- 2 Jun	Shepton Mallett	Royal Bath and West Show
1-3 Jun	Glasgow and Edinburgh	15 Para (SU) Events
10 Jun	Church Fenton (North Yorkshire)	Air Show
16/17 Jun	Biggin Hill	Air Show
22 June	London, St Paul's Cathedral	Memorial Service
23 Jun	Aldershot	Freedom of Rushmoor March
7- 8 Jul	Aldershot	Airborne Forces Day
11-13 Jul	Harrogate	Show
14-15 Jul	Dagenham (Essex)	Town Show
21 Jul	York	Band Concert
22 Jul	York Minster	Memorial Service
29 Jul-25 Aug	Edinburgh	International Tattoo
30 Jul- 4 Aug	Colchester	Military Tattoo
5 Aug	Duxford	Imperial War Museum
11-12 Aug	St Michael's Mount	Flambards—Show
19 Aug	Wakefield	Nostell Priory—Show
26 Aug	Andover	Southern Region Spectacular
2 Sep	Grantham	Spitalgate Heath Events
7 Sep	Preston	Band Concert
8 Sep	Leyland	Spectacular
23 Sep	Bristol	Church Parade and Display
30 Sep	Aldershot	Arnhem Sunday
4 Nov	Birmingham	Royal British Legion Festival
10 Nov	London	Albert Hall Reunion

— From our "In" Tray —

BISLEY SUCCESS

The 1989 Queen's Medal for Champion Shot in the Army was almost won by a Corps soldier firing an SA80 rifle with iron sights. **SSgt Krishna Gurung** of 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn took second place in Match 1 at RASAM. Only one shot separated him from the winner who was using a rifle with an optical sight. **SSgt Krishna** is shown below with his collection of trophies, these include: Match 4 The Association Cup; Match 9 The Victoria Cup; Match 10 The Old Contemptibles Cup; Match 21 The Dunlop Trophy and The Brooke Bond Cup and Match 25 14/20th King's Hussars Cup.

We offer **SSgt Krishna** our warmest congratulation on an outstanding shooting season. Further details of Corps shooting are contained in the Sport's section.

SSgt Krishna Gurung, Queen's Gurkha Signals with his Trophies

ARMY INTER-UNIT TEAM ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS 1989

Report by Capt M. D. Bailes—21 Sig Regt

The Army Inter-Unit Team Athletic Championships were held at the Military Stadium, Aldershot on Wednesday 19 July. In excellent weather conditions the day produced a nail biting competition between the Major Units. As BAOR Champions having beaten 50 Msl Regt two weeks previously at Sennelager we were quietly confident of success notwithstanding the strong threat posed by 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt and 1 PWO. In the event we were held back by both these teams getting in between ourselves and 50 Msl Regt despite all our efforts. At the end of the day notwithstanding our winning both the 4 × 100m relay race and the the 4 × 400m relay race when the points were totalled it placed us five points behind 50 Msl Regt. The final placings were: first—50 Msl Regt RA, second—21 Sig Regt, third—1 PWO, fourth—2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt, sixth—1 IG, seventh—1/3 Trg Regts RE. Our congratulations to 50 Msl Regt RA on their fine win. The athletes who gave their all on the day were: **SSgts Neil Killen, Sandey Dos Martyres, Sgts Alan Poulson APTC, Tom Pollard, Cpls Wayne Willson, George Farrell, 'Punchy' Hanlon, Kev Jarvis, Paul George, Jamie Alleyne, Rob Carter, Robert Harvey, 'Paddy' Gorman, Steve James, Rob Chivers, LCpls Vince Key, Danny Cain, Stuart Leadbeater, Charlie Mathews, Brian Gallagher, Hugh Marshall, Pete Curtis, Sig Garth Dale, Tom Powell, Wayne Braysford** and **Paul Renwick**. Along with my thanks to them for an excellent athletics season and for their support to me as team manager I feel I must pay special tribute to the unstinting efforts of **SSgt Neil Killen** and **Sgt Alan Poulson APTC** for their contribution as coach and team captain respectively.

CORPS BAND IN SCOTLAND

While the Band was based in Inverness taking part in the 38th Inverness Tattoo, they were invited to play in the Inverness Shopping Precinct, Red Cross House, and several KAPE venues in The Black Isle, Dingwall and Nairn. Many congratulatory comments were overheard from the general public on their smart appearance and the excellence of their music. One Scottish lady was heard to say how lovely it was to hear instruments other than the pipes!

At the 38th Inverness Tattoo—August 1989—Led by Drum Major Colin Harriman

Corps Drum Major Colin Harriman and Sgt O'Reilly of 'TGRIT' prepare to communicate with the Public at Dingwall, August 1989

TUG-OF-WAR
INTER CORPS CHAMPIONSHIPS 1989

Secretary's Report by WO2 (SSM) P. Halstead

The inaugural Inter Corps Tug-of-War Championships were held on Monday 17 July, hosted by the RAMC/RADC at Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale.

The Royal Signals was represented by a squad based on the successful 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt team with reinforcements from 7 Sig Regt and 22 Sig Regt.

The competition commenced with the 680kg event which the Royal Signals totally dominated, not losing a single end, confirming the potential shown when winning a civilian National League Division 3 Competition two weeks earlier. The next event was 560kg, which on paper was going to be the toughest of the three weights, with 17 Port Regt (UKLF Champions, Army Runners-Up 560kg) representing the RCT, and PMC Arborfield (Army Semi-Finalists) representing the REME among the favourites. The Royal Signals team was an unknown quantity at this weight but the squad was confident that our team, containing pullers from all three Signal Regiments, was very strong—and so it proved to be. Our first pull was against the RCT, where superb fitness and strength combined with excellent team work and tactics, saw us winning 2—1. After this victory the team was unstoppable winning all pulls in two straight ends.

The final event was the Tug-of-War Blue Riband weight of 640kg. With two of the squad, **LCpls Jock Reid** and **Rich Hanley** having pulled in all three weights, we knew that this was going to be extremely hard but were confident of doing well, having previously beaten the RCT team (17 Port Regt), our main rivals in the National League and Army Championships. As it turned out the draw put the Royal Signals and RCT against each other in the last pull of the day, a fitting finale as neither team had been defeated. After two very long and close ends, the RCT proved to be slightly stronger, drawing on the experience gained from pulling weekly in the UK civilian competitions.

Thus the first Inter Corps Championships ended with the Royal Signals Champions at 560kg and 680kg and runners-up at 640kg, an extremely successful result, which bodes well for the future of Royal Signals tug-of-war.

The Championship for 1990 is scheduled to be hosted by the RAOC at Blackdown and will probably be held at about the same time of year. If any Unit OIC tug-of-war feels they have individuals of a good standard they should contact the Secretary as soon as possible, in order that a register of pullers can be created. Where there is no unit team, individuals should contact the Secretary through their CO.

The squad representing the Corps for 1989 were as follows: **4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt: WO2 (SSM) Halstead** (Coach), **SSgt Abbott, Cpls Bastow, Robson, LCpls Reid, Hanley, Innes, Back, Clare, Hudson, Cairns, Sig Jones, Gay, Collis, Hamilton** and **Read; 7 Sig Regt: Cpl German, LCpls Fox, Simpson** and **Harwood; 22 Sig Regt: Cpl Fraser.**

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL COACHING QUALIFICATIONS

The results of the Association Football Coaching Course held recently at Aldershot, under the sponsorship of the Combined Services Football Association, have been announced. They show awards of 'Full Badge' qualifications to 11 Servicemen, 8 from the Army, the majority of whom have played football at Combined Service and/or single Service level. **Capt Peter Smurthwaite**, the Team Manager for the past three years of the highly successful School of Signals side, is included amongst those who qualified alongside Army Team Captain, **Sgt A. (Sandy) Brown** and **Cpl A. (Alan) Higgins** to complete a Royal Signals trio. Other successful students included **WO2 Sammy Ward** RA, a staunch stalwart of 'Gunner' football and **Sgt Gavin Wood**, formerly of the RHF and now serving with REME. Sappers **WO2 Joe Nelson**, who is serving in Hong Kong, and **Sgt Steve Tusz** together with **WO2 Alan Douglas**, APTC, rounded off those who qualified from those nominated by the Army FA.

POPTs Vincent Jones and **Ian Farley** of the Senior Service, and **Cpl Steve Thompson**, the popular and talented Combined Services and RAF Striker, completed the list of those who now hold coaching qualifications at the highest level of football.

WHO FIGHTS FOR THE SOLDIER WHEN THE SOLDIER CAN'T FIGHT?

When a man has given his youth and strength to help us, it's our privilege and duty to help him and his loved ones when in need – even if he's still in the Service.

And when a Serviceman leaves the Army, Navy or Air Force, he and his family may have to face problems never encountered before. In fact, he may, in the defence of his country, have become disabled or have left behind a widow and children who desperately need advice and help.

A legacy in your will ensures that we can continue doing something in return. Please remember us. And please help.

SSAFA, 16–18 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP. Tel: 01-222 9221.

SSAFA

SOLDIERS', SAILORS' AND AIRMEN'S FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

— Movements —

AUGUST 1989

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col A. E. Abbott	HQ BAOR/HQ BRSC
Lt Col I. C. Shuker	HQ NORTHAG Staff
Lt Col A. G. Whiddett	OP Prosperous (UNTAG)
Lt Col C. L. G. Wright	MOD (CIS(A))
Maj W. J. Cheesman	School of Signals
Maj W. G. S. Cochrane	Rocchan Balado Bridge
Maj P. J. Costello	28 Sig Regt
Maj P. Williams	3 Sqn 13 Sig Regt
Capt A. P. C. Beard	30 Sig Regt
Capt N. J. Borrill	BDLS Canada
Capt D. J. Brown	30 Sig Regt
Capt A. H. Campbell-Black	2 Inf Div
Capt L. L. Carr	21 Sig Regt
Capt P. H. Coleman	16 Sig Regt
Capt M. A. Eaton	School of Signals
Capt B. J. Gallagher	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
Capt J. S. Lugg	13 Sig Regt
Capt W. V. Miles	37 Sig Regt (V)
Capt C. R. Owen	71 Sig Regt (V)
Capt K. W. G. Purkiss	7 Sig Regt
Capt S. J. Turnbull	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt A. Clark	13 Sig Regt
Lt M. S. Coleman	259 Sig Sqn
Lt H. A. Jenkins	QG Sig Regt
Lt D. F. H. Kenyon	202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn

SEPTEMBER 1989

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col G. D. Birch	OC BGTC Katmandu
Maj S. I. Andrews	Royal Brunei Armed Forces
Maj R. Bates	16 Sig Regt
Maj P. J. Bowles	35 Sig Regt (V)
Maj T. J. P. Bryning	STANOC Centre
Maj P. K. Gorford	HQ 11 Sig Bde (V)
Maj A. J. Johnstone	MOD AT 2e
Maj R. F. Strawbridge	AA Col Harrogate
Maj J. P. Wilson	9 Sig Regt
Capt I. K. Bucklow	16 Sig Regt
Capt G. M. Smith	HS School of Signals
Capt I. G. Standen	School of Signals
Lt K. W. Bowers	AA Coll Harrogate
Lt R. J. Healey	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
2Lt C. D. Barr	RMAS

WOs and SNCOs

AUGUST 1989

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (FofS) P. A. Martin	262 Sig Sqn
WO1 J. Neil	8 Sig Regt
AWO1 E. C. Dale	9 Sig Regt
AWO1 B. J. Dalton	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO1 (FofS) C. J. Fielding	School of Signals
AWO1 C. Greig	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
AWO1 J. McAveety	Edinburgh and Heriot Watt Univ OTC
AWO1 T. A. Mortlock	32 Sig Regt (V)
AWO1 (FofS) D. E. Murray	School of Signals
AWO1 (YofS) I. L. Parry	7 Sig Regt
AWO1 L. Wood	37 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 P. Halstead	AA Coll Harrogate
WO2 (YofS) J. M. Hattersley	38 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 J. T. Hyde	School of Signals
WO2 (FofS) M. Poland	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 R. A. P. Pylee	238 (London) Sig Sqn
WO2 (FofS) D. I. Smith	SHAPE Sig Gp
WO2 (FofS) R. M. Thomas	QG Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) J. R. Tyreman	30 Sig Regt
WO2 N. A. Whittingham	21 Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) K. J. Glasby	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
AWO2 P. F. Hayward	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO2 (FofS) S. W. Jennings	BDS Washington
AWO2 (FofS) D. G. Long	225 Sig Sqn
AWO2 A. Malcolm	28 Sig Regt
AWO2 J. T. Selkirk	School of Infantry
AWO2 B. J. Speirs	16 Sig Regt
AWO2 D. T. H. Wilson	9 Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) S. P. Wood	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) P. M. Dignam	Pontrillas Army Training Area
SSgt J. R. Gadson	11 Ord Bn (EOD)
SSgt D. H. Gilbert	633 Sig Tp
SSgt C. H. Hunter	11 Ord Bn (EOD)
SSgt P. C. J. Lavers	16 Sig Regt
SSgt B. Martin-Pitt	32 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt M. J. Partridge	RMAS
SSgt M. J. Pound	38 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (FofS) C. Sheppard	21 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) R. Tate	School of Signals
SSgt G. Waters	8 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) G. R. Wilson	30 Sig Regt
SSgt R. H. Wright	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASSgt N. J. Barnett	14 Sig Regt
ASSgt C. L. J. Gopsill	244 Sig Sqn
ASSgt K. J. Lewis	8 Sig Regt
ASSgt M. J. Stringer	11 Sig Regt
ASSgt M. W. Tanser	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt A. K. Waldron	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt K. Baron	244 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. Blackmore	14 Sig Regt
Sgt C. N. Braid	633 Sig Tp
Sgt J. R. Cambridge	14 Sig Regt
Sgt D. J. Catchpole	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt I. R. Clarke	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt R. Christie	11 Sig Regt
Sgt F. J. Clarkson	633 Sig Tp
Sgt A. W. Dawson	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt A. Fulton	210 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. J. Gerrish	633 Sig Tp
Sgt S. A. Haresign	1 RGJ
Sgt M. A. Hayter	Int and Sy Gp (NI)
Sgt J. Hodgson	1 RGJ
Sgt S. Hodgson	School of Signals
Sgt G. Hossell	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt P. S. P. Keating	30 Sig Regt
Sgt R. J. Leake	37 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt B. Leech	8 Sig Regt
Sgt G. P. E. Legge	11 Sig Regt
Sgt B. L. McAndrew	School of Signals
Sgt A. F. McLeod	251 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Moody	Berlin Sig Regt
Sgt S. L. Moore	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. J. Pearce	8 Sig Regt
Sgt D. G. Perch	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt M. Purnell	9 Sig Regt
Sgt G. Skinner	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt G. R. Smith	9 Sig Regt
Sgt S. R. W. Strapp	11 Ord Bn (EOD)
Sgt M. C. Wray	14 Sig Regt
Sgt T. M. Wynn	School of Signals
ASgt V. D. Bates	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASgt D. L. V. Bridge	16 Sig Regt
ASgt M. B. Bristow	8 Sig Regt
ASgt A. P. Drummond	2 R Anglian
ASgt M. D. Elliot	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt G. S. C. Farrar	Int and Sy Gp (NI)
ASgt G. E. F. Gee	HQ 20 Maritime Regt RCT
ASgt C. G. Milne	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt J. R. Moore	94 Loc Regt RA
ASgt K. T. Phillips	259 Sig Sqn
ASgt R. Rutherford	14 Sig Regt
ASgt C. Tolton	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

SEPTEMBER 1989

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 I. E. Murray	HQ 12 Sig Bde
WO1 (YofS) A. C. Reynolds	Int and Sy Gp (NI)
WO1 (YofS) A. D. P. Shaw	264 Sig Sqn
AWO1 (FofS) G. E. Blythe	School of Signals
AWO1 M. J. Campbell	Birmingham University OTC
AWO1 (YofS) N. H. Colville	QG Sig Regt
AWO1 F. McAleer	London University OTC
AWO1 (YofS) L. S. Pilling	RMAS
WO2 (YofS) T. P. Langford	Berlin Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) C. Newby	LSP Oman
WO2 W. P. Stockdale	244 Sig Sqn
WO2 B. White	233 Sig Sqn
AWO2 M. C. Ball	School of Signals
AWO2 A. J. Davey	28 Sig Regt
AWO2 G. L. Richards	16 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) J. T. Barnett	SHAPE Sig Gp
SSgt K. Bickerstaffe	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
SSgt P. Boon	11 Sig Regt
SSgt T. F. A. Christian	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
SSgt C. G. Deary	7 Sig Regt
SSgt N. C Duncan	30 Sig Regt
SSgt S. J. Gillham	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt D. Griffiths	14 Sig Regt
SSgt J. L. Kennedy	13 Sig Regt
SSgt W. M. Kerr	259 Sig Sqn
SSgt J. G. O'Donnell	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
SSgt T. W. Potter	8 Sig Regt
SSgt N. A. Scott	71 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt M. A. Smithurst	13 Sig Regt
SSgt C. C. Soutar	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASSgt D. J. Carr	School of Signals
ASSgt S. J. Holden	HQ AFCENT (ASG/CRSG)
ASSgt M. J. McKenna	34 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt S. M. Parry	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt V. G. Bannister	HQ AFCENT (ASG/CRSG)
Sgt B. Berrie	RAEC Centre
Sgt R. I. Booth	School of Signals
Sgt J. M. M. Brebner	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt A. T. Broadbank	BR Contingent UNFICYP
Sgt N. Chatterton	Berlin Sig Regt
Sgt N. Dixon	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt K. Dodd	School of Signals
Sgt D. J. Feakes	633 Sig Tp
Sgt K. Grant	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. M. Hunter	16 Sig Regt
Sgt C. J. McQuade	HQ AFCENT
Sgt G. Moore	633 Sig Tp
Sgt V. Murphy	Berlin Sig Regt
Sgt A. P. Owen	School of Signals
Sgt M. R. Potterton	HQ AFNORTH (BAE)
Sgt D. J. Ross	HQ AFNORTH
Sgt D. Smeaton	SHAPE Sig Gp
Sgt J. S. Thompson	JCUFI
Sgt K. Thurling	13 Sig Regt
Sgt K. L. R. Wilkinson	School of Signals
ASgt I. M. Grubb	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (Int)
ASgt G. P. Hughes	2 R Irish
ASgt P. Morgan	5 Hy Regt RA

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during July 1989:-

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn	£500.00
2 Regt RMP Berlin	£111.08
83 Sig Sqn (V)	£110.00
Capt P. A. Osment	£50.00
RMAS	£10.00
	£781.08

The following donations were gratefully received during August 1989:-

16 Sig Regt	£906.15
Col L. J. D. Davies and Maj G. M. Malcolm	£100.00
RSA Cambridge	£100.00
21 Sig Regt	£ 50.00
642 Sig Tp	£ 50.00
P. and J. Walker	£ 25.00
Bristol Branch REME Association	£ 15.00
In memory of Lt Col C. Mitchell	£ 10.00
Gillespie	£ 5.00
Misc	£ 7.80
	£1,268.95

NOTICES

DEATHS

Bate—Mrs Pat Bate, widow of the late **Maj Gen A. C. Bate OBE**—died 18 September 1989.
Best—ex Sig R. J. Best—served 1924-45—died 10 February 1989.
Brooks—Capt R. J. Brooks—died 3 April 1989.
Bryant—Capt C. E. Bryant—died 17 February 1989.
Bulloch—Capt R. R. Bulloch—served 1943-78—died 9 August 1989.
Chapman—Maj C. J. A. Chapman—served 1946-1956—died 15 May 1989.
Clark—Sig H. A. Clark—died 12 August 1989.
Farley—ex WO1 J. M. F. Farley—served 1935-60—died 7 January 1989.
Jackson—Capt S. A. C. Jackson—died 31 December 1988.
Mulholland—Lt Col F. W. Mulholland MBE—died 8 June 1989.
Nation—Capt W. A. Nation—died 3 May 1989.
Oates—Capt E. B. G. Oates—died 12 April 1989.
O'Connell—Sir Morgan Donal Conail O'Connell—served 1939-45—died 1989.
O'Leary—ex Cpl A. K. O'Leary—served 1955-77—died 21 October 1988.
Pearson—ex Sgt A. Pearson—served 1945-70—died 15 February 1989.
Pharoah—Capt H. Pharoah—died 19 April 1989.
Powell—ex WO2 J. S. Powell—served 1941-63—died 13 November 1988.
Price—ex Sgt L. H. Price—served 1948-58—died 14 November 1988.
Reeves—Lt Col R. W. C. Reeves—died 5 March 1989.
Sawers—Mrs G. E. Sawers, widow of **Maj Gen J. M. Sawers CB, MBE**—died 15 August 1989.
Smith—ex SSgt A. P. G. Smith—served 1924-45—died 26 October 1988.
Snell—ex WO2 J. E. Snell—served 1942-67—died 13 November 1989.
Stanley—ex SSgt J. G. Stanley—served 1951-65—died 18 November 1988.
Stott—Dr D. A. Stott—died 27 August 1989.
Thomas—Maj E. G. Thomas—served 1949-?—died 28 June 1989.
Wesley—ex SSgt J. A. Wesley—served 1947-73—died 31 October 1988.
Wolfe—Sig G. Wolfe—served 1920-26—died 22 June 1989.

IN MEMORIAM

A Service of Recollection and Dedication of Memorial for **Cpl David Howes** was held at St Mary Magdalene Church, Westoning, Bedfordshire on 6 August. The Address was given by The Bishop of St Albans, **The Rt Revd John Taylor**.

The moving service chosen by **David**'s mother, included Readings by **David**'s parents, **Cpl Ian Patterson** of the Corps, a teacher from **David**'s school and a school friend.

The packed congregation of **David**'s family, friends and colleagues, included many from Westoning where **David** grew up. Members of Royal Signals, including **WO1 (YofS) R. Waller** were present. **Cpl Derek Wood**, whose family was at the Service was also remembered and honoured. The Signal Officer in Chief (Army) was represented by the Regimental Colonel, **Col M. L. Jennings**.

After the Service there was an opportunity to meet with those who mourn him.

OBITUARIES

Bishop—Maj G. R. Bishop—It is with regret that we announce the death of **Guy Rodwell Bishop** which occurred on 19 August 1989. Known in the Corps as **Ron**, he joined the army in 1915 at the age of 16. He retired in 1953 but remained in the army in the capacity of an RO in the MI Directorate. His colourful career both as a soldier and as a sportsman was recorded in *The Wire* in 1965 (November/December issue). We offer our condolences to his family.

Carver—Lt C. Carver. It is with regret that we announce the death of (TMO) **Lt C. Carver** following a short illness in the Duchess of Kent's Military Hospital, Catterick Garrison. He joined the Corps in 1928 and served in many locations, including five and a half years in Egypt, before qualifying as a Foreman of Signals. On transfer to the Reserve in 1939 he joined the Police but was quickly recalled to the Colours on the outbreak of the second world war. Following evacuation from Dunkirk he was commissioned as a technical maintenance officer and was attached to the Guards Armoured Division. He was with them in Normandy soon after D-Day and remained with them throughout their progress through Europe, including the battle for Arnhem. On demobilisation he rejoined the Police and retired in 1963. He then commenced a second career with the Corps, as a Civil Servant, initially in the maintenance workshops of the School of Signals and then as an Instructor in the Training Brigade. He retired finally, from the Trade Training School, in 1973. Much of his retirement was spent on Catterick Golf Course where he was a well-known and popular figure. Together with his Jack Russell 'Judy' he achieved a round nearly every day until age began to tell in 1987. **'Ned' Carver** was a highly respected soldier and instructor. He will be greatly missed by his family and many friends in Catterick and Colburn.

Glanville—Mrs Myrtle Glanvill. It is with very much regret that we publish the death of **Myrtle**, the wife of **Lt Col A. R. Glanvill (Reg)** which occurred on 11 June at her home in Queensland, Australia, after a short illness. Readers will be pleased to know that until her untimely death **Myrtle** led an active and happy life. We send our sincere condolences to **Reg** and their children, **Robin** and **Rowena**.

Hallett—Col Peter Garth Hallett OBE, TD was born in Bristol on 23 August 1918. He was commissioned into the Corps on 16 December 1939. After six months with 9 Div Sigs he joined the BEF until July 1940 when a period of service in the UK followed. Service in India followed from January 1943 until May 1945 when he again returned to UK to relinquish his commission in June 1946.

In May 1947 **Peter** joined the TA with 12 (Anti Aircraft) Sig Regt TA until its redesignation as Southern Command Sig Regt TA in 1955. He continued to serve with the Regiment through to redesignation as 12 (Command) Sig Regt TA until it became 57 Sig Regt TA in 1959. He became Commanding Officer and relinquished that appointment in March 1961. He then became CSO TA an appointment he held until his retirement in July 1964. He was made OBE in 1960.

Peter was a GPO Telecommunication Engineer in his native city of Bristol and did much to foster and maintain the links between the GPO and Royal Signals in the area. In retirement he remained an active supporter of the Corps and was the President of the Bristol Branch of the Royal Signals Association for many years.

He died at home on 22 July 1989. He is survived by his wife **Sybil**, daughter **Susan** and son **Richard**.

Hughson—ex WO2 J. T. C. Hughson. It is with deep regret that Chester Branch report the death of **Mr Hughson** which occurred on 22 August. A former Chairman and Social Secretary of the Branch **Cess** served in the Corps from 1949-74. Amongst the many friends and colleagues who attended his funeral were Branch members, representatives of TAVRA, members of the Cheshire Medallists Association and Chester County Hall. Our Standard Bearer, **Frank Rowlands** led the Parade of Branch members. He will be sadly missed. We send our condolences to his family.

Jackson—ex Capt L. A. Jackson. It is with much regret that Chester Branch report the death of **Capt L. A. Jackson** which occurred on 8 July. He served in the Corps from 1926-52. Well known in Chester Branch he was also National Chairman of the Dunkirk Veterans Association. Some 200 people attended his funeral in Blacon where 20 Standards were paraded. He will be very much missed. We send our condolences to his family.

Kilpatrick—ex Sig E. (Ted) Kilpatrick. It is with much regret that we report the death of **Ted Kilpatrick** a staunch and respected member of Hull Branch. He joined the Corps as a boy in 1924 and served until 1946. He died on 18 August, aged 80 years. He will be sadly missed by his many friends and by members of Hull Branch.

Knowles—Harold Knowles enlisted in the Royal Corps of Signals in October 1933 and after completing recruit and trade training he went to India in 1936 and remained there until 1942.

In 1942 **Sgt Knowles** left Bombay for Singapore where he was a Prisoner of War for three years in Singapore, Malaya and Thailand where he worked on the Burma-Siam Railway—and later in Billibid Prison, Manilla, from where he was released weighing 5st 11lb.

Back in England on long convalescent leave he met and married his wife **Margaret**. When he returned to duty his postings included Kenya, West Germany, Taiping as well as 'home' postings Catterick and Chester. His final tour of duty was as CQMS of the Army element at RAF Brampton in Cambridgeshire. He retired after 33 years of Army service on 12 October 1966, and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. He undertook a second career as a Clerical officer with the DHSS from which he retired in 1975.

Harold died peacefully in hospital in Chester on 11 May 1989, aged 77 years. He leaves a widow, **Margaret**, two sons and five grandchildren.

Livemore—ex Sgt H. P. Livemore. It is with very much regret that we learn of the death of **Harold Livemore** which occurred on 27 July, aged 82 years. He served in the Corps from 1931 until 1945. Some aspects of his interesting career were published in his letter which appeared on page 340 July 1988 issue of *The Wire*. Our sincere condolences go to his widow **Kathleen** and to his family.

Metcalfe—Maj Charles Anthony Metcalfe. It is with deep regret that we report his death on 6 July 1989 aged 69.

Charles left school at the age of 16 in 1936. He served a cadetship with the Merchant Navy and from 1940 to 1942 was Deck and Navigation Officer serving on the Atlantic convoys and also with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. In 1942 he enlisted in the Royal Armoured Corps and was commissioned into the Household Cavalry. After completing his commissioning course at Sandhurst he joined the Royal Horse Guards and served with them in North West Europe gaining a mention in despatches. He was released from service in June 1947 and after a short but happy time as a teacher in the Choir School Chester, the call of the services drew him back. In February 1951 he re-engaged as a TA officer with HQ 62 (L of C) Sig Regt (V) until 1952 when he was posted to 23 (Indep) Armd Bde Sig Sqn TA as a Non Regular Permanent Staff Officer. In 1961 he joined 42 (Lancashire and Cheshire) Sig Regt TA which re-organised in 1967 and became part of 33 Sig Regt (V). He retired from 33 Sig Regt (V) in February 1984 after a total of 32 years as PSAO with Royal Signals TA.

During his 17 years with 33 Sig Regt (V) he carried out the duties of Adjutant for a short while but for practically 16 years he was PSAO of two independantly located Signal Squadrons—42 Sig Sqn (V) in Manchester and 80 Sig Sqn (V) in Chester.

He was always a kind, gentle person with a great sense of humour, who set high personal standards and inspired a deep respect from all ranks.

There is no doubt that **Charles Metcalfe** contributed enormously to the Regiment and its success. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife **Margaret** and son **Anthony**.

FOR SALE

No 4 dress, hardly worn, fit officer 6ft 2in. £100. Tel: 058474 296 **Lt Col (Retd) T. Rigby**.

Two Service Dress uniforms including all badges and buttons, ranked Lieutenant, one by Uniformal £180, one by Alkit £100. Mess Kit, jacket, waistcoat, including all badges and buttons, ranked Lieutenant, £200. Hats, including badges and buttons, No 1 Dress hat (Herbert Johnson) £25. SD hat (Herbert Johnson) £20, SD hat (Alkit) £15, Side hat (Gieves and Hawkes) £10. Size: height 5ft 8in, chest 38-40in, waist 30in, inside leg 29in. Hat size 58. Prices indicative—any reasonable offer accepted. Contact: **Lt M. S. Edwards**, 207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn, BFPO 37. Tel: Soltau Mil 258 or 229.

PERSONAL

Mr W. D. Whitaker who served in the Rifle Brigade during the war would like to get in touch with **William Charles Barratt** of Tamworth, Staffordshire. They served together in Trowbridge and the Isle of Man, 1942-43. Please write to him at 12 Ridger Lane, Frenthorpe, Wakefield WF2 0JW.

At the AGM of the Association during the Catterick Reunion the Chairman agreed to write to **Brig** and **Mrs E. D. Good (Derek** and **Phyllida)** to wish them both well in their fight against illness and to say that they were not forgotten. Neither **Derek** nor **Phyllida** can write but in a typed response **Phyllida** says 'We were touched and grateful for your letter . . . **Derek**'s address is Pittendreich Nursing Home, Melville Dykes, Lasswade, Midlothian EH18. I think he would appreciate a PC from any of his old chums. I see him most days . . . I am slowly getting better . . .

A GENERAL REMEMBERS

Those who fought in the Great War are inevitably a dwindling band, so that the reminiscences of 91-year old **Maj Gen Ashton Wade CB, OBE, MC** gains pride of place in the summer edition of *Stand To!* the magazine of the Western Front Association 1914-1918.

Under the title 'Youthful Memories of War', **Gen Wade** recalls being in camp with several hundred other schoolboys of the Officers' Training Corps (OTC) when war was declared in August 1914. A year later, still only 17, he became a gentleman cadet at the Royal Military Academy (RMA) at Woolwich, training for the artillery.

By then the need for gunner officers was acute, and the usual peacetime two-year course was crammed into six months. Not long after his eighteenth birthday, **Ashton Wade** was a Second Lieutenant and posted to 168 Siege Battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery. Less than a year after joining-up he was with his unit in the Ypres salient.

The article describes how he became an artillery brigade signal officer, a specialisation he would follow for the rest of his long career as a soldier, joing the Corps of Signals in 1921. Wounded by a German shell while escorting one of his Battery Commanders to the front-line, he was taken to an Officers' hospital in London's Belgrave Square. Here his ward was in the ballroom of a luxurious house, where the catering was still in the hands of the pre-war butler and cook. But that, as **Gen Wade** concludes his article, is 'another story'.

Stand To! is published three times a year by the Western Front Association 1914-1918 whose aims are to perpetuate the memory. courage and comradeship of all those who fought in France and Flanders in the Great War.

Enquiries to: Western Front Association, Salisbury Lodge, 86 Findon Road, Worthing BN14 0AQ.

ADVERTISING

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

SITUATIONS VACANT

2 SIGNAL BRIGADE HAVE VACANCIES FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Telecom Ops at Andover, Bicester, Bordon, Bulford, Central London, Grantham, Wilton and Winchester. **Government Telephonists** at Aldershot, Central London, Chilwell, Preston and Worthy Down. **Maintenance Electrician Telephones (MET)** at Aldershot, Bulford, Carnoustie, Castlemartin and Central London.

For further information contact: **Tom Winsborough**, Civil Manager, HQ 2 Sig Bde & Cotswold Garrison, Park Lane, Corsham, Wilts SN13 9NR. Tel: 0225-814220.

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).

Applications should be sent to The Regimental Secretary, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Typing skills are helpful but not essential.

CORPS DATES

THE LONDON LECTURE 1989

This will be held at the London International Press Centre, 76 Shoe Lane, EC4 at 1800 on Thursday 23 November 1989.

The Lecturer is Professor John Erickson FRSE, director of the Centre for Defence Studies, University of Edinburgh and author of several books dealing with Soviet military power.

The title of the lecture has yet to be decided but it is likely to be concerned with the impact of electronics and technological advances in the Soviet Union on the glasnost and perestroika initiatives.

Further information together with application forms for tickets will appear in the Summer issue of the Journal.

ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER

The AGM will be held at 1800 hrs on Friday 20 October at the Crown Hotel in Blandford. All present and past members of the Corps are invited to attend. It will be followed by the Annual Dinner. For any further information contact **Lt Col K. Powell** at the School of Signals, Blandford Mil or (0258) 52581 Ex 2269.

CORPS CAROL SERVICE

We shall be raising a choir to lead the singing at the Corps Carol Service, as we did last year. Sight-reading ability is highly desirable as there will be only one full reheasal on the afternoon preceding the Carol Service. Music will shortly be available, and choristers are asked to study it before the final rehearsal. Aspiring singers, including boy's voices, should contact **Maj John Chambers**, AT1b, First Avenue House, London WC1V 6HB. Telephone: Lacon (01-430) 7495. Singers from last year need not re-apply as music will be sent to them automatically.

A CAROL SERVICE AT ST STEPHEN WITH ST JOHN, ROCHESTER ROW, WESTMINSTER

An evening Service of Lessons and Carols, is to take place in the Parish Church at St Stephen with St John, Westminster, on Tuesday 19 December 1989 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 the refreshments ordered. Since the overall capacity of the Church is only 350, allocations will be made on a first come, first served, basis.

IS THAT *THE WIRE?*

'I have not had my *Wire*'.
Have you paid your subscription?
How did you pay?
Have you checked these particulars with your bank?
Have you changed your address?

Serving personnel may wish to obtain their copies from the PRI of their unit.

Officers, those serving in non Signals units and retired members should obtain theirs by completing the subscription form printed in *The Wire* each September and November. Please order early.

Please notify a change of address by completing the coupon below and sending it to RHQ.

If you comply with these requests you will help RHQ to keep its records up-to-date and, more important, you should receive your copy of *The Wire* at the time of issue.

To: RHQ Royal Signals — attention Chief Clerk,
56 Regency Street,
London SW1P 4AD.

Name, Initials, Rank .....

New Address, with effect from .....

.....

.....

CHINDIT OPERATIONS— 1944 'DAH' FORCE

The following Corps personnel who served in 'Dah' Force in Burma in 1944 or anyone knowing their whereabouts are asked to get in touch with **K. Battey Esq**, Honorary Treasurer, The Chindits Old Comrades Association, at 310A Llys Arfon, Abergele Road, Old Colwyn, Clwyd, North Wales LL29 9LN:-

Capt M. Trecyman

7385439	**LSgt Deane**	**6205133**	**Sgm Prosser**
14351406	**Cpl Ross**	**2382082**	**Sgm Pyran**
2582643	**Cpl Reeves**	**11422819**	**Sgm Roberts**
953909	**Cpl Griffin**	**11185760**	**Sgm Simpson**
14345154	**LCpl Jackson**	**14353907**	**Sgm Taylor**
1153263	**LCpl Winder**	**10578762**	**Sgm Warden**
4128185	**Sgm Cameron**	**14216429**	**Sgm Whiteley**
5835170	**Sgm Drane**	**7357031**	**Sgm Wonham**
5192166	**Sgm Hayward**	**14371435**	**Sgm Woolmore**
1156097	**Sgm Marshall**		

CHINDIT MEMORIAL APPEAL

The Chindits Old Comrades Association has been granted permission by the Westminster City Council to raise a memorial to the Chindit Forces who participated in the Burma campaigns during the 1939-1945 World War.

Donations towards the cost will be gratefully received by The Chindits Old Comrades Association at TA & VR Centre, Wolseley House, Fallings Park, Wolverhampton, West Midlands WV10 9QR.

REUNIONS

WEST LONDON BRANCH DINNER

The Annual Dinner of the West London Branch of the Royal Signals Association will be held on Friday, 27 October at the Osterley Hotel, Isleworth (near Osterley tube station). Tickets at £13.50 are obtainable from the Honorary Secretary, **Sgt R. Galpin**, 71 Beavers Crescent, Hounslow, Middlesex TW4 6EU.

ROYAL SIGNALS WEEK IN GUERNSEY

In recognition of the 70th Anniversary of the formation of the Corps next year the Guernsey Branch of the Royal Signals Association is planning to hold a Royal Signals Week in Guernsey beginning 7 May 1990 and would like as many members, wives and families as possible from UK Branches to join us. All travel and accommodation arrangements will be made through a local travel company at advantageous terms and sent to Branch secretaries. We ask them to send the names and addresses of those who will be coming to Guernsey. As an added attraction Wednesday 9 May next year the island will be celebrating the 45th Anniversary of their Liberation from German Occupion. Any queries—telephone: (0481) 45595.

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 Friday 15 December 1989—1200 hrs for 1230 hrs.

If you would like to attend this event at the Royal Aldershot Officers Club contact: **Lt Col D. Crookes OBE**, 110 Field Way, Aldershot, Hants GU11 4UL. The cost for each person attending will be £12.50.

RSA MEMORIAL TOUR OF NORMANDY—3 to 9 JUNE 1990

Active consideration is being given to arranging a Coach Tour, to coincide with the 46th Anniversary of D-Day. The Tour would include visits to all the Landing Beaches and the Airborne DZs at St Mere Eglise and Ranville (Pegasus Bridge), visits to some of the British, Canadian, American and German War Cemeteries, and to the more important of the Invasion Museums and the preserved coastal gun batteries at Longues and Merville. There would also be an opportunity of visiting Bayeux Cathedral and other places of interest.

The Tour would include participating in an Act of Remembrance at the Bayeux Cemetery on D-Day, either our own Parade, or possibly as a Squadron in the Normandy Veterans Association Parade. There is also a possibility of joining in a Parade at Arromanches. Medals will be worn on both these occasions, and it would be appropriate for Branch Standards to be paraded.

Before proceeding further, it is necessary to assess what support such a Tour may stimulate. Interested persons, who would like to receive further details in due course, are asked to write to **David Greenbrook**, c/o RHQ Royal Signals, indicating possible numbers.

THE NATIONAL EXPOW ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REUNION, WARNER HOLIDAY VILLAGE, MIDDLETON-ON-SEA, SUSSEX COAST, 27 TO 30 OCTOBER 1989

The Council of the Association would like to extend a hearty welcome to any of your members who were prisoners of war and who would like to attend the Association's AGM and Reunion. A thoroughly interesting and entertaining weekend was enjoyed by all in 1988 and we confidently expect the same again. There is ample parking space at the Holiday Village and the disabled are in good hands. Full details of the Reunion can be obtained from the Reunion Secretary, **Charles Jago**, 74 Norfolk Road, West Harnham, Salisbury SP2 8HG. Tel: (0722) 333599.

Details of Association membership can be obtained from the Hon Gen Secretary, **Leslie Allen**, 99 Parlaunt Road, Langley, Slough SL3 8BE. A stamped and addressed envelope would be appreciated.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON CONTINGENT OTC

The ULOTC has recently formed a Regimental Association which aims to bring together past members of the contingent. This is accomplished by holding social functions and by the publication of newsletters.

A dinner and barn dance are planned for later this year and a cocktail party and autumn ball are being sponsored in conjunction with the current contingent.

The Newsletter Editor is compiling items of general interest including an address book and a photograph album and scrap book. Any news of past members is always welcome.

New members are welcome and should write in the first instance to The Membership Secretary. The Regimental Association, University of London Contingent, The Officers' Training Corps, Yeomanry House, Handel Street, London WC1N 1NP.

LETTERS

From: Maj (Retd) R. S. Bresloff MSM

Dear Sir,

What happy memories were revived as I sat and read my July *Wire*. The photograph sent in by **'Jim Mellett'** brought the past suddenly back, I was the 'Boy Sgt' sent from Harrogate and the Boy SSM was **'Flash Morris'** (where are you now). The name of the Officer? wasn't he later killed leading the 'White Helmets' down the A1. I'm sure it began with **'H'. Jim Mellett** is correct in all he says, I went to Man Service 4 January 1950 and was commissioned 4 January 1975, Happy Days. Thank God for ex-boys;they still keep the Corps alive!

Yours faithfully,
R. S. Bresloff

HQ Rheindahlen Garrison
BFPO 40

THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

If you are over 16 years of age and would like to help as a Collector for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal please get in touch with: The Secretary, The Poppy Appeal, Royal British Legion Village, Maidstone ME20 7NX.

Remembrance Day is on Sunday 12 November

THE VITAL LINK

The Story of Royal Signals 1945-1985 by Philip Warner

(340 pages illustrated—pictures and maps)

This important book is a must for all associated with Royal Signals. Commissioned by the Corps, The Vital Link examines the variety of tasks carried out world-wide by the Corps and traces the complex developments in techniques, technology and signal tactics since the Second World War. It records the growth of the Corps through the achievements, both personal and professional, of the high quality men and women of the Regular and Territorial Army, who serve in Royal Signals. It is presented in an attractive and enjoyable way as a story rather than a historical record.

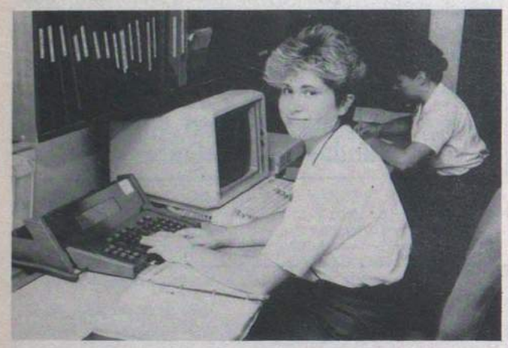
Copies are available from the Royal Signals Museum Shop, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 8RH, price £18.50 per copy. Remittances with order, payable to Royal Signals Corps Fund.

REPORT FROM ULSTER

233 Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

COMMCEN TROOP
WIMBLEDON REVISITED

The scene was set, a cloudless sky, blazing sunshine, cookhouse squash, two GS tables and lots of green canvas fold-up chairs, yes McKelvie Cup Tennis was upon us. Starting out as pre-match favourites, the Commcen Tp team had a lot to live up to. However, underhand tactics, such as Admin Tp 'hogging' all the Squadron racquets for the previous fortnight did little to help those without racquets to prepare. Our A team of **Cpl Heather McNair** and **SSgt Ivan Arbuckle** managed to remain unbeaten throughout the day and win all eight of their games and our B team of **LCpls Boris Tipple** and **Sarah Ledamun** did well winning a few of theirs. The final of the day (at 1900!) saw Admin B team beat Romeo A team. As we were pushed into second position. A good day's tennis and tanning was enjoyed by all.



Pte Field on the Lisburn Exchange

Cpl Smith 'You hum it; I'll play it'

TROOP FUNCTIONS

The troop has had a few farewell functions in the last couple of months, with bizarre themes. Come as you were when the ship went down, and this month's theme is the Cotton Club. These evenings have answered an age old mystery for soldiers who have had to do MFO detail in the past, mainly 'what's in these boxes?' Answer, costumes for Commcen Tp functions. Speaking of functions CDA/ Crypto decided to have the seventh and (thankfully last) farewell for **SSgt Taff Carr** at the NAAFI's bijou restaurant at RAF Aldergrove. As a farewell gift MT decided to give **Taff** and **Chris** a mystery tour of the Province. Short of seats in the mini-bus **Cpl Lisa Cook** decided to give us all more space and sat on the case of wine which promptly burst open. The ensuing comments are best left to the imagination. On arrival at Aldergrove, one and a half hours later (mini-bus lagged), we were informed that the restaurant would close in an hour's time. Another speech from **Taff** (who writes his speeches?) we downed a hurried ale.

TENNIS

Cpl Heather McNair and **LCpl Sarah Ledamun** teamed up with **Cpls Prostor** and **Johnson** of 225 Sig Sqn and successfully won the NI WRAC Inter Unit Tennis Competition. **Cpl McNair** has had other major successes on the mainland, winning the Royal Signals Ladies Doubles, the Mixed Doubles, the Open Singles and was runner-up in the Ladies Singles, quite a feat. Well done **Heather**.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

The troop wishes a fond farewell and a thank you to the following: **SSgt Taff Carr** and **Chris, Cpl Dawn Painter** and **Dec, Sgt Sharon Shersby** (congratulations on the promotion) a double congrats to **LCpl Dave Imrie** on his wedding and promotion, also farewell to **LCpl Tracey-Lee Denton** and **Pte Polly Perkins**. Finally good luck to **Cpl Paul Morgan** promoted and posted across to the reservation (India Tp) and good luck to **Sgt Karen Wooding** re-allocating to DTg at Catterick.

We extend a warm welcome to **SSgt Tony Bottomley**, his wife **Dianne** and family, **Cpl 'Radar' Noott** from India Tp, **Cpl Dallymore, LCpl Connolly, Ptes Baker, Share, Reeve** and **Partridge** all destined for The Exchange. To the Commcen we welcome **LCpl 'John-Boy' Blyth** and the love of **Sig Paul Sweeney**'s life **Pte Tara Henderson** and finally straight 'from the Egg' **Pte 'Arthur' Scargill**. Belated congratulations to the following on their recent promotions: **Cpls Paul Morgan, Heather McNair, LCpls Chez Chester** and **Julia Siddons** (also on her recent marriage).

INDIA TROOP

Since the last instalment from India Tp no less than three engagements have taken place. Our warmest congratulations go out to **LCpls Bob Heaps, Sue Stanford, Mark Armstrong** and **Caroline Jeffrey** and finally **Cpl Neil Perham** and **Pte Mym Shirreff,** (all Whisky Section). It is rumoured that the new job spec for the section Yeoman will include marriage guidance training!

We would like to welcome **Sig Dave Wood** to the Troop and bid farewell to **Sig Mark Nixon** who leaves us for civvy street.

TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE TROOP

Since last going to print we have had a change of OC. **Capt Jim Hanifin** is now in the hot-seat (Vice **Capt Alan Hooley**). **Capt Hanifin** doesn't sing or play a guitar, much to the relief of the rest of the Troop.

The Troop has been kept busy with the never ending installation and maintenance work. Despite this we managed to field teams in the Squadron Inter-Troop sporting events. In the basketball we managed a respectable second place, much credit being due to our star player **Cpl Stu Phillips**. The Inter-Troop tennis was not such a success, only managing to scrape sixth place (out of six!). We were consistent throughout though, never managing to win a single game!

We have recently said farewell to **SSgt** (now WO2) **'Ken Boon', Sanderson** who has moved to 11 Sig Regt, and to **Sgt Pete Szeremeta** who has been posted to 8 Bde. Our best wishes go with them both. Welcome to **LCpl Kirtley** we hope you enjoy your stay. We have had cause for a few celebrations lately, congratulations being in order for: **Sgt Dave Ball** on passing the FofS selection. **Cpls 'Chalkie' White** and **John Sutton** on passing the T1 entrance examination. **Cpl Sherre Banfield** (now **McCormack**) on her recent marriage to **Sgt Pete McCormack. Cpl** and **Mrs Pete Ruff** on the birth of their baby daughter **Natalie. LCpl** and **Mrs Angie Kerr** on the birth of their baby daughter **Vanessa**.

— News from Headquarters —

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

BRADLEY SQUADRON
Report by Sgt Jim Torrie

The Squadron says a sad farewell to **Sgt (Q Bloke) Horton** who has been posted to Blandford and to **Sgt Ian Taylor** who is now in Ireland at 8 Inf Bde. We congratulate them both on their well deserved promotion and wish them every success for the future. We would like to welcome **Sgt Willie McPhee** and hope he enjoys his tour with us.

GOINGS ON IN THE SQUADRON

The Squadron arrived back after leave ready to start the Summer Term. The first sight they saw that morning was the massive figure of **WO2 (CSM) Dave Morcom** welcoming them home so to speak and reassuring them it was not a bad dream—it was for real! Whitespear Tp departed on EL4 (EL Canoe), under the watchful eyes of **Lt Tony Urwin** and **Sgt Jim Torrie**. The Lake District is beautiful at that time of year, but you could hardly see through the rain. The Troop duly arrived in location and proceeded to build their homes (tents) for the next five days. They were then split into two groups, one group on hill-walking for two days, and the other on canoeing. That evening all of the Troop went for a little swim, just to prove that the water was cold and to give them encouragement not to capsize if at all possible! **JL** 'Bunny' **Williams** and **JL Cpl Mack** proved to be very adept at canoeing proving that an Eskimo Roll was the easiest thing in the world to do. This group did have some success as **JL Rosser** after two days canoeing, was able to paddle in a straight line, for the first day he just paddled round in circles getting dizzy.

The next two days that group were up on the hills musing at the fantastic scenery. At one stage during the walk the group had various weather conditions ranging from sun to hail to rain to snow. However the lads were in good spirits and it was a highly successful week. The following week Rapier Tp went on EL 4 and also enjoyed their time there.

The next main event of the term was Warrior Quest. This being the final military exercise in the Junior Leaders training where they were graded in all their military skills. **JL Sgt Stacey** surpassed himself in this area proving he would much rather be a soldier than be on External Leadership. Both Rapier and Whitespear Tps gave a good performance on this exercise considering the lack of sleep and how strenuously they worked. Well done.

Lightning Tp have been down in London at the Royal Tournament acting as Arena Party for the past few weeks and they thought they were going to have an easy time of it! For the final couple of weeks both Rapier and Whitespear have been in Scotland on Ex Vanguard, this being an Adventure Training exercise. Top rope and abseiling, windsurfing, off shore sailing and sea canoeing were all done up at Loch Gilphead, Argyll. Both Troops thoroughly enjoyed their time there and found it a most rewarding exercise.

We're now in the final week of Summer Term and 88C Rapier and Whitespear graduate on 4 August. After leave they report to 8 Sig Regt for trade training, we wish them all the best for the future in their chosen trade.

Off shore sailing at Loch Gilphead

RAWSON SQUADRON
by A. T. Combe

Rawson Sqn has been busy with Ex Quiz Nights and Ex Charity Runs. Here is a brief run down on what exactly has been going on in the Champion Squadron of the College.

Shock of the term was the surprise win by Rawson of the Champion Squadron Competition. The Swimming Squad got us off to an excellent start by coming up with resounding victory in both the swimming and water polo. The Junior Drill Squad continued this trend by winning the Junior Drill Competition. Congratulations must go to our immaculate drill commander **AT LCpl 'Mick' Brown** who walked off with the Best Drill Commander Trophy and **AT Brass** who was awarded Best Turned Out AT. The Squadron then went on to win most of the other events, such as the BFT, initiative tests, fieldcraft and NBC.

The next big night on the Rawson calendar was the Rawson Sqn Inter Troop quiz night. Few people guessed what a night of drama and suspense this would turn out to be. Strong teams were fielded by all Troops especially the mysteriously named 'Oblivion Boys! Who were they? Where did they come from these demons of the buzzer? Rumour has it that they were from a race called 87C and hailed from the darker regions of Alpha Tp. The stage was set for one of the greatest trivial battles of all times. And after the bloodshed had ended who emerged victorious? It was the Troop in the cloud—Alpha Tp. Glamour was provided by **Cpl Lorna Woodland** and **Linda** (our Squadron Clerk). Many thanks to all the PS involved in making it a thoroughly enjoyable night.

Rawson's good deed for the term was to hold the Scarborough/ Blackpool charity run once again and we managed to raise several thousands for charity. Our efforts were rewarded with a day out in Blackpool. After taking the town by storm we had an excellent meal at the Savoy Hotel. Guest of honour was the **Mayor of Blackpool**. So after a bit of cabaret (dedicated to the legend of John Holmes) it was off back to the College.

After such a busy term it was only right that we should relax and let our hair down (those of us who still have some) and have a bit of a laugh at the Squadron Party. The entertainment was first class and included a magician, some stunning dancing girls and an excellent band. It was also a chance for the PS to take their heads out of the clouds and come down to the level of ATs.

This term has seen its fair share of departures. Just before the half term 87B left for fresh fields, best of luck to **Benny** and the lads. Also gone is **WO2 (SSM) Gordon Townsley** who goes to 14 Sig Regt, the Squadron wishes him all the best. Taking his place is **WO2 (SSM) Metcalfe** and already he has made his presence felt around the Squadron. 87C have now come to the end of their days at the College and it is hoped that all receive the postings they want.

SCOTT SQUADRON REPORT

The rare phenomenon of a hot Yorkshire summer has been the backdrop of several sporting achievements by the Squadron.

First individual prize at the Junior Army Sailing Championships held at Ripon Sailing Club went to **AT Lyndon Box. AT Cpl James Hope** meanwhile was winning the Junior Army Lawn Tennis Championships at Aldershot.

DRILL COMPETITION

The Junior and Senior Drill Squads made a clean sweep of the board, returning with both trophies. The Senior Drill Squad was supervised by **Sgt Paul Collins** and commanded by **AT SSgt King**. The Junior Squad was supervised by **Sgt Jim Harris** and commanded by **AT Cpl Michael McGoldrick. AT Cpl McGoldrick** and **AT Martin Turbitt** earned praise for their turn out. A very fine effort by both Squads.

PENNEY SQUADRON

It is with regret that the Squadron bids farewell to **Maj Paul Wilkin, Carolyn** and their children **Mathew** and **Samantha** and wish them all the best for their tour in Northern Ireland. To **Sgt Mark Elliott, Carol** and family who are posted to 3 Div good luck. We welcome **Maj Dick Strawbridge, Brigit** and family who join us from 13 Sig Regt in September.

NEWS IN BRIEF

A very busy summer term for the Squadron that has seen us involved in the Triangular Games, Champion Sqn in which Penney managed second place and the College Open Day to mention but a few. The Squadron hosted two stands for the open day, the football stand which was run by **Sgt Terry Oakes** and **AT Cpl Philip Whitehead**, **ATs Mathew England** and **Neil Slater** and there was the 'Hammer and Nail' stand which was run by **Sgt John Fradley** and **AT Cpl Darren McDonald**. It has also been a busy time for 87C who have successfully completed their trade board and Ex Warrior Quest to see them on their way to postings near and far when they graduate on 4 August, good luck to all in their future careers in the Corps.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are in order to the new additions to the families of two of our permanent staff, **Sgt Steve Leather** and his wife **Karen** on the birth of their son, **Jonathan,** and **Sgt Jeff Watts** and his wife **Claire** on the birth of their daughter, **Sarah**.

JUNIOR ARMY SAILING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Report by AT LCpl Arron Marsh

The College hosted this years championships at Ripon Sailing Club. The individual competition was a hard and well contested event, it was won by our number one team **AT Lyndon Box** and his crew **AT Stephen Cumming**. They won five out of the six races collecting the cup at least 13 points ahead of any opposition.

The team racing proved a greater challenge as most teams were more experienced in tactical racing, the College team won its way through to the final which was against the AA College Chepstow, the final was decided over two races, the competition was close and the scores were added together and the College team won by half a point breaking Chepstow's outstanding nine year record. I am sure that all those who took part in the three day event would like to thank **Maj D. Pugh** for organising the event, **Sgt Sam Shaw** who acted as the Bosun and kept all the boats on the water and **Sgt John Fradley** who provided us with plenty of refreshments.

RESULTS

INDIVIDUAL

1st	**AT Box** Helm
	AT Cumming Crew
5th	**AT Stewart** Helm
	AT Nice Crew
9th	**AT LCpl Marsh** Helm
	AT Howe Crew
16th	**AT Langan** Helm
	AT Nicholls Crew

TEAM

1st	AA Coll Harrogate
2nd	AA Coll Chepstow A Team
3rd	AA Coll Chepstow B Team

The team and individual Junior Army Sailing Champions

TENNIS—A FORMIDABLE PARTNERSHIP

The pairing of **AT Cpl 'Bob' Hope** (Scott Sqn) and **AT Steve Whitford** (Rawson Sqn) has proved a formidable doubles partnership. Their first big success came in the Army Junior Championships which were held at Aldershot at the beginning of July. After saving four match points in the semi-final stage they went on to win the Doubles Championship final 6—4, 4—6, 6—1.

The Formidable Partnership

The NEDist Open Championships were played at Harrogate during the second week of July. In the Singles Championship both **Hope** and **Whitford** reached the semi-finals, but unfortunately neither managed to win through to the final. However, once again their doubles partnership was successful. They comfortably overcame their more mature and experienced championship final opponents; one of whom (with a different partner) had won the Championship for the previous five years. Using the recognised basic strategy of putting pressure on the weaker of their two opponents **Hope** and **Whitford** won 6—2, 6—3.

Hope is the current Royal Signals Junior Champion, having gained the title in May 1988. At the time of going to press the 1989 title is about to be contested. It is anticipated that the final will be between **Hope** and **Whitford**, but **AT 'Jacko' Jackson** (Rawson Sqn) might surprise them both. **Jackson** was the 1988 winner of the Army Junior Individual Plate Competition.

Unfortunately our current Corp of talented players will have left the College by next season, but doubtless others will replace them.

ATHLETICS SUMMER TERM

The Inter Squadron Athletics Competition held in the College on 13 May, won by Scott Sqn, really saw the formation of the formidable College athletic squad.

The first major competition was the Royal Signals (UK) Morrison Cup at Middlesbrough where the College team competed against three other major Units. The standard of the team compared with some of the last-minute volunteers of the Squardon teams showed that there was potential to do well. Efforts worthy of note at the Morrison Cup **AT (RSM) Rob Jones** 400m and 200m, **AT SSgt King** 800m and **AT Sloans** 1,300m.

The next athletics event that the College entered was the infamous Triangular Games held at AA Coll Arborfield. This is always a highly prestigious and well fought competition so considering the performances at Middlesborough the team was quite confident. Everybody did extremely well especially the 4 × 100m squad but two worthy of mention at **AT LCpl Tim Harrison** Penney Sqn at 110m Hurdles and **AT SSgt King** 1,500m race. The College came third.

Finally the last major athletics event the College took part in was the Junior Army Athletics Competition. This was the main event of the season at which all the Apprentices' Colleges and Junior Leader Regiments/Battalions meeting together for the first time. Some of the performances put in by the boys were exemplary with five individuals being selected for a Junior Combined Services team. **AT RSM Rob Jones**, **AT SSgt King** and **AT Tim Harrison** have been selected along with **AT SSM Williams** and **AT Cpl Rob Cunnion**. Well done.

EIGHTH ARMY VISIT

On Wednesday 21 June the College hosted a small party of members of the Eighth Army Veterans' Association Bradford and District Branch. The party had a tour of the College and were guided by **WO2 (CSM) Dave Morcom** Scots Guards, the CSM of Bradley Sqn. They met and saw Apprentice Tradesmen and Junior Leaders undergoing their training and then dined with the lads in the Junior Ranks Restaurant. Prior to their departure the Branch Chairman, **Mr Arthur Thorpe**, presented Association Plaques to the Comd, **Col K. P. Burke** and the RSM **WO1 R. Ritchie** Scots Guards.

WO1 (RSM) Rab Ritchie receives his plaque

PUPIL WORK EXPERIENCE COURSE (PWEC)

On 10-14 July the College ran its second Pupil Work Experience Course. The course is designed to give the pupils a flavour of the Army. To do this the course included an introduction to military training and the SLR, orienteering, football, .22 shooting, visits to the RAC Training Regiment, 1st Bn Prince of Wales Own, and 15 Fd Wksp. Also included were potted sports, a room inspection competition, a swimming competition, an introduction to gym training, an introduction to radios and a command task exercise.

All in all a very busy four days for both pupils and the Permanent Staff, which included **Sgt Terry Oakes, AT Cpl Nick Searle, AT LCpl's Robert Downes, Roy Constable, SSgt Dickie Bird** and **Lt Gordon Elliott**. Their effort and that of the departments that assisted the course ensured it was a success. The pupils all expressed their thanks for a most enjoyable, if brief, visit to the Army. Eighty-five per cent of the course said they were now hoping to join the Army.

COLLEGE TUG OF WAR

The Summer Term has seen the College team concentrate on outdoor Tug of War. Our first major competition saw the team at Kirton-in-Lindsey at the beginning of May in the NE/NW Championships. We moved down to Windsor at the end of May to compete in the Princess Royal Inter Service Championships. Our first trophy was won here for the best sporting team and was presented by our **Colonel-in-Chief HRH The Princess Royal** GCVO to **Sgt Danny O'Brien**.

July, the busiest month, we competed in the Army Junior Championships at Aldershot coming runner up in the 600 and 640kgs class.

The highlight of the term was definitely the Royal Tournament where the 640kgs class came top of its league. On Friday evening the team pulled in front of a capacity crowd and beat the old enemy, Princess Marina College Arborfield, placing us third overall. The team certainly finished the term on a high note and is looking forward to the Autumn season.

Back Row: Sgt D O'Brien, ATs Lewis, Hickman, O'Hara, Harding, Brown, Jones, Campbell and Capt M. Radford (OC)
Front Row: ATs Gill, Downer, Morgan, Heasman, McRostie, Cleet, Parker and Trotter
Absent: AT Forsyth

PWEC—Potential Soldiers?

MILITARY TRAINING TROOP

by Sgt Bob Witherstone

The 1989 Summer Term is now drawing to a close and as usual it has been a long, hardworking, but rewarding one.

Over the past three months we have had our varying batch of exercises including SLR skill at arms and defence and these have taken place at holiday resorts such as Catterick, Warcop, Proteus and Whitburn! (Due to the recent heatwave tropical is the word, so don't volunteer for postings in Cyprus lads, come to Harrogate instead!)

Into this busy schedule we had to fit in two final exercises for graduating AT/JLs. So then the Warriors Quest scene was set and on a tranquil Sunday evening in July Mil Trg Tp deployed to its exercise locations with some apprehensive and subdued apprentices! The patrol exercise area was staffed by **SSgt Dickie Bird, Sgts Tony Mann** and **Bob Witherstone**. Whilst in the harbour area activities such as NBC incidents, Recce/Ambush, fighting patrols, snap VCPs and the giving and receiving of orders were undertaken with, on the whole, a great deal of enthusiasm and keenness.

Other activities which threatened to give **Staff Bird** more grey hairs, was restraining **Sgt Mann** from upsetting local anglers by fishing for prize carp with a pointed stick and persuading **Sgt Witherstone** that the local farmers, anglers, and indeed residents of Ripon possibly wouldn't appreciate atomic bomb simulators going off every few hours!

Over to the Comms Site Guard where **WO2 (WTWO) George Evans** and his staff were holed up. Here the apprentices had to deal with, suspicious persons, riots, demonstrations, VCPs and the various problems that arise. One of the problems was preventing exercise riots escalating 'into the real thing' (he lost).

On a more sombre note, we will have said farewell to our OC, **Capt Gordon Halewood**, who leaves us to rejoin his Battalion. So from all of us Sir, 'all the very best of luck in your new post' and in the same vein we say welcome to our new OC, **Capt Bob McDonald** R Anglian.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

We have had the honour to host a number of notable visitors: **Maj Gen D. M. Naylor MBE** GOC NEDist on his farewell visit to the College on 26 July 1989. **Brig C. T. Garton** Comd 11 Sig Bde (V), who was our former Commandant, joined the Warrant Officers at breakfast on 19 July 1989. **Col Mike Louden**, OiC RSM and RO addressed the WOs and SNCOs, bringing us up to date with the current Corps policies.

Maj Roy Lund OC Tech Wing, has been the Supervising Officer to the Sergeants' Mess throughout his tour which is to end when he retires at the end of term. **Maj Lund** joined us as a guest at this term's Drill Competition Dinner on 14 July when we took the opportunity to say farewell and express our thanks for all his efforts on behalf of the Mess.

As always the Mess programme has been a very full one this term including horse racing, restaurant night, ladies dinner, drill competition dinner and a Caribbean night. In addition to this Squadrons and Departments are encouraged to have their own functions in the Mess. These are always popular and are normally followed by entertainment which is open to all Mess members.

The major event in the Mess this term was, of course, our Summer Ball which took place on Saturday 17 June. The President of the Summer Ball Committee, **WO2 Ian Catterall BEM** provided us with a mixture of good food, efficient service and fine music which ensured that a thoroughly enjoyable night (and morning) was had by all.

The term will end on Graduation Day when we will host the Apprentice Tradesman RSM, **AT RSM Rob Jones** of Penney Sqn, and his family to lunch. After that we are off on a break before the winter term.

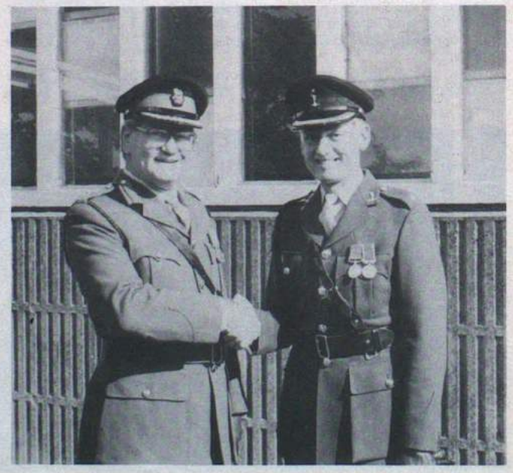
COLLEGE FETE

The College Fete (or Spectral Vision II as some like to call it) took place on Saturday 22 July. We were honoured with a display from the Blue Helmets; **Capt Malcolm Cooper** and his team all landed safely in the arena display area and he then requested Miss Knaresborough (sorry no photo) to open the fete. A great sunny afternoon ensured all the family had fun. The White Helmets finished the arena displays and **Mrs Brindle** from Stanington won the car, a 'G' reg Fiat Panda (well I didn't want the car anyway! College Ed).

MAJ R. LUND

Maj Roy Lund is retiring from the Army having travelled full circle, now finishing his distinguished career at the place where it all started 39 years ago; the Royal Signals Army Apprentices' College at Harrogate.

Roy was born on 2 September 1934 at Mexborough, Yorkshire and enlisted in Sheffield as an Apprentice Technician straight from school (Mexborough Grammar School). He joined the Army Apprentices' School (as it was then known) at Harrogate on 14 February 1950. He passed out from a three year apprenticeship and has served in BAOR, Singapore, Hong Kong, Holland and UK. In September 1985 **Roy** was posted to the Army Apprentices' College to command the Technician Wing. He is responsible for all the technician training that the apprentices undertake at the College.. For nine months he also commanded one of the Apprentice Squadrons. As **Roy** retires on 1 September 1989, the Commandant invited him to be the inspecting officer at the final full dress rehearsal of the Graduation Parade. **Roy** married **Joan** in 1954 and they now live in Mexborough, they have two children who are both married. His main hobbies are 10 pin bowling, and engraving. On retirement **Roy** intends to set up a domestic knitting machine maintenance and repair service.



The Commandant says farewell to Maj Roy Lund

COMBAT STRESS

'Perhaps the bravest man I ever knew...'

and now, he cannot bear to turn a corner

Six-foot-four Sergeant 'Tiny' G*t*r*e, DCM, was perhaps the bravest man his Colonel ever knew.

But now, after seeing service in Aden, after being booby-trapped and ambushed in Northern Ireland, Sergeant 'Tiny' cannot bear to turn a corner. For fear of what is on the other side.

It is the bravest men and women from the Services that suffer most from mental breakdown. For they have tried, each one of them, to give more, much more, than they could in the service of our Country.

We look after these brave men and women. We help them at home, and in hospital. We run our own Convalescent Homes and, for the old, there is our Veterans' Home where they can see out their days in peace.

These men and women have given their minds to their Country. If we are to help them, we must have funds. Do please help us with a donation, and with a legacy too, perhaps. The debt is owed by all of us.

70 YEARS OF CARING COMBAT STRESS

"They've given more than they could – please give as much as you can."

To protect those concerned, this is an amalgam of several such case histories of Patients in our care.

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RSRE
Malvern

FROM THE OUTBACK (OR THE MALVERNS!)

MASTER OF SIGNALS VISIT

A chance remark at the Corps dinner led to the Master of Signals making his first visit to RSRE. In the middle of June each year Malvern hosts the Three Counties Show which is one of big agricultural events in the country. On a superb sunny day with the hills looking their best, and while Mrs Badcock was involved with the dog show part of the overall event the Master of Signals visited the RSRE stand where he met **Sgt Russ Batley** and **Cpl Paul Bernard** manning a manpack satellite terminal. Via this link he spoke to **Cpl Leafy Lane**.

After an early lunch with the Royal Signals Officers based at the establishment **Gen Badcock** was briefed by **Col R. M. Yolland**. He saw some of the research work at close hand including work on new jamming techniques where **Maj Bernie Hewitt** demonstrated devices trialled in BAOR last autumn.

At Defford during the last four months the 30 Sig Regt detachment has continued with various trials on tactical satellite communications terminals including the VSC 501, PSC 505, prototype Combat Net Radio Satcom adaptor, and Ptarmigan (Triffid) satcom adaptor. Between trials we have been kept busy demonstrating the equipments to a wide spectrum of people, military and civilian, at locations such as MOD (PE), School of Infantry, Flower Down Fair (RAF Locking Open Day) and the Three Counties Show at Malvern.

Following the precedent of migrating south for the winter (set by the Foreman of Signals last year) the detachment has said farewell to **Sgt Chris Ward, Cpls Bob Lockeridge** and **Kev Booth** to Namibia, and with the departure of **Cpl Leafy Lane** on his TI in July, replacements **Sgt Russ Bately** and **Cpl Chris Mayer** will have plenty to do.

Despite what some may regard as the sedentary nature of a tour in a research establishment, fitness at Malvern is essential, as **Lt Col James Sweetman** organises our own variant of the Combat fitness test. This takes the form of a long and ardous walk through the surrounding countryside, usually finding the steepest way up and the most bumpy way down any hill. The route on 26 July was no exception, and together with our other Army and RAF colleagues, we confirmed that issuing senior Army Officers with maps is dangerous, since everyone took different routes to the first check point, and all claimed to be right. The senior RAF Officer, **Gp Capt Bancroft-Pitman**, is insisting on having his own map next time! At the end of the walk there was the usual team activity involving the porterage and disposal of Amber coloured liquid in cylindrical shaped vessels. It was also very nice to be accompanied by so many fit teenage children of those serving in the establishment.

(Left to right): Maj Max Little, The Master of Signals, Maj Bernie Hewitt, Col Mike Yolland, Lt Col James Sweetman, Maj Ian Bingham, Maj Richard Davies and Lt Col Hugh Grenville-Jones

The Master of Signals talks to Cpl Bernard. Sgt Batley (right) looks on while Maj Davis ensures that the link still works

Master of Signals talking to Sgt Batley

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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 No 15.

No 15 Royal Signals Troop Commanders Course

Back row (left to right): 2Lts E. W. Baker (Eric), C. D. Cook (Clive), I. G. Ellis (Ian), K. A. Francis (Kevin), J. C. Gillespie (Jonathan), J. A. Giscombe (James), A. I. M. Gordon (Alistar), I. C. Gray (Ian) and S. Gregory (Simon)

Front row (left to right): 2Lt D. J. Hampton-Chubb (Damian), Capt K. A. Jones (Ken), 2Lts R. A. Mullholland (Rab), P. Prince (Paul), K. J. Russell (Kester), F. J. Say (Fiona), R. J. B. Spencer (Richard), D. G. Wadworth (Deb) and K. P. H. Wheeler (Phil)

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS/BLANDFORD GARRISON FOOTBALL REPORT 1988/89 SEASON

by SSgt (SSI) Paul Molloy APTC

The 1988/89 season saw quite a few changes to the side with farewells to **Sgts Sandy Brown, Andy Edwards, SSgt Ali MacKenzie** to civvy street and **Cpl Mick Cheetham** transferred to Ipswich (not at liberty to tell the fee), how could we possibly carry on after losing these gladiators.

Pre-season training saw the visit of **Harry** 'Dave' **Bassett** with Sheffield United, a hard and vigorous week of training ended with a games night organised by **Sgt Joe Pearson**. The School side finished victorious, winning the main event the boat race, to win 4—3.

The season about to get underway, one or two new players were drafted in, namely **Sgt Brian Wilkins, Sig McCarthy** and **Sig 'Barney' Barnett** who unfortunately had to go to Cyprus.

The first event was the SW District Six-A-Side which we retained and qualified for the Army Six's which we also retained winning the Aston Lagonda Trophy for most goals 'scored in the qualifying rounds.

The Army Cup was well underway and we again retained the UK Kings Cup beating SEME Bordon 2—0 at Aldershot. We came unstuck in the SW District Cup final losing to the 13/18 H 4—1 at the Tidworth Oval. Another horrendous game saw us lose the Army Cup to 10 Regt RCT (I don't want to repeat the score, I'm sure you all know it).

The season was far from over. Our next hurdle was the SW District League play-offs where we won 5—0 against the AAC Middle Wallop. The final of the Dorset Senior Trophy saw us beat Broadmayne 3—1 and the following week, at the final of the League Cup at Dorchester we beat Weymouth 1—0. After an up and down season in Dorset Div 1, a good run of results meant that the final game of the season at Bridport would dictate who won the league. Needless to say a good solid team performance ensured a 3—1 win against a Bridport side who had six first team members playing.

The Jubilee Cup unfortunately did not go as well, and a poor result against RAF Wyton 3—1 meant we had to score lots of goals against HMS *Sultan* where we lost 5—3.

On writing this report a number of players have now departed, **Capt Peter Smurthwaite** who has had to endure a lot of earache from me, **SSgt** (now WO2) **Dave Taylor, SSgt John Dyer** (on promotion) and **Cpl Smith** not forgetting **Cpl Tony Redmond**.

A quick resume of the season:-

Back row (left to right): Sig J. Anderson, Sgt A. Coleman, Cpls S. Welsh, J. Smith, J. Cawte, S. Wood, LCpls A. Robinson, T. Powell and Cpl G. Mitchinson

Front row (left to right): Sgt R. Vincen, SSgt P. Molley, Capt P. Smurthwaite, Sgt B. Wilkins, Lt Col A. C. Stutchbury, LCpl N. Dunleavy and Cpl M. Shergold

Absent: WO2 D. Taylor, SSgt J. Dyer, Sgts G. Giffin, D. Beggs, Cpl T. Redmond, LCpl N. Weir, Sig F. McCarthy and Cfn R. Herrington

SWDist Six-A-Side	—	Winners
Army Six-A-Side	—	Winners plus Aston Lagonda Trophy
UK Kings Cup	—	Winners
Army Challenge Cup	—	Runners-up
SWDist League	—	Winners
SWDist Play-offs Challenge Cup	—	Winners
SWDist Cup	—	Runners-up
Dorset Div 1	—	Winners
Dorset Senior Trophy	—	Winners
Dorset League Cup	—	Winners

Finally, thanks to **LCpl Robbo Robinson** for organising the end of season thrash where the following trophies were awarded:-

Players Player	—	**Sgt Alan Coleman**
Manager's Player	—	**SSgt John Dyer**
Most Improved Player	—	**LCpl Simon Wood**
Clubman	—	**Sig Jockie Anderson**

I am shortly due posting to JIB Shorncliffe and wish all players and families a successful season for 1989/90. Good Luck.

THE LINE TECHNICAL AUTHORITY

The Line Technical Authority met at Blandford for the fourth time on the 4 and 5 May 1989. It was attended by 22 delegates from 14 Headquarter Branches and Units.

Norman Callender with members of the Line Technical Authority, 5 May 1989

On Thursday 4 May, presentations were made by Messrs Raychem (new heat shrink materials), NEI/DAC (regulations for wiring in hazardous areas), British Telecom (computerised cable management system), BICC (Low Smoke and Fume sheathing materials) and 21 Sig Regt (ACPO) also with a computerised cable management system. Other manufacturers exhibited such diverse products as Fusion Splicers, Fibre Optic Telephone Instruments, a new M1020 tester, a visual method of detecting breaks in Fibre Optic cables, 110 V portable generator, floodlighting kit and cable pulling winch.

Lt Col Pat Soward presents a framed print of the 'Imphal Road' to Mr Norman Callender on behalf of LTA members to mark his retirement in June 1989

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chairman, **Lt Col Pat Soward** presented a framed print of the 'Imphal Road' to **Mr Norman Callender** on behalf of the Line Technical Authority. **Norman** advocated the formation of the Authority and attended every meeting both at the MOD and, more recently, at Blandford. He has consistently pressed for improved training, equipment and status for Telemechs and has been their 'Father Figure' since the formation of the trade in 1971.

Norman, we will all miss you. Thank you for a life's work devoted to training Telemechs and their predecessor trades. We wish you a long and happy retirement and trust that you will be able to keep the officers wives away from your vegetable garden!

HQ 4 Sig Gp
BFPO 140

Maj Gen P. R. Davies, Comd Comms BAOR, presented LS & GC medals to four members of the Corps at a ceremony held in the Rheindahlen Garrison Sergeants' Mess on 19 June. The recipients were: **WO2 (YofS) Christopher Pugh** of G3 GS HQ BAOR, **WO2 (FofS) Robert Pullan,** attached to 4 Sig Gp as CPDLO, from Blandford, **SSgts (FofS) Martin Case** and **(YofS) Brian Pritchard,** both of HQ 4 Sig Gp.

During the ceremony, their wives were presented with bouquets on behalf of the members of Rheindahlen Garrison Sergeants' Mess. Hosting the occasion was **WO1 (GSM) Alan Parker RA**, and on behalf of 4 Sig Gp, **WO2 (FofS) Robert Nicholson.**

Front row (left to right): Mrs Laura Pritchard, Mrs Lita Pullan, Mrs Margaret Case and Mrs Iris Pugh

Back row (left to right): WO2 (FofS) Bob Nicholson, SSgt (YofS) Brian Pritchard, WO2 (FofS) Bob Pullan, Maj Gen P. R. Davies, SSgt (FofS) Martin Case, WO2 (YofS) Chris Pugh and WO1 (GSM) Alan Parker

Belize Defence Force
BFPO 12

PERSONALITIES

Commandant BDF	**Lt Col R. E. H. David OBE Welsh Guards**
Royal Signals Detachment	**WO2 (FofS) M. G. Cooper**

NOMINAL ROLL

As you can see the Corps is not exactly thick on the ground in the BDF, although there is another connection with the Royal Signals in the Technical Maintenance Department. Two of the technicians working with me, **WO2 Isaac Williams** and **SSgt Albert Guy** have completed Class 1 Radio Technician Courses at 8 Sig Regt.

For those of you have not served in Belize, the BDF was formed in January 1978 from the Belize Volunteer Guard and the Police Special Force. By 1982 the force realised that its communications equipment would not survive so it requested a Foreman of Signals to set up and administer a Technical Workshop.

The first Foreman, **John Shepherd**, not only set up the workshop but also taught an entire basic technician course, passing out six technicians after one year. His experience of teaching at 8 Sig Regt (He taught me on my T1) did the force proud and the standard of maintenance went from virtually nil to a level compatible with a small Signal Unit—the BDF is the size of an Infantry Battalion.

His successors **Dave Wild** and **Steve Randle** came along and honed the workshop into shape and following Royal Signals lines. Each contributed towards the standards it sets today. I was fortunate to have turned up by the time the majority of the hard work had been done and all I have had to do is maintain the standard set. There are still jobs to do and maintenance and store requisitions to be chased up, all of which has to be achieved within a tight budget. One of the other things I have to achieve is to work myself out of a job! The idea of holding the position is also to find the right person amongst the Belizean Technicians working for me eventually to take over the running of the workshop.

There are a few pitfalls in doing this job, ie living within a budget and dealing with an unfamiliar financial system. That coupled with the frustration of waiting for spares to turn up and other such niggles can be irritating. To compensate for this there are many rewarding experiences, one of which is being able to visit the second largest barrier reef in the world. I have a boat which means I can get out and about whenever the weather is agreeable and for Sub Aqua, Windsurfing, Water Skiing or even sunbathing you can't beat a trip to the Cayes. The Cayes are the Islands strung out along the length of the reef and they are a real touch of the 'Robinson Crusoes'.

In addition to the above pursuits I have also helped in getting the Corps Parachute Display Team, the Blue Helmets out for some training during the (UK) winter months. The team came out in February and despite being turned off their first flight managed to fit in 10 days training and still had a few days off to see the Cayes. They also managed to drag me through my progression stages to a category 10 parachutist.

The present plan is that I will have a successor, but he will be the last Loan Service Foreman. If there is anyone reading this who fancies a different (and lucrative) job then apply for the post, due to become vacant around mid August 1990. I would recommend it to anyone who likes a challenge and wants to get out and about and travel. This is an ideal place to use as a springboard for exploring both North and South America, as well as the opportunity to drive around Belize and the more stable areas of Central America.

The BDF works alongside the British Forces (literally as well as co-operatively) so contact with home is well maintained and papers and mail arrive regularly and speedily. I keep in touch with the Corps via 633 Sig Tp and attending the many 'Gozomes' provides plenty of entertainment.

Having a car the size of a minibus tends to reciprocate the Honorary membership of the Troop!

So there you have it, all in all it's a good life and an excellent job—if you are interested contact RSM & RO now, to avoid disappointment!

The Sultan's Armed Forces Signals
PO Box No 1720

ROYAL SIGNALS LOAN SERVICE PERSONALITIES

Comd SAF Signals	**Aqeed (Col) Bob Wright**
SO 1 TE	**Muqaddam (Lt Col) Ian Turner**
Tfc Offr Trg (TOT)	**Naqeeb (Capt) Alan Doane**
YofS Trg Team	**Wakeel 1 (WO1) YofS Steve Watson**
	Wakeel 2 (WO2) YofS Sid Coleman
1 Sig Regt	**Wakeel 1 (WO1) FofS Chris Fielding**
	Wakeel 2 (WO2) YofS Mick Hawley
2 Sig Regt	**Wakeel 2 (WO2) YofS John Chilcott**

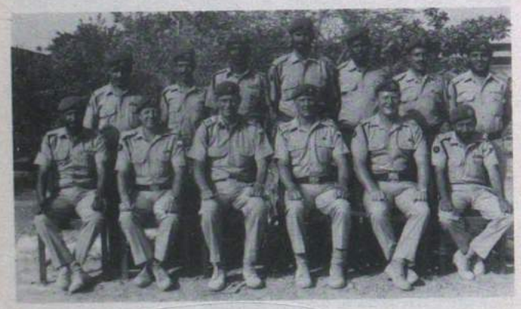
Corps members, will be interested to know that **Lt Col (Retd) Jack Simpson** is out here in the Oman, as the Force Equipment Officer (FEO) together with his wife **Ada**.

Since the last appearance of SAF Signals in *The Wire*, there have been several changes of personnel. The Comd SAF Signals Aqeed **Gordon Barnett** and his wife **Carole** have departed for civilian life.

The new Comd Signals Aqeed **Bob Wright**, his wife **Trisha** and spaniels arrived in February. We extend our warmest welcome and wish them all a pleasant and successful tour.

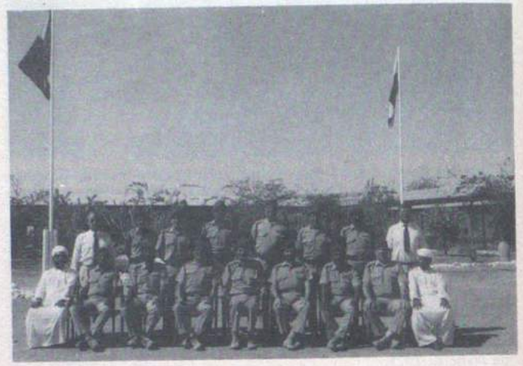
Commanders Handover—Takeover

Nqb Alan Doane arrived at the end of last year to write the Training Objectives, Syllabus and Programme for the first 'in country' Yeoman of Signals course. **Wkl 1 (YofS) Steve Watson** and **Wkl 2 (YofS) Sid Coleman** arrived in March, to assist in the preparation of the course and prepare themselves as the principal instructors. The course commenced on 13 May.



No 1 Yeoman of Signals Course
Sultanate of Oman Armed Forces (Signals)
Back row (left to right): Rqb Salim Bin Rashid, Wkl 2 Suleman Bin Mohammed, Rqb Said Bin Musalim, Wkl 2 Salim Bin Saif, Rqb Abdullah Bin Ghabish, Wkl 2 Saif Bin Ali and Rqb Ali Bin Shanain
Front row (left to right): Wkl 2 Suleman Bin Salim, Wkl 2 (YofS) D. Coleman, Aqeed R. A. Wright Comd SAF Signals, Nqb A. C. Doane, Wkl 1 (YofS) S. G. Watson and Wkl 2 Said Bin Suleyam

For those who are ardent followers of your contemporaries movements, it will not have gone unnoticed that **YofS Coleman** is now on his third Loan Service tour in Oman. No complaints please—only volunteers.



Officers HQ SAF Signals
Back row (left to right): Mr Les Brown, Nqb Saif, Raa'id Peter Day, Nqb Tariq Majid, Raa'id Jack Simpson, Nqb Alan Doane, Nqb Lalin Fernando and Mr Ed Carter
Front row (left to right): Mr Mohammad Al Riyamy, Raa'id Kamal Fernando, Raa'id Mohammad Al Zidgali, Mqm Ian Turner, Commander Aqeed Bob Wright, Raa'id Tim McCoy, Raa'id Omar Al Siyabi, Raa'id Dave Finigan, Mr Abdullah Al Mughairy

COMMANDANT SAF SIGNALS FAREWELL

Among many formal and informal farewells, Fuddles (Omani feasts), and parties, Aqeed **Barnett** was dined out of the HQ Officers' Mess on 23 February. He was presented with a Silver Kunja (Omani knife attached to a waist belt and worn centrally across the stomach). Unfortunately the normal Omani waistline is somewhat different from **Col Barnett**'s. It was not that his waist was large but that the average Omani waist is small. That is his story anyhow, but yes we agree, Kunjas are not fashionable in London this year and it will look much better adorning a place of prominence in the **Barnett**'s Bayt (House).

At The Farewell Dinner

Berlin Sig Regt
BFPO 45

1 SQUADRON
BATTLE CAMP

During 5-9 June, 1 Sqn held its' Annual Battle Camp. The Monday morning started early with a CFT, which was greeted with enthusiasm by all. Halfway round the course **LCpl** 'Slimcea' **Davis** managed one of his acrobatic falls which left him limping. After the CFT the first of many briefings was held by **Capt Ramshaw** who spilt the beans about the rest of the week's activities. The Squadron moved to the Spandau Police College where they underwent training on house clearance, given by instructors from 1 Kings and 1LI. In between all the various command tasks were undertaken, one of which included the local partisan **SSgt 'Rene' Reynolds** who spoke no English and was therefore, not understood by anyone!

The next day saw infantry tactics taught in preparation for the final exercise. This consisted of two sections, led by **Cpl Gordon** and **Sig Collins** respectively, one section on night patrol and one protecting some buildings.

The sandbagging began at 1800 hrs and carried on well into that night. **Cpl Gordon** decided to assist the enemy by allowing them to take his sections webbing and ammunition!

The following morning the houses were attacked by the other two sections who had spent all night finding somewhere to sleep. The buildings were quickly over-run by the attacking forces, not surprising with **LCpls. Reene** and **Baker** in charge. After a debrief the Squadron continued with more mundane things, like mandatory training.

Battle Camp Partisans
(Left to right): Sig Collins, Cpl Gordon, LCpl Cameron, Sig Walsh, Matthews, LCpl Davis, Cpl Pinkney and Sig Bartlett

LCpl 'Tiny' Baker and LCpl 'Lee' Linton during the Battle Camp

Sig 'Jono' Johnson trying to get rid of the ants outside his fortified house while Sig Farrell counts the dead

EXERCISE HUNGRY BEAR 13

At 0530 hrs on a cold morning in July the Squadron gathered in preparation for deployment to Schleswig Holstein in support of 1 Kings.

After an exhausting drive it arrived in location and was welcomed with a hot meal and drink, supplied by **SSgt Thomas** before retiring for the night.

The next day and a half took the form of an OC's warm up exercise, mastermined by **SSgt (YofS) Rose**. Once this familiarisation period was over the Squadron moved into the initial exercise locations.

The exercise went fairly smoothly, except for the 0400 hrs stand-to and the 2145 hrs stand-to (the enemy of course attacked us at midday!) A good exercise for us Berliners who never seem to have a long enough exercise to practise normal routines in the field. Endex arrived on 20 July and the Squadron made its weary way back to Berlin.

EXERCISE HUNGRY BEAR 13
A TECHS EYE VIEW
Report by LCpl Lee Linton

The annual week long exercise began with the Wednesday cabby of the ERV down to the exercise area of Schleswig-Holstein. The ERV made it to the same place as it did last year and proceeded to break down (an annual event, you may say!) but after the pre-exercise gremlins the exercise got under way on the Friday morning. **Cpl Andy Roberts** and **LCpl Lee Linton** both went their separate ways in their respective power wagons, but the others stuck together like glue with **SSgt (FofS) Syd Kassim** in the ERV and **Sgts George Murray** and **Clive Quantick** in the tech support wagon.

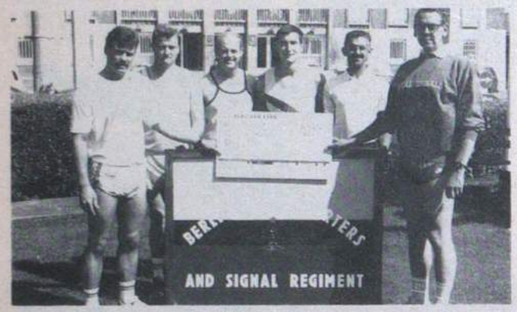
The exercise was enjoyed by me and went down well with the rest of the techs. We must say 'Thank you' to **Sgt Chris Arnold, Cpl Nigel Cullen** and **LCpl Mark Taylor** for holding the fort back in Berlin and to the guys who kitted the ERV with everything apart from the kitchen sink (talk of all mod cons!)

BDE TROOP
432 TRAINING

On 27 July **Cpl Barber** and **LCpl Smith** ran a training day on our AFV 432. This consisted of terrorising six of our signalmen who were put forward, I mean, bravely, volunteered.

First up was **Sig Walsh**. Next in the hot seat was **Sig Johnson** who left teeth marks in the cab and had to be prised out of the drivers seat.

Then came **Sig Jukes** who at first refused to attempt to negotiate a small hill, however once battened down and driving backwards he managed the course quite easily. The others, **LCpls Hatton, Riley** and **Sig Dixon** showed some skill with the vehicle. Watch out guys! 'Staff's looking for someone else to take over the vehicle.



Berlin 25km Road Race

ANGLO GERMAN FUN RUN

During the morning Sunday 9 July, the Third Annual Anglo-German Fun Run took place, with some 600 German, English and Allied runners competing.

Bde Tp, masterminded by **SSgt Tony Reynolds**, not only competed but also provided the marshals, markers and operators for the Radio Safety Net.

HELLO AND GOODBYE

Welcome **LCpl Yafai, Sig Cunningham, Whyman** and their families and **LCpl Riley**.

Farewells to **LCpl Moody, Sig Jarvis** and **Nicholls**.

SECTOR TROOP

The Troop has been busy trying to get all our Tele Op (Tg) Satcom courses, and involved in all the trials with the VSC501. The Tele Op (Data) and (Sys) have been involved in running the three commcens that are the responsibility of the Troop.

COMMCEN BERLIN

Supervised by **Sgt Bob Squires** and his merry band of operators consisting of: **Cpls Bunce, Simpson, Thompson** and **O'Connell, WCpls Debbie Burwell, Andrea Hindley, Cpl Gardner, WCpl Jeannette Blyth, LCpls Montague, Wodke, Sig Aggar, Ptes Terry McMahon** and **Simone Rouse**.

ALLIED STAFF BERLIN COMMCEN

Supervised by **Cpl Derek Barker**, the team are **LCpl Rob Eden** and **Sig Cotton**.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following on their promotion **LCpl Pinkney** to Cpl and **Cpls Raine** and **Hughes** on their selection for Sgt.

FAREWELLS

With the recent re-organisation of the Squadron (well they could change the name to the Unit again!) Sector Tp lost all the old TE techs and Cbt Lmn to Comms Sp Tp. In addition the following have left the Troop and Army: **WCpls Liz Bunce, Shirley Simpson, Sig Dave Eyre** and **Cpl Bob Booth** posted to 19 Inf Bde.

ARRIVALS

SSgt Iain Philemon has arrived to takeover the chair from **SSgt Steve** (now RQMS 5 AB Sig Sqn) **Clarke, Pte Simone Rouse, LCpl 'Monty' Montague** and **Pte Kerry Speakman**; we wish them all a successful tour in Berlin. More changes for the Troop shortly. **WO2 (YofS) Tim Langford** will be taking over the reins from **WO2 (YofS) Brian Colvin** in September.

COMMS SUPPORT TROOP

TOT	**Capt Al Hooley**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Sid Kassim**

In mid July Comms Sp Tp gave a warm welcome to the Lmn and Tele Mechs who were joining us to reform what we all thought was to be TM Tp. However the powers that be deemed that we should keep our illustrious title, much to our annoyance!

DEPARTURES

We say goodbye to **Cpl Dave Gordon** and his wife **Debbie** who have left us for the thrills and spills of 4 ADSR, we wish them both the best of luck. Also we say a fond farewell to **Cpl Guy Broom** who has left us for a better and richer life in civvy street.

ALLIED STAFF BERLIN
PERSONALITIES

SO2 Comms	**Maj J. M. Ross**
Technicians	**Sgt I. Rutherford**
	Sgt S. Metherell
Commcen	**Cpl D. Barker**
	LCpl R. Eden
	Sig J. Cotton

In many locations around the world there are small elements of the Corps quietly tucked away, this is also the case in Berlin. Although living close to, and administered by, Berlin Headquarters and Sig Regt we, in Allied Staff Berlin, work in a truly Allied environment. The total strength of some 54 officers and other ranks is evenly split between the Americans, French and British.

Although the personalities mentioned above are all Royal Signals personnel the Allied Signals Staff includes five Americans, (a Major, a Sergeant First class, a PFC and two Privates) and two French (a Third Lieutenant and a Private).

Our charter covers Static and Mobile communications between our HQ and the three National HQS. To achieve this we use a multitude of systems. On a daily basis we are the continuity staff for the Chairman Commandant in Berlin, a post which rotates on a monthly basis. As an Allied Divisional HQ with, in certain circumstances, three national brigades under command life can never be described as dull.

Our technicians repair, investigate, manipulate but are never beaten by the many different tasks given to them. Our commcen staff initiate new Allied staff officers into the method of message writing whilst retaining and understanding the American and French methods of operation. Our officers seem only to attend meetings; in particular the monthly meeting of the Allied Signal Officers, which ends with a big lunch!

Berlin is said to be a good posting. If you have the patience of a saint and a smile on your face volunteer for Allied Staff Berlin!

FOOTBALL

The Regimental team had a very successful 1988/89 season which did not finish until June:-

BAOR Minor Units Cup	— Semi Finalists
Berlin Minor Units League	— Winners
Berlin Minor Units Cup	— Winners
Berlin Stone Trophy	— Runners-up

The results show the strength of the team. We have to contend with 38 Fd Sqn RE which has won the league and cup for the last four years and in the Stone Trophy A Coy 1 Kings which had nine Regimental players in its team.

Special thanks to the 3 PC Tp players who constantly turn out for us and it is fortunate that two of them are BAOR players, **Cpls Trevor Keen** and **Ian Booth** with **LCpl Mark Taylor, Sgt Ian Rutherford, Cpl Mark Pinkney** and a much improved **Sgt Bob Squires** in the team. Sadly we lost our top scorer towards the end of the season and before the finals. **Sgt Tommy Steele** left for his Foreman's course. Good luck **Tommy**.

The team is not moulded around star players but it is strong on teamwork and well disciplined in its approach to the game. We wish them all a successful season next year and hope they continue to progress.

The annual 25k took place on 7 May with five members of the Regiment running for the NSPCC. The total raised was over DM2,000. Left to right **Sgt Bob Squires, LCpl Kev Wright, CSgt Bruce McCudden, SSgt (YofS) Steve Rose, SSgt (FofS) Syd Kassim** and OC 1 Sqn **Maj McColville** (non runner).

1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 32

CONGRATULATIONS

On 24 July, Comd Comms BAOR **Maj Gen Peter Davies** visited the Regiment to present the LS & GC Medals to **WO2 (RQMS) Om Chhetri, WO2 (QMSI) Steve Seth** and **SSgt Lou Brice**.

The presentation was particularly appropriate for **WO2 (RQMS) Om Chhetri** as he had served at Verden when **Maj Gen Peter Davies** was his Commanding Officer. The presentation was followed by a buffet lunch in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

(Left to right): WO2 (SQMS) Steve Seth APTC, Kirsty (7), Beverley, SSgt Lou Brice, Julie, Maj Gen Peter Davies, Kathy, Nagina (11), WO2 (RQMS) Om Chhetri and Salena (11)

PAGE TROPHY—INTER SQUADRON BOXING

The Inter Squadron boxing competition is the most talked about event in the Regiment and will probably continue to be so, for quite a while.

The Regiment is fortunate to have **Cpl 'Smokey' Graham RPC** amongst its ranks, the elder brother of **Errol 'Bomber' Graham**, the British Middleweight Champion.

Errol, whilst being the British Middleweight Champion has successfully defended his title on three occasions, which means he has won the Lonsdale Belt outright. A fourth defence of his title is expected sometime in September possibly against **Nigel Benn**. Throughout his career he has had 43 professional fights and has an impressive record of 41 wins and 2 defeats. He is at present the number 3 contender for the WBA World Championship.

Having now painted the picture, the Regiment was to say the least, delighted, when **Errol** accepted an invitation to watch the Inter Squadron boxing. Now **WO1 (RSM) Derick Boyd** took it upon himself to organise **Errol**, a two day, nonstop programme. In fact, he managed to drive a tank, over a few cars (RSM's not included) and also beat his brother at a pistol shoot out, on the ranges. He also took time out to visit the local childrens school.

On the night of the competition, there was a full card of 18 competitors. All the bouts were hard fought and those who boxed, both in the finals and the prelims, demonstrated tremendous courage and determination. The competition was started with a ferocious battle between the Bantamweights, **Sig Tony Darks** (2 Sqn) and the victor **Sig Tommy Giblin** (3 Sqn), this bout set the scene for the rest of the evening.

Sgt Alan Deary (12 Armd Bde Sig Sqn), a Featherweight, proved to be too powerful for **LCpl Richard Webb** (22 Armd Bde Sig Sqn), as did **Cpl Samuel Forbes** (22 Armd Bde Sig Sqn), Lightwelterweight, against **Sig Bob Spalding** (12 Armd Bde Sig Sqn) both were stopped early on in the contest. Welterweight proved to be an excellent display of courage, with **Sig Jason Raybould** winning and **LCpl 'Jonah' Jones** the runner up. **LCpl 'Jonah' Jones**'s efforts were rewarded by winning the Fergusson trophy for the most couragous boxer in the opinion of the judges and referees. The last two bouts of the evening, the Lightheavy and Heavyweight contests proved to be quite skilful. **Sgt Dave King** (3 Sqn) one of the more popular boxers gave a spirited performance but was outpointed by **Sig Tim Parkins** (12 Armd Bde Sig Sqn) whose skill was too much for **King. Sig Chris Collins** (2 Sqn) ended the competition with a good exhibition of boxing against **LCpl 'Slick' Simms** (3 Sqn) who was unable to overcome the superior reach

(Left to right): LCpl Phil Bruce, Sig Bob Spalding, Sgt Alan Deary, Sig Mick Turnbull, Tim Parkins, Tommy Giblin, LCpls 'Slick' Simms, Richard Webb, Sig Chris Collins, Jock Malone, Errol 'Bomber' Graham, LCpls Nick Basford, 'Jonah' Jones, Cpl Samuel Forbes, Sgt Dave King, Sig Tony Darks, LCpl 'Robbo' Robinson, Sig 'Brad' Bradley and Jason Raybould

of the more athletic **Collins**. 3 Sqn and 22 Armd Bde Sig Sqn ended up with 17 points each but because 22 Armd Bde Sig Sqn had more winning competitors in the finals they won the competition overall.

At the end of the competition, **Errol 'Bomber' Graham** entered the ring not to box but to address the Regiment and present the prizes. In turn the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Richard Farrimond** presented **Errol** with a statue of a Jimmy, thanking him for taking time to visit the Regiment. His visit was a great success and was enjoyed by all. To finish off a busy couple of days, he was hosted by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess. He later toured the Squadrons to talk to the lads. The Regiment wishes him well with his future fights, and hopes he will become WBA World Champion. Good luck and see you next year!

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON
QM (TECH) DEPARTMENT
ARRIVALS, FAREWELLS AND CONGRATULATIONS

Welcome to **Cpl Lucas, Sig Ray McGrath, Botwright** and **'Mac' McGuiness**. We hope your tour in Verden is enjoyable. Sadly we must say farewell to **LCpl 'Maz' Warrington** who leaves the Regiment on discharge. Finally we congratulate **Cpl 'Brad'** and **Jayne Bradley** and **LCpl Kev** and **Martina Rain RPC**, on their recent additions to their families.

EXERCISE CORTINA DIAMOND 89
Report by Sig Alex Dack

A party from the Regimental MT recently went adventure training in the mountains of Cortina, Italy.

Sig Paul Green and Ray MacLeod pose naturally for the camera. Sig John Lennon is not so confident

To reach the base camp, in Cortina 'D' Ampezz, we travelled for 31 hours through West Germany, Austria and then Italy. This camp site was to be our home for the next two weeks. After a couple of days

we were soon ready to climb. Now I am certainly not Chris Bonnington, but once fitted out in the correct equipment, I almost felt the part.

We started on the mole hills, as **Capt Harry O'Hara** called them. Col Rose being the first, a mere 1,720m. As the days went on, the hills got bigger and bigger until we were climbing the Sass Songer (2,665m) and the Tofanna (2,700m). Finally, finished off the Kleiner Lagazoui, a 3,000m climb. Throughout the weeks, **Sgt 'Cookie' John RCT** turned out to be a find in a million. We not only started the day but also finished the day with an excellent meal. Although this was my first adventure training exercise, I enjoyed it so much that I know it will not be the last.

TENNIS

The Regiment has had another successful year on the tennis courts. **WO2 (RQMS) Om Chhetri**, the team's secretary, found again that competitions are always hard to organise. This year proved especially difficult. The tennis team found itself playing the semi-finals and finals of the Divisional Inter Unit competition on the same day and on the very next day the team was again in action, in the BAOR semi-finals.

The result of all this tennis was that, in the Divisional competition, 2 RTR was beaten 6—3 in the semi-finals and 40 Fd Regt RA was beaten in the final. The BAOR semi-final was a different matter. An extremely tired team was beaten by 28 Sig Regt. Good luck to them in the finals. The team played exceptionally well and thanks go to **Capt Mick Ledwards, Lt Simon Hutchinson, SSgt Dave Rodgers, Cpl George Best** and **LCpl 'Flash' Gordon**.

1 SQUADRON

EAGLE TROOP

Besides the normal exercises in June, we had been tasked with 2nd lines and PRE's as well. Ex Scree Slope was notable for a couple of reasons. **Sig** 'Whoosh' **Seville** succeeded in his burning ambition to turn an Army combat jacket into a blazer. Secondly, the Node also stayed in the field for an extra week and was visited by **Brig Tim Waugh MBE** Comd 1 Sig Bde.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Hello and welcome to **LCpl 'Hammy'** and **Karen Hamill, Sig Paul Atherton, 'GB' Greatbatch, 'Walrus' Perkins** and **'Orange' Seville**.

Congratulations go to **Cpl Kev** and **Gabrielle** on the birth of their son.

Good luck and goodbye to **Sig Angus Dow** and **Chas Dunn** who are both off to civvy street.

GOLF TROOP

In May, the Troop shook off Ex Flying Falcon and Ex Hurst Park with an adventure training exercise in the Algau area, based in the Regimental Adventure Training Hut in Moosbach. Activities included top rope and abseiling, high altitude climbing/walking and canoeing.

The Hinderlanger Kletterstieg was the first climb to be attempted. Most of the participants who thought they had a head for heights soon changed their minds, when faced with a 5,000ft drop. Different styles of climbing were observed, the stylish posing of **Sig Ray Macleod** and **Paul Green**, the terrified clinging of **LCpl 'Flash' Gordon** and **Sig John Lennon** and the resigned to doom style of **SSgt Geoff Dawson**.

Whilst the climbers tackled the peaks, the canoeists were observed floating upside down in the Neidersonthofen See. Once again different styles were seen, it is rumoured **Cpl Rick Owen** thought that upside down, was the correct way to canoe. Several climbs and rivers later, the participants were looking more at home with their sports, **Sig Steve Buckingham** progressed well in the canoeing, **Cpl Rick Owen** was still upside down but had considerably more style. On the rock face, **LCpl 'Flash' Gordon** was actually volunteering to abseil the most difficult pitches and **LCpl Brian Young** climbed the food mountain each night. After an excellent week with fantastic weather, we headed home, tired, sun tanned and broke!

FALCON TROOP

Falcon Tp deployed on Ex Scree Slope, along with the rest of the Squadron in June. However, the Troop Officer Commanding was missing, he claimed he was on loan to the OSC. Help was at hand though, **SSgt Clive Doughty** actually volunteered to come on the exercise. He was heard to say that he wanted to see a real trunk node in action, before he is posted. We tried to make things as easy as possible to start with and in fact deployed with only one link, as the BAOR reserve node. This really meant, that as soon as we were set up, we were moved again to come under the command of a different OSC. It never did become clear who was more pleased about this; Node 051 or OSC 131.

The best communication produced on the exercise, was that by **SSgt 'Taff' Taylor**. His wife, **Maureen**, heard shouts of joy when **SSgt 'Taff' Taylor** received the news he was posted to Tongerin and she was 60km away in Verden.

The Troop went on adventure training in the first week of July. After a great time, they returned to find they were being disbanded. Something about wanting to distribute knowledge and experience evenly around the Squadron. This means the next issue of *The Wire* will be the last one featuring Falcon Tp.

HAWK TROOP

Hawk Tp recently participated in Ex Hawk Diamond, an adventure training exercise in Moosbach, Bavaria. For one week the Troop participated in rock climbing, abseiling and canoeing. One day was also set aside for visiting. The Troop led by **Lt Simon Hutchinson** visited Dachau among other places and finished off the week with a barbecue and games evening.

Returning from Bavaria, we had weekend off and immediately got stuck into Ex Scree Slope. Although being static for the exercise, we had a busy time with the OSC (Clingons), being attached to us. During the first four days we were also privileged to be visited by **Maj Gen Paul Alexander CB, MBE** and **Maj Gen Peter Davies.** Everybody is now getting their fair share of summer leave and will return raring to go for the remainder of the exercise year.

2 SQUADRON

ARRIVALS AND FAREWELLS

The Squadron welcomes **Cpl Martin Best** and **Sig Chris Collins** and hopes that they have an enjoyable tour with us. **Sgts Norman Bain** and **Graham Pardew** leave us to go to Blandford on the Yeoman's Course, good luck to you both. Farewell also to **Sig Trev Keane, Mark Byrne** and **Steve Powell** on departure to civilian life.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Cpls Dick Rutherford** and **'Mez' Merril** on being selected for promotion. (**Cpl 'Mez' Merril** has been in the Regiment for some three years and he has only just received an arrival proforma—maybe someone, somewhere knows something he doesn't.)

On the social scene the Squadron organised a barbecue after a busy exercise schedule. This proved to be very successful on all fronts. **SSgt Guy Benson** and **Sgt John Barron** managed to burn the food satisfactorily and **LCpl 'Ollie' Oliver** put in over time as barman to ensure nobody suffered from dehydration. A volleyball court and a paddling pool provided excellent entertainment for adults and children alike.

On the work side, the families once again were involved. The Squadron was tasked to do a Staff College Demonstration. On the pre-inspection phase, the Regiments wives were invited to inspect. They were given an introduction to Ptarmigan by the OC, **Maj Geoff Cary** and they also discovered where their husbands hide whilst on exercise.

Rover Tp, conspicuous by its absence, has been off to sunny Corsica. The expedition leader **Sgt Phil Parker** is leading the adventurers over the rugged mountains, from the North West to the South East of the country.

Papa Tp on the other hand was off to Munsterlager ranges for exercise First Tee. The experience was quite novel, having three Regiments of Artillery firing directly overhead. It is a pity that the noise soon wore out the novelty.

3 SQUADRON

LINE TROOP

Welcome back to **LCpl Thomas**. The Troop would also like to welcome **Cpl 'Den' Smith** from Tidworth, **LCpl 'Yorkie' Lawton** and **Sig Gary Sinclair**.

Recently the Troop, with families, was invited to a barbecue organised by the local German Army reservists. Amongst the many games played was one involving a boat on the lake. Three men teams were entered, one in particular *The Jock Mafia*, consisted of **Sig Bri Whyre, LCpls John Sloan** and **Keith Brodie** won a trophy for the boat race.

Once again we would like to thank our hosts for a very enjoyable time, especially the German called **Tony**, who coped very well, serving a steady flow of beer.

OSCAR TROOP

The Troop says farewell to **Sig Paul Gallagher** who is off to civvy street. Welcome to **Sig 'Taff' Thomas** and **Joe Jollands**.

Congratulations to **SSgt Pete Griffin** on coming fifth in the pole vault, at the BAOR Athletics. Pretty good for an old timer. As the Troop OC, **2Lt Mark Roberts**, nears his posting date, there is an historic moment for Oscar Tp, as the shack is back. To all you old troopers out there the Track Shack is now on the road.

Three members of the Troop, **2Lt Mark Roberts, Cpls Kev McHugh** and **Andy Drummond** managed to complete the Beil 100km run. Congratulations!

NOVEMBER TROOP

Welcome to **Sig Scott Smurthwaite**, straight from training. Good luck with 613 Alpha, **Scott**.

Farewell to **Sgt Sid** and **Karen Perks** who are off to Blandford—good luck on your Yeoman's course. Secondly goodbye to **LCpl Mark Buffrey** who, after three years with the Regiment, has wangled his way to 238 (London) Sig Sqn. Finally farewell to **Sig 'Pinky' Perkins** who, after 10 weeks in the Squadron has been posted to 1 Sqn. Good luck to all of you in your future careers.

On Ex Scree Slope, **Sig Chris Woods** was able to demonstrate his many talents. After starting the exercise as Rear Recce driver, he ended it as an SAS Operator. **Sig Lee Davis** has also completed the exercise with Wavell System B, which he found intellectually demanding. At the end of it, he was heard to say 'great, but I feel like I've just come off a Tefal advert'. He is due to attend his Wavell Operators course in September.

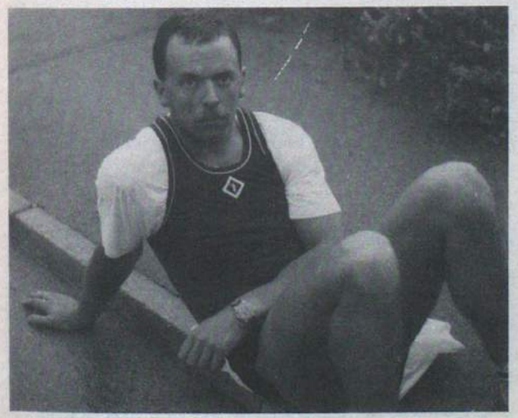
THE 31st BIEL 100KM RUN

Four runners from the Regiment completed the Biel 100km run in Switzerland. Their aim was to complete the run in the best possible time and so raise money for a Multiple Sclerosis charity.

On the night of 2 June, the team tackled the elements and rolling countryside. Throughout the run the admin support came from the Team manager, **WO2 (SSM) Ian Kirkpatrick**.

With all of the team competing in the event for the first time, the SSM's past experience proved extremely valuable. The first man in was **Cpl Andy Drummond**, who completed the course in an excellent 10 hrs 45 mins. **2Lt Mark Roberts** came second (11 hrs 52 mins) and was followed by **Cpl Kev McHugh** (13 hrs 3 mins). **Sgt Sid Perks** was unfortunately forced to drop out with bad cramp in both legs. In the end 2,000DM was raised for charity.

The Biel running team:
(Left to right): Cpl Kev McHugh, 2Lt Mark Roberts, Sgt Sid Perks, Cpl Andy Drummond



2Lt Mark Roberts taking a break on the Biel 100km run

201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 30

ADVENTURE TRAINING

Since our last contribution, the Squadron has had a very busy time on all fronts. With Ex Flying Falcon firmly behind us, 20 members of the Squadron departed for Bavaria to do some mountaineering and canoeing. During the mountaineering training **Sig Steve Medlyn**, descided that it was not for him and was last seen tumbling down a hill coming to rest with his feet hanging over a 25ft plus drop. Prompt action by **Sgt 'Hoppy' Hopkins** and **Cpl Mark Rouse** averted what could have been a very nasty accident.

SHOOTING

On the sporting front the Squadron has had some excellent results. We won the Regimental Skill-at-Arms and the Minor Units Divisional Skill-at-Arms. This qualified the team to take part in the Corps Meet, where they won the team Snap Competition. Bisley was next, but the competition was strong and the team was out-shot.

Congratulations go to **Cpls 'Dusty' Miller, 'Nobby' Nevill, LCpls Dave Knapman, Chris Mulligan, Sig Mark Bowker** and **Mickey Abel** for a good performance. Princess Royal Day saw a team led by **Lt Nick Caleb**, go off to Haltern ranges for the Royal Signals BAOR Military Skills Competition, where they managed seventh place. In the OC/SSM pistol shoot, **Maj Roger Batho** and **WO2 'Tommo' Tomlinson** had an off day, coming fourth.

ATHLETICS

The Squadron's Gladiators took to the field for the Regimental meeting. They had a close fought contest with HQ Sqn, only to be pipped at the post for first place, in the relay race. The early part of June saw the Gladiators take part in the Morrison Cup (Minor Units), in Herford. Due to a controversial disqualification in the 400m hurdles the Squadron fell behind to fifth place overall.

Notable achievements, were in the shot—second **SSgt Dave Showell** with 10.19m and in the 200m—second **Sig John McKindland** with a time of 24.87 secs—well done to them both.

Morrison Cup. Dvr Stan Boardman in the 400m relay race

CONGRATULATIONS

The Squadron wishes to congratulate **Cpls 'Dusty' Miller, 'Nobby' Nevill** and **'Nasher' Dennis** on being selected for promotion to Sergeant.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

A quick hello to **Lt John Botterill**, on attachment from RMCS Shrivenham for a month—we hope he enjoys his time with us.

SSgt Mick and **Mirla Ferris, Sgts Dave** and **Valerie McBride, Andy** and **Mandy Millard, LCpl Andrew Rose, Cfn Steven Williams** and **Sig Stewart Williams**, welcome to Hohne, we hope you enjoy your tour with us.

Finally, goodbye and good luck to: **WO2** (now WO1) **'Tommo'** and **Kim Tomlinson, Sgt Steve** and **Norma Hartland, Cpl Chris Price, LCpls 'Greg' Gregory, Lance Croasdaile** and **'Ally' Allison, Sig 'Taff'** and **Tiffany Wynne, Sig 'Monkey' Croasdaile** and **Cfn Martin** and **Beverly Allison**.

207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 37

SHQ

Farewells and best wishes go to **WO2 (SSM) John McAveety** and his wife **Carol, SSgt (FofS) Chris Sheppard** and his wife **Maria** and **SSgt Bob** 'Dot Cotton' **Wright** and his wife **Bev**. Congratulations and farewell to **Sig Ian Kirkland** on his successful transfer from the Royal Pioneer Corps to the Royal Corps of Signals, and his subsequent departure.

We now say welcome to **WO2 (SSM) Wally Drain** and his wife **Jaqueline, SSgt (FofS) Graham Blondel** and his wife **Anne, Sgts Mark Gummow, Bill Surman** and his wife **Angela**, and **Pte Geordie Hindmarsh**.

ALPHA TROOP

The Troop has been busy on Ex Scree Slope and also a demonstration for CinC BAOR and Comd 1 (BR) Corps.

On a lighter note, the Troop thanks **Cpl 'Dusty' Miller** and **LCpl 'Gaz' Steele** for organising a great day out at Sidsee Camp Site. The rest of the Troop is to be congratulated for proving you can get five bodies in a Bedford inner tube.

Finally, **SSgt Geoff Hawkins** is renaming the Troop '30 Sig Tp', due to the current deployment. Three are in the Falklands, one in BATUS and two in Thailand. Hurry back lads, we are missing you—only joking!

BRAVO TROOP
EXERCISE PERFUMED RAT

Twenty-four wives from Soltau station paraded at 0900 hrs sharp. They threw themselves wholeheartedly into finding out what their husbands do on exercise. Anyway, we would like to congratulate **Lynn Coles** for winning the shooting competition, run by **SSgt John Coles**, say no more.

After the escapades of the wives, Bravo Tp came in once again for a battering. However, most children survived a ride, even with **Sig McGuckien** and **Mark Frayling!**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Troop would like to welcome **SSgt John Coles** and his wife **Lynn** and hopes they enjoy their tour in sunny Soltau. A big hello to **Sig Pettenuzzo** and **Ireland**. Departures: fond farewells to **WO2 (SSM) Kev Lodge** to Sheffield UOTC, and **Sig Ian Duncan** to 8 Inf Bde.

SPORT

June was the month of the Morrison Cup, and despite being the Minor Units Champions we did not expect to retain the title, due to the number of racing snakes that had been posted out. However, we came a creditable fourth, with excellent performances by **Sig Mick Brown** (triple jumper winner), **Sgt John Killoran** (200m winner) and **Sig Sean Fennelly** (1,500m winner). At the 1 Armd Div Championships the team did even better, finishing third.

However, no mention of sport would be complete without **Cpl 'Lofty' Lofthouse**'s excellent 48 against 22 Bde Sig Sqn. Hang on, is that Ted Dexter on the phone? . . .

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SOUTH PARADE, BAWTRY
DONCASTER, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 36

SQMS DEPT

The Squadron SQMS, now run by **SSgt Frank Vaughan**, is ticking over nicely after the QM's dept inspection team audited the books!

Congratulations to **LCpl 'Taff' Waters** on his promotion.

Farewell to **Cpl John** and **Paula Williams**. Welcome to **Cpl 'Brad'** and **Jill Bradley**, we also hear from certain insurance companies, that their car insurance will double on joining this department.

TM TROOP

All is quietening down now after a busy few months of inspections and moving workshops.

Farewell to **LCpl Sammy Caughey** who is leaving us on posting to civvy street, we wish him and his wife **Jill** all the best. Also farewells go to **Cpl 'Revs' Revell, Sig 'Kiwi' Tanner**, who has injected humour into the Troop.

THE NIGHT OF 19 JULY

This night amongst all others will be remembered by 45 young soldiers, as probably the luckiest night of their lives.

At approximately 0100 hrs a night watchman, working on a building site within the barracks, spotted people carrying objects along the side of the Brigade Sergeants' Mess. He challenged them only to have a shot fired back at him. Undeterred by this, he tackled them only to be clubbed to the ground, sustaining minor injuries.

During all this, the personnel within the Mess Accommodation were alerted and two people also challenged the assailants, who then fled leaving five devices along the wall. The area was evacuated and a very short time later an explosion rocked the barracks causing devastation to the Mess accommodation.

Luckily four devices had not been detonated, only a small charge of 2kg had caused the extensive damage. It is almost certain that the remaining devices were destined for the Squadron accommodation blocks and if it were not for the bravery and vigilance of one 62 year old nightwatchman, the scene would have been changed from one of devastation to one of carnage.

Damage caused to the Sergeants' Mess

MARCH AND SHOOT

This year, RSAAM was held at the Hohne ranges and was attended by a team, led by **Lt Mike Burke**. After the first day's shooting, two members of the SLR team managed to qualify for the second rounds, **Sig 'Kiwi O'Brien** and **Cpl 'Skippy' Williams**, although the second round did not bring any prizes.

During the second day, the Pistol Team, led by the OC, **Maj Hugh Colborn** won the pistol match convincingly. The team consisted of: **Maj Hugh Colborn, Sig 'OB' O'Brien** and **Sig 'Kiwi' Tanner**.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Our football team is going to the UK in August, to play against TA Units and a semi-pro team in the Liverpool area, good luck lads.

2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
York

The Troops held their summer camps and, not to be out done, the Officers had a sailing regatta which proved a very wet event even for the CO. The afternoon races were interrupted by very strong winds causing several boats to overturn. Despite this everyone enjoyed themselves.

July brought Battle Camp and the Kohima Celebrations. At the end of August we deploy on Ex Key Flight.

ROUND-UP

There have been a few changes amongst the Officers over the last two months. **Lt Col Phil Noble** has retired. His QM (Gen) duties have been takenover by **Maj Frank Worrall**. Other Officers leaving are **Capts Stuart Hodges, Pete Stephenson, Lt Mhairi Nisbet WRAC** and **2Lt John Norris**. New arrivals are **Capt Adrian Campbell-Black, Lts Andy Walker** and **Juliet Smith WRAC**. Congratulations are offered to the CO, **Lt Col Griffin**, on his forthcoming promotion. Other promotion congratulations go to **Capt Mark Finch** and **Lt John Norris**.

RADIO TROOP
EXERCISE LONG RAISE
by 2Lt Norris

The Troop escapade was my idea of raising money for charity. The boys were not exactly impressed, at first, but nevertheless it went ahead. 2 Sqn has adopted a local charity, the Fulford Cross Special School. Part of our adoption was an undertaking, by us, to raise money for them once a year—so the idea hatched. Last year it was a cross channel windsurf and this year a 100 miles walk from Hull to Whitby.

Everyone performed exceedingly well and showed a great determination to finish. Battered, bruised and blistered feet were synonymous with the walk and foot inspections became a spectator sport. Every evening blisters were syringed dry and filled with 'that brown stuff' that makes everyone scream.

The walk started on Sunday, which unfortunately meant no collecting. This however, did not stop some members of the public stopping and giving money, £2.39 in total. We also managed to be walking the same route as a cycle race. About every 30 minutes around 100 cyclists passed us. By the second time around the lead car was giving us more encouragement than the cyclists. A couple of them even donated money as they went past.

Day 2 started with many a pair of bruised feet being broken-in and plenty of remarks as to the painfulness of individual feet! As we wove our wonderful way to Hornsea, that metropolis of the world, that hive of activity, the donations started to pour in. As the cars stopped to give money a certain Troop member decided to tell them they were 'Angels of Mercy' which appeared to make their day for many donators.

As Day 3 dawned we had already collected £150 and about the same number of blisters. We set off for Bridlington, determined to beat yesterday's collection. I suppose it had to happen, and on Day 3 it really happened . . ., it rained! The weather was making up for the last week and it persisted down. Not to be deterred we bravely got in the Rovers and waited. Despite all that we still managed to collect over £250.

Morale was on a slight incline as Day 4 started, well over half way and a Pub Buffet—with the Press in attendance—to finish that day's walk. The practice of giving stickers to donators (and in fact anything that stood still for long enough) was in full swing. **LCpls 'Kane' Gunter** and **'Morph' Evans** were involved somewhere, but both deny even being in the Troop that day, in fact on any day.

The Landlord laid on a splendid spread and without charge. The boys were all so pleased they said they had to go and thank him again that evening—how polite!

The last day was here, off to Whitby and then a spot of relaxation back in Scarborough. Day 5 was the day with the real hills and it showed. Lunch provided yet more competition as I took on the rest at, yes—Connect 4! After having dispatched the Seniors, including our excellent Medic **Sgt 'Arthur' Negus** and a few of the boys, **Cpl 'Dusty' Miller** was my undoing, with a fine display of good luck. We finally arrived in Whitby with many sighs of relief and returned to Scarborough.

The walk was nearly rechristened the 'Dick Turpin Walk', because the boys seemed to have an unnerving knack for getting car drivers to stop and 'donate generously'! In particular the Scottish Members of the Troop knew how to charm money out of pockets. **Cpl 'Dusty' Miller, Sig 'Bernie' Bolt, 'Nephilim' McEwan** and Dick Turpin himself, **Sig 'Sardinia' Burgoyne**. All the other walkers contributed well with **LCpl Clayton** and **Cpl 'Scouse' Owen** taking turns on the bucket. The latter even had supporters following him around the countryside. A mention also for **Sig 'Geordie' Harrison** for his advertising and to the entertainment team, the 'Acid Boys' **LCpl 'Geordie' Robinson, Sig 'Geordie' Noble** (this sounds more like 1 RRF!) and **Sig 'Marti' Lawrenson.**

The walk however, could not have been a success without the admin party. Stomachs were kept full and accommodation made homely by the team led by **SSgt Crosby**. One of the Rover drivers in particular starred. **Cpl 'Doc' Johnson** spent about 10 minutes in total on the road walking and still managed to injure his knee. All in all an excellent effort by the lads, despite their initial doubts as to my sanity, which I am sure still remains. In total we raised £900 which is a good indicator of the efforts made during the week.

The team 'raring' to go with Resident Sickie, LCpl 'Taff' Lewis, who with a touch of faith healing, was miraculously cured enabling him to take part

PAPA TROOP
LCpl Ted Hodgson

On 18 May Papa Tp was set loose on the world. Rother Valley Water Park was the location (**SSgt Pete Jackson**'s other home!).

It was a normal day for Papa Tp, apart from the coach driver still having his watch an hour behind from the last clock change in the Spring time.

After this minor set back things went smoothly (the bus had good suspension) until **Cpl Mick Evans** and **LCpl Ted Hodgson** unpacked the barbecue to find that they both missed last night's 10 O'clock News informing them that there was a shortage of tin foil and potatoes in the York area.

Sgt Jim Hogan (who is in line for this year's Well Dressed Man award) was tasked to see if he could discover any potatoes or tin foil and much to the Troop's pleasure, was successful.

During the course of the day the following activities were available: jet skiing, windsurfing, sailing, canoeing, volley ball and last but not least, the long awaited football from **Sig Paul Tighe** who, to this day, says he did not go to Torquay United to get the ball. The jet skiing was so successful that **Sgt Lenny Martin** and **Cpl 'Skelly' Storey** are still being nagged by their wives, **Karen** and **Elaine**, to trade their cars in for one. Jet skiing by the way, is a sport in which you hang onto a steerable sledge fitted with a ridiculously powerful engine. All in all an exciting experience.

Once the football arrived there was a match arranged between the members of the Troop against their wives, but due to printing deadlines we are unable to give you the final score but we are pleased to say that **Karen Martin** and **Elaine Storey** have been offered contracts with York City next season.

During the football match **LCpl 'Tomo' Thompson**'s daughter decided to practise her synchronised swimming routine but her Dad missed it. **Cpl Mick Evans** managed to produce a fine header, despite the disadvantage of wearing a chef's hat.

The only sad part of the day was that the weather got a bit colder. However, the Troop had a good time and are looking forward to the next one being as successful as this one.

Finally, The Troop would like to say good luck to **Cpl 'Tel' Taylor** who leaves on posting and will be missed within the Troop. Welcome to **Lt Bill Adsett** who has just taken over the Troop.

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THE LACK OF A LINK

Sometimes we use
The cog wheel system.
Although we all know
The mushroom system well.
Then there's the last resort,
The bicycle wheel system—
Someone who thinks
He is a spokesman,
But in fact is only a small cog.
Sometimes I sit and wonder why.
Now and then
We know why.
Often as not
We're told not why
But always when.
So if you don't know
Delegate it!

OSCAR TROOP
by LCpl Hunt

19 June saw the Troop's outing to Rother Valley Lakes near Sheffield.

There was a good attendance by wives, girlfriends and pets with jet skiing, canoeing and sailing on the agenda. Using public transport we got off to a late start needless to say!

On reaching our destination the barbecue was set up. With the sun beating down most people found their families and a spot of canoeing entertaining enough.

Expertise in sailing shown by **Cpl 'Bob' Hildreth** and willingness to master the art of jet skiing by the OC, **Lt Bridget Pulverman** helped heighten the day's delights.

Everyone returned extremely sun burnt and exhausted after a great day out and a welcome break. Special thanks to our Slop Jockeys **Sgt Dennis Adie** being one, for non-stop 'grub'.

THE LYKE WAKE WALK
by Cpl John Davies

After many months of coaxing and pushing 2 Sqn managed to form a team of six to participate in the above mentioned event. The Lyke Wake Walk (LWW) is a 40 mile route across the North Yorkshire Moors in undulating moorland. So the date set was 16 June, the participants were: **WO2 (SSM) Fossil Harrison, SSgt 'Pathfinder' Dodd, Cpls Davies, Rutter, LCpls Robinson** and **Whincup** set off in high spirits and lower valleys, from Osmotherley. Everything was going fine until the 22 (ish) mile mark where, after a small break, we took a new route for the LWW. However, after a five mile circle over heather (she did not complain!) we finally came back on route. The sun and the pace began to tell. At the 30 (ish) mile mark we lost **LCpl Dave Whincup** by the Old Roman Road. Then 6 miles further on **Cpl Tony Rutter** and myself finally fell victim to knee injuries, blisters and cramps. The other three racing snakes made it to the finish at Ravenscar, through their own various routes via Robin Hood Bay. There is a lot more to this story but due to space . . .! The panoramic scenes were 'brill' and the blisters tender, but I have a plan to finish next time.

OSCAR TROOP'S SUMMER CAMP
by Cpl Bob Hildreth

Sunday 25 June saw the start of Oscar Tp's summer camp, which this year was held at Holcombe Moor Training Camp (home of the Krypton Factor assault course) near Bury.

The activities to be undertaken were rock climbing, canoeing and board sailing on the Monday to Wednesday. The Three Towers Walk on Thursday and the Krypton Factor assault course on the Friday.

As usual the weather took its toll on the activities. The rock climbing never got off the ground. It was rained out and spirits were diluted for the remaining water activities. Now the real challenge was on, to find something to fill in for the climbing. The obvious was tried and tested, much to the delight of the local licensees, but found to be too expensive for a week. So an alternative was sought. Someone found the new swimming pool in Bolton (only six months old) so a new game was developed 'Eye Up the Life Guards', they were 'very nice'! **LCpl 'Si' Hunt** managed to get a blow out on everything bar the Raging River (a ride down a shute on an inner tube). A few of the Life Guards enjoyed the 'Log Display' we arranged for them.

The Three Tower Walk was cancelled due to the prospect of further inclement weather and a lot of 'wind' for the lads. Instead we were able to arrange a trip to Blackpool for the day (almost as good as going to Bangor). What happened there shall remain there, but four of the lads ended up making their own way back to camp!

Friday was no exception with regard to the weather, it rained all day! So it was back to the swimming pool, where this time it was **Pte 'Stuff' Huff** who was blown out. (Poor lad never recovered.) That evening we said farewell to **Sgt Eddy Mooney**. He is on his way to better things down south.

Saturday was Endex, as the two groups of transport passed one another on the M62 there were so many happy faces in the windows of the vehicles it will be hard to forget. Upon getting home everyone told lots of lively lies—sorry love someone nicked me wallet—etc, to their wives and bank managers.

PS: It was such a nice camp we can't wait to go back next year!

15 INFANTRY BRIGADE SIGNAL TROOP
EXERCISE MARTIAL MERLIN

On a wet misty evening 10 'volunteers' left Imphal Barracks York for a weekend they would never forget—in more ways than one!

It involved travel to and occupation of a hide location which, unfortunately, was only occupied for as long as it took **Cpl 'Jock' Donnelly** to erect his hammock.

Eleven military skills stands were dotted about the training area and had to be visited by each team in a set order. One of the most 'enjoyable' stands was the Command Task, which involved getting four of the team across a stretch of water without getting wet (well that was the plan). After many high level decisions and much thought, a 'raft' (if it could be called that) was thrown together using four oil drums, planks and copious amounts of string. The Platoon Commander, **SSgt (YofS) Sirr** proceeded to board the raft with his 'hand-picked' crew—**LCpl 'Sleeps' Harrer, Sig 'Stevie' Goodall** and **Sig 'Willie' Wilson**. It was obvious from the start that the raft was not quite put together as per the DS solution, especially when it started to do an eskimo roll halfway across the water. This resulted in **Sig 'Stevie' Goodall** disappearing under the water, complete with SLR! Once **Sig 'Stevie' Goodall** was found—and the SLR (this took longer)—the 'swimming' team headed for the other bank amidst cheers and loud applause from onlookers. Although it goes without saying that the team did not achieve maximum marks on this stand it did score top marks on the NBC, Wpn TOETs, patrolling and comms/signals stands.

Phase 3 was the team's most successful phase—the night navigation exercise. Twenty-two check points had to be visited by at least one team member in order before 0400 hrs. The patrol was split into three groups and dispatched to the four corners of the training area. All check points were visited well within the bogey time and maximum marks achieved.

The final phase was a 5kms tab across open country, commencing at 0730 hrs with a mass start. As with all mass start races, it takes a couple of kilometres to get into your stride but once found it was all but over. The finish was in sight and the team, yet again, got in well within the bogey time.

The team performed very well in all Phases and was rewarded with the trophy for the best non-infantry team. In fact it finished only six points behind the winning infantry team. A very creditable performance by everyone. Our thanks to the rest of the Troop who had the hardest job of all, providing admin support and comms for the exercise—well done!

The Winning Team
Rear (left to right): Sig Grayson, LCpl Southern, Sig Wilson, Sgt Collins and Cpl Donnelly
Front (left to right): LCpl Harrer, Sig Gatens, SSgt (YofS) Sirr, Sig Goodall and Murdoch

210 (24 Airmob Bde) Sig Sqn
Catterick

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Robert Baxter**
2IC	**Capt James Morley-Kirk**
AO/OC Sp Tp	**Capt Mick Besant**
OC Comms Tp	**Lt Richard Rands**
SSM	**WO2 Trev Jones**
YofS	**WO2 Dougie MacTaggart**
FofS	**SSgt Russ Lifton**
SQMS	**SSgt Graham Bulter**
ORSQMS	**SSgt Glen Brook**

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

Welcome to the following personnel who have recently arrived to swell our ranks: **Lt Stephen Williamson, Cpl Pete Wathey, LCpls Lee Hodges, Ezard, Sean Carroll** (RCT), **Mullen** (REME), **Sig 'OB' O'Brien** and **Peake**. We also welcome **SSgt Steve Carr, Sig McIntyre** and **Spark** who have joined us on attachment from York. Farewells to **Cpls Costello, 'Smudge' Smith, LCpl Ings** and that intrepid sailor **Capt Adam Hearns**.

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer the heartiest of congratulations to **Maj Robert Baxter** on his selection for promotion to Lt Col; **Cpls 'Tel' Cole, 'Paddy' Rice** and **'Rich' Wicking** on being selected for promotion to Sgt; and finally our best wishes go to **LCpl 'Jabba'** and **Andrea Hewitt** on their recent marriage.

EXERCISE SOGGY GRYPHON/DROWNING EAGLE
by Sgt Ray Cowburn

It was decided that as the weather was being so kind the Squadron would take to the water for a day by holding a sailing day at Ripon Sailing Club. After much running around and dusting off of excuses (I'm allergic to water, Sir) approximately half of the Squadron attended—some willingly and some press ganged!—but all out to have a good time. The day was planned to include canoeing (instructor **LCpl Hyde**), board sailing (instructor **FofS Lifton**), DIY Rafting (instructor **Sgt Lovett**) and dinghy sailing skippered by **Maj Baxter, Capt Morley-Kirk, Capt 'Nearly a Mister' Hearn** and **Cpl Dick** (with a little help from **Cpl Clark**). Unfortunately upon arrival at the club we were met by a member of the club committee who stated that there would be no board sailing, no canoeing and no rafting. Many thanks to the relevant instructors for their time and effort, but civilian red tape is inflexible. That cut down the activities to dinghy sailing and volleyball. The volleyball was very popular and once people realised that sailing was not about getting wet the boats were in constant use, that is until the sun went in and the wind dropped in which case it became a case of Hawaii-5-0 (paddling). The volleyball continued to be popular and the bar was open so the dry land activities continued relentlessly. Our cooks led by **Sgt Nev Moore** (ACC) arrived with food to cook on the barbecue and very soon a queue of hungry people formed. After lunch 'yours truly', **Capt Morley-Kirk** and **Sig Mark Knowles** took to the water and found that the wind had once more picked up. After 20 minutes it was decided that **Sig Knowles** would like to take the helm, which he did for about four minutes before he decided to practise capsize drills by dumping all of us in the water with the boat upside down next to us. The air was 'blue' round the new 2IC but other than that we were all fine. Once the boat was righted and we had sheepishly returned to shore it was time to pack up and go home. The day, after a stuttering start, was enjoyable for all. Our thanks to the Admin Team even though it was not all 'plain sailing'.

EXERCISE PEGASUS MANE
by Sig Gary Burke

Again the Squadron was ready to journey into the unknown as we headed for Otterburn Training Area. The advance party left a day earlier to prepare for the arrival of the main party. Bewildered as they were, they still managed to prepare the camp with some speed. The good side of life was very organised by **Sgt Nev Moore**, meals were provided at short notice both early and late. For those individuals that were not able to attend meals they could take away a glorious 'death pack'. Communications went smoothly. Exercise Control was set up and monitored communications for 24 hours a day. **Sig O'Brien** bravely volunteered to do the night stag along with **LCpl Steve Watton** who is reputed to be in hibernation. **Cpl 'Scouse' Barker** took

command of 'comms of the world' during the day. Under his wing were **Sig 'Sparky' Spark** and myself. **Sig 'Paddy' Brown** and **LCpl 'Gaz' Duffy** stayed well behind their communications, they were using and testing ManSat 505. Radios were not the only items on the agenda, the dreaded unit training was rife. During a First Aid lecture by **Cpl Al Higgins** a new lever method of putting a casuality into the three quarter prone position was described. For the first time **LCpl Hewitt** was rolled over without any unnecessary strain. Some motor-bike training was organised by **Cpl Clark**, everything went smoothly until **Sig Knowles** got behind the bars. During his daring 30 bus fly-over he fell off which necessitated stitches in his chin. **LCpl McPhee** forgot the basic principles of abseiling and injured his ankle but still managed to get back to peacetime location before last orders. **Sig 'Aly' McIntyre** then took over the exciting job of DCOS chauffeur. What was the exercise for? **Sgt 'Bev' Bevan** had words for it; 'An exercise to provide many control nets for the Battalions!'.

EXERCISE GRYPHONS TREK 89—COAST TO COAST WALK

After an official weigh-in at Gaza Lines on 13 June the brave few started after lunchtime. This leg was from Robin Hood's Bay to Grosmont, a distance of about 16 miles. The 'Mr Photogenic' Competition was also under way with the main contenders being: **Cpl 'Doc' Osborne** and **LCpl Whitehouse**. The walk went smoothly with only one complaint—the weather! It was too hot. However our camp site provided ample compensation—it was the pub yard!

Next—Grosmont to Osmotherly, a distance of about 26 miles, though after some superb path finding by the SSM it ended up being a hot, sweaty and blistering 30 miles. The heat slowly brought about loss of humour and tempers. Blisters were now becoming abundant and **Cpl 'Doc' Osborne** found a new career as a budding foot surgeon. Morale was once again restored as our pre-walk recce had found us another good camp site.

On Thursday—Osmotherly to Richmond, 25 miles of blistering sun. But, we all knew that this night we would all sleep in our own beds. The first part of this day's walk was well sign posted but by mid afternoon the signs had disappeared. But the way ahead was flat so it proved to be quite an easy day's walk. On arrival in Catterick it was off to the Duchess of Kent Military Hospital for our first check over—all were passed fit.

Complaints of exhaustion from **Sig Armstrong** were ignored and he remained on the Friday walk. It was from Richmond to Keld a distance of some 22 miles, but to allow us a half day's rest the next day we decided to cover some 25 miles. This was a very scenic route in Swale Dale. Another day of high temperatures and glorious sunshine brought on some agonising sunburn. First to suffer was **Sig Paul Small**—our photographer—but a good helping of Flamazine soon cured him. Passing the old mines between Reeth and Keld it was pointed out that the half way point for the day had been reached. This improved morale—until everyone saw the next hill! However, we got to Keld and the barbecue, as well as the swim and the wash, was much appreciated. The evening was spent in the Tan Hill Inn, the highest pub in Britain. **Cpl John Hynes** returned to his tent that night to find a white woolly beast sharing his bed. However, the rumour that the abominable snowman has a new mate is totally unfounded!

Saturday 17 June was a walk from Keld to Kirkby Stephen, 12 miles. A nice easy day and for the first time since starting out it was cool. We managed to finish the walk before 1300 hrs. The rest of the day was spent sunbathing, sight seeing and swimming in the river. That evening we sampled the delights of the town and most found their way to their beds early.

On Sunday—Kirkby Stephen to Shap was an easy stroll of some 20 miles. It was another hot day, but it was fairly easy walking as it was mainly on the roads. **Cpl 'Paddy' Rice** suffered in silence as he found he was susceptible to sunburn, he had to remain covered up for the walk. Once the camp site was reached time was spent sunbathing and swimming.

Shap to Glenridding, 20 miles was undertaken the next day. Without a doubt we were in the Lake District, the scenery was outstanding along with the weather. Our morale was severely tested as we conquered the mountains. We all ended up smiling at the top, maybe the scenery was worth the effort of the climb, but our feet wouldn't believe us. A walk along the highest Roman road in Britian proved frustrating with its many false summits. Some of the reservoirs proved their worth by providing opportunities to take a quick dip to cool down. Glenridding was finally reached after an exhilarating but exhausting day.

On Tuesday 20 June—Glenridding to Buttermere, 25 miles of enormous mountains! Once again it was a beautiful day and great scenery. But, those mountains were beginning to tell. **Cpl 'Doc' Docherty** was suffering with knee problems and blistering due to over exposure to the sun and **LCpl Clive Whitehouse** suffered a bruised ankle when he fell down a hill. Well it had to happen—as we approached Buttermere down came the rain. It turned out to be just a shower, but it was very refreshing. Once we reached Buttermere the camp showers were the order of the day, **Sig Paul Small** decided he wasn't waiting and used the ladies! In went one young lady and out came one red faced signalman!

On Wednesday 21 June—Buttermere to St Bee's was the last leg of 16 miles. It was left to **Sig Gordon Strachan** and **'Gaz' Burke** to lead the way. The distance to the top of the last ridge of hills was about three and a half miles, when we arrived we had covered some 6 miles. **Sig 'Gaz' Burke** was sacked and **Sig Gordon Strachan** was left in the hot seat to guide us into St Bee's. From our vantage point we could see our goal on the horizon. Although it was still very hot, morale was high and the walking easy. As we approached St Bee's grins started appearing and the closer we got the bigger the grins got. We had finally arrived at long last, no more walking, no more hills to be encountered except in the back of a minibus. A great goal had been achieved—a long walk with the minimum of equipment and lots of training. It could now be looked back upon with a sense of achievement, especially as the SSM was ceremoniously dunked in the sea!

The 'Mr Photgenic' Competition ended in a dead heat between **Cpl 'Doc' Osborne** and **LCpl 'Flex' Whitehouse**. The underlying reason for the walk was to raise money for the NSPCC and the Army Benevolent Fund—the final total should be around £1,000.

GARRISON HOCKEY KNOCK-OUT TROPHY
by LCpl 'Percy' Parkin

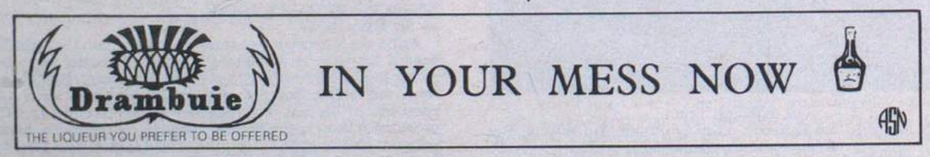
The Squadron Hockey Team turned out eager to win their first match in three seasons. Alas it was not to be, we could only manage one draw and three losses. The team put up a good performance against very stiff opposition. You know what they say, 'It's not the winning, but the taking part.', well it would be nice to win one every couple of years!

SWIMMING—WRITTEN UNDER DURESS

After qualifying in the Zone B eliminating rounds the Squadron despatched the Swimming team to the Army Championships at RMAS. After two weeks on exercise, eight good men and true, went to do battle against overwhelming odds (and suffered the Squadron minibus breaking down every few miles). Due to the lack of training time, the best position achieved was last, apart from the Medley Relay where we managed to get disqualified. The team would also like to congratulate **Cpl Terry Cole** on his future promotion (even though it was he who disqualified us and stopped us sweeping the board).

GOLF
by Sgt Bill Greig (REME)

Due to exercise commitments our gladiators of the golf course have only been able to fit in one competion. This was the Garrison Summer Meeting where **Cpl 'Gaz' Lee** managed to clinch a third place prize in his division with a net 75.



3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 114

1 SQUADRON

A period encompassing two exercises, Regimental Battle Camp and involvement in the KAPE tour to SEDist.

EXERCISE RED TRICORN

Red Tricorn took place over the period 2-7 July; it started with three days trade training endeavouring to train as many as possible to post CERC standards.

The plan from the Wednesday evening was that the Squadron Commanders should run their own exercises. This however was preceded by the CO's surprise exercise for all Seniors and Officers. This was completed almost within the rules by the 'strollers' from 1 Sqn. Though the details cannot be put into print, the gist of the evening was a circumnavigation of the Mohnesee by various methods and with various degrees of success. This was **2Lt Jim** 'Chocolate E' **Clare**'s first night in Germany! Welcome to Germany!

The following evening **Maj Rod Thomas** (OC 1 Sqn) tested his Squadron on the training done in previous weeks on a survival theme.

Once again, the resourcefulness and initiative of the men came to the fore, in particular, **LCpl Gary Greave**'s ingenuity in hiding his money will long be remembered. Nothing so complicated for **Sig 'Baldrick' Murray** who simply kept all his money in his hand while the DS frantically searched his kit. Well done **Baldrick**, or did you just forget to hide it!

After the kit check and survival demonstration the men were taken to the exercise area drop off points. These points were designed to be approximately 4km from the RV's. This resulted in a fast, hard march to start with and plenty of ditch crawling and bush hiding closer to the target.

On arrival at their designated RV's each brick of four men had to set up a patrol base and make their surroundings as habitable and comfortable as possible. It was only by coincidence that the local stadt authorities had arranged for bulk rubbish to be collected the following morning!

Having rested for an hour or two, it was on to the first of the command task RV's where the DS looked at each team to see who were the natural leaders.

This was a very useful phase and many surprises and superstars were thrown up.

Sgt Al Tye who was doing DS on the water obstacle had to prove that it could be done and promptly decided that he would complete the task dressed only in his shreddies. Not a good idea **Al**, well not when the obstacle is in the middle of a cow field, 'barefoot in a cowpat' sounds like a good lyric for a song.

On completion of all four command tasks and treks between stands the bricks returned to their patrol bases for their first sleep in 48 hours. Morning dawned bright and early and the groups were transported to different areas to complete selected command tasks before endex was called. All groups were then transported back to the bar where the 1 Squadron Great Egg Race Competition took place. This involved transporting a pint glass full of water over a set course of 5m without spilling any, using letter trays, chad tape rolls, iron rods, tape, cardboard boxes, plasticine, sellotape and a glass. Congratulations to all bricks for their very interesting design but the eventual winners of the Egg Race Competition were **LCpls Pete Preece, Bob Young, 'Chalkie' White** and **Sig Dave Whitfield**.

The overall winners of the Champion Brick Trophy were **Cpl Paddy Clyde, LCpl Rick Scarff, Sig Sy Hance** and **Baldrick Murray**. The determination of this group to do well was in evidence to the end.

Well done to all who took part in a different, and interesting exercise which was also fun.

VOGELSANG

July, the height of summer and once again it's time for the Battle Camp. This year on Ex 'Firm Base' a week of battle drills, ranges, barbecues and fun was to be had by all those infantry minded individuals (a dying breed?) amongst us.

The days started with sports, 1 Sqn doing well. Rugby at 0600 hrs definitely wakes you up.

The first day was spent doing water crossings, minefield clearing with practice on GPMG, NBC, 66mm and pyrotechnics. The next day saw us on the ambush range where the shooting was exceptionally good. The grenade assault course was won by **Cpl Kielty**'s Section whose throwing accuracy was high. The tank overrun was 'hairy', especially when the tank driver did not seem to be quite there. The Inter-Squadron assault course went particularly well for 1 Sqn. Blood and sweat was spent by all and we may even have the fastest team from the Regiment (Results not available at time of going to press!). Wednesday was our chance to practise our skills in defending a built up area. The rifle assault course proved to be what we knew it was, tiring. Some good film was taken showing contorted faces. Interesting ranges included the Pistol Competition, the close quarter battle and the platoon attack ranges.

The exercise finished with a session in the pool where **LCpl Fuller** proved to be a real gymnast at the diving board. The final drinks party took place after our barbecue. Grateful thanks to **SSgt Smallman** and **Sgt Scott**.

KAPE TOUR

In July this year the Regiment sent 14 men back to 'Blighty' for the KAPE tour. Their intrepid leader was **2Lt David Kinnaird** who had spent much time planning and arranging the tour.

The team's remit was to scour England for potential Iron Division Signallers. In order to do this they assembled at Körbecke on 20 June. The initial brief spoke of halcyon days ahead. Bright eyed the team emerged and began to prepare the vehicles and equipment that were to form the display. A relay truck, landrover, a 12 × 24 tent, a generator, a video and a dressmaker's dummy called 'Hermann'. Five frenzied days later and all was ready, including the adorning of all vehicles with quite the largest signs ever seen, proudly showing our Regiment's name.

At 0600 hrs 28 June the vehicles were lined up outside the guardroom. At last we were on our way to Antwerp to board the *Sir Geraint* for the Channel crossing. The tour had made a good start.

The first night was spent at Bulford with 249 Sig Sqn and it was here that we met **(YofS) Andy Campbell** who had driven over earlier to tie up loose ends. Characters had started to emerge; **LCpl Haworth** and **Sig Dudley** spent the night under canvas at the Andover showground guarding the display. The next day was the first show of the tour; at last the opportunity to do what we came for and the general public obviously loved it. Hats, stickers etc were handed out and things started to get busy. That night we went on to Kent and stayed at Maidstone. The next day, Edenvalley School and Kent Army Cadet Force visited us. The following day Wildernesse School and the day after that John Hunt School. The high point was the Basingstoke Carnival for three days. This proved to be one of the most enjoyable parts of the tour, with fabulous weather, a large crowd and several good nights out. We then drove to Chichester to spend a day at Littlehampton Community College.

It was back to Kent again to visit Sandown Court School in Tunbridge Wells where once again we were swamped by enthusiastic children. Then, at last, a day off spent at St Martin's Plain Camp just behind the Channel tunnel. The next day was also spent there but this time entertaining the various cadet camps that were based there with us. One more brief visit to another school and then to our public engagement at Paddock Wood Carnival.

All that remained was the trip back and the memories. **Cpl Chalkie White**'s incredible driving, thousands of happy children, some unhappy ones and **Lt Kinnaird**'s ability to wake up in the mornings. A highly successful tour, enjoyed by all and hopefully, of benefit to the Corps.

2 SQUADRON

The Squadron has seen many members come and go recently and a number selected for promotion. **SSM O'Callaghan** arrived from HQ Sqn to replace **SSM Wise** who has moved to the QM (T) Department. **Sgt Egan** was posted on promotion (Well Done) and **SSgt 'Para' Cakebread** departed soon after. **Sig Anthony** left and **Sig Aspery** was promoted and posted to Northern Ireland.

The arrivals are **LCpls White** and **Johnson** together with **Sig Curley, Knights, Burkey** and **Buxton**, all still suffering from shock. **Cpl** 'old man' **Cryer** moved across from 1 Sqn (a promotion there, really) and has already made a name for himself.

Congratulations to **Cpl Bishop** and especially wife **Janet** on the arrival of their new son **Matthew**. Congratulations also to **Cpls Avey-Hebditch, Jordan** and **Weaver** for being selected for promotion. They

are now saving hard to afford Mess kit and the Mess bills! **Avey-Hebditch** can now take over as NCO IC sailing to relieve that long suffering officer from 3 Sqn. **Sig McCausland, Leslie, Simcock** and **Sirignano** have achieved their first tapes, and **LCpls Duggan, Cooney** and **Garbett** have their seconds. Congratulations to them all.

A busy period with Site Guard, Vogelsang, Scree Slope, and various smaller detachments and Regimental exercises. The latest Red Tricorn Regimental exercise was a welcome change from the past 'Trikes'. The first three days were trade training and skills testing, followed by a patrolling/ambush exercise in the local area. The Troops developed their infantry skills over the first of the days, and then vented their frustration on 3 Sqn. The Squadron hierarchy, dressed as Spetznaz, attacked their evening briefing, assassinated their 'glorious leader', and kidnapped them all on a 4 tonner-ski. Once all the Troops were deployed, they recce'd and patrolled against each other, finally ambushing, resurrecting and re-ambushing until endex. Cries of 'you're only trying to get us back for that CO's exercise' went unheard by the Officers and SNCO's—referring to an Officers/SNCO's navigation exercise earlier in the month—as the day got progressively hotter and stickier. They have been assured that they enjoyed the exercise and valuable lessons have been learned.

Vogelsang was the most enjoyable, as Site Guard was . . . well, a Site Guard! and Ex Scree Slope was not the most enjoyable thing.

Having accomplished all our Mandatory Training prior to the Battle Camp, we enjoyed fun shoots, hard shoots, 'Molotoving', and battling against 206 Sqn. Some fairly shifty bartering with the RAF left us with piles of pyro and mounds of Anti-tank weapons, although in fairness, the acquisitions were shared with other Squadrons.

LCpl Grave's Section produced the best results on the section-in-defence range, closely followed by **LCpl Glanville** and his bunch of targets (you've never seen so much walking vegetation inside a built-up area).

SSgt Jenkins and his QRF in a stripped-down 436 patrolled the night-exercise at Mach 5, to soundly defeat both enemy and friendly forces (the friendlies forgot to wear the correct kit). Whilst the rest of the Squadron must have thought it was 5 November from the pyro and flare display. Screams of 'Stoooop!' from the DS went unheard as the lads tried to demolish the entire village. One LMG gunner was seen trying to remove a particular house which held his own forward Section!

The Squadron fired some AK47s one evening. They were produced by **Capt O'Connor**—actually we used almost all the Division's AK ammunition for that period. Our thanks to 7 Int Coy and SO3 G2 at Div for both weapons and ammunition.

The Squadron Summer Party, held at a local Schutzenhalle, went off without a hitch thanks to **Sgt McGoff** and his able crew. The disco was excellent, the food superb and the beer was there—and then it wasn't! The ladies from the Squadron office, **Lisa** and **Kath**, thoroughly enjoyed themselves (0200 hrs—'its ending early isn't it?') and the lads certainly had a good time.

3 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Mike Rough**
2IC	**Capt Mike Shaw (at JDSC)**
OC P Tp	**2Lt Neil Fraser**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Ray Spencer**
OC N Tp	**2Lt Howard Hughes**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Les Allen**
SSM	**WO2 Billy Haslam**
SQMS	**SSgt John Burgess**
YofS	**SSgt Andy Campbell**
FofS	**SSgt Steve Driver**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Jock Murray RCT**

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

The Sqn Comd is busy working out what he is going to do with all the men when 2 and 3 Sqns combine later this year. Whilst the Yeoman has been enjoying himself in England on a Kape Tour **Sgt Lee Keilly** has been in the hot seat, soon he'll take a rest and become Troop Sergeant in Papa.

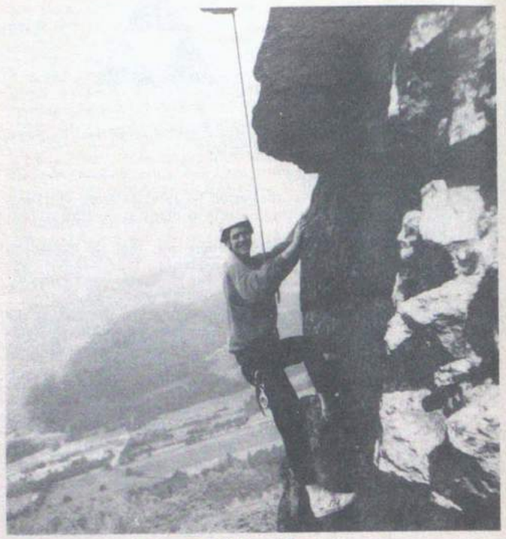
PAPA TROOP

Hello to all those ex-members of Support Tp now in the Papa fold . . . we hope you enjoy your stay. **SSgt Ray Spencer** now comes to work with a smile at the prospect of having more than himself and the Troop Comd on parade!

Goodbyes to **Sig 'Hoppy' Hopkins** to the metalworking industry, **LCpl 'Griff' Griffin** to employment in Germany. **Sig Ian Stott** to Northern Ireland and **Sig 'Notso' Smart** to 210 Sig Sqn on promotion.

Soon to depart are **Sgt Ray Taylor** to the Prison Service and **2Lt Neil Fraser** off to the 'subbies playground' at RMCS for a well earned rest and his hard earned promotion to Lt.

Congratulations to **LCpls 'Benson' Whyte** and **'Chz' Chambers** on their promotions.



Sig Dave Tinly of Papa Tp

The Troop (or rather Diamond 2) deployed on Ex Scree Slope in June. **Cpl 'Mick' Clarkson** had a mild heart attack when the LAD returned from the field to wrench the pack out of the GOC's Tac vehicle for the sick Wavell! This was followed by a highly exciting Site Guard involving thirty of the Squadron.

SQUADRON MILITARY TRAINING

After the three days of trade training on Red Tricorn the Squadron was subjected to two days of military training. In a lecture room they were taught about laying ambushes, verbal orders and patrolling before being let loose on the area! After laying an ambush on an unsuspecting Foreman and **Sgt Keilly** under the critical eye of the Squadron Subalterns it was time for the 'mystery' exercise, 3 Platoon receiving an introduction to the Night Infiltration by **'Col Hedley-Smythe' (2Lt Hughes)** were surprised by the attack of the Westphalian Liberation Army killing the Colonel and capturing the remainder. Later under their Sect Comds **Cpl Clarkson, LCpl Thomas** and **Cpl Jarvis** they were rescued and given their briefing by **'Maj Finbar McSaunders' (2Lt Fraser).** The Sqn Comd found himself as DS of Pathfinder Section whilst the SSM and SQMS whizzed around in Rovers attempting to bump patrols armed to the teeth with thunder flashes and a few miniflares. The sections infiltrated (slowly) the 2 Sqn OP line before an RV in the morning and a Platoon attack against 2 Sqn. Overall good fun and preparation for Battle Camp at the end of July . . . the Squadron is living in the field all week to avoid the queue at the cookhouse in Vogelsang Camp!

NOVEMBER TROOP

With half the Troop posted and exercises looming. **SSgt Les Allen** deployed on Ex Scree Slope as Comms Ops, Operator and Lineman . . . he had a hectic week with only one move in support of echelon.

The period saw the split of the Squadron with November losing half the LAPD (Line and Power det) to Papa Tp. The question is will **Cpl Arthur Smart** and **LCpl Andy Thomas** get their Hip Flasks? November Section gained the 'Two Macs' for Tech and Power and the driving force of **LCpl Wood**.

Congratulations on family additions to **Cpl Russ Darlington** and **LCpl Yorkie Lawton**.

SWIMMING

Four members of the Squadron managed to miss all the fun on Red Tricorn as they had other commitments in Berlin. **SSgt Ray Spencer, Cpl Ivan Oakey, Sig 'Flavs' Flavahan** and **'Gaz' Love** all of Papa Tp represented the Regiment in the BAOR Water Polo Championships from 3-7 July. The Regiment reached the semi-finals and a good week was had by all.

SAILING
Report by Lt N. D. Fraser

3 DIVISION INTER UNIT REGATTA

This competition was held at the Mohne See in windy conditions on 30-31 May. This was to the benefit of the team who enjoy a strong wind. The Regiment won convincingly coming first, second and third in every race bar one (due to gear failure on **Cpl Hayter**'s dinghy) where the team came first, second and fourth! At the end of the two days the results were: first—3 Armd Div Sig Regt, second—8 Regt RCT and third—39 Hy Regt RA.

BFG OPEN TEAM LEAGUE

This is a new competition for anyone in BFG to enter a team of six people. This competition was sailed in two leagues on 12-14 June. League A at the Mohne See had the Regimental Team (The Buoys) and a female team (The Tiller Girls) drawn from the Regiment. After two days of sailing the Regimental team went on to face a composite team of extremely good sailors at the Dummer See Yacht Club. After two races there was a quarter of a point between the two teams and the final race saw some excellent team racing from both sides. Unfortunately the Dummer See team eased ahead to win and the Regiment had to be content with second place.

RSYC(G) REGATTA

Changeable weather consisting of torrential rain, blistering sun but definitely little wind dogged the regatta held on 21-23 June. The Major Unit Competition as in the past four years, resulted in a convincing win for the Regiment. The Minor Unit Competition saw quite a battle between HQ 1 Sig Bde and 206 Sig Sqn for first place. The best sailing was in the individual competition with four boats within striking distance of the Maunsell Trophy for the final race. Finally **Cpl Pounsett** went on to win for the second year running. **Brig Waugh** competed in both the team and individual events and presented prizes at the end of the Regatta. **Cpl Avey-Hebditch** received his Corps Colours for his contribution to sailing. Final results were:-

Individual
1st **Cpl Pounsett** 3 Armd Div Sig Regt
2nd **Cpl Avey-Hebditch** 3 Armd Div Sig Regt
3rd **Capt Dexter** 4 Armd Div Sig Regt

Major Unit
1st 3 Armd Div Sig Regt
2nd 4 Armd Div Sig Regt
3rd 22 Sig Regt

Minor Units
1st HQ 1 Sig Bde
2nd 206 Sig Sqn

The Team
(Left to Right): Cpls Avey-Hebditch (with lucky duck), Newton, Sig McAusland, 2Lt Fraser, Cpl Pounsett and LCpl Harper

The following have represented the Regiment on a regular basis this year. **Helm—Cpls Craig Avey-Hebditch, Mark Pounsett, Martin Hayter, Newton, Jarvis** and **SSgt Tait; Crew—Sig 'Paddy' McAusland, LCpl Steve Harper** and **Lt Neil Fraser.**

The season so far has been very successful for the team. A sailing course was run to introduce soldiers to helming. The next hurdle is the BAOR competition in Berlin this September. **Cpl** (now Sgt) **Hayter** is posted to Northern Ireland and **Sig McAusland** to civilian employment. Welcome to **2Lt Jim Clare** who is taking over as Sailing Officer.

VETERANS VISIT

The Regiment was extremely pleased to welcome back a party of veterans who visited us for a long weekend in June. Among the party were no less than nineteen men who had landed on the D-Day beaches with 3 Div in 1944 and though not as young as they used to be, it was clear that these sprightly and sharp-witted senior citizens thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to get together and visit 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

Arriving by coach, car and plane the veterans (some accompanied by friends or relatives) were treated to five hectic days and nights of sightseeing tours, parties, military activities and more parties.

Many of them drove armoured fighting vehicles (AFV 436) and fired the new SA80 and all enjoyed a visit to the Mohne See Sailing Club where boats and instructors were provided to give them a good day out on the lake. Luckily the weather was very kind to us and a good time was had by all watching the Officers' v Sergeants' Mess cricket match. At the end of five days, they retreated to the UK—tired but not beaten! Hopefully to return another year.

Some of the veterans with RSM Graham Reeve *(left)* Lt Col Jonathan Cook (CO 3 ADSR) and organiser WO1 (FofS) Leon Brown *(right)*

202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 16

OC	**Maj J. L. Fletcher**
2IC	**Capt M. Baines**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) McAllister**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Wayman**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Martin**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Mullins**
OC Ardennes	**Lt D. F. Kenyon**
TP SSgt	**SSgt Nelson**
OC Rhine	**SSgt Sloane**

RHINE ARMY SUMMER SHOW 89 (RASS)

Early in June, amidst the everyday calm and finely honed running of 202 Sig Sqn there was to be found the slightest hint of worry. The normally gentle and affable souls Techs, Powerman and Lineman were found huddled in Sennelager muttering 'We'll never be finished on time'. To the uninitiated observer he would of course think there was no problem providing a little power here, the odd telephone there and of course the odd bit of PA equipment, this is of course exactly as it turned out—no problem and all finished on time—just. The many miles of cable, the whole of BAOR's PA resources and an old Bruin Auto 40 all worked without a hitch thanks to the planning done by **SSgt (FofS) John Martin** and **SSgt Dave Tennick**.

As if the worry of all the above was not enough the whole Squadron, along with twenty men from 22 Sig Regt (many thanks), provided the ticket sellers for the three hot days of RASS. The sales techniques demonstrated by **LCpl Sean Wilkison** and **Sig 'Scouse' Jones** were a pleasure to behold and put a lot of car selling sharks on the main gate to shame! Everyone was encouraged to 'Have a nice day!'. The miracle was that no one got run over by the thousands of cars, bikes and pedestrians in their eagerness to raise money.

EXERCISE PRAIRIE BULL

Following hard on the heels of RASS with not enough time to collect in all the equipment it was off to sunny Soltau for a dusty week of fun. The smooth well oiled machinery went into action as we prepared to deploy from camp. **Sgt 'Stu' Layton** was the first to panic.

0730 hrs	Lowloader due to load tracks.
0800 hrs	Now sign of Lowloaders.
0815 hrs	Witch hunt begins—who booked them?
0830 hrs	Phew I knew it would be the heavy traffic.

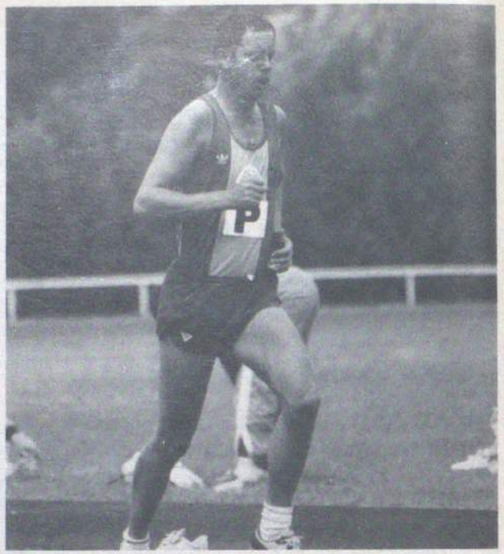
After a slightly slow start it was now important to get there in the quickest possible time. This everyone did but the Lowloaders went to one RV and the coach went to another. Was this an omen for the rest of the week? Luckily not. The exercise was soon in full swing and it was not long before Foreman **John Martin** was on the usual 30 hour stint of rewiring the panzer to find that elusive fault. He got it in the end. At this point a well done is in order as it was discovered that **LCpl Andy Lockie** now knows the difference between his Avo and the soldering iron. Quote of the week went to **SSgt Kev Nelson** who was heard to say 'I refuse to believe we have three separate antenna systems and they are all duff!' They were!

ATHLETICS

Hopes were high in all quarters that our successes in previous seasons would be repeated this year. It eventually didn't turn out that way as the Squadron donned the mantle of the Leeds United of the athletic world finishing as Minor Units runners up in both the Morrison Cup and the Division Athletics Meet.

The Morrison Cup proved to be a hard fought and even battle throughout the competition with 204 Sig Sqn. The final event arrived, the 4 × 400m relay with the Squadron requiring a second place to win the trophy. It was not to be, although the performances of **Capt 'Lyndon' Campbell-Black, Cpl 'Jock' Castle, LCpl 'Sean' Wilkinson, Sig 'Andy' Dawson** and **'Lee' Stephenson** left the team with a great deal of honour.

The 3 Armd Div athletics meet followed very much the same pattern this time, we were runners up to 3 Armd Div Fd Amb. Notable performances were given by the OC, **Maj Jo Fletcher, Cpl 'Jock' Castle** and **Sig 'Andy' Dawson**. Special mention thanks to **WO2 (YofS) 'Jeff' Hattersley**, who, as team manager, supplied motivation and enthusiasm to the athletes. It seems only fair to warn you all, we do not like second places, we shall return.



Maj 'Jon' Fletcher shows fine form on the track

WINDSURFING

With the arrival of **Maj Jo Fletcher** windsurfing goes from strength to strength. In a recent BAOR Individual Competition the honours went to **Cpl Bert Curtin** who not only won the novices competition but also walked away as the BAOR Lightweight Champion. **Maj Jo Fletcher** was second in the heavyweight class. Sadly there wasn't enough wind on the third day of the competition to hold the team event so the team had to leave without the Minor Unit team prize. In the recent BFG Competition the Squadron was hindered by the loss of the Sqn Comd (on exercise) and **Cpl Curtin** (RSDCC), but we still managed to enter a team consisting of **Sgt Jim Gray, Cpl Paul Emerson** and **Sig Scouse Jones** (who had first set foot on a board only 10 days before the event).

Due to the loss of **Maj Fletcher**'s vast range of sails and his (coffee making) mobile home the team had to battle on with their limited equipment and very limited knowledge. The outcome was a very creditable fourth position.

Due to a look of disbelief on the faces of the judges at the weight of **Sig Jones**, the team want it known that he is well over 85kg and that half of it was due to his famous legs.

INTER TROOP SPORTS

The unexpected cancellation of an exercise in early July left a week where it was felt that hard, competitive, physical pursuits should be followed instead and so the opportunity was siezed.

The week started with the introduction of the 'Half Eaton' Trophy, this to be awarded for orienteering. Many a worried face looked blankly at the black and white photostat maps and pondered ruefully how many kilometres could be achieved prior to a search party being sent out. The majority negotiated the course with only minor difficulties which resulted in a win for **Cpl Jack Payne**. SHQ Tp were the team trophy winners.

The following day the Troops assembled for the Inter Troop Cross Country Competition organised by that well known man, **Cpl 'Jock' Castle**. The worried faces of the day before were now deeply furrowed with concern as the course organiser walked around looking very pleased with himself. The competition over 7km of hard running ground was won eventually by **Sig 'Andy' Dawson** who managed to overtake both **Maj Jo Fletcher** and **Cpl 'Jock' Castle**. SHQ Tp were triumphant in the Inter Troop Trophy Competition.

Limbs and muscles of the older generation were now starting to ache and basketball was next on the agenda. The 202 version of rugby, American football and murderball all rolled into one—was certainly entertaining to watch, if a little hazardous for the players. The genuine basketball talents of players like **Sgts Jim Gray, Alan Speight** and **Mark Farrington** shone through and the eventual winners were—yes—you've guessed it, SHQ!

So on to the final fixture which would hopefully restore a more gentlemanly and restrained approach to the enthusiastic teams. The Troops felt cricket was where SHQs domination of the week would end. Unfortunately, nobody mentioned the newly arrived YofS, **WO2 Steve Wayman**, who has a better than average batting ability and promptly trounced every bowler in sight. His contribution together with sound team play gave SHQ another deserved win.

The week's events along with attempting to keep on top of normal work proved to be both hard and enjoyable. Congratulations must be passed on to all organisers. SHQ Tp beware! The Troops will be back!

EXERCISE PRAIRIE BULL 2/89

July ended with a second visit this year to the dry and dusty Soltau training area for the second Pre-BATUS exercise.

The exercise not surprisingly after the practice of only a month before went incredibly smoothly, especially considering the second team of Rhine Tp was deployed to assist them in remembering how to set up.

A number of new faces were seen in action for the first time, the most impressive of these being **WO2 (YofS) Steve Waymans** incredible feat of managing to do less in Comms Ops even less than with the RRB crews, (There certainly have never been better supplied RRBs). **Sig 'Si' Boase** is organising a pop up cardboard effigy to cover the empty seat during these excursions.

SSgt 'Nige' Sloane certainly was busy treating casualties with a stomach bug, the worst sufferer being the SSM, **WO2 'Duncan' McAllister**, however diagnosis and deduction resulted in ascertaining his movements coincided with the Bde Comd's early morning walks around the perimeter defences, 'A cure has yet to be found!'.

The exercise for **Cpl 'Jack' Payne** and **Sig 'Geordie' Knowles** was not without event. Deployed as one of the umpire vehicles, they both now understand the difficulties of working from a 436 with a hull that requires draining. This didn't deter **Cpl 'Jack' Payne**, however, and he manages not only the driver/operator role but also manages to keep his umpire straight on the finer points of the Battle Groups tactics. The final Prairie Bull of the year in August should certainly prove interesting, considering what's gone before.

The Squadron is now setting itself up for the annual assault down to Garmisch for adventure training. The wives have been convinced by their husbands that they need leave, the 'singles' have been saving hard and therefore it could well be a good two weeks.

SQUADRON BARBECUE

The decision was made, it doesn't matter how busy we are the barbecue will go ahead. Under the guidance of **SSgt Nigel Sloane** it certainly did.

It was a superb occasion and thanks go to the chefs for the excellent catering and the committee for an evening's entertainment which was second to none. The annual loudshirt competition winner was **Sgt 'Stu' Layton**.

Squadron Summer Barbecue
Left to Right: Pte 'Slops' Kennedy, Sig Morgan, 'Paddy' Gorman (seated) and Sgt John Prowse (supplying the ears)
Sig 'Frankie' Clark and LCpl 'Banzai' Clifford

204 (4 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 17

A TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**2Lt M. S. McGinty**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Egan**

HELLOS/GOODBYES

A sad farewell to **SSgt 'Gunny' Hancock**, off to UK for his last six months of service. Good luck in civvy street. Goodbye also to **Sig 'Wilksy' Wilkes**. A warm welcome to **SSgt 'Baz' Egan** and his wife **Caroline**, we hope you have an enjoyable tour.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following five, yes five Corporals in the Troop on their promotion to Sergeant: **Cpls Rab Marshall, 'Chalky' Meek, 'Paddy' Potter, Keith Balsdon** and **'Taff' Baughan**. This must be some sort of a record!

NEW ARRIVALS

Congratulations to 'Cozzy' **Cosgrove** and his wife **Jane** on the birth of their beautiful daughter **Faith**. Well done!

B TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Lt C. McIntosh**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Stoddart**

HELLOS/GOODBYES

Quite a change over of personalities since our last entry and it is regrettable that we have to say goodbye and good luck to the following people: **Cpl 'Nige' Donohue**, although only going to the other side (A Troop). His organising talents will be sorely missed, also **Nicky**'s culinary talents. **LCpl 'Yafs' Yafai** and his wife **Wendy** posted to Berlin. **LCpl Jim Hawkins**, soon to be posted to 30 Regt.

Sig Stevie Welland off to 7 Sig Regt, **Sig Bill Pirrie** relaxing with 16 Sig Regt in the RCZ, and last but not least a sad farewell to the Squadron artist (felt pens and pencils) **Sig 'H' Hodgkins** and his wife **Sharon**, leaving us to go to civvy street. On a brighter note a big hello to the following arrivals: **LCpls 'Scott' Cain, 'JT' Thomas**, from the other side, also **Sig 'Huey' Green** and **'Fads' Fadzilah**. Hope their tour here is a good one.

BATUS ATTACHMENT

For the month of May **Lt McIntosh** was attached to 17/21 Lancers for Ex Medicine Man 1. Here is his report on the exercise in Canada:

Ex Medicine Man is a live firing Battle Group Exercise that takes place nine times a year near Calgary in Canada.

During the build up phases of the exercise I worked in the Battle Group Operations room controlling the movement and safety of all BG vehicles on the enormous range. Since I was itching to get out onto the prairie my job was soon changed to escorting the NATO observers. This was enjoyable and very educational since it meant that I had an excellent view of the battles and could also listen to all 'I' Groups and radio nets. I was then attached to No 3 Coy 1 Gren Gds for a short while. During this period I took part in exercises on the Battle Innoculation Range, live firing, trench busting and section defensive shoots. This was followed by a few days with D Coy 2 Para which was eye opening (to say the least), although new to the mechanised infantry role the Paras were still doing the business as expected!

From the Infantry I moved on to four days with the Gunners out in the field. This answered my question as to why artillery support is not always as instant as most of us would expect it to be. Loading 96lb shells is no easy task and the M109's and Abbots are not the most automated pieces of kit. Still staying with the Gunners I visited the Fire Direction Centre (FDC) which controls and co-ordinates the two Gun Batteries on the exercise. After a good sleep at the FDC I returned back to Camp Crowfoot and then on to visit all the other major callsigns that make up the BG, including the Immediate Replenishment Group (IRG) of the RCT, the Forward Repair Group (FRG) of the REME, the Equipment Collection Point (ECP), and the Mortar Platoon, Milan Platoon and Reece Tp.

BATUS proved to be an excellent attachment and it has opened my eyes to the large and complex make up of a BG. My thanks to 17/21L for looking after me so well during such an interesting exercise.

ATTACHMENT TO D COY 2 PARA

'Who wants a swan in Canada?'

'We do'; the we being **Cpl Taff Baughan, LCpls Mac McGibbon, Chris Tearle, Sig Simmo Simpson, Scott Soulsby** and **Cfn Neil Baillie**.

What we were not told was that we also had to do three weeks 432 driving on sunny Soltau with D Coy 2 Para before departing for Canada. On Soltau we learnt about tactical driving that would be required at BATUS.

On 28 April we travelled to BATUS with **Cpl Baughan** and **Sig Soulsby** in the advance party. Once there we were thrown straight into vehicle handover/takeover which took us two whole days to complete. The exercise took the form of Section/Platoon attacks culminating on the last day of the first phase with a Company attack. The second phase was a mixture of Company/Squadron attacks with A Sqn 17/21L again ending with a Company/Squadron group attack. The final phase was a complete Battle Group exercise which ended with an attack on a village using two mechanised Infantry Battalions, one Squadron of tanks, artillery and engineers. This was *very* impressive. During the whole exercise all the ammunition was live, which gave a whole new dimension to 'simulated' casualties.

Once the exercise was over it was time to look back and laugh at some of the 'good' times we had had; times like **LCpl McGibbon**'s three pack lifts in 36 hours and **Sig Simpson**'s pack fire in a MkI (petrol) 432 carrying 3,000 live rounds!

After the busy time of handing over the vehicles to the next BG it was time for a well earned four days R & R when the whole BG scattered across Canada with only one thing on our minds—'Sight Seeing' (I lied).

With the R & R over, it was back to Muenster, for RSIT and a rest! Ex Medicine Man 1 was certainly an experience, a great laugh and an eye opener and we are now the most experienced cross country 432 drivers in the Squadron.

Attachment to D Coy 2 Para

EXERCISE TROODOS TRIANGLE

A canoe expedition or a cheap way to visit Cyprus?—Both. In May the unit mounted a canoeing expedition to Cyprus. All costings were made on the basis that CNFP flights would not be authorised. Over DM4,000 was given in grants from all sources to pay for civilian flights, but providence played its part (helped by **Padre Shaun Scanlon** who accompanied the team) and CNFP flights were granted. Consequently the expenses were moderate.

On arrival in Cyprus the expedition team was met by a representative from the sponsor unit B Sqn 17/21L which sorted out the administrative requirements. The qualified canoe instructors were provided by 9 Sig Regt in the form of **LCpls Manson** and **Netherwood**. The first few days were spent learning paddle techniques and practising capsize drills against the luscious backdrop of Happy Valley.

The next stage was the canoe expedition phase which lasted seven days with the team starting at Paphos on the West coast and canoeing around the tip of Akamas to finish at Kato Yialia. The conditions at sea varied from calm to very rough. **LCpl Hedley** developed a taste for salt due to his frequent involuntary capsizes. Meanwhile, **Sig Gillhespey** was nicknamed 'dizzy' because he found it easier to canoe in circles rather than go straight ahead. Others such as **Cpl Balsdon** simply made sure they did not miss the opportunity to soak up as much sunshine as possible—it's good for the bones of course! At night the team lived alfresco, pitching tent on the beach and dining on barbecues, all courtesy of **Cpl Keany**, camp NCO.

Alas, all good things come to an end and so too did Ex Troodos Triangle. There were a couple of days R & R prior to the flights back to BAOR. However, **Pte Davies** of the RPC Defence Section liked Cyprus so much he stayed an extra three weeks, as he suffered a broken leg during a sightseeing trip around the island.

Team Photo

Back row (left to right): LCpl Gardiner, Pte Davies, Padre Scanlon and Sig Gillhespey

Front row (left to right): Cpl Balsdon, Gdsm Coyne, LCpl Hedley, CSgt Kitchen and SSgt Tanner

206 (6 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 106

BATTLE CAMP

In an imaginative departure from tradition the Regiment held a Summer Battle Camp at Vogelsang. The Squadron consented to go along if only to show the others how it should be done. Surprisingly everybody enjoyed the week, the highlight of which was a visit by Comd 6 Armd Bde, **Brig McAfee**. Other diversions included getting up an hour before everybody else for PT with **Sgt John Anderson** and poetic ramblings on the sunrise by **SSgt (SQMS) Jeff Treen**.

The competitive spirit filled us all to such an extent that even the OC and **Capt Vyv Thatcher**, 2IC, were seen on the assault course.

A hard fought Inter-Troop Competition was won finally by Bravo Tp, proving once and for all that they are harder than anybody else. Special mention must go to all the young signalmen who kept their sense of humour throughout and excelled at everything they tried.

EXERCISE SCREE SLOPE
6 BRIGADE FORWARD HEADQUARTERS (B TROOP)

Ex Scree Slope was an HQ BAOR comms exercise involving a small element of the Troop. The Squadron deployed on Monday 5 June, splitting up to form two Headquarters. Arriving in location the Troop was surprised to see **LCpl Steve** 'I couldn't keep my eyes off it' **Emmett** actually putting up a mast. It was good thing endex was called early or he might have worn himself out.

B TROOP CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to **Cpls John Farnell, Tony Mellet** and **'Buck' Rogers** for coming off the board. Further down the line congratulations to **'Titch' Sheard** on his elevation to LCpl.

4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

Since the end of the exercise season almost every piece of equipment, vehicle, radio or weapon has been poked, prodded and inspected! With that behind us the fun activities such as Regimental Open Days, Site Guard and adventurous training began.

1 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

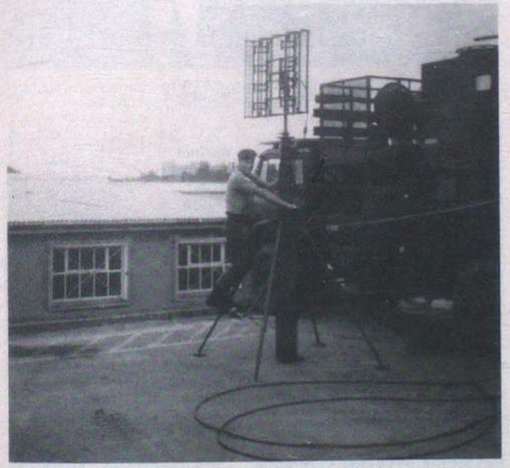
OC	**Maj Gordon Rafferty**
2IC	**Capt Nick Borrill**
OC P Tp	**Lt Tony Picknell**
OC C Tp	**2Lt Owen Bryant**
OC J Tp	**Lt Graham Addley**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Alf Ramsey**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Dave Brogden RA Signals**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Chas Ward**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Mick Purves**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Tony Perryman**

GENERAL

Ex Scree Slope demanded a full Squadron deployment during the first two weeks of June, although surprisingly the commitment was reduced to one trunk node after only a week in the field (naturally TN 044 'volunteered' to remain out!) The early return to barracks proved very popular, as it provided an extra few days preparation for the annual RSIT visit, in July.

All Troops put in a commendable amount of work towards the inspection, which was evident from the good RSIT report. Fortunately the weather during the preparation period remained on our side, making the task that much more bearable.

Additional Squadron commitments have included Ex Mini Mash, with **Sgt Dave Purnell** taking 15 'volunteers' to play casualties for 204 General Hospital RAMC (V)—a border patrol led by **2Lt Owen Bryant** and **Sgt Kev Jenkins**—and two storage Site Guards; one under the command of **Cpl Dave Watson** and the other under **Cpl Ray Perks**.



LCpl Steve Ridley prepares for the onslaught of RSIT

EXERCISE GALLIC QUADRANT

Despite all the pressures of work, seven members of the Squadron, under the direction of **Lt Andy Smith**, managed to fit in a canoeing adventure training exercise based around the Ardeche, in the Provence region of France. The group included **Sgt Tatman** (ACU Instructor), **Cpl Donovan, LCpls Alex Hurst, Gordon Kynoch** and **Sig Mark Hobson**.

The main aim was to conquer the white waters of the Ardeche from Vogue to St Martin-d'Ardeche.

The first canoeing took place on Sunday 18 June, en route to France, with a run down the EisKanal Olympic slalom course. Following **Sgt Tatman** into the water with a side seal entry, the intrepid seven moved off to negotiate their first challenge. Surprisingly all completed the course in one piece, which promoted confidence. And so to Garmisch, the next stretch of water to be tackled was the Loisack, leading to the Cathedral rapid. Being fast flowing, narrow and a technical grade 3, it proved quite a problem for the more inexperienced paddlers, resulting in many capsizes and a general blow to morale. However after a long, strenuous day all was put right with a visit to a local restaurant. And so to the Ardeche.

The next few days were spent fulfilling the initial aims, with canoeing from Roums to Vallon Pont-d'Arch and variations. The Ardeche Gorge itself (a 30km paddle) provided some magnificent scenery and a number of interesting rapids.

The final canoeing took place on the Durance river which lies in the Dauphine region, close to the Italian border. This water provided some of the most exciting canoeing of the expedition with a strong current and continuous rapids over the lower half. Unfortunately, it all had to come to an end on 30 June with the return trip to Herford—but it was a totally satisfying and successful two weeks.

Sgt Tatman demonstrates a few techniques whilst LCpl Alex Hurst fights off the opposition

INTER TROOP COMPETITIONS

The Squadron remains well placed in the on-going Troop competitions, with a win from Panther Tp in the volley ball.

The Captain, **Cpl Jim Dyer** maintained a tight control over his squad; **WO2 (SSM) Peter Halstead, Cpl Dougie Piper, Sgt Pete Hodson, Cpl Bill Medland** and **Cpl Steve Townsend**, ensuring victory in the final against the LAD.

There were also fine performances from the Troops in the CO's monthly Shooting Competition Ex Quick Kill. Jaguar Tp put up a fine fight, with **Sig Hayward** and **Sig Williams** achieving high scores on the pistol shoot. Let's hope subsequent shoots are as successful.

HELLOS AND FAREWELLS

The Squadron welcomes the new SSM, **WO2 (SSM) Alf Ramsey** and his wife **Rose, Cpl Wayne Sturley, LCpls John Lagden, Ian Ballinger, Cliff Marker, Sig Nick Greenwood** and **Andy Castile**. We say farewell to **WO2 Peter Halstead** who is posted to Harrogate, and to **Lt Andy Smith** and **Sgt Dave Shaw** who will soon be in civvy street. Best wishes to them all for the future.

2 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Mike Dent MBE**
2IC/Ops Offr	**Capt Alistair Ross**
OC A1 (Papa) Tp	**2Lt Damian Quinn**
OC A3 (Radio) Tp	**Lt John Charnock**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Bill Kelly**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Mick Baron**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Pete Stoddart**
Tech SSgt	**SSgt John Jamieson**
MT Sgts	**Sgt Kev Enfield**
	Sgt John McGowan

UPDATE

The Squadron has been involved in numerous activities, the more notable being Ex 'Staff Ride' when each Troop provided the manpower and administrative expertise to run two stands for the Comd 1 (BR) Corps annual 'TEWT'. Four deployments of the Defensive EW team to monitor Brigade and Unit level exercises, the organisation, supervision and manpower in support of CINCENT's, briefing by the GOC 4 Armd Div Ex 'Scree Slope', and last but by no means least preparation for the annual RSIT inspection and REME Tels PRE held concurrently during the period 3-17 July. The results of both inspections showed that 'time spent in preparation is seldom wasted' and the Squadron was congratulated by both teams on the very high standards achieved. The takeover of the new garages by A1 (Papa) Tp has meant that for the first time their 'panzers' are now under cover and working conditions are as per other Troops in the Regiment. Coming up are Site Guard, adventure training, Ex 'Potent Gauntlet' and Ex 'Second Summit'.

SHQ TROOP

Since the last issue the Troop has been busy supporting Squadron, Troop and Detachment sized deployments. During Ex 'Scree Slope' the SOinC, **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook**, paid a visit to the Squadron en route to 11 Bde. The technicians, **SSgt John Jamieson, Sgt Steve Cherry, Cpls Steve Witty, Pete Ross, LCpls 'JC' Cartmell, Dave Hickson** and **'Al' Murrell** have been working overtime repairing, inspecting and preparing for RSIT and REME Tels PRE and the final excellent reports reflected the hard-work and long hours put in by them all.

HELLOS AND FAREWELLS

Recent arrivals have included **Sig 'Adie' Priestley** from A1 (Papa) Tp, our apprentice clerk, and **Sig Martin Porter** and wife **Susan** from Regimental MT together with their newly arrived twins, **Gemma** and **Stacey**. We say farewell to **Sig 'Spike' Brooks** off to HQ NORTHAG and **Sig Ken Broadwell** off to 'sunny' Northern Ireland. The best of luck to them both.

A1 (PAPA) TROOP

The main event has been Ex 'Scree Slope'and Ex 'Whirlygig'. Although only the Comms complex with SHQ admin support deployed it was very useful for new members of the Troop to get into the swing of things, especially those who have never seen an AFV before! Ex 'Whirlygig' became more of a static exercise and alternative entertainment had to be organised. Thanks to our Chef **Cpl Al Long** who organised an impromptu barbecue for the 'no move' weekend.

Our return to barracks was the signal for the start of the vehicle and equipment maintenance period culminating with RSIT, REME Tels, Vehicle and Weapons PREs. This was greatly assisted by our move into the new garages on 4 July. **Sgt Steve Talbot** is now fully ensconced in his 'cage' and is fed regularly. We can now dispense with the AFV Ice Climbing Course for new arrivals and look forward to a warm, dry winter in our new home.

Finally our congratulations go to **LCpl Dave** and **Anita Rooney** on the arrival of their baby daughter **Charlotte**.

2Lt Damian Quinn, Sgt Mark Richmond and Ken Enfield trying to breathe life into the barbecue

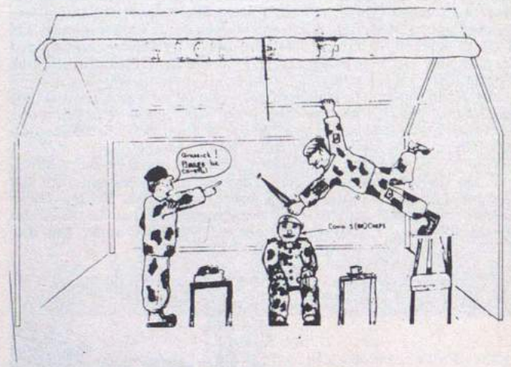
A3 (RADIO) TROOP

As usual life here at the epicentre of 4 Div has been very busy. We have recently welcomed **Cpls Andy Harriott** from 6 Armd Bde and **Ian Spruce** from 20 Armd Bde and **Sig Neil Llewellyn** who returned from his 'holiday' in South Georgia. Farewells to **Sig Pat Shalley** to A1 Tp, **Sig Tim Clemens** to South Georgia, **LCpl Jim Lyons** to 14 Sig Regt, **Sig Paddy Porter** and family to 21 Sig Regt and **Sig Chas Challiner** who is off to BATUS for six months.

Our rent-a-det men, **LCpls Steve Schneider, Martin** 'Porky' **Hobbs** and **'Andy' Gibb** have been away on various tasks which have led to an overall improvement in **Steve Schneider**'s barbecue skills. **LCpl Jim Parson** and **Sig 'Crabby' Crabbe** of 'Comsec Tours Ltd' have deployed to enjoy the wildlife and scenery of Soltau. In June the Troop was split to provide rebros for Ex 'Scree Slope' and tent coffee/scenery technicians for the use of those on Ex 'Staff Ride'.

Five weeks later we were again producing a stand this time for CINCENT, **Gen Von Sandrat. Cpl 'Toms' Thompson** managed to get his maths wrong resulting in the arrival of three tents instead of five, **Staff Nicholls** apoplectic outburst succeeded in noticeably warming the cool night air, but it was all right on the day — thank goodness!

Our Troop sea-dogs **Lt Charnock** and **Sig Scourfield** have been off splicing the mainbrace in the Baltic. **LCpl Imrie** is currently helping to 'pressgang' CCF into the Regular Army in Cultybraggan, whilst **Sig Jock Fawcett** was away qualifying as an RMA 3, no mean feat or should it be feet? The Troop say a fond farewell to **LCpl Jim Parson** whose excellent, professional and soldierly assets will be sorely missed by the Troop (he is, of course, the author of this piece!)



Grassick hanging about

3 SQUADRON

OC	**Maj Rick Barfoot**
2IC	**Capt Barry Williams**
OC A Tp	**Lt Paul Vingoe**
OC N Tp	**Lt Vinay Pandya**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) John Sommerville**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Steve Holt**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) 'Minnie' Minton**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Ron Woodger**
MT Sgt	**Sgt South**

HELLO AND FAREWELL

The Squadron says farewell to **WO2 (SSM) John** and **Marie Dent, SSgt (SQMS) Ian** and **Elaine Selkirk, SSgt (YofS) 'Chippy'** and **Gudren Wood** and **Sgt 'Spud'** and **Sue Murphy**. Those who remain extend a warm welcome to **WO2 (SSM) John** and **Shirley Sommerville, SSgt (SQMS) Ron** and **Ulricke Woodger, SSgt (YofS) Steve** and **Gail Holt** and **Sgt South**. We say farewell to Line and Bravo Tps which have been amalgamated into November Tp.

EXERCISE CONTEH COURIER

Recently the Regiment held an Open Day which, besides being a fun event, was the culmination of Ex Conteh Courier. This was a fund raising event organised by 3 Sqn in aid of British and German Cancer Research.

The tragedy of cancer had been graphically illustrated to the Squadron when one of our youngest members, **Sig Robert Conteh** was brought home diagnosed as having lung and bone cancer. As a result of this he was posted back to the United Kingdom for treatment earlier this year. The aim of the exercise was to carry a message, an air ticket kindly donated by SAFAIR, to **Robert**'s home in Liverpool over land, sea and air using as many forms of transport as possible.

The event was started by the Mayor of Herford, **Herr Klippstein**, in the Jahn stadium in the city. Having presented a contribution on behalf of the Herford Stadt, **Herr Klippstein** handed the message to the members of the Squadron who started with a sponsored run around Herford.

The exercise then unfolded as follows: the overland phase saw another sponsored run from Herford to Sennelager, some 100km. The message was later carried by a selection of the Squadron's vehicles including an armoured staff vehicle. The White Helmets also played a part by collecting the message from the Blue Helmets who dropped in during one of their displays at the Rhine Army Summer Show. At another stage the message was carried by a Gazelle. On the water it was carried across the Dummersee by windsurfer and dinghy and across the channel by P & O Ferries who kindly donated a free passage. Finally it arrived on **Robert Conteh**'s doorstep delivered by **Lt Col David Gardiner**, CO of 33 Sig Regt (V).

Robert Conteh then flew to Herford where he took a full part in the Regimental Open Day. This included joining the Squadron's 'It's A Knockout' team and drawing the winning raffle ticket for a free Austin Rover Mini City. At the end of the day over DM 6,000 was raised for British and Germany Cancer Research and a cheque was handed to **Robert Conteh** by **Lt Col Tony Raper MBE**, CO of the Regiment.

Robert continues to undergo treatment and after another few months of therapy he will hopefully be back on the road to a full recovery.

The commencement of Ex Conteh Courier. Herr Klippstein, Mayor of Herford hands a message to LCpl Riley

The OC Blue Helmets presents the message to OC White Helmets after parachuting from 12,000ft at the Rhine Army Summer Show

LINE (NOVEMBER) TROOP

Monday 3 July saw an event that we believe may be unique in the history of Royal Signals. Since 4 Armd Div was raised in 1907 there has always been a Line Tp within it; today it disbanded and joined with Bravo Tp to form November Tp.

The Troop marked the occasion with a formal parade which the CO and RSM attended as guests. After a very very short speech by **Cpl Jimmy Gray**, the Last Post was played by **LCpl Rick Guild** (16/5 Lancers) whilst the Troop sign was lowered from its position above the Line bay doors by **Sig 'Isaac' Newton** (who incidentally had only arrived that day) and **Sig Tony Hughes**.

After the presentation by **Lt Col Raper MBE** of Regimental plaques bearing the inscription 'The Last Line Troop' all Troop members and guests retired to the Line bay for refreshments organised by **Lt Charnock** of 2 Sqn.

Line Tp parades for the last time

LEAVING THE SERVICES SHORTLY?

GCHQ REQUIRE EXPERIENCED AERIAL RIGGERS

Government Communications Headquarters is located in Cheltenham at the heart of the Cotswolds and is involved in the research and development for production of wide ranging communications equipment and aerial systems. Aerial Riggers are offered challenging and varied work involving anything from small HF arrays to large satellite antenna. Candidates would be based in Cheltenham, where initial training will be given, after which staff will be expected to carry out aerial erection and maintenance duties elsewhere in the UK and overseas on a detached duty basis.

Applicants should have a minimum of 5 years rigging experience with an up to date working knowledge of rigging techniques. Age preferably between 25 and 50. A medical examination will be a condition of appointment and regular check-ups required thereafter.

Salaries range from £8929 to £9699 depending on experience and are reviewed annually in October. Following versatility training further increments can bring salary to a maximum of £10,644 p.a. Detached duty visits are a regular feature of the job and attract overtime and other allowances.

ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE OF BRITISH NATIONALITY.

CLOSE DATE for receipt of completed applications 27 October 1989.

Write or telephone for application forms to: Recruitment Office, Room A/1108, GCHQ, Priors Road, Cheltenham, Glos GL52 5AJ. TELEPHONE: Cheltenham (0242) 232912/3

GCHQ

200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 41

200 SIGNAL SQUADRON BATTLE CAMP
EXERCISE FIGHTING FIST
by Lt J. D. Forrest

A pretty country scene: a wooded hill with attractive nature walks and the odd deer or two wandering about minding their own business. This picture of quiescence, south of Einbeck was rudely awakened one sunny morning in May when the 'Screaming 200' arrived in a convoy of 4 tonners, ready to do battle without scaring the locals too much.

DAY 1

We all arrived there in one piece and in the right place. Not a bad achievement as **Lt Brett Appleby** led the packet. Split into nine Sections, we started the 8km battle march over to the other side of the hill. Just as we all thought that subalterns' map reading really had improved, **Lt Jim Forrest** and his pupil **Cpl Woody Woodhouse** gave us back our faith in our judgement by taking an extra 3km detour. Well, it was a nice day for a stroll . . . **Lt Forrest**, we're still waiting for the beers.

When all the teams finally arrived, for the rest of the day we completed a series of stands including map reading, Aikido, first aid and battle craft. Our thanks go to **SSgt Campbell** from 1 Sqn in Herford, who helped us out with NBC and **Cpl Smudge Smith** 4/7 DG for his Aikido.

After moving into a company harbour area the previous evening, the sections set off to complete more stands, one of the most popular being watermanship. A refreshing dip into the river, to take out the sweat of the previous days activities. Nobody drowned and our thanks go to the instructors from 1 QLR for their help.

Sig Billy Duggan, Cpls Baz Brooks and **Mo Howarth** gained joint first place in Blister of the Year. A special award goes to **Sig Taff Thomas** for his acting performance with the tinc benz solution application. **Sgt Phil** 'The Exterminator' **Langley RAMC** notched up some 20 blisters on his office door—a good kill rate for three days.

Platoon patrol bases and patrols kept the Troops entertained for the night.

The third day and our luxury two hours of kip was well appreciated. At 0500 hrs **SSgt 'Big Bad Bob' Shortis** announces we have been attacked by a crack section of 1 Pl, led by **Cpl Ian Spruce**.

We heard no bangs and assumed that someone was having us on. No, Staff is always right and we bug out from the 'campsite'. More training in the form of stands took place this time culminating in a section competition at night. This involved first aid and a snatch patrol against the Sqn Comd **Maj Dennis Mills** who was the 'willing' guinea pig. 2 Section noted for their kidnapping efforts are rumoured to be marketing their efforts for the gangs in Southern Italy through the **SSgt (SQMS) 'Mick the Spick' Ara** advertising agency.

A final Inter-Section speed march finished the exercise and was won by the team led by **Sgt Colin Day RAPC**. After a great deal of hard work and grit, that would have made John Wayne proud of the men of 6 Section led by **Cpl Taff Francis** who, despite the walking wounded reminiscent of a scene of the Somme, completed the course together as a team.

The only question outstanding is: Would anyone have qualified for an Oscar?

Cpl 'Johnny Death' Dobbins remains cool despite the pressure

Sig Jamie Hart takes a breather during the advance to contact

200 SIGNAL SQUADRON WIVES BATTLE CAMP
EXERCISE FIGHTING FIST II
Report by Mrs Anne Mills

It started off as a rather vague idea. I wondered if the girls would enjoy a short Battle Camp to see if these wild stories their husbands tell them about their exercises might be true? I was amazed when I received so many 'yes' replies and even more amazed when I learnt what they really wanted to do. Cries of wanting to dig trenches, do patrols, guards, assault courses, drive everything they could get their hands on and many more crazy things.

The great day arrived. At 1400 hrs the Squadron new 'recruits' formed up. What a sight. Little time was wasted calling the roll, forming into three ranks, slapping on cam cream and eventually departing to a local training area.

On arrival in the exercise area, the transport 'broke down' requiring an unexpected 2km walk to the location where the next 24 hours would be spent. Various demonstrations followed from how to dig trenches, cook army rations and generally survive in the field. There were numerous cries of 'you can not be serious' when shovels were handed out and shouts of 'get digging' were heard from the long suffering Section NCOs, **Cpl Francis, LCpls Sorbie** and **Simcox**. However having completed some excellent trenches the ladies put up some weird and wonderful bashas in their emergency crash out locations. This was followed by a very tactical bonfire and barbecue where an air of expectancy prevailed. Intelligence sources reported that the enemy was lurking nearby. Sure enough at 0030 hrs an enemy attack disturbed the barbecue. After a brave fight the sensible thing to do was bug out.

Earlier on in the evening the following sorts of statements were heard: 'Think I'll stay up all night.' 'I am *not* sleeping on the floor.' 'I really could not sleep tonight if I wanted to.' At 0200 hrs having finally arrived at their bashas there was a dash for sleeping bags. By 0210 hrs there was little sound or movement around the 'campsite'.

0600 hrs yet another attack! This time an AFV 432 joined the battle. Actually it was all a ploy for **Sgt Russell**, our ever romantic RPC SNCO, to deliver a bunch of flowers to his wife on their anniversary. Her comments on receiving the flowers while she was lying in a very uncomfortable stand-to position are unprintable; you can never please some women!

Squadron Wives Club before Ex Fighting Fist II

So far the ladies thought this was all a bit too easy. However, the events of the next four hours proved extremely busy. The assault course involved (for most) a swim in a mud pond eight yards wide, there were trips in APCs and landrovers. And the fun did not stop there. Other events involved stretcher patients being turned upside down and stood on their heads. All to prove you can tie somebody (yes, the Section NCOs) to a stretcher. Pushing trailers over a rough course completed the competition won by Section 3 with the others close on their heels.

The husbands were left behind to babysit and they were all slightly amazed to see their wives return in such a muddy state. For once the post exercise washing was their problem. An award ceremony completed the exercise with certificates presented to all those listed below. It is to their credit that never a complaint was heard, plenty of laughter was, and all the tasks set for the ladies were completed. Well done to them all.

Section 1	Section 2	Section 3
Mrs Purnell	Mrs Weeks	Mrs Duggan
Mrs Wills	Mrs McAlpine	Mrs Howarth
Mrs Cockburn	Mrs Inglesant	Mrs Avins
Mrs Russell	Mrs Bedford	Mrs Lewis
Mrs Clayton	Mrs Warren	Mrs Brooks
Mrs Griffiths	Mrs Morrin	Mrs Cleary

COMD COMMS VISIT
by Cpl Weeks

The Squadron's military training day coincided with the visit of Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps **Brig Waugh**. Various stands were set up to test all aspects of military training. These included a command task, NBC, SA 80 (dry training and live firing), a very painful Aikido stand, bayonet practice and an assault course followed by a three mile run with various 'Fun' activities on route.

The command tasks went OK with nobody being electrocuted or eaten by giant man eating sharks.

The NBC stand was somewhat unusual. A casualty was placed on a stretcher then taken to a decontamination tent. Because of the lack of Fullers earth a bucket of flour was used instead. This lead to **Sig 'Billy' Duggan** and **Sig** 'anyone seen some keys' **Mitchell** looking like an advert for Homepride.

With the loan of the SA 80 from 2 R Irish, each Section went through the dry training before going to the 30m range. The verdict? 'Excellent'. **LCpl Purnell** was heard to mutter 'I want one' after each round fired.

Then Comd Comms arrived in time to watch 3 Section go into the bayonet practice stand. As each man charged at the target with a blood curdling yell, you could see the dummies shivering in their stands. Although **Sig 'Al' Stevens** (combat clerk) could only manage a whimper, **Brig Waugh** was suitabilty impressed with the lads.

In the Aikido stand we were all shown how to hurt other people properly. After several minutes of bending and twisting thumbs and hands in all directions, everybody agreed that hurting people was better than being hurt. **Cpl 'Ray' Pritchard** was the only one who wanted to stay and 'hurt more people'.

The big event was the assault course and run, run by **SSgt** 'Me old china' **Cleary**. As each man bounded round the assault course it was clear that two of them didn't like heights. With the time slipping away, it took a lot of team work to get **LCpl** 'Bunny' **Warren** and **Sig** 'Porky' **Morton** off the 20ft scramble net. After the assault course came the 3 mile run. The first of the 'Fun' activities was running around with full jerry cans of water, pulling a trailer up and down a small circuit. Of course life isn't all that simple. The trailer needed a wheel change and the water was over 100m away. With that task suitably completed, on to the next. Reversing a trailer with a 3/4 tonne Land Rover which has a turning circle of 7 miles is not as easy as it looks. However **Sig 'Taff' Thomas** did a grand job. The problem was the Land Rover had to be towed to the start, by yes you guessed it the Section. Anyway, on to the next. This one looked the simplest. Stand a telegraph pole in a small hole in the ground and one person climbs up while the others hold it steady. Easy? No! It took **LCpl 'Taff' Lewis** and his rubber knees finally to make it to the top. The last 'Fun' activity was the track bash, easy compared with the telegraph pole.

The winning Section? Section 3 led by **Cpl 'Gunter' Weeks** with a time of 49 minutes. Closely followed by 1 Section led by **Cpl Ian Spruce** with 55 minutes and Section 2 in third place.

With all the events over everybody settled down to a barbecue lunch while **Brig Waugh** had a chance to speak to most of the lads before leaving.

211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 29

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj Ken Hadfield**
2IC	**Capt Mark Alexander**
OC A	**Lt Ian Lawrence**
OC B	**Lt Bert Appleton**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Roger Fairfield**
YofS	**SSgt (FofS) Mal Thomas**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Mick Herbison**
Chief Clerk	**Sgt Graham Pollard BEM**

Having survived the winter months the Squadron was looking forward with anticipation to spring and a new exercise season. Most of April was taken up with Ex Flying Falcon and after a quick turn around the Squadron was straight into two week's Battle Camp at Vogelsang. Also during this period we saw the change over of Brigade Commanders.

NEW BRIGADE COMMANDER

Brig J. J. Phipps paid his farewell visit to the Unit on 29 March and the new Commander **Brig I. C. MacKay-Dick** visited the Unit on 6 April and toured the Squadron. During the tour, the Recce Officer **Capt Mark Alexander** was heard to say 'if only we had such a flat and easily accessible location every time'. No doubt he was thinking about some future Flying Falcon.

EXERCISE FLYING FALCON

The exercise proved to be a fast moving one with long moves, testing both the stamina of the crews and the vehicles. Both proved able to cope.

WO2 (SSM) Fairfield briefs the Squadron on Ex Flying Falcon

BATTLE CAMP

With four days to turn around the Troops went into two weeks Battle Camp at Vogelsang. It provided military training and removed some of the cobwebs from the soldiers military skills ability.

211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn assembled at Vogelsang

ORIENTEERING

The Squadron entered teams in both the 4 Div Championships and the BAOR Championships and did very well in both. The team consisting of **WO2 (YofS) Whytock, SSgt Barnard, SSgt (FofS) Thomas** and **Sig Rawlings** won the 4 Div Minor Units event and came runners up in the BAOR event. Well done.

4 Armd Div Minor Units Orienteering Champions 1989
Left to Right: Sig Rawlings, WO2 (YofS) Whytock, SSgt Barnard and SSgt (FofS) Thomas

FRENCH COMMANDO COURSE

During the period of 29 May-23 June 1989 two of the youngest members of the Squadron, **Sig Hewitt** and **Petrie** jumped at the opportunity! to do the French Commando Course with 43 Ord Coy.

The course was both physically and mentally demanding. The first week being a beat-up held at 43 Ord Coy including several bergen runs with weapons and stretchers and practising for the entrance test. This was an 8km bergen run in 50 mins followed by a 5m rope climb without using legs and then 25 situps and 15 press ups.

The course itself was held in Briesach (France). The first week consisted of individual skills including rock climbing, abseiling, aerial assault courses, explosives, escape and evasion, tunnel warfare and hand to hand combat. Everything had to be done at night and wearing bergens.

The second week was similar except that it involved team work; including river crossings using Zodiacs, building bridges and also jungle warfare whch was mainly climbing through swamps. The culmination of the course was an exercise involving a tab through the Black Forest over 110kms involving French war techniques, blowing of bridges and tanks and basic survival. Three days were given to complete the course. Those surviving were presented with the French Commando Badge. We now have three qualified Commandos and doubtless unresolved arguments will ensure as to who is the better trained—the 2IC Sqn—British trained, or **Sig Hewitt** and **Petrie**—French trained.

ARRIVALS

We extend a warm welcome to **SSgt Trulove, Sgts Coburn, Baxter, Rhodes, Cpls Dillet, Sullivan, LCpls Bowers, Byrn, Falconer, Goodall, Pte Collins, Cfns Jones, Nutter, Sig Dellano, Hewitt** and **Keelty** who have all arrived recently.

DEPARTURES

Farewells to **Lt Bradshaw, Sgts Cook, Watson, Cpl Sutcliffe, LCpl Morten, Sig Constable, Digweed, Lee** and **Rushton**. All are thanked for the hard work put in during the respective tours within the Unit.

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FOCUS ON 4 SQUADRON
SUMMER CAMP ADVENTURE TRAINING
NESSELWANG BAVARIA

Our journey started on 17 May at 2300 hrs when we set off on the Midnight Express with our three Bedfords. Training was in four groups; rock climbing, canoeing, windsurfing and trekking. Everyone had chosen their particular activity beforehand so there was no time wasted in sorting that out.

CLIMBING

Capt Ivan Hooper and **LCpl Steve Hinton** were paragons of patience during the daunting task of teaching us the rudiments of climbing.

The first day started fairly easily with a basic introduction to the various types of gear we would use. We were also introduced to Top Roping and Belaying with climbs ranging in grade from very difficult to severe. By the end of the day we were conversant with some of the climbers vocabulary—especially the word 'below'.

Capt Hooper revealed the brilliant technique of abseiling. Over the two days we managed several more climbs a lot more descents using different methods and also upgraded ourselves to Hard-Severe.
several more climbs a lot more descents using different methods and also upgraded ourselves to Hard-Severe.

Our experience and confidence increased over the week until, on days eight and nine we were assessed. Everyone did well with no real problems and the pressure was now off. The next day was the best of the course as we all got to set up our own climbs. All of us felt that we had conquered our own little Everest.

WINDSURFING

The windsurfer's time was mainly spent on Lake 'Gruntasee'. Unfortunately it was filthy and there was a real fear of drowning in sewage.

After learning the rudiments, **LCpls Stothers, Cohen, Sig Collins** and **Sgt Hayfield** struck out. After getting used to the boards which took sometime and a few duckings all of us managed to stay on our boards for at least 30 secs.

Over the next few days we got plenty of practice apart from, perhaps, **Sig Collins** who spent most of his time pulling himself and his board around the lake.

Fortunately we managed to surf on the (very clean) Lake Alpsee or 'Topless Lake'. This was more like it, wind, women and a dry instructor; perfect conditions for perfect results. In the end **Sig Collins** did eventually learn to stay on board and become quite a good windsurfer.

CANOEING

The first day of canoeing meant the dreaded swimming test and the loss of ones self respect in the freezing water! When we had recovered, the basics were taught by **Capt Ross** and **WO2 (SSM) Hilton**. Most found it difficult to keep in a straight line while others simply capsized but by the end of the day everyone was getting the hang of it.

Highlights of the course included shooting the weir. It was an experience for all of us but **Sig Oldfield** has not been the same since. After ferry gliding across the top of the weir he seemed to get bored and ended up bouncing down the weir with no canoe, no paddle and definitely no smile.

TREKKING

The select few who had eschewed the lure of water sports and climbing were able to indulge themselves in walking through the alpine countryside for 10 whole days.

CHATARUNGA

On receiving an invitation to the Belgian International Para-Military Competition held in Tournai, a four man team set off on the 25 June from Maresfield Barracks.

We arrived to find, surprisingly, that we were the only British team competing in this challenge event. As a result we attracted attention and received much hospitality.

The course comprised an initial extrance exam, a death slide and a high wire traverse. **Sgt Kev Smith** received a kiss from a local beauty for the best traverse of the day!

The main effort consisted of an obstacle course including abseils, barbed wire and water crossings with **Cpl George Workman** taking his bath early. Interspersed throughout the course were various shoots on different weapons and ranges. These included a 75m crossbow shot at a dummy sentry by the team 'sniper' **2Lt Smart**.

It was a unique opportunity to compete against European Special Forces and specialist Police teams. It was also fun firing different weapons, particularly the Israeli Galti and Uzi, Belgian FNC cal and German Mauser sniper rifles. **Sig Paterson** took a particular shine to the new Micro Uzi.

The event was interesting as well as challenging. Socially it was a total success with the Bar and the Cafe much visited.

In spite of achieving one of the best times around the course we were let down by our shooting and achieved an overall placing of twenty-seventh out of sixty-two teams.

With the experience gained this year we intend to return and do well at the next Chatarunga.

Cpl Workman takes his bath

SHOOTING NOTES

Considerable range time and effort, not to mention ammunition was spent in preparation for the 4 Div Skill at Arms meeting at Sennelager in March as this was to be our qualifying shoot for Bisley. In spite of this, the year began inauspiciously with a low position in the final placing.

Redeeming ourselves with the help of a Pampas-picked march and shoot team, 7 Sig Regt team took first place in the Princess Royal Skill-at-Arms meet, Royal Signals BAOR, at the Kohima Ranges in Haltern. The prize was won on the final day by **Sgt Smith** with the team's last round in the final event, the March and Shoot.

Then it was on to the Corps SAAM at Bulford. The week's build up included many valuable lessons and pointers from the coaching team provided by the Queen's Gurkha Signals.

The weather remained fantastic and the splendid sunshine was appreciated by all. Emotions ranged across the spectrum as each discipline was completed and good and bad scores emerged from the stats tent but Queen's Gurkha Signals predictably took first place by an impressive margin.

7 Sig Regt shooting team achieved a convincing second place overall thanks to considerable cajoling and bullying from **Sgt Hellewell** and hearty cheering from our lone supporter, **Mrs Rachael Whittaker**.

The team were: **2Lt Smart, Sgt Mick Hellewell, Cpls Stan Haynes, Wood, Del Warren** (RAPC), **Sapper McCann** (RE), **Sig Fishwick, Whittaker, Sgt Geoff Chadwick** and **Sig Pollard**.

FOCUS ON 5 SQUADRON
SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Tim Bryning**
2IC	**Capt Robin Clapp**
SSM	**WO2 Dave Hollis**
FofS	**WO2 Gig Plumb**

YofS	WO2 Chris Heeles
SQMS	SSgt Geoff Woodcock
OC Sp Tp	Capt Neil Carey
OC Man Tp	Lt Simon Payne
OC Corps Lighting Tp	Capt Matthew Tressider RE

FAREWELL TO THE SQN COMD

July saw the departure of the Sqn Comd **Maj Tim Bryning** for the STANOC Centre, Larkhill. We wish him and his wife **Leslie** all the very best. **Capt Robin Clapp** now has the dual role of Sqn Comd and 2IC.

As a parting gift **Maj Bryning** presented the Squadron with a new pennant to replace the existing moth eaten one.

Maj Bryning hands over the new pennant to Capt Clapp

OTHER NEWS

Congratulations to **SSgt Paul Hayward** on his promotion to WO2 and his move to 206 Sig Sqn as SSM. He and **Pauline** (the Squadron's agony aunt) will be sorely missed. They will be joined shortly by **Capt Neil Carey** who is going there as 2IC.

From Support Tp we say a fond farewell to the fount of all technical knowledge, **SSgt Geordie Waters. Sgt Ron Leake** also leaves for a cushy number in Bristol University OTC.

ADVENTURE TRAINING

After the traumas of Ex Scree Slope and commitments to Civ Pop, the Squadron took a welcome break at Mercury Lodge in Nesselwang for two weeks of adventure training. We spent some enormously enjoyable days white water rafting in Austria, mountain biking in Garmish and 'bird watching' at the indoor water complex at Bad Tolz.

Congratulations to **LCpl** 'DM' **Davis-Morris** and **Cpl Taff Webb** for reaching a high enough standard to be selected immediately for their canoe instructors course.

Shooting the rapids on the River Inn

4 ARMOURED DIVISION SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Regiment was far from confident of winning the Div Championships until we learned of the problems that other teams had with exercise commitments and so on.

We had a very good start to the competition and managed to qualify for all of the finals. Notable performances came from **LCpl Liam Jones** and **Sig Paul Douglas** who won their respective finals. However the team's overall success in winning the championship was due to the combined efforts of all the members.

As seen in the photograph **2Lt Smith** is already dreaming of the time in Berlin where the BAOR Championships are to be held.

CO presents Trophy to 2Lt Paul Smith

LE CHALLENGE CHARLIER

Past members of 7 Sig Regt will know of the annual chain of Command Cross Country Challenge race between ourselves and the Corps Signal Regiments of our Allies. We hosted it this year on the morning of 20 June in glorious weather.

The Belgian, German and American teams turned up the previous afternoon after journeying from their bases here in Germany. The French Corps Signal Regiment team was unfortunately unable to attend.

After an all ranks welcoming party the previous night to get to know the 'opposition', the race day started with a National Flag raising ceremony and a short introductory speech to everyone in English, French and German delivered by **Lt Col Hussey**, our CO. written translation was handed to the local German reporter!

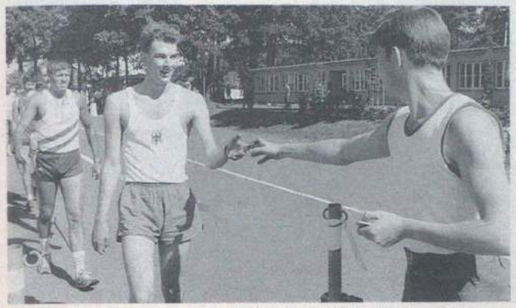
The course covered 5km of varied ground, starting at the Bismarck Turm and finishing back on the square in South Camp.

Despite the debilitating effects of the previous night's party the Belgian team still proved very strong with their first five members arriving under 17 mins 22 secs. Our first man home was **SSgt Toner** with a time of 17 mins 28.69 secs.

The Charlier Trophy was ceremoniously handed over to **Lt Col B. E. M. Loots**, Commanding the Belgian Battalion, before all teams retired to a splendid barbecue to celebrate or commiserate. As runners-up, 7 Sig Regt look forward to next years event but will miss the tremendous support given by **Capt Bill Miles** who will be leaving us on his return to UK in August.

WO2 (SS) Chuck Walker fighting to establish a place among the leading pack

SSgt Mark Toner receiving his finish disc(6). The first runner home for 7 Sig Regt



WO1 Brian Howe moves up behind one of the leading GE Corps runners at the finish tunnel

The leading runner of the Belgian team who shortly after this point was unfortunately misdirected and consequently finished well down the field

The Captain of the winning team lifts the Charlier Trophy

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8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

Cpl Middleton is shown receiving his award for 'outstanding student' from Lt Col Stoddard. Cpl Middleton achieved this distinction on his Upgrading T2-T1 course and is a Radio Technician

Our picture shows Pte Jenny Wright being congratulated by Maj Terry Lightfoot on the presentation of her award for distinction in training

SHOOTING TEAM
NEDSAM

In late May the Regiment sent two teams to the NEDist SAM, a male team to compete in all events and a female team to fire in the SMG and Pistol competitions. The two day event was held on Bellerby and Wathgill ranges, but the timetable of events immediately went askew as fog delayed the first shots going down the range for four hours!

After a major effort by the organisers, and with the flexible, good humoured nature of the competitors, the shoot was finished on Sunday as planned. 8 Sig Regt shot well, others shot better and we finished in the middle of the lists. The direct competition of SLR, and SA80 with optic sights in the Falling Plates proved once more the value of the sight. The girls shot well, and **Pte Watson** was only just pushed into second place for the WRAC young soldiers SMG prize.

The weekend wasn't without incident for the team: **Sgt Rogers** fell during the Roupell with a cracked femur—we aren't convinced he wasn't just trying to get out of the Section Match! Also **Pte Brodie** (on transfer from the Black Watch) forgot where to stop during the LMG match.

RSSAM

Just a few weeks after NEDSAM 89 saw the shooting team travelling to Bulford to compete in the Corps SAM. We were blessed with good weather throughout the week, and it was a great opportunity to meet up with old friends again.

Following good preparation and practice, the team shot well, and worked hard in the heat to do the best possible in the various fire-and-manoeuvre matches. Anyone who believes that Army shooting is a relaxing, easy affair for old men should try competing in the Para Cup or the LMG match!

The 'fines' book was much in evidence: sights left up or other misdemeanours all went in the book, kept with much gusto by **Cpl Kevin** 'That's a fine' **Allen**. Strangest misdemeanour of the lot was for getting the Boss's name wrong: It doesn't sound too bad except he confused everyone by changing it to Storey.

The Regimental Shooting Team at RSSAM
Back Row (Left to Right): Sgt Eric Calvert, Sig Dave Peers, Pte 'Spats' Brodie, Cpls Kevin Allen and Steve Maycock
Front Row (Left to Right): Sig John Ross, John Chambers, Capt Dave Storey and Cpl Stephen Ireland

THE REST OF THE TEAM

Sgt Eric Calvert provided the maturity and wisdom of someone who has done it all before: **Cpl Steve Maycock** provided his experience from the Mil Trg Wing; **LCpl Steve Barker** provided all the contacts for 'borrows and gizzits'; and the Cookhouse provided the tea. Fortunately the standards set by the others was far greater than the latter.

Cpl Stephen Ireland was a late and welcome addition to the team, and even with little training shot very well. Being on his T2-T1 upgrading course means that he won't be here next year, so some lucky Unit will benefit . . . transfer fees are negotiable!

Sig Christie practised his reversing, and learnt how to fill in forms.

The FMT-3 will be through soon . . .

Pte Brodie was pleased as punch to get a new hackle for his TOS, we were pleased as punch that he got the LMG shoot right!

Sig 'Blondie' **Peers** and **John Chambers** tried but were unsuccessful in beating **Sig John Ross** for the 'Best Young Soldier' prize of the competition. Also congratulations to **Cpl Steve Maycock** for his winners medal in the Roupell (Match 2) with a score of 144.

Overall the team came fourth, much better than last year and also reached the semi-final of the falling plate which provided an exciting finish to a good week of shooting.

SHOOTING TEAM—THE FINAL CHAPTER
by Capt D. M. Storey

The 1989 shooting season ended for 8 Sig Regt Shooting Team on a high: The final competition of the year was the Triangular Competition, so named because teams from three services take part. Organised and run by the RAF Regiment Training Depot at RAF Catterick, the RAF Regiment UK team shoot against a UK team from the US Air Force Security Police. Any of you thinking along the lines of MOD-plods . . . banish the thought. The third service in competition is the Army, and an invitation is extended each year to Catterick based Units and this year both 8 Sig and 11 Sig Regts answered the challenge.

Friday 23 June 1989 found the four teams at 500m, ready to fire all the practices of the Association Cup. The longer ranges found the USAF wanting—they practise almost exclusively at under 300m. Under the watchful eyes of senior officers from all services, headed by Comdt Gen of the RAF Regiment, **Air Vice-Marshal J. H. Harris CBE, RAF** and **Brig Gen F. K. Martin USAF**, Chief of Security Police.

As expected, the RAF Regiment team; trained and ready for Bisley; won convincingly: However, 8 Sig Regt came in as runners up, trouncing the USAF and 11 Sig Regt. The day was finished with an impromptu falling plates knockout competition, with team captains being invited to put in a fiver for the winners beer money. We were confident, following our good showing at the Corps SAM. Unfortunately the excitement of the shoot got the better of two of our team, who unwittingly swapped weapons and found out that the 'zero' is not transferable.

'I say, **Cpl Maycock**, why have the two of us shot down all the plates?'

'I don't know, Boss; Perhaps the other two have a problem!'

'Shame about my fiver . . .'

Still, a good time was had by all and I finally gained a medal before my retirement. We also showed the USAF how to receive prizes in a proper manner!

PS: Who was told by the Air-Vice Marshal that he looked far too old for energetic shooting competitions? Entries on the reverse of £5 notes please.

GOOD DRIVING

In May, **SSgt Derek Witchell, Cpls Ken Shaw** and **Chris Davies** represented the Regiment as drivers, finally beating 13 other teams from Regular and TA Units in the NE to come second to 2 Inf Div Tpt Regt in the area round of the Army Road Safety Competition. This result meant that 8 Sig Regt got into the UK finals. The valiant team had to compete in driving and manoeuvreing tests with both Landrovers and four tonners, as well as tests on map reading, loading and mechanical fault-finding. The RCT opposition did very well and left 8 Sig Regt team well down the list. But very well done for getting there and flying the flag.

1 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj J. H. May**
AO	**Capt MacLeod WRAC/R Signals**
SSM	**WO2 Clive Young**
OC T Tp	**WO1 Pete Dring**

The Squadron of super techs has continued to haul in the Regimental silver ware, much to the delight of **WO2 (SSM) Clive Young**. The latest acquisitions or should I say retentions are, the Regimental swimming, athletics, tug-of-war, softball and tennis cups. Of our many conquests the athletics was total domination, with **Cpl Paul Morton** and **Sig Trev McSween** playing major roles. In the tug-of-war the 'Regimental team' was pulled easily by the Squadron team, led by **Cpl Russ Dalton**, whose practice and training paid dividends. Finally the Squadron tennis teams provided a double supplying both teams in the Inter-Squadron final, much to the delight of the SSM as the A team (of which he was a member) won.

Runners-Up in the North East District Road Safety Competition The drivers from 8 Sig Regt, Catterick. *Left to Right:* SSgt Derek Witchell (Team Captain), Cpl Chris Davies (heavy goods vehicle driver) and Cpl Ken Shaw (also best landrover driver in the event)

Cpl A. Dick, 1 Sqn won the 1989 North East District Tennis Championship in July

1 Sqn Athletics Team with Inter Squadron Cup

9 Sig Regt
BFPO 58

SWEEPING THE BOARD

9 Sig Regt athletics team has not only had a successful season in the league but also produced numerous superb performances in the Army Individual Championships on Friday 16 June. They managed to take away a grand total of 20 medals between them, including 13 golds.

To top this off the ladies team won the Minor Units Championships at Dhekelia the following Wednesday whilst the mens team from 1 Sqn finished second in the Mens Championships.

1 Sqn Athletics Team
Back Row (Left to Right): Cpl Patterson, Capt Dunbar, SSgt Abbott, LCpls Macnamara and Lund
Front Row (Left to Right): Sgt Mabbott, Sig McConnell, WO2 Whittingham, LCpl Netherwood and Pte Chambers

9 Sig Regt Ladies Athletics Team
Back Row (Left to Right): LCpl Newhouse, Cpls Lattaway, Blythe, LCpl Thornton and Cpl Jensen
Front Row (Left to Right): Cpl Best, LCpl McGarry, Sgt Irving, LCpl Bright and Cpl McBride

EXERCISE MERCURY BREAK

Mention Evdhimu and most people immediately conjure up sultry Mediterranean days and balmy evenings—acres of wine with harvesters indolently going about their toil, towering angry cliffs gently tamed by the rich blueness of the Med, empty silent beaches whose peace is broken only by the rush of the sea and the clink of glasses from rattaned inns of happiness. Mention Evdhimu in the company of Regiment personnel and it conjures up not such an idyllic scenario—Battle Camp!

Yes, it's that time again when Training Wing makes its way to Evdhimu; where for six weeks, an average of fifty students per week visit to hone to perfection those skills which for the rest of the year lie, to a degree, dormant.

As the Regiment is manned by men and women finding a suitable syllabus is not easy but, improvisation and ingenuity on the part of the Training Officer, **Lt Jess Harper**, coupled with the enthusiasm and determination of the female element resulted in a formula that tested and trained everyone to a standard we were all proud of. The following are extracts from the diary of a certain **'T. Atkins'**.

Sunday—Dear diary, we arrived at Evdhimu hot and coach lagged. I saw the Med through the tented camp, it looked so inviting, but before I could raise my hand to seek permission to swim we were bombarded with so many instructions and orders from the genial camp Sergeant Major, **WO2 Whitehouse**, we never knew our rear end from our tent end. We were sized off, into sections, into tents back into sections, into briefings, back into tents, into the cookhouse, back into sections, into weapon training, into map reading, into First Aid, back into the cookhouse, more briefings and into bed. What a day! Those of us who shared the tent then decided that if this was the theme of the week then drastic measures had to be taken. We began to hatch an escape plan. I volunteered to have a close recce of the vehicle park and stalked quickly, and, I thought, unobtrusively across the moonlit terrain. 'Thursday is Patrolling Techniques—You weren't listening were you? Off to bed now—long day tomorrow'. Yes, spotted by a Cook—but our turn will come!

Monday—Dear diary, it's their sense of humour that jars me off most. When these people attend those PT courses at Aldershot they must spend the majority of their time perfecting one liners—'No pain—No gain', 'Good morning campers—lovely day for a gun run', 'Hands up whose breakfast this is?', 'Is that a press-up or are you trying to tell me something?', 'Have you got a double, laddie?',—'Not that I'm aware of Staff', 'Well you have now, you've got to double around the tented area, you're idle laddie'—30 minutes of pure purgatory. Iron out the wrinkles they said. Mind you breakfast went down well and the rest of the day, although hot, was not particularly physical. More SA80 training, more map reading, more first aid and instruction on radios. They also told us that the sections would be in competition with each other. I think we can win it—that's unless we escape by the end of the duration. We also did a night orienteering course, that was good fun. We were marshalled by the DS, so no chance of escape or losing our way to that inviting taverna. Good laugh—the section marshalled by **Lt Robson** got disorientated! Beers all round on Friday—still nobody's perfect. Into bed tired out. Decided to put off escape attempt until tomorrow night.

Tuesday—Dear diary, the sun came up like thunder from away across the bay, not the first to plagiarise Kipling and not the last, but an apt description. Mad dogs and servicemen go out in the Akrotiri sun, there's another, again most appropriate. Well diary, spent the day on Akrotiri ranges and I must admit, heat aside, I enjoyed it. At long last achieved my life long ambition and fired the pistol, also got to shoot the SA80 as well and most impressive it is compared with the SLR; also a touch more radio work. Tomorrow we shoot again, this time competitively against the other Sections, and I must say we fancy our chances. We have decided to cancel our escape plans, people may get the wrong idea and assume we are afraid of competition.

Wednesday—Dear diary, our friendly PTIs were at it again this morning. We were going so well but lost it on the weapon assembling—shame but we battled well. A hearty breakfast and on to Akrotiri ranges. Strewth, hot again to say the least but the section acquitted itself well on all shoots especially the light support weapon. We were visited today by the CO and the RSM, nice to see them and they both joined in the shooting. The CO produced some good scores as did the RSM. Shame about **Capt Hockenhull**, his weapon was playing up. Well, early to bed tonight, long day tomorrow and also tomorrow night out on an exercise patrolling and map reading; all towards the final competition—looking forward to it.

Thursday—Dear diary, disaster, diary, disaster. We had the first aid test today. The Section came across a number of casualties and things were going well but we forgot one of the fundamentals. Having dressed the wounds admirably we forgot to treat for shock. Lost points there but a lesson was learnt. We also did fieldcraft and patrolling techniques. Spent the afternoon preparing for our night exercise. We were dropped off just after last light and navigated spot-on to our objective. We were taken down a night patrol lane—exciting stuff—and even though we set off a trip flare the DS complimented us on our techniques and anti-ambush drills. We then navigated fairly successfully to our final RV and we slept out for the night under the stars; this is what it's all about, good stuff.

Friday—Dear diary, well if I hadn't seen it myself I would never had believed it. We went down to Akrotiri Mole and did water crossings—all good fun. They then brought out this piece of

tarpaulin, got about 30 of us around it—in the water and—wait for it—drove a Landrover onto it, wrapped it up, and floated it across. They also floated the rest of us across, in full kit I might add. We also did restraint and arrest techniques as well as vehicle search procedures. A good day to end what has been a fulfilling week. So glad we never managed to escape. Tonight it's a barbecue and each Section is going to do a skit. We have decided to do one to amplify **Capt Hockenhull**'s shooting prowess, or more to the point the lack of it. He finished last in the Cadre's fun shoot. I bet he wishes he had never entered or even better, elected to write the Battle Camp report. Well, diary it's water sports tomorrow and then the steamy road east back to routine. I dare say your pages will not herald so much activity for some time to come—incidentally, we were runners up in the Section competition—still you can't win them all.

Battle Camp
9 Sig Regt keen, green fighting machines

How to float a Landrover in two easy lessons

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

The Sergeants' Mess at Ayios Nikolaos does not usually need an excuse for a 'knees up', but the night of 16 June 1989 was rather special. Two stalwart members of the Mess, **WO1 (FofS) Gardner** and **WO2 (SSM) McCreath**, were being dined out on commissioning. Added to this was the good news that two other members had been awarded the BEM in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Having 'court martialled' **FofS Gardner** for his negligent handling of the Regimental soccer team (found guilty and awarded the maximum sentence of an undetermined term in the Officers' Mess), **SSM McCreath** was dispatched in the same direction whilst the rest of the Mess got down to the serious business of celebrating in style. An excellent night enjoyed by everyone.

AN EX-POW VISITS

Ex Sgt Frank Baker late 11 Indian Divisional Signals got a bit of a shock when he visited the Sergeants' Mess at 9 Sig Regt (Radio) on 3 May 1989. **Frank** popped over from UK to see his son **SSgt Sid Baker** receive a GOCs Commendation. Little did he know the Mess was to present him with his 'gozome plaque' from way back in 1942. **Frank**'s last Mess disbanded a bit sharpish in 1942 when Singapore fell to the Japanese, no time for presentations then, and little Mess life to follow for the next four years spent as a Japanese POW on the Burmese railway.

WO1 (RWM) P. J. Doherty is seen here presenting the plaque to **Frank** who rang the bell in the old tradition of the Mess thereafter.

EXERCISE FLOATING LION 3
THEY SAID THAT POLITICALLY IT COULDN'T BE DONE, WE PROVED THEM WRONG

In the last week of July, a crew of seven set sail anti-clock wise around the island of Cyprus. The Royal Signals Yacht Club boat hadn't done that for 15 years, from the time of the Turkish invasion.

The plan was to take seven days to complete the voyage, using a mainly novice crew stopping at Fig Tree Bay overnight before continuing.

The plan was good, however the weather wasn't, we experienced the unusual northerly winds up to force 6. Because of the sea state created by these winds, an anchorage at Fig Tree Bay was out of the question, we ended up sailing continuously for three days, all good experience for the novice.

Eventually we got to Paphos after lots of good sailing. Paphos was good fun, the crew hired a moped each and went off to visit the places of interest. Green Turtle Bay, all the ancient ruins around Paphos and finally a trip up to the Dhrousha Heights Hotel for a swim, well worth a visit. Finally a fantastic sail around Akrotiri back into Larnaca using the spinnaker for most of the journey. A good week enjoyed by everyone.

The Crew
Left to Right: Cpl (CVV), 2Lt Bracken, Lt Deans, JTWs Addison, Pass and WO2 Whitehouse

The Ay Nik Chapter, visiting the sights of Paphos

AYIOS NIKOLAOS WINDSURFING CLUB (ANWSC)
OIC **WO2 (SSM) Pete Whitehouse**
2IC **WO2 Yan Marshall**

Over the winter months the Regiment added more beginners boards and rigs to the (ANWSC), making a total of six. These boards are used to introduce members of the Regiment to the sport by running three day courses.

Eight courses are to be run throughout the year at the Regimental ski beach at Ayios Trias, on the east coast of Cyprus. After completing the course, successful students can then hire the equipment on a daily basis to practise their new-found skills. The courses are very popular because they are great fun, the photos below were taken on the second course this year.

Left to Right: LCpl Breivogle, WLCpls Webber, Jones, JTW Pass and LCpl Cox

REGIMENTAL SWIMMING GALA
3 SQUADRON'S 'RUN' OF VICTORIES BROKEN
Report by Sgt Cox

Whilst looking for ways to avoid the workshops, I came across the vacancy of Squadron swimming rep. Having already failed miserably to secure water hours (ie sailing, canoeing and sub-aqua) this seemed too good an opportunity to miss. After a quick check to ensure I was on speaking terms with the Regimental swimming officer, the job was mine.

The initial poll for interest in Squadron orders failed completely. No amount of sitting by the telephone elicited a response (sorry, Boss!).

Fortunately, **Lt Robson** came to the rescue by organising a 'Swimming Standards' system to encourage people to attend PT sessions, and swim.

The result of this was a very high number of passes in the Military Swimming Test and more importantly, a list of all swimmers in the Regiment with their times for each stroke.

So the 1 Sqn swimming and water polo squad was formed. The hard work having been done, all that was required was to reduce everyone's times by a few seconds and to teach them to play water polo.

A mammoth task indeed, but not beyond the Cox-Middleton training duo. After just three weeks, the team had taken shape and was looking dangerous. On Friday 28 July, the Inter Squadron swimming competition took place.

The 1 Sqn team was as follows: **WO2 Bowman, SSgt Emmott, Sgts Anderson, Andrews, Cox, Mabbott, Savage, Young, Cpl Middleton, WCpl Cable, LCpls Elgenia, Middleton** and **Pte Meredith.**

The pressure was on for a victory this year, as 3 Sqn had won for the past three years. We were aided in our task by our nominee for 'Sports Commentator of the Year', **WO1 (RSM) Doherty.** It should be noted that RHQ is part of 1 Sqn!

After some tremendous swimming in the individual events, the relays made absolutely sure that a new space would have to be found in the 1 Sqn trophy cabinet. The final score of 1 Sqn—60 pts, 3 Sqn—47 pts and 2 Sqn—23 pts pays tribute to the effort put in by the swimmers and the commitment by all concerned.

The prizes were presented by the CO, who thanked the PT staff for organising the event. All that remains now is to see how the Squadron performs in the ESBA Minor Units Championships and, hopefully, in the Army Minor Units Finals.

1 Sqn Water Polo Team

1 Sqn Swimming Team with OC Maj Mick Nicol

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

WIMBLEDON 1989

Kohima 'A' Troop had the honour of promoting the Corps at the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships. A very enjoyable fortnight was had by all, doing the arduous task of pulling the foul weather covers on and off No 1 Court. The team of 12 Junior Signalmen were led, fed and organised by **Lt Dave Chattaway, Sgt Geordie Edminson** and **Cpl Jock Weir** who all put a lot of effort in trying to make our lives comfortable and enjoyable during the fortnight.

A relaxing time away from training was had by all, although **JSig 'TC' Spacey** did have to perform leopard crawl in front of millions of people when he fell underneath the 'covers' as they were being pulled on which was also seen on television. The crowd was obviously impressed with his fieldcraft and gave him a huge round of applause when he eventually emerged.

ULSTER TROOP
TROOP PERSONALITIES

OC	**Lt S. O. France**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt E. T. Strefford**
Tp Cpls	**Cpl A. Evans**
	Cpl L. Martin
	Cpl M. Pegg

Ulster Tp formed up on 10 July and is in its fourth week of training. Below are a few impressions of the Junior Soldiers' first few weeks in training:

JSig Saunders—On the Open Day my mum said, 'He's great', meaning **Sgt Strefford**. When I met him I thought 'oh great', five seconds later, 'oh goodness me'.

JSig Rothwell—Sgt Strefford and the Corporals must have been on a dust-finding course because no matter how often we clean our rooms they can always find things that we have forgotten.

JSig Peak—I was really surprised at the size of the place. I was very nervous but also excited, the Corporals seemed nice but this changed! I got in to a lot of trouble in the first week for little things I didn't even realise I was doing. We have a lot of lessons, just like school—they treat you better here though. Drill is good but I hate inspections because I always mess it up. Room inspections are getting better because they are running out of little details for us to do. (Oh, is that so? Interesting—Troop Sergeant.)

JSig Benbow—The delay at the station didn't help, I don't think that impressed **Cpl Martin**—then again, what does. When we arrived we were sized up for kit, boots etc and we had our hair cut. In our first week I found out that the Army insisted on everyone looking the same.

JSig Sweeney—When I first arrived at Darlington station I could see the new recruits a mile away, all sitting nervously in the station waiting-room not saying a word. They were all like me, very apprehensive and nervous. When I got to camp I nearly died, very much different to the comforts of home. When we started drill we were in tatters. I didn't think the drill square looked too bad, until we got on to it.

JSig Kirk—I am now in my fourth week of training and I can feel I am fitter than I was when I left home, due to PT, drill and the good food we get. I am over the home-sickness now and it is just great.

2 TROOP

Adult Recruit Course 8904 23 April-23 June 1989.

The final day for Adult Recruit Course 8904 was perfect, the parade went exceptionally well, with the Reviewing Officer, **Brig Eastburn** commenting on the very high standard of drill and turnout.

The course produced some humorous moments that one or two recruits will never forget. **Sig Yorke**, canoeing upside down for 50m, no-one believed he got his foot stuck and **Sig Ness** who got half eaten by mosquitoes on exercise and looked as though he had gone five rounds with Mike Tyson.

The recruits also raised a very creditable £462 for charity. The cheques being presented to the grateful recipients during the pize giving; **Mrs Janice Knights** from the Friarage Hospital and **Mrs Charmian Robinson** on behalf of the Candlelighters.

The permanent staff of No 2 Troop wish the young soldiers a long and enjoyable career in Royal Signals.

Adult Recruit Course 8904

Back Row (Left to Right): Ness, Greenstreet, Nottingham, Martin, Southern, Gaffney, Lewis, Shipping and Yorke
Middle Row (Left to Right): Wood, Dandy, Daniel, Davies, Harding, Diamond and Steer
Front Row (Left to Right): Cpl A. V. Slaney, Sgt A. S. Sherrard, Lt N. A. Walker, Maj M. N. Robinson, Cpls D. Savage, L. D. Stimson

Photo by Joseph Krieger

14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 23

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

QM (GEN) DEPT
PERSONALITIES

QM	**Maj Ted Banham**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) Colin Thompson**
SQMS (A)	**SSgt Bill Dyson**
Fam SNCO	**Sgt John Salter**
GFA/MFO Clerk	**Sharon Powell**
Civil Labour Clk	**Mr John Gale**
Clothing Store	**Chad Chadwick**

Our civilian staff are all over the place at the moment—with **Mr John Gale** returning to work after his operation. Hope you are recovering now **John** and getting back into the swing of things again. Sadly we say farewell to **Hieke** our GFA/MFO Clerk who is moving into pastures new.

Sharon our part-time clerk is now walking around—in charge of a large smile—it must have something to do with her husband's return from NI after four months.

QM (TECH) DEPT
PERSONALITIES

QM	**Maj (QM) Andy Boyle**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) Peter Woodward**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Mac McKenize**
Clerk	**Cpl Tony Simpson**

The QM (Tech) Dept said farewell to **LCpl Steve Prior** and family and wished them all the best for their future in Civ Div and welcome to **Cpl Aidey Lines** and **Sig Finney** to the Regiment and hope they enjoy their tours at a farewell meal.

Before the meal crazy golf was played. The eventual winner was **LCpl 'Muzz' Walker** who won a bottle of wine by getting round the 18 holes in 45 strokes. While some of us took about 75 over par!

We congratulate **LCpl Rich** on attaining a B pass on his Det Commanders Course, and **Sgt Ray Pickering** recently awarded a Mention in Despatches for service in Northern Ireland.

LAD REME
PERSONALITIES
Capt Steve Davis
WO1 (ASM) Jim McFarlane
SSgt (Tiffy) Wharmby

After browsing through various issues of *The Wire* it soon became apparent that little is heard of the Regimental LADs.

The LAD is an integral working component of HQ Sqn and consists of some 42 REME tradesmen of varying skills, ages and certainly sizes. We support the Regiment in the normal way, giving a service that survives on a 'you want it when' basis and a 'you could have had it yesterday, but unfortunately we closed last night', answering system.

Other than equipment support we make our many and varied contributions to social, sporting and welfare activities, with normally at least two or three participants or competitors flying the flag.

The overall commitment of the Regiment is mammoth and certainly heavier than I have encountered anywhere. Troop and Squadron exercises abound, with Forward Repair Teams (FRT's) having to climb to the most obscure and almost impenetrable locations (goats wouldn't climb there) to repair and recover equipment, where on completion of the task they talk to the gods . . . physically!

The LAD thrives with a sense of pride and purpose in the eternal quest to achieve the impossible, in the knowledge and belief that miracles could occur.

1 SQUADRON

WHISKY TROOP

Tp Comd	**2Lt Nick Mutter**
2IC	**WO2 Jock Douglas**
Tp SSgts	**SSgt Dave Davidson**
	SSgt Tam Malley
Tp Sgts	**Sgt Colin Cape**
	Sgt Gary Foster
	Sgt Gary Melding

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Hello to **LCpl Hall** and to **LCpl Wells**. Goodbye to **LCpl Neil Frances** to 21 Sig Regt, **LCpl Easterbrook** to RMA Sandhurst, **Sig Rob Hare** to Loughbrough and **SSgt Nick Cable** to Romeo Tp. Also, welcome back to **Cpls Pete Beale** and **Rich Angove** fresh from their A1 course at Loughbrough.

THE TROOP

The Troop has done its share of guard duties and various other tasks, expertly detailed by **SSgt Dave Davidson**.

On our recent Ex Active Edge **WO2 Jock Douglas**, not noted for his map reading managed to navigate his packet without getting lost, but **Sig Andy Egan** did not do so well!

SSgt Tam Malley has been away doing the rest of the Troop's courses, apart from **LCpl Mick Proud** who has passed his AIPT Course with a B grade.

EXERCISE CYCLE DIAMOND

This was a Troop Adventure Training expedition to Norway, involving cycling on mountain bikes around various hills and fjords. The expedition was led by **2Lt Nick Mutter** and **Sgt Colin Cape**. The expedition consisted of:-

Team A
2Lt Nick Mutter, Cpls Ackland-Snow, Pete Phillips, Sig Steve Tucker and **Cfn Andy Millar.**

Team B
Sgt Colin Cape, LCpls Ade Lawrence, Kev Jones, Sig Buzz Burrows, Andy Egan and **Ben Redstone.**

Notable events on the expedition were **Cpl Ackland-Snow** whose wallet was superglued to a bench. **Sig Burrows** for his defence of the campsite when threatened by intrusion. Despite all the lovely views and sights, the best sight of all was **Cpl Bob Ackland-Snow** seen running 100m clad in nothing but a shower curtain after his clothes had been removed, which gave us all a good laugh. And to **Cfn Andy Millar** for sterling work in repairing the landrovers.

FOOTBALL MATCH W TROOP Vs Z WATCH 13 SIGNAL REGIMENT

WO2 'Neb' Young's Troop arrived at around half past eight on Saturday night. By 2100 hrs they had been whisked off for some pre-match training in Celle! Despite this 'quiet' night the '13' lads turned up on time next day. After an aggressive, end to end match, Whisky Troop emerged the victors 4—2. However, the result could easily have been reversed if their star winger **Farn** and centre forward **SSgt Smy** had taken their chances. After the match it was off to a barbecue. Having lost the football the '13' lads felt compelled to win the boat race, which they did.

On Monday we set up a Demo for them and after inspecting the equipment one of them asked 'Who sets it up for you then?'. No doubt they'll find out on their next posting!

X TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**Lt Paul Peel**
2IC	**WO2 Pete Bull RA Signals**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Stitch Woollard**
Admin	**SSgt Mick Foster**

Despite a relatively quiet period the high standard of professionalism has been maintained and we have been involved in other meaningful pursuits. Part of the Troop, led by **WO2 Pete Bull** managed to complete a charity bike ride through seven countries in twelve days. **SSgt Woollard** managed to persuade a team to wander around the various hills in Iceland. **Sgt Rich Plummer** went sailing. The Troop also enjoyed invading **Cpl Chas Gilmartin**'s cellar for an impromptu barbecue. The Troop Stall, masterminded by **Cpl Andy O'Hara**, managed to break even on the Regimental Open Day. **Cpl Mick Bamber** became cross-eyed, due to the ducks costume he was wearing whilst selling programmes to the local population of Celle.

The Troop would like to welcome into our midst **Lt Paul Peel, SSgt Stitch Woollard, Sgt Steve Ward, Cpl Cliff Corby** (yet again) and **LCpl Taff Thomas.** With arrivals we always get departures and so we say goodbye to **Capt Simon Purser, Sgt Henrick Kiertzener** who goes to Basic Training again, **Sgt Harry Butland** to a course in UK, **Sgt Rich Plummer** to AA Coll Harrogate, **Sgt Gary Melding** who could no longer stand the rigours of such a high standard and joins W Troop and **Cpls Jerry Cowin, Andy O'Hara, LCpls Smudge Smith** and **Steve West.**

The following personnel are to be congratulated on their promotions. **SSgt Dave Stapleton, Cpls Heward, Jerry Cowin, Colwell, Mandy Babmer** and **LCpl Steve West.**

PS: A sad farewell to **SSgt Mick Foster**'s old banger which has given way to a sleek and slender new image.

JAMMER TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**2Lt Rob Forrest**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Steve Barnes**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Steve Penn**

The Troop took part in Ex Railex-Probex 89. This was a successful exercise though not everyone would agree and the target stations did not think the assessment was so.

After Endex a barbecue was held for all who took part.

After much eating and drinking an Arm Wrestling Competition was organised between the Americans and British. **Cpl Alex Rankin**, being the largest member was volunteered to represent J Troop, he won 2 and lost 1. After a lot of cheering and singing the whole contest was declared a draw.

Since we have been back in barracks the Troop has been getting away for days out Adventure Training. **Sgt Steve Penn** took the Troop canoeing on the river Aller. **LCpl Ian Cawson** seemed to like the capsize drill because he spent most of the day upside down. **LCpl Rab McLaughlin** said he had a duff canoe as it would not go in a straight line.

Cpl Chris Belfield took the Troop rock climbing for the day, on the 'Ith' Feature. We loaded up the PRI minibus early Wednesday morning and off we went. On arrival at the crag all eyes turned upwards and a few gulps were heard coming from the back of the group.

After the abseil session, top ropes were set up for climbing. When the first volunteer was asked to clip on to the rope there was much humming, hawing and shuffling of feet. **Cpl Ginge Dyson** was pushed forward. He climbed the rock face to the top, looked down and said 'That was easy'. The whole Troop wanted to climb all at once after that. They were all successful on that route.

The ropes were then moved to another part of the rock face where the routes were harder. When **LCpl Rich Bonsor** was half way up the route he complained 'my arms are killing me'. **Sig Bev Bevan** after much leg shaking, puffing and panting also completed the route.

After a good day's climbing the Troop slept all the way back in the minibus.

The Troop would like to welcome: **Cpl Steve Ferris** and his family, **Cpl Ginge Dyson** and his family, **Sig Richie Bracegirdle** and **Sig Bruce Johnson**. We hope they all have a happy stay with us.

The Troop says farewell to **LCpl Andy Jones** and his family and **LCpl Geordie Green** and wishes them all the best in the future.

2 SQUADRON

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj John Steed**
2IC	**Capt Stewart Sharman**
SSM	**WO2 Phil Rumsey BEM**
SQMS	**SSgt Barry Speirs**
OC Y Tp	**Capt Nigel Dakin**
OC K Tp	**WO1 Tom Hardingham**
OC Y Tp	Rusty
2IC Y Tp	**Lt Richard Lapslie**

SPORT

The Squadron has done very well at sport so far this year with a few notable feats:-

Inter Sqn Rugby	— Winners
Inter Sqn Swimming	— Winners (more on that later)
22 Armd Bde Minor Units Soccer	— League Winners
Inter Sqn Boxing	— Runners-up

INDIVIDUAL SUCCESSES

WO2 Andy Marshall	— Corps Golf Colours.
Sgt Geoff Backhouse	— Corps Orienteering Colours and Selected BAOR Orienteering.
Cpl Shaggy Shaw	— Winner Regt Golf Competition.
Sig John Rowe	— Selected Corps Basketball.

SWIMMING GALA

Strength in depth was the masterplan behind a convincing victory by 2 Sqn in the Annual Inter-Squadron Swimming Gala, held in the Hallenbad at Wietze on 18 May. Although the Squadron achieved just the single victory in the individual events: (**Sig Fox**—100m breastroke), the team managed to sweep the board in the vital relay events, winning the 4 × 50m breastroke, the 4 × 50m medley relay and the 4 × 50m freestyle. A plethora of second places in the other individual events ensured a well deserved victory. Notable performances on the day were provided by **Cpl Steve Clowes** (three winner's medals), **LCpl Steve Pickering** (one winner's medal for three events), and **Sig Foxy Fox** (two winner's medals from two events). The other members of the team were: **Capt Sharman, WO2 Bamforth, Cpl Gorton, LCpls Mitchell, Rarity, Render, Sig Harding** and **Peters**.

The Chain of Command race proved to be an amusing event, in which the Sqn Comd **Maj John Steed**, the SSM **WO2 Phil Rumsey** and **SSgt Tony Wall** joined other members of the team in a frantic 6 × 25m 'doggy-paddle' relay. All in all, a very good result, who hope to enter several team members for the Brigade Championships in the near future.

2 SQUADRON SOCCER

The Squadron had a very successful season this year after a somewhat shaky start. There were two vital games in the season: The Semi-Final of the Colonel's Cup. Against the eventual competition winners HQ 1 RTR and the Final league game against B Sqn QOH.

Unfortunately **Sgt Morris** was absent for this second important game (having missed the semi-final) so to was **LCpl Bob Wright**, which made team selection difficult, forcing **Cpl Shaw** between the posts. After a tight 14 minutes, 2 Sqn started to put the pressure on, with **Cpl Suddell** scoring a fine individual goal, over the full length of the pitch.

EXERCISE 'ADMINDO DIAMOND'

When reaching our destination of Berchtesgarten—Bavaria, in our flotilla of cars, the lads proceeded to try out the local amber nectar and night spots.

Activities started the next morning. Rock climbing, supervised by **Cpl 'Spiderman' George**, was definitely an experience and a half. Hanging on to the cliff face **Sig 'Solly' Madle** gave a good impression of John Travolta disco dancing.

Hill walking, led by **Capts Sharman** and **Lapslie** (themselves being led by 'Rusty' the dog), was a challenge. **Capt Sharman**'s definition of the term hill walking, leaves a lot to be desired. His idea of fun is to scale snow covered peaks and traverse ice covered walls. This particular mountain is famous for the 'Eagles Nest'.

CANOEING AND WHITE WATER RAFTING

Led by a team of very capable Americans, both activities were held on a 'very' fast flowing river. Orders for the white water rafting were 'if there is a rock, no matter how big, hit it'. The result of this rock bashing (especially after hitting the same rock two or three times) were that the rafts capsized. **LCpl 'Skids' Scarall** gave an impressive display of white water drowning. Another star of the white water was **SSgt Pete Pearson**, he and his canoe obviously didn't like each other for they kept trying to part company. Unfortunately we couldn't find a small enough canoe otherwise Rusty the dog could have tried. All in all, the whole week was very enjoyable, the weather was a treat. One last thing—**Capt Sharman** wants a new American football after 'Rusty' savaged his.

Finally we have had very many comings and goings in the past few months. So to all those who have left, Bon Voyage and to all the new arrivals including their families welcome and we hope you have a very enjoyable tour with the Squadron and the Regiment.

3 SQUADRON

ZULU TROOP PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**Capt Andy White**
SQMS	**SSgt B. Meehan**
Tp SSgt	**Sgt A. Thompson**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt A. Thompson**
Admin	**Sgt A. Thompson**
MT Sgt	**Sgt A. Thompson**
Commcen	**SSgt M. Griffiths-Williams**
	Sgt G. Hughes

ARRIVALS—DEPARTURES

Welcome to **Sgt Alan Thompson** and his wife **Jacqui** who joined us from 7 Sig Regt, (out of the frying pan into the fire).

Farewell to **SSgt Mick Halford** and his wife **Rosemary** who leave the Troop but not the Squadron, **Mick** has gone up to the top floor to take over as Trg SNCO.

THE TROOP

Zulu Tp consists of approximately 30 members half of which work in the Commcen under the guidance of **SSgt Mich Griffiths-Williams** and **Sgt Gerry Hughes** so the rest of the Troop never see them. What's a sleep-day?

The rest of the hard work is left to the boys that graft in the cellars. Consisting of line, led by **Cpl Mac McGregor** with his bunch of line cutting linies (remember Ex Flying Falcon?)

The Troop also supplies the CO's Driver in the form of **LCpl Matthews** (who?) only seen in the Troop when he has a leave pass in hand. **Cpls Bob Duff** and **Roger Moore** take care of the Generators and other MT Matters. **Sig Ian Speight** is one of the two combat drivers in the Troop. **Ian Speight** has now got a greater respect for swans after being chased out of his stand-to position by one during Ex Flying Falcon.

The SQMS, **SSgt Berni Meehan** who practises stunt driving across bridges with his Bedford and trailer (nice one) and **Cpl Oscar Martins** his combat lineman/storeman (thought the new trade structure was driver/lineman) who has now recovered from the SQMS's stunt driving.

PAPA TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**2Lt Chris Wood**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Danny DeVito German**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Keith Stewart**

The main thing that has happened to the Troop and worthy of note, is The Soldier magazine billing the Squadron as HQ Sqn, which confused a few people!

POSTED OUT

Congratulations to **Sig Mick Toes** and **Mat Lammas** on their promotions on posting to 244 Sig Sqn. **LCpl Si Jenner** is also posted to 244. **LCpl Rich Morgan** has finally been allowed out of the stores, on posting to 640 Sig Tp.

LCpl Viv Prior is posted to 7 Sig Regt, that is if his car makes it from Celle to Herford.

LCpl Steve Lord is posted to 9 Sig Regt where it is almost as sunny as **Vince Lund**'s posting to 3 Armd Div.

GOOD LUCK

To **Sig Andy Whittal** who left the Army to become a draughtsman. To **Sig Col Taylor**, who is leaving to run a building site. To **Sig 'Lefty' Wright**, who is leaving for the Met (being the police force and not the weather people).

CONGRATULATIONS

To the new LCpls; **Dave Mahoney, Marti Fell, Wayne Harvey, Mark Jarvis** and **Keith Martin**, also to the the Cpls who came off the Sgts promotion board, **Chris Naylor, Col Milne** and **Den Morris**.

Finally, well done to **Bill** and **Debbie Johnson** on the birth of their daughter **Louise**.

OSCAR TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**Lt Graham Neal**
Tp SSgt/Sgt	**Sgt Mick McKenna**

Greetings to all from RRB Section, which as usual pulses away deep within 3 Sqn. Very little to report in the way of exercise activity as we find ourselves in a quiet period following a hectic six months of Regimental and Squadron deployments.

A tale does however spring to mind involving **LCpl** Spindle **Cox** and **Sig Vanandel** deployed on a Regimental call out with RRB 1. The above mentioned suffered a lapse of concentration to such a degree that they either forgot that they were in a wheeled vehicle or thought that they were auditioning for the Red Arrows!

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Hello to **Cpl John Freegard** and family, **LCpl Roy Dowinton** and **Sgt Scouse Wharton** (Still in the post from Northern Ireland).

Goodbye to **SSgt Neil Leyland** and family, to Blandford. **Sgt** 'Don't get familiar' **Mick McKenna** to 34 Sig Regt (V) and **LCpl** (now Cpl) **Hinman** to 249 Sig Sqn accompanied by **LCpl Balloch**.

INTER-SQUADRON SQUASH COMPETITION

The Annual Squash Competition was held on a knockout basis over a day with the final being contested in the afternoon. 3 Sqn were drawn against 2 Sqn and HQ Sqn against 1 Sqn.

Wins by **Sgt Jerry Hughes, LCpl Graham Birse** and **WO2 Geoff Carter** gave us victory and a place in the final. **WO2 Taff Bone** put up a superb fighting performance. Both his and **LCpl Brown**'s efforts were of a high standard and should not pass without mention.

3 Sqn was to meet HQ Sqn in the final after it had beaten 1 Sqn **WO2 Taff Bone** gave 3 Sqn the first victory against **Capt Dave Gruncell**. This match was a very close thing and the balcony enjoyed the cat and mouse game, the old masters setting a fine example of skill and sportsmanship. **LCpl Brown** put up a hard fight but was unable to capitalise on the Squadron's early lead.

WO2 Geoff Carter again had a superb 3—0 win to put the Squadron 2—1 up. **LCpl Birse** who came from behind in the previous round was in command during the first game but this time his opponent came through and clinched the match. It was then 2—2 with the competition resting on the final game between **Sgt Jerry Hughes** and **Sgt Warren Ginn** (HQ). **Sgt Jerry Hughes** lost the first game which caused a few worried looks from the spectators. However he pulled back and won the next three games convincingly.

Well done to everyone who took part, a high standard of squash was demonstrated throughout the competition, especially well done to 3 Sqn, a fine team effort.

REGIMENTAL SHOOTING TEAM

As the bronzing sun speared through the May clouds the shooting team could be heard jogging through the early morning mist to the local ranges. Always keen to crack-on, preparations were well under way for the Divisional Shooting Competition.

SSgt Mitchell flew in from Denmark and hopped aboard **Cpl** 'Postie' **Gibson**'s last mail run to the butts. **Cpl John Moore** flew around in his convertible, with air cover provided by **Sig Dernie** replacing all the targets that had been 'blown away'. **LCpl** Bunker **Hill** enjoyed an unscheduled pit stop but was soon under way at slightly less than the speed of light with **LCpl Adams** hot on his heels.

On arrival **WO2 Mitchell** broke open the lunches while **Lt Andy White** broke open the ammo. Pity then that all the other teams had forgotten to bring any. **Sgt Gunner Gunn**, straight from the RAPC SAAM took the opportunity to warm up for another round of Roupells while teams came scrounging for ammo, **LCpl 'Willy' Wilson** slipped away to get the latest int from the competition.

As the shooting began, **Cpl 'Gaz' Hukin** brought in the best ever LMG score, closely matched by **Capt Andy White**.

LCpl Andy Brown figured he didn't need a foresight and brought home an admirable score. **Sig Dernie** more than held his own and the gunners beat the RTR. **Sig Duncan** fired early, before flying off to the Regimental Athletics.

Mid-way, the Regiment were runners-up. After a nail biting final match the Regiment came home a close second. The CO congratulated the team on a well fought match.

Each member of the team had given a good account of himself and coming second in the Division was no mean feat! Now for the Corps SAAM and the real work!

The Team

EXERCISE SOUTHERN CHALLENGE
by WO2 P. J. Bull (RA Signals)

Ex Southern Challenge was conducted over the period 5-19 June 1989 and entailed five British Soldiers, **SSgt Dave Stapleton, Cpls Mick Davies, Ian Heward, LCpl Ted Wichello** and **Sig Ian Bailey** and one Australian Soldier (me) riding through seven countries in 12 days to raise money for cancer research both within the UK and West Germany. The total distance covered, including the two mountain passes in the Swiss/Italian Alps, exceeded 1,500kms.

'Oh no, this can't be right, it looks as though someone has been playing snakes and ladders—not building a road', I thought to myself as I looked up (always up) into the clouds ahead. We had been climbing (I should elaborate at this point that we were on racing bikes) for the last 48km having started the morning's little jaunt in the town of Landquartz (Switzerland). From here up into Klosters, followed by a short downhill section into Davos, then up again halfway to the Fluela pass. The Fluela pass, situated in the Swiss/Italian alps and at a height of 2,383m, normally has a good covering of snow all year round; this year being no exception. A look at the computer confirmed that I was fighting a losing battle trying to keep my speed in double figures. Having come from a mountainous area in Australia on posting to Germany I had thought that the mountains wouldn't hold any real surprises for me; it just shows how wrong a guy can be. Finally after what seemed forever I reached the pass, it had taken over two hours and one puncture to cover the 14km stretch of road from Davos to the pass itself, incredible. The view, as can be imagined, was absolutely breathtaking. Snow capped peaks, aqua blue skies and cool crisp mountain air everywhere.

After a cup of coffee and rugging up for the trip down the other side of the mountain we set off again. If I had problems keeping my speed up into double figures coming up the mountain it definitely wasn't a problem coming down. A quick glance, again at the computer, indicated that I was doing 66kph and accelerating. I noted with wry amusement, later that I never looked at the computer again until I was almost at the bottom of the mountain for fear of taking my eyes off the road. The trip down was exhilarating to say the least and, as a fellow rider remarked 'had to be the best amusement park ride in the world'. The ride 'down' from the pass to the town of Such 15 minutes! After a lunch break we continued to the town of Zernez and thus the end of day seven of Ex Southern Challenge. Tomorrow held another pass and another country, Italy.

THE ROUTE

The start point for Ex Southern Challenge was the town of Koblenz, which is situated at the junction of the Mosel and Rhine rivers in Germany. From here we followed the Mosel river to its source travelling through Germany and into France to the town of St Maurice where we spent a rest day. From St Maurice up through Busang and on to the city of Mulhouse to join up with the river Rhine. Then continuing along the Rhine past the city of Basle and briefly back into Germany before crossing into Switzerland heading for the city of Konstanz on the Bondensee, remaining in Switzerland, and passing the town of Alstatten we arrived in Lichtenstein for a quick sight seeing tour, by bicycle of course, of Lichtensteins capital city, Vaduz. From Lichtenstein we headed south back into Switzerland to the town of Bad Ragaz for another rest day prior to attempting the two passes in the Swiss/Italian alps. From Bad Ragaz up through Klosters and Davos, then up over the Fluela (2,383m) and Offen (2,149m) passes. Continuing along this road we headed for the city of Merano-Meran in Italy. From the town of Lana, just south of Meran, we travelled by vehicle back to the Bodensee to the city of Bregenz in Austria and once again, by bicycle skirted the lake. This time however; we remained in Germany and headed for the town of Ludwigshafen. From Ludwigshafen we travelled, again by vehicle, to the city of Freiburg, where, once again on the bikes followed the Rhine staying as close to the river as possible and arrived eventually at the start/finish point in the city of Koblenz.

DISTANCES

Day 1	146km	(Germany)
2	169km	(Germany, Luxembourg and France)
3	144km	(France)
4	135km	(France, Germany and Switzerland)
5	116km	(Switzerland)
6	120km	(Switzerland and Lichtenstein)
7	79km	(Switzerland. This includes the Fluela pass (2,383m)).
8	117km	(Switzerland and Italy, includes the Offen pass (2,149m)).
9	73km	(Austria and Germany)
10	120km	(Germany and France)
11	173km	(Germany)
12	124km	(Germany)

It is important to note that this was not a relay type ride and thus each and every rider completed the entire distance.

As can be seen, from the distances shown, this was by no means an easy journey. Each of the riders, especially four of the six who had not come from a cycling background were pushed to their limits. It was pleasing to see that each of them responded positively and thus were able to overcome them. The obvious dangers of riding down a narrow 10-12% gradient mountain road, with 'hairpin' bends and snow and ice on the road sides was also met matter-of-factly, and with a sense of humour.

The lessons learnt, both personally and professionally from this trip further convince me that bicycle expeditions of this nature *should* qualify as Adventurous Training.

I am firmly convinced that Ex Southern Challenge has demonstrated that a bicycle expedition *can* produce all the prerequisites to merit this.

We have not yet collected money promised to us but we are hopeful of being able to donate a worthy amount for Cancer Research.

Obviously, for something of this nature to be a success, there needs to be a dedicated support crew working behind the scenes. Therefore it would be remiss of me not to thank **SSgt Mick Foster, LCpl Steve West, Sig Steve Buckley** and **Mrs Karan Heward** for their help.

Finally, I would like to congratulate my fellow riders, as they have achieved something that many would not even contemplate.

LCpl Wichello approximately 2km from the top of the Flüela Pass

The 'group' with three American riders we met at the top of the Fluëla Pass
Pictured from left to right are: WO2 Bull (RA Sigs), Sig Bailey, Cpls Heward, Davies, James Heward (our mascot), and kneeling SSgt Stapleton and LCpl Wichello

OPEN DAY

Despite the stormy, unpredictable weather of 8 July, the Regiment held its Annual Open Day and it proved to be a successful and enjoyable family day out resulting in approximately £2,200 (DM6,600) being raised for British and German charities.

Numerous stalls and side shows ranging from 'Splat the Rat' to Homemade Grapefruit and Whisky Marmalade were pitched around the Regimental square. A freefall parachute display was given and everyone enjoyed listening to the Beating Retreat performed by the 1 Staffords Band.

(Left to Right): Mrs Jenny Stokoe, Oberstadtdirektor Dr Von Witten & Frau Von Witten and Lt Col J. D. Stokoe

16 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

FOR SALE—4,000 PAIRS OF SLIPPERS!

The Regiment is about to surface from an action packed six months. New arrivals keep looking at their unused slippers and wondering when they would get to wear them. We have even had volunteers to return to the FCZ for a bit of peace and quiet.

Admittedly May was somewhat unusual; Bank holidays and IBCP for the first week, Regimental Battle Camp for the second. Whitsun break was spent hosting TA recce parties for Ex Plain Sailing. The third week saw three teams taking part in Ex Crossbow, the RCZ Skill at Arms Competition (for the record, we won! The girls came second in the WRAC Competition, beaten by one point only). To finish off the month we held our annual Bradbury Fair which raised some DM10,000 for charity followed two days later by the Princess Royal Day. The administrative organisation under the able guidance of **Capt Phil Daisey** was a tremendous success. The shooting team surprised even themselves by coming third in the Major Units Competition.

Whilst all this was going on we have managed to run and win the Corps (BAOR) Boardsailing Competition, enter the BAOR Orienteering Championship, run a Corps football trial, take part in the BAOR Individual athletics, provide men and women for Corps, Army and Inter-Service level competitions, take part in the Morrison Cup, prepare for a visit of the White and Blue Helmets etc etc, Oh, and prepare for exercise and continue to run the BAOR and 1 (BR) Corps commcens and exchanges!

1 SQUADRON
CHARLIE TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC Tp	**Capt Mandy Tindall**
Tp Sgts	**Sgt Norrie Allan**
	Sgt Bernie McNamara
Exchange Supvr	**F/Sgt Len Weetch**

Since the formation of Charlie Tp at the beginning of the year, two major exercises, Wintex and Flying Falcon have taken place. The last week of February saw the start of Ex Wintex. With the OC, **Capt Mandy Tindall**, departing to HQ (BR) Commz for the duration, **Sgt Norrie Alan** was left to run the show back at JHQ. For once the weather was on our side and it turned out to be a very 'pleasant' exercise. With a constant flow of food supplements being sent from the Sqn Admin Gp, the Field Dets were well looked after. **LCpl Neil Clarke** and his crewman **Sig Carl Tucker**, located in Emblem Camp, were spotted with a fresh pineapple on top of their vehicle, under the cam net of course!

Directly after Ex Wintex the Regimental Cadre Course took place. Three members of the Troop, **Sig Junior Crawford, 'Babes' Garsed** and **Carl Tucker** eagerly put their names forward to attend. We congratulate them all on successfully completing what can only be described as a gruelling, but enjoyable two weeks.

The next event after Ex Flying Falcon, was the Regimental Inter-Troop Athletics Competition. This was the first event towards the Leicester Trophy. On probably one of the wettest days so far this year, if not this century, the Royal Signals Tp members turned out in force—all 10 of then! However, not a Troop to let a little rain dampen our spirits we entered every event, achieving some excellent results. The WRAC members of the Troop also took part, competing in the WRAC Inter-Squadron Competition. Well done to everyone for keeping up morale on such a ghastly day—let's hope the weather's better for the next Leicester Trophy event.

EXERCISE MIXED BLESSINGS

The beginning of May saw several Troop members depart on Regimental Battle Camp. Ex Mixed Blessings, as it was known, took place on the Arsbeck and Leuth Training Areas. To the surprise of some of our more chauvanistic members the girls did extremely well, equalling the men at almost everything. One notable achievement was when one of the WRAC Sections pulled a ¾ ton trailer out of a quarry faster than any male Section.

24 hour ration packs expand in water

LCpl Sandy Borrowdale taking a well earned rest

Sig Steve Pengelly has decided to rejoin us after spending most of this year on the badminton court. **Sig Carl Tucker** has left for his BI at Catterick and **LCpl Neil Clarke** is currently away on his 'summer hols' in Canada with BATUS.

Latest arrivals to the Troop are **Cpl Pat Murphy** and his wife who join us from 4 Div, **LCpl Olly Oldroyd** and his wife **Sabina** and **Sig** 'Junior' **Crawford, John Murray** and **Ian Stuart**. Welcome to you all. Sadly we also have to say farewell to **Cpl Paddy Hodge** and his wife who return to 3 Sqn, and to **Pte Liz Swan** who leaves the Army to join her husband in York; Good Luck in Civvy Street.

And finally a couple of photographs of three Troop members hard at work.

Painting made easy—LCpl Bruce Findlay

Preparing for UWIs—LCpls Olly Oldroyd and Tony Hussey

1 SQUADRON
OSCAR TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC Tp	**Capt Geoff Downey**
YofS	**WO2 Ron Allan**
FofS	**WO2 Ian Atherton**
Tp SSgts	**SSgt Paul Stevenson**
	SSgt Angie Warnes
Stats	**Cpl Bernie Smith**

We have welcomed to the Troop: **Sgt Pete Boon** and his wife, **Sgt Rutherford** and family, **Cpls Andy Tanner, Geordie English, LCpl Julie Williams, Ptes Elaine Gilliland, Helen Davis, Lisa Sykes, Jo Steele** and we bade farewell to: **Cpl Karen Turner** and husband **Muff, Cpl Karen Cable, LCpl Heather Stevenson** and her husband, **LCpl Mandy Brazier, LCpl Kay Lucas, Ptes Diane Walters,** and **Debbie Lloyd**. Congratulations to **Sgt Brenda Cox** and **Pte Jayne Headon** both leaving on promotion.

On the social front a day trip to Bobbyjanland Fun Park in Belgium and a trip down the Rhine to see the 'Rhine in Flames' are in the pipeline.

EXERCISE DECI BIRD

Notification of the expedition to Sardinia was in the time honoured fashion of a 1 Sqn 'Fastball'. With only 14 days to get everything together and form a team, **SSgt Paul Stevenson** and **Sgt Max Inman** surpassed themselves and in the resulting organised chaos the team of **SSgt Paul Stevenson** (Expedition Leader). **Sgt Max Inman, Cpls Rab O'Hara** (2IC), **Anne Carthy, Elaine Musgrave, Joanne Borland, LCpl Maggie Milford** and **Pte Lisa James** found themselves unceremoniously plonked on the ground at RAF Decimomannu.

After initial briefings and a day spent in the capital Cagliari shopping and watching **Cpl Anne Carthy** bartering with the African street traders, we set off on a five day trekking expedition. This was to prove demanding but thoroughly enjoyable and made easier at times by **Cpl Anne Carthy** and **Pte Lisa James**'s ability to hitch lifts from local farmers. A shock was in store for everybody when we discovered we had (in our ignorance) bought several tins of tripe. Not surprisingly only **SSgt Paul Stevenson, Sgt Max Inman** and **Cpl Rab O'Hara** ate their supper that evening.

Sgt Max Inman posing with his special mode of transport

After days of hard trekking and 36 hours of rain all members of the team were ready for our two days R & R spent on the coast at Villasimus. We had the camp site to ourselves so passed the time lazing in the sun, swimming in the Med and causing chaos in the local shops at Villasimus.

Next stop, Arbatax, for three days rock climbing and abseiling. This was by far the most enjoyable part of our two weeks adventure training. With the boldering and ground training over, all members of the team showed great courage and ability by completing several difficult climbs and displayed rather amusing abseiling techniques. Maybe the most impressive of all was **Sgt Max Inman** who always did an excellent impression of 'Shakin Stevens' before descending the 60ft abseil. There was a tense moment when **LCpl Maggie Milford** got her foot firmly stuck in a crack on the rock face, but after being convinced by **SSgt Paul Stevenson** that, 'nothing whatsoever could go wrong dangling only 50ft above the ground', showed nerves of steel by freeing herself and completing the climb. On our last day of climbing **SSgt Paul Stevenson** and **Cpls Rab O'Hara** and **Anne Carthy** exceeded themselves by completing a climb graded severe. After two very rewarding weeks we packed up and headed back to the villa at Capitana before departing for BAOR. To our surprise the aircraft was delayed for two and a half days and we were forced to spend many more hours lazing on the Med. We finally arrived home at 0100 hrs on 3 February. All agreed, that although very demanding at times, it had been a very rewarding and enjoyable expedition.

ON THE SPORTING FRONT

For a number of years 16 and 28 Sig Regts have been amalgamated Units on the WRAC side of sport. This is mainly due to the fact that the PTI from 16 Sig Regt covered both Units.

June saw the arrival of **LCpl Louise Elliott** into Victor Tp, 28 Sig Regt, based at Rheindahlen Garrison, to take over from **Cpl Carol Matten** who is 1 Sqn, 16 Sig Regt PTI.

This season has proved a very good one on all aspects of sport. The more noteworthy results started with the athletics where the Regiments were placed second behind 68 Sqn RCT. Next came swimming. After romping home to victory in the BAOR Inter-Unit Championships, the ladies swimming team went on to represent BAOR in the Army Championships at Sandhurst. All members are congratulated in their fine efforts in a convincing win by a clear 19 points over the other District winners.

Berlin saw the setting for the 1989 Inter-Unit Rounders Tournament. Eleven teams battled it out on the magnificent grounds at the Olympic Stadium. The winners of the tournament were the drivers from 68 Sqn RCT. Second were 16/28 Sig Regt who will join 68 Sqn in the Army Championships in September 1989.

Runners up in the 1989 BAOR and Berlin Inter Unit Rounders
Back (left to right): LCpl Goodman, Cpl Smith, Lt Col Harper (CO), Cpl Carthy and Pte Gooding
Front (left to right): Cpl Matten (PTI), Pte Davidson, Sgt Storrar, Sgt Cross, Pte Yule and LCpl Elliott (PTI)
With the winter season approaching this will signify the end of the amalgamation between the two Regiments. Both PTIs look forward to a season of success

EXCHANGE AU PAIR REPORT

by Lt Alison Gordon

My 'Au Pair' attachment was to 28eme Regiment de Transmissions (Force d'Action Rapide) from 11-25 March 1989. I left Krefeld on 10 March 1989 for Orleans, France and after several trips around the 'Peripherique' of Paris arrived at the Guardroom to be directed to **Lt Cuesta**'s home. He was to be my guide throughout my attachment. He told me that the Regiment would be on Ex Boomerang 89 for the majority of my visit.

The weekend was left free for shopping and sight seeing apart from a visit to the Regiment to collect my exercise stores—two blankets and an air bed! The exercise aim was to practise quick moves over long distances whilst still providing communications over the Rita system. The following is a diary of events during the exercise and my last two days.

DAY ONE

I met **Col Saudou**, the CO of the Regiment, who wished me an enjoyable visit. I then prepared to deploy with the 'duxieme cie' who set up the Poste de Commandement, that is communications for the headquarters, on exercise. The first location was a ten hour journey away, to the south of Limoges. All the usual happenings occurred: losing part of the convoy; the materials Section (REME Support) breaking down and part of the route suddenly closed for roadworks. It was nice to find these things happened in other Armies apart from ourselves!

DAY TWO

For the exercise, also with the 'duxieme cie' was an American Captain from the 73 Sig Bn. He was the only person to whom I was allowed to speak English.

At this location, the Company was setting up a display of Rita communications for **Gen Childs**, who was visiting the next morning. This was the ideal opportunity, while they were setting up in slow time, for me to learn about Rita and the vehicles deployed on the exercise. I learned about FH, CAN, CRR, PRA, CCTR and CRC! It seems all Armies are the same when it comes to abbreviating technical terminology. And being typically British I discussed the weather over a satellite link with a radio operator in Chad (Africa) via Syracuse.

DAY THREE

I acted as **Gen Childs** whilst the Coy Comd **Capt Delorme** practised his speech for the visit. **Gen Childs** was accompanied by **Gens Guillon** and **Audven**, as they visited the location.

At the lunch, I was placed beside the Commander's translator who wished to practise his English. A bonus for me. A number of presentations and toasts were made between the American and French Generals, and I too was honoured with a toast to the British.

The party was then taken to a display of the Regiment's air transportable role and also of its armoured capabilities.

Once the Generals had departed I was able to meet the Lieutenant in Command of Nodal Centre 031, something of a coincidence as I am presently the Commander of Ptarmigan Trunk Node 031!

DAY FOUR

Communications were established at 0100 hours, nine hours later the Company moved into a location to the south of Cahors which was approximately 130km from Brive.

It was on day four that I felt the mood was such that it would be acceptable for me to produce my comic relief red nose. This proved to be a popular attachment to all those in the premiere Section. So much so I donated it to one of the Corporal Chefs.

DAY FIVE

Day five was an abrupt awakening at 0315 hrs to move out at 0415 hrs. This time it was to Pamiers, which brought us on the doorstep of the Pyrenees.

Here was the luxury of a shower at the 9 Para Regt barracks.

DAY SIX

Our next move was this morning to Carcassone. It was here we were able to make the most of the good weather and a small escape committee (consisting of two French Lieutenants, an American Captain and a British Lieutenant) were able to get away from the rigours of exercise life and sight-see in Carcassone. Causing a few heads to turn at the same time, at the sight of uniforms of three different Armies.

Day six turned out to be a sad day, as I returned to the location to hear the news. Scotland had lost to France in the Rugby. As with all bad news, there was a bright side, I would no longer have to walk back to Orleans!

DAY SEVEN

At 1000 hrs, the Poste de Commandement moved to Lezignan—Corbiere, near Narbonne. By now the Company was in the heart of the vineyards, needless to say the red wine was improving. It also meant we were getting closer to the Cote d'Azur.

By now my French had improved to the extent that I felt confident to travel in the truck as passenger to one of the senior NCOs, and converse in French.

DAY EIGHT

0200 hrs saw the start of day eight and another move. This time I travelled with the FH to Niza near Berize and set up communications once more.

Today I was to visit Nodal Centre 036 which was to be one of the highlights of the exercise for me. Here I could relate to the equipment and tasks, and compare thoughts with the Node Commander.

That evening, the PC moved through the Regimental Echelon for its fuel resupply, a three hour rest and then a move at 0400 hrs.

DAY NINE

This move took the Company along the Rhone Valley to a farm location near to St Valiere. This was the final move. Once communications were in and working there was a little time for some throwing practice with an American football.

DAY TEN

Early morning Endex was called and the long haul to Orleans commenced. As with all return journeys everything went smoothly and 10 hours later the Company was unloading the vehicles in Orleans.

That night **Lt Cuesta**'s wife provided an excellent meal of spaghetti bolognaise for the American Captain and me.

The next morning the Lieutenants' Section carried out a complete turnaround of the vehicles. In the afternoon the Officers and Senior NCO's of the 2 Coy had farewell drinks for the American Captain and me. We were presented with numerous presents. I was especially delighted with the fleece lined exercise jacket given to me.

That evening a Lieutenants' dinner was held in our honour.

On our final morning we attended the Regimental Colours Parade. This is held every Friday morning. Each of the Regiments' six Companies marched past the Colonel singing their particular Company song. Afterwards the Colonel said farewell to myself and the American contingent. Before lunch the Company wound down in front of a video of the exercise which provided much amusement to all in the Company.

LESSONS LEARNED

Firstly, I learned an excellent lesson in French over the two week period. The attachment was all the more interesting because I had a background in the French language and also I worked with a similar communications system.

In this respect I was able to understand what was going on around me.

Secondly, having never previously come across a conscripted Army the whole concept was totally new to me. The French have to serve 12 months in the Army sometime between the ages 18-24 years. Which leaves a very short time for those soldiers to train in a particular trade. I was impressed to find an Army party formed from conscripts, that was so professional.

Finally, I learned never to mention that I am Scottish when there is a Scotland v France Rugby match about to take place!

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE EXCHANGES

To obtain the most out of an Echange au pair, one must have some background in the language. Although I hadn't studied the language for some years, I was able to pick it up again fairly well. Whereas the American Captain missed so much by having to wait for people to speak English to him.

Having a technical background, doing the similar sort of job in the British Army certainly aided in my understanding of the exercise and the Regiment as a whole.

Finally, if all those taking part in these exchanges are treated with hospitality as excellent as that provided by **Col Sandou** and the 28eme Regiment de Transmissions then I believe an Echange au pair is a great educational experience for young officers in any Corps.

21 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

SCHOOL CHILDREN HELP TO CELEBRATE 21 SIGNAL REGIMENT 30th ANNIVERSARY

Last May, 21 Sig Regt held a Regimental Weekend to celebrate 30 years in its Air Support Role as reported in July. As friends of the Regiment, the children of the Erich Kastner School for the mentally handicapped at Singhofen near Koblenz, were invited along to the fete. They arrived at about midday and were taken for some lunch in the Dutch Rooms of the Bristol Mess. The children and staff of the school were met by the CO, **Lt Col Philip Whitemore**, his wife **Jenny** and a willing band of helpers and their families.

After a few words of welcome, the CO handed over to **Mrs Connie Patrickson**, who donated a cheque for more than DM700 to the Headmaster **Mr Kilean Schmitz**. She earned this money the hard way, through sponsorship for her running the Bruggen 10 road race earlier in this year! She will also be handing a cheque for a similar amount to St Francis's Special School in Rheindahlen. A most creditable effort. Well done **Connie**!

Another event held during this weekend, was an Anniversary Ball which was attended by all Officers, Warrant Officers and SNCOs of the Regiment. It was a splendid affair with excellent music, jovial company and a magnificent array of delicious food. The centre piece of this display, was a very large birthday cake which was decorated with shields depicting the cap badges of all the Regiments and Corps that are employed within 21 Sig Regt. These were all beautifully hand made by the catering staff and were a pleasure to behold. The cake was so beautiful that no one had the heart to cut into it, so it lasted the whole function unscathed!

Mrs Connie Patrickson presents a cheque for DM700 to the Headmaster of the Erich Kastner Schule, Mr Kilean Schmitz, with the CO Lt Col Phil Whitemore

2IC, Maj Christopher Donaghy, with 'the' cake, flanked by Cpl Geordie Fagan and LCpl Mark Hughes and some of the children from the Erich Kastner Schule at their school in Singhofen

The CO, **Lt Col Philip Whitemore**, hearing about this a few days later, pondered on the most fitting way of disposing of this work of art. Although it was big, it was not big enough to give to a hospital or the local school. The recipients would barely get a crumb each! Then someone suggested the Children of the Erich Kastner School with its 60 or so children, there would be plenty to go around. A quick phone call to our friends in 12 Flight Army Air Corps and the delivery was all arranged, thanks for the fast ball Colonel! So on Monday 29 May, clutching his well rehearsed speech (in German), the Regimental 2IC, **Maj Christopher Donaghy**, accompanied by **Capt Brian Billsberry** and **WO2 (FofS) Dave Stewart** flew (courtesy of 2IC 12 Army Air Corps, **Capt John Davis**), down to Singhofen to make this special delivery. It was a beautiful day, the sun shining brightly and the children and staff of the school all really pleased to see their English friends again (and even more pleased to see the Birthday cake!). Needless to say, it did not survive this function intact!

1 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Dick Good**
SSM	**WO2 Paul Smyth**
YofS	**SSgt Nick Nicholson**
FofS	**SSgt Reg Whitehead**
OC 37	**Capt Paul Hodgkiss**
OC 38	**Lt Tony Clark**
OC 39	**Lt Jan McKee**
OC 40	**2Lt Ashley Stocker**

Having completed more exercises than any other Squadron in the Regiment it seemed only right that we should do more adventure training too. It could be bad for morale if the families realised that the husbands can stay at home for more than five nights and not turn into a pumpkin!

So we have sent expeditions to Sardinia, The Baltic, Norway and Bavaria. So far all have returned without major diplomatic incident. Trunk Node Tim **(SSgt Cowan)** not to be outdone by young Officers organised 'adventure training' to Phantasialand. Woolly hats and spraydecks on the merry-go-round, mind boggling.

TNO38 PERSONALITIES

OC	**Lt Tony Clark**
OC (DES)	**2Lt Guy Bennett**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Al Burnett**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Calvin Lambert**
Tp Cpls	**Cpl Dave Jubb**
	Cpl Andy Terry
	Cpl Mat Murray
	Cpl Jim O'Donnell
	Cpl Steve Foreman
	Cpl Andy Riley

Upon returning from a gruelling Kape Tour to the North West District, TN038 found themselves on Ex Signal Star for two weeks, and again one week later on Ex Hill Foil for a further two weeks . . . who said 21 Sig Regt was a cushy posting!

After Hill Foil **Sig 'Bozzy' Bostock** decided that the Troop had been working too hard for the past two months and that we should indulge in less strenuous activities, hence the Troop barbecue.

It was with great excitement that the Troop prepared for its Summer Ball/Barbecue organised by **SSgt Al Burnett** (who has never had a mention in *The Wire*) and held on the sprawling lawns outside hangar 7 one glorious sunny day. Nearly all the Troop turned up for the event.

Lt Tony Clark did everybody proud by organising for the wives an 'Anneka Rice' type treasure hunt around camp—all very high tech, all very professional thanks to 4 Sqn for the loan of their Clansman Radios.

While the mums were zipping around camp looking for clues, the kids were busy turning an abandoned RAF 'Box Body' into something more suited to a 'The Wizard of Oz' set, all with the help of some remarkably bright coloured paint supplied by **Josie Burnett**.

Cpls Mat Murray and **Andy Terry** organised a tasting competition with such delights as dry coffee, hot spices, washing powder etc. The

only one wise enough to stay clear was **Cpl Mat Murrays** dog Sheeba.

As the sun started to drop, and everyone thought they had drunk their fill, a boat race was held with **LCpl George Fletts** (our REME Fitter) wife **Debbie** downing a pint in the fastest time . . . what a girl!

A raffle was held towards the end with **Sig 'Bozzy' Bostock** and **Jim Henderson** trying to sell the tickets. Its a shame the Troop is full of Jocks. The main prize was won by **Sgt Calvin Lambert**, with all the Troop heirarchy winning prizes, much to the disappointment of the lads.

Everyone had a great time and it put the whole Troop just in the right mood for the Squadron barbecue next week . . . which we were jiffed to organise!

CONGRATULATIONS

To two people this month. Firstly to **Cpl Andy Terry** who was selected for promotion. Also to **Lt Tony Clark** who has won the Whistler Trophy awarded to the subaltern in the Corps deemed to have done most for his Regiment and his soldiers in the past year.

WELCOME AND FAREWELL

We would like to welcome to the Troop **2Lt Guy 'The Fish' Bennett, SSgt Al Burnett, Sgt Calvin Lambert**, and newish arrivals are **LCpls Dave Gallagher** and **Aidie Haslam**. Farewell to **Lt Tony Clark** who is making a big move from Wildenrath to Birgelen.

1 SQUADRON—TN 039

On a windy rain swept day eight intrepid explorers boarded a plane at RAF Wildenrath and disembarked in a blaze of sunshine in RAF Decimomannu, Sardinia. Living on an RAF station, the name was familiar, but a friendly face was there to meet them and whisk them off to the seaside villa which is home to the BAOR Expedition Base.

Ex Deci Brake was a two week trekking and climbing expedition in the wilds of the Sardinian countryside. After being abandoned on the side of a mountain knowing that the only way back, as usual, was over the top, everyone gradually came to realise that perhaps they weren't going sunbathing after all. So armed only with some lira and a couple of litres of water, off they set in search of food and somewhere to set up camp for the night.

Not much need be said about the next five days as they passed in a haze of blisters, pain, mountains and perhaps the odd bus (no of course they wouldn't). After the hundredth 'only another 5kms'—thanks **Tim**—they finally emerged on the coast to grab a couple of days sunbathing before setting off for the climbing site in Arbatax. This proved to be much more popular than the trekking as it was accompanied by blue seas and skies, and the occasional drop of the local 'Deci red'.

A good time was had by all and when 'Brit Rock' was finally handed back to the camp site there were more than a few sad faces. Anyone got anything planned for next year?

1 SQUADRON—AIRBORNE

It's amazing how a simple question can cause such a panic. You'd think 'anyone for a one jump course?' would have the 'macho' men flocking in droves and not the sick piling up by the second!

Being a parachute freak herself, **Lt Jan Mckee** was more than willing to introduce the sport to her Troop who have spent the last year listening attentively and wistfully to her freefall exploits. So with the 18 vacancies finally filled by the Squadron's pluckiest soldiers, off they set for Bad Lippspringe under the watchful eye of **Cpl Chris Williams**.

The 17 soldiers were amazed to spot the Sqn Comd's wife,

A healthy expedition at the start: *Front row (left to right):* SSgt Tim Cowan, Sig 'Dicko' Dickenson, Lt 'Jan' McKee and Cpl Steve 'Choppers' Chopping
Back row (left to right): LCpl Niel Morrison, Sig Gerry McGachy, Cpl Andy Joint and Sig John Wooding

1 Sqn—'Airborne' boys, all safely on the ground

Mrs Monika Good, in their midst, so the competition really got going to see who had the best 'PLF' and would anyone wimp out? One and a half days later, after throwing themselves around the ground training room to the cries of 'forward right' determination was high although things got very quiet for a while as some were led out to the plane to complete their first descent! To shouts of 'Remember lads, we were there' the first batch disappeared into the plane. Well I am delighted to report that not one hesitated and everyone was smiling when they got down. Well, almost everyone!

The prize for the worst exit must go to **Cpl Andy Joint** (never mind, you'll get it right next time) while two prizes go to the worst landings. **Sig Reader** spanked in first to twist his ankle, but, not to be outdone, **Sig 'Dicko' Dickinson** decided to go one better. We all hope that the metalwork is removed soon! At least you got four weeks in the UK! At the end of the day, everyone said that it was the experience of a lifetime and all are keen to do another descent. Well done lads! You were there!

2 SQUADRON

The Squadron has been involved in the exercise season which came in the form of Hill Foil 89. The introduction of the Harrier II has meant that the exercise was mainly for the benefit of IV (Army Co-operation) Squadron, so much so that, the E Troop SAN in the field managed to get away without the help of Revlon.

The latest thing to do on exercise is parachuting. Picture this, a large camp site full of Germans intent on leaving perfectly serviceable aircraft. First in to the fray was **Cpl Andy Scott** who for 600m was offered an incomplete tour of the locality. There was nothing unnatural in this as he has lately lost his head after volunteering to do a Sport Para course at Sennelager. However, in the same conversation **Cpl Jeff Hodgson** is offered the chance to do a tandem jump from 3,000ft which he accepted. This from a man who only days before would have had a nose bleed at the thought of climbing into the back of a Rover. I am glad to report that both made jumps successfully and **Cpl Jeff Hodgson** hanging under his instructor for a 30 second free fall. The question is will he be bitten by the bug?

LCpl Mark Cuddy tried hard to return to his primary school days by taking a complete box of sherbert dips on exercise.

Sgt Andy Young has promised to teach anybody his methods of living off the land, however, it may cost you an arm and a leg.

The mole at FWOC informs me that the **(FofS) Mick Polland** was not best pleased with the **SSgt (YofS) Terry McHugh** when the latter left the decamming to the former at endex. The phrase 'my jobs more important' failed to impress. **(FofS) Mick Polland** will be sorely missed when he departs. Congratulations on the CinC RAF(G) commendation. A well deserved award for all the 'Eiffeling' over the last few years.

3 SQUADRON
INTER-TROOP GOLF

On Tuesday 6 July Golf Tp (appropriately) hosted the annual 3 Sqn Inter-Troop Golf Competition. It was held at Wildenrath and with the kind permission of the Chairman and Committee of RAF Wildenrath Golf Club we used their new club room as a base for the day. The weather was excellent and it turned out to be the hottest day of the year so far.

3 Sqn consists of four Airfield Troops based at each of the clutch airfields and Golf Tp which is responsible for fixed Comms throughout BAOR. In support of these is HQ Sqn who teamed up with ACPO from Rheindahlen to form the sixth team.

Prizes were awarded for highest total (Stableford) of the day, nearest the pin, longest drive, best unhandicapped player, a special mystery prize and of course the trophy for the winning Troop.

After some mixed fortunes SHQ and ACPO ended up as runaway winners also taking most of the individual prizes which were awarded as follows: Best Handicapped Player **WO2 (SSM) Joe Fairbairn**, Best Unhandicapped Player **SSgt Dave Campbell**, Longest Drive **Capt Brian Billsberry** and Nearest the Pin **SSgt (SQMS) Des Faherty**.

The mystery prize was awarded to **Sgt Mick Wood** from G Tp for his sheer doggedness at carrying on for only his second ever game of golf to score two points (one par or two bogeys). Next year's competition will be sponsored by the SHQ and will be again open to all members of 3 Sqn.

VISIT OF TA TO K TROOP

On Thursday 8 June members of H Troop (RAF Bruggen) and their Territorial Army support 856 Sig Tp paid a visit to K Troop. The purpose of the visit was to show the TA soldiers how an airfield operated. The day started with 856 Sig Tp carrying out a strenuous route march and completing various military tasks at Arsbeck Training area. The afternoon was taken up by a visit to Battle Flight 19 Sqn followed by a display at the RAF Police dog Section. The Troops were visited during the day by **Brig S. G. McK Gordon** Comd 12 Bde (V). The day ended with an Inter-Troop Volleyball Competition on which H Troop emerged overall winners of the 'How can anyone stoop so low trophy'.

Brig Gordon visiting Battle Flight with members of 856 Sig Tp and H Troop

K TROOP FAREWELLS AND BABIES

The Troop would like to congratulate **LCpl Jenkins** and **Sally** on the birth of their daughter **Kayleigh**, and also say farewell to **Steve** and **Mandi Moore, JC** and **Dora Copley, Pete** and **Lee Turner, Martin** and **Irene Fletcher** and last but not least **Matt Helm** who is now in sunny Australia on Ex Long Look.

MORE FOR MOORE

On 13 July **Gp Capt A. McKay** Station Cdr RAF Wildenrath presented **Sgt Steve Moore** of K Troop 21 Sig Regt with a Certificate Of Merit to mark **Steve's** outstanding contribution in the field of land-line communications to RAF Wildenrath. Over the last three years **Steve** has worked as the Cable Maintenance Sergeant at RAF Wildenrath giving up a great amount of his own time to plan and implement many innovations. **Steve** and his wife **Mandy** have now been posted to sunny Cyprus, all the best from all at K Troop, Wildenrath.

Sgt Steve Moore receives his Certificate of Merit from Gp Capt McKay

4 SQUADRON
EXCERCISE HELI-BACKSTOP

Ex Heli-Backstop 1989 was held over the period 23 June-7 July and took the form of a challenge pursuit camp. The main base for the camp was established at Lankern, approximately 6km north of Cochem, and all the activities took place in the surrounding area of the Mosel valley.

The advance party deployed on Friday 23 June complete with all the items essential for a successful camp—tents, adventure training kit, cookhouse stores, food and least important of all—beer.

Upon arrival at Landkern the party of nine DS set about unloading and setting up the camp in preparation for the arrival of the students. Fortunately, the weather was favourable and by nightfall everything was looking somewhere near complete. The following day saw final recces of pursuit locations and then everything was ready for the arrival of the students.

The peace and tranquility that had surrounded the camp since our arrival was broken at 1640 hrs on the Sunday when the first 'white elephant' arrived. Obviously the Naafi bar had been quiet before the lads departure!, as they arrived in 'sombre' mood. They soon came down to earth with a bang when they were presented with four neatly packed 160lb tents and told 'Gentlemen, there is your accommodation'. For the next 45 minutes various methods were employed in trying to construct the tents until success was achieved by the Section containing **Sig Burns, Huskisson** and **Warren** who completed their task to hearty cheers.

The camp began in earnest the next morning with a 'short' jog which was to be a feature each morning. The run took in the picturesque hills surrounding Landkern, however the enthusiasm shown for this route on the first morning soon waned and the word 'picturesque' was never again uttered. As the week progressed the activities began to take their toll with abseiling and rock climbing under **LCpl 'Woody' Wood** from 2 Sqn, canoeing along the Mosel with **Cpl Roger Bauer** from 7 Sig Regt and flower picking (sorry hill-walking) with **Cpl Chris Middleton**. By Thursday tea-time the strain was showing with most of the camp in bed by 1700 hrs, but they soon recovered for the barbecue held that evening.

The highlights of the first week though were yet to come! Firstly, on the run, **Sig Brian Ruddin**, climbing manfully off his sick-bed to complete the course, although he wishes to thank **Capt Hickling** for his assistance over the early stages. Moral—Cochem boat-trips and running—not recommended. Then the whole group was taken to a family wine business in Messenich, outside Cochem, where the wine obviously had some special ingredients as all the lads returned to the camp feeling very brave and singing specially made up songs about the DS, namely **Capt Andy Hickling** and **Sgt Garry Hill**. Eventually, to the relief of all the DS and bus arrived to return the lads to Wildenrath.

Then saw the start of the families weekend which was very well attended and which most people seemed to enjoy. Again the centre-piece was a barbecue on the Saturday night, where a cooking rival was found for Floyd on TV (I wonder who?), although whether this was due to cooking ability or wine consumption nobody knows.

The second week was much the same as the first with another batch of happy smiling faces. On the DS side **WO2 Dave Warburton** took over as canoe instructor assisted by **Sgt Dave Bunt**. As the weather improved during the week so did the morale of the lads with all the pursuits being attacked with enthusiasm. **Cpl Baz Hardman** took over the hill-walking for a few days, but his rendition of the Sound of Music was not really in the same class. The week ended with another hearty barbecue and a few quiet drinks before camp was broken on the Friday morning.

Many thanks must go to **Capt Hickling, SSgt Patrickson, Sgt Hill, Cpls Hodgson, Crabb** and our chef **Pte Campbell** for administering the camp and to **WO2 Warburton, Sgt Bunt, Cpls Middleton, Hardman, Bauer** and **LCpl Wood** for the excellent instruction throughout.

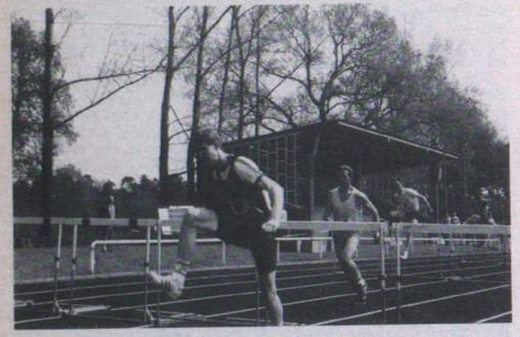
The camp was enjoyed by everyone and we look forward now to an even greater challenge next year when the same pursuits are undertaken in Bavaria. (And where possibly **Cpl Ogga Hodgson** will go abseiling!)

22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

SUMMER IMAGES OF THE REGIMENT

ATHLETICS

2Lt Nick Smith ahead of the field (for once)



LCpl Tomkinson, Cpl Brown and LCpl Finn in the Regimental Knee Jerk Event!

PRINCESS ROYAL DAY

2Lt Peter Turner leading in the March and Shoot Team

The CO and RSM praying for the team whilst magazine filling goes on

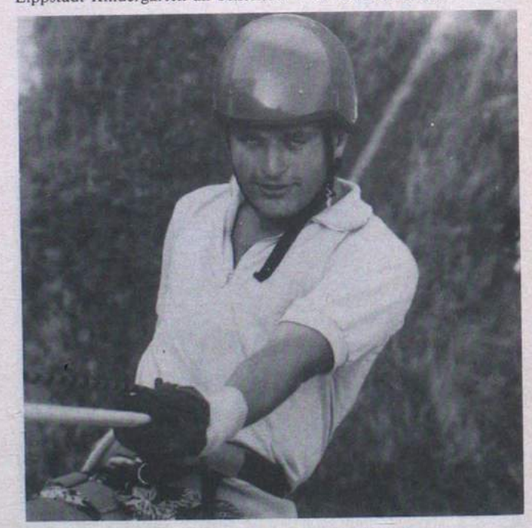
EXCHANGE TRAINING IN DENMARK

HQ SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Peter Cain**
SSM	**WO2 George Burrows**
SQMS	**SSgt Ian Dales**
Sqn Clk	**Cpl Mark (Woody) Allen**

Over half way through 1989 now, and a feeling of relief as Ex Flying Falcon, Ex Scree Slope and Ex Sweet Martini have passed by smoothly. Almost as smoothly as the handover/takeover of new and old SSMs. We welcome our new SSM **WO2 George Burrows** and say farewell to our old (and bold) **WO2 Mike Duffin** who will be remaining in the Regiment as the new RQMS (T) (for his sins) when he returns from swanning around Australia.

Our congratulations go out to **Susanne Crapper**, wife of **Sgt Dereck Crapper**, who courageously carried out a sponsored parachute jump in aid of charity and managed to raise not only a few laughs for her landing, but DM711 from which the 1 and 2 Brownie Packs and the Lippstadt Kindergarten all benefited. Well done **Susanne**.



LCpl Sparrow bridge abseiling

2Lt Julian Leader waiting for a mermaid

FAREWELLS

We would like to say a fond farewell to our Padre, **Capt Stephen Robbins** and his wife **Susan** who are posted to Berlin (he has the luck of the devil!) after two years sterling work in Lippstadt (and the Regimental Rugby Club). Good luck.

HELLO

A warm welcome to **Sgt Leroy Clarke** and wife **Linda**, also **LCpls Errol Rickets** and **Steven Fenn**.

MT TROOP
PERSONALITIES

MTWO	**WO2 Mal Barker**
MT SNCO	**Sgt Pete Casson RCT**

The Troop would like to say a fond farewell to **Cpl Ginge Dyson** and **Mrs Dyson** on posting to 14 Sig Regt. **SSgt Keith Bridger** who, after a short appearance back from Sardinia, is off to the UK for his last six months in the Army. Also to **Cpl Kev Baxter, Annette, Nina** and **Daniel** on posting to 4 Armd Div Sig Regt. Good luck to all of you and many thanks.

Welcome to the Troop to **Cpl Don Gillingham**, who for all his sins has had the Regimental generator bay placed upon his shoulders. Congratulations on your recent promotion and your marriage and we hope that you and your family enjoy Lippstadt. We also welcome **LCpl Errol Ricketts** from 202 Sig Sqn and **Sigs Carl Seddon** and **Winker Watson** from 8 Sig Regt.

After the busy start to the year, the Regiment has got a few weeks in camp before we start again, so the MT is slowly catching up on all the work that needs doing. **LCpl Andy Raby** RCT is still doing his bit. He has earned the nickname 'CC' (Charlie Cotton) since his accident, because it is a question of 'Lend us a fiver' till I get my compensation'. **Sgt Casson** RCT is firing on all cylinders as well. His nickname 'PS' (Percy Sugden) is appropriate because of all the stories he tells of when he was a lad and what the Army was like then. Although young **Carl Seddon** has only been with us a few weeks, he is performing really well. For him 'NBC' (No Brain Cell) is pretty apt for one who couldn't tell one end of a Rover from the other. **LCpl Angus** 'Supergrass' **Watt** RCT got his name by doing as he was told for once. The Troop was treated to a laugh a few days before these notes were written. **Dvr Taff Sully** RCT decided to do a tyre rotation on a Rover 90. He raised the Rover using two Rover jacks and a Bedford jack and removed all four wheels. He replied to the MTWO, who was a little worried to say the least, that this was how the professionals did it. **LCpl Mat** 'The Fingers' **Storor** RCT decided that he didn't want to continue with Ex Flying Falcon. He spent twelve days in hospital making sure he still had all his fingers.

MT Troop

Finally, the Troop would like to congratulate **Cpl Clive Evison** and **Mary** on tying the knot. All the Troop hope that you enjoy your tour in Lippstadt.

M TROOP

The past four months have seen several changes within the Troop, most notable was the loss of our TOT, **Capt John Gerrard**, to RHQ to become the Tech Adjt, and with the departure of **WO1 (FofS)** (now Lt) **Steve Rogers**, the Troop is commanded by **WO1 (FofS) Tony Brend**, recently arrived from Scotland; he wants to know what is so special about 'this Ptarmigan' as there are plenty of them in the Highlands!

At present the workshop is more than usually depleted with three of its members in Australia, **Cpl 'Robbo' Roberts** who is on Ex Long Look, and **Sgt Steve Payne** and **Cpl Steve Munday** on adventure training on Ex Cantrek Quadrant.

We are happy to say, however, that we have an exchange visitor from 'down under' in the form of **Cpl Paul Murphy**—is that 'Spud' or 'Blue'? **Cpl Murphy** is already in the swing of Troop life having joined four other Troop members in the Regimental athletics team, **Sgts Ade Woodley, Tony Winter, Dom McGrath** and **Cpl Colin Cunningham** through to the Army finals in Aldershot.

Despite this, work continues and we are now preparing for our annual tels inspection, and the coming exercise season.

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT
PERSONALITIES

QM	**Maj Ian Buckley**
RQMS	**WO2 Derek Brown**
SQMS	**SSgt John Larley**
MQAS	**Sgt John Hopkinson**
Clothing	**Cpl Tony Moses**
	Sig Brian Osborne
	Sig Ross Harmer
Clerk	**Mrs Joyce Hughes**
Stkpr	**Mr John Sharpe**

Pen is being put to paper as the sun is rising; it seems to be the only time available to write some *Wire* Notes in this, the smallest but without doubt the busiest department in the Regiment.

Currently, Churchill Barracks is undergoing modernisation, with the whole department involved, constantly changing the plans to ensure that the best result is achieved. For the past weeks the QM, **Maj Ian Buckley** and **SSgt John Larley** have been wading through a mass of blueprints, altering the inner structure, preparing key plans and the like; **SSgt Larley** says it's his resettlement course in designing.

Cpl Tony Moses has had a busy year: Leave, Site Guard and, to cap it all, an Ordnance ancillary inspection. He can smile now, he didn't get caught! **Sig Brian Osborne** is trying to pass his driving test to become a Dvr/Lmn, but constantly fails to find the time, what with leave, summer camp and athletics. **Sig Ross Harmer** has recently joined us from the Officers' Mess, and was totally surprised—he thought that they worked hard in the Mess! He is picking up the ropes from **Sig Dereck Finney**, who is about to be posted to 14 Sig Regt. Lucky 14! **Mrs Joyce Hughes**, our clerk looks after us all and mothers us. Where would we be without her?

Well, it is time to sign off for now. Where is the QM?

EXERCISE DANISH TRIANGLE—SUMMER CAMP—2 SQUADRON
by SSgt Johnson

At first light Monday 3 July the advance party, twelve stalwart men, left Churchill Barracks, Lippstadt, to travel the 350 miles to Fredericia, Denmark, to set up camp in Ryes Kaserne, home of our hosts 3 Sig Bn. The sun was beating down as the convoy travelled north through Hannover and Hamburg and escorted over the border by two SNCOs from 500 MMT RCT. Eleven hours later they were there; tents erected, beds laid out, barbecues lit, floodlit volleyball court pegged out, bar open, (not necessarily in that order). The remaining members of the Squadron arrived the following lunchtime, bleary eyed, having travelled in Bedfords through the night to be greeted by the news that the volleyball competition started in 30 minutes. A total of 43 members of the Squadron took part in various activities which included abseiling, sub-aqua, canoeing and windsurfing organised by **2Lt Leader**.

The canvas accommodation was a number of 18 × 24's and a green bivi, home of **Sig Dave Turton** and for some unknown reason the most popular tent was the 18 × 24 which had the bar in it.

Each day started at 0730 hours to the dulcet tones of **WO2 (SSM)**

Martin 'the lobster' **Smith** followed by PT (Physical Torture) when co-ordination and endurance was tested to the full by doing aerobics to the vibes of Michael Jackson on the boogy box as a warmer. After the continental breakfast, prepared, but not cooked by **Sgt Alan Gerrard** and **LCpl Nicolls** ACC it was down to the beach only a stone's throw away and into the canoes.

SSgt Andy Trivett was our local expert in the kayak, he demonstrated the various ways of falling out of a canoe yet making it appear planned. At the same time on another part of the beach **Sig Peters** was trying to get **Sgt Phil Price** to stay on the windsurf board for more than three seconds thus allowing the tide to come in.

On Thursday night we had a party for our hosts (yet another barbecue) which proved to be a real ice-breaker regarding British male and Danish female relationships. PT the next morning was slower than usual.

Friday and Saturday were our abseiling days. **Sgt Graeme Wilkinson** set off to find mountains, he didn't, so he settled for the railway bridge which connects the Danish mainland to the island of Fyn (Foon). The local police kept the populace clear as the boys were given a demonstration of how it is done by two women soliders from the Kaserne. Not wishing to look chicken everyone completed a walked abseil and a free abseil from the 65m high bridge with only **Sgt Alan Gerrard** having to be rescued when he got stuck half way. **SSgt Jim Acklaw** ran the sub aqua course on a sheltered part of the beach over the last two days of the camp. With their air tanks, filled at regular intervals by the local fire service, **Jim** took twenty of the lads deemed medically fit through their paces. For all of them once their initial fear of jelly fish had been overcome it was difficult to keep them out of the water. **Cpl Souse** 'the fish' **Philips** now speaks with a French 'Jacques Cousteau' accent.

The ten days ended as the weather closed in with torrential rain and a thunderstorm ringing in our ears as we drove south back to Lippstadt.

3 SQUADRON
EXERCISE SOUTHERN VENTURE—FIRST AID

The Squadron Battlecamp First Aid stand saw some budding paramedics on the practical assessments. The casualties that had to be dealt with included burns victims and horrendous abdominal wounds courtesy of the Regimental cookhouse. The aim of the stand was to introduce some of the younger soldiers to life-like battlefield casualties.

The students enjoyed the challenge, and administered good first aid. There were some, however, who had their own ideas, among them our own resident brain surgeon **Sig Roy Heathcote**, who wanted to know if **Sig Nuttall**'s 'open' abdomen was causing him any pain. The reply was a very polite 'yes'.

EXERCISE SOUTHERN VENTURE

On 22 May 1989, seventy-seven ORs from 3 Sqn deployed to the Sauerland region to take part in what was to be a week of fun and sun. This exercise was the brainchild of **WO2 (SSM) Mackay**, and was designed, not only to complete mandatory military training, but also to improve Anglo-German relations with our host 5/FLaRak G21, which roughly translated is the 5th Bty of the anti aircraft battalion.

THE NBC EXERCISE—EXERCISE CASBAG CAPER

The aim of the exercise was to enable soldiers to complete their mandatory training and to introduce them to the difficulties of coping in an NBC environment. The exercise started with a lecture on characteristics and effects of chemical and nuclear weapons. We then completed tests in the gas chamber and an introduction to NBC gymnastics—a big favourite of **Sig Jim McNee**, and finally an NBC exercise designed to test the JNCO's ability to command and control in an NBC environment.

The NBC exercise proved to be very difficult both physically and mentally as a result of the weather welding respirators to the students faces. However, all the students worked extremely hard and nearly enjoyed themselves. Moral of the story: Be an NBC Instructor.

Hello Zero this is One
Zero send over
One we have just arrived with todays fresh rations

Our photograph shows the Squadron posing under one of 5 Bty rockets. Note the clear sky and the happy smiling faces. Those not smiling have yet to complete their NBC training

28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
BFPO 35

SERGEANTS' MESS

The Sergeants' Mess held a Ladies dinner night on 7 July to say farewell to the following members. WO1 (FofS) Peter Johnson on commissioning, **WO2 (YofS) Mick Chapman** and **SSgt Glen Pennington** on completion of 22 years service. After the dinner **WO1 (FofS) Pete Johnson** was duly tried by court martial in the traditional way. The President and all Mess members wish them and their families good fortune for the future.

WO2 (YofS) Mick Chapman receiving his farewell gift from WO1 (RSM) Bob O'Hara

SSgt Glen Pennington receiving his farewell gift from WO1 (RSM) Bob O'Hara

The Mess reject having of course been found guilty arrives at the Officers' Mess surrounded by his trusted friends WO1 (Bob) O'Hara, WO2 (SSM) (Bill) Woodmason, WO2 (SSM) (Barry) Lewis, WO2 (RQMS) (Martin) Roberts and not forgetting WO2 (Geoff) Decarteret

1 SQUADRON
FOXTROT TROOP NEWS
ARRIVALS

There have been a number of new arrivals in Foxtrot Tp recently **Sgt Geordie Simpson** and **Babs** flew over from Hong Kong to join the Troop, **Cpl Dave Toulson** arrived from 21 Sig Regt and **Cpl Willie Davies** from 22 Sig Regt and **Sig Paddy O'Brien** and **Brent Tate** have joined us in sunny Krefeld. We hope you all enjoy your stay here.

DEPARTURES

The Troop said farewell to **Cpl Dean Ewing** and **Donna**, who have moved to 11 Sig Regt. Also to **LCpl Ian Sanders** posted to 7 Sig Regt and **Cpl Kim Castledine**. We wish all the best to them all.

REGIMENTAL BATTLE CAMP

1 Sqn deployed on its week of the Regimental Battle Camp in the evening of Friday 14 July.

Phase one was to recce, occupy and successfully defend a hide location. This would normally have been fairly straight forward but on this occasion we had all the switch vehicles with us.

These notes relate to Foxtrot Tp switch and personnel. The move from barracks to the initial habour went smoothly and here we waited for the recce teams guide to escort each packet to the hide location. The first packet moved successfully under cover of darkness and convoy lights to the hide location, the second packet moved off under the guidance of **Cpl** 'Pathfinder' **Cook**.

Later when they had not arrived **Sgt Phil Jobling** took a patrol out to find them and found them 600m away, the other side of a stream completely lost. Eventually all vehicles were accounted for and moved in and camouflaged.

Then began the task of defending the location for 48 hours. Several recce probes by the enemy were thwarted by fighting patrols that were dispatched at short notice. One group of four enemy were chased and attacked for a distance of 2kms by the QRF. They eventually gave up exhausted and sat down waiting to be captured. The Enemy Section Commander **Cpl Paddy Reilly RPC** asked where the rest of the platoon was that chased them, not believing that an eight man section could lay down so much fire power and appear in so many different locations.

On the second night the location was subject to an enemy attack. Thinking there were only four enemy, an eight man QRF was despatched to mount a flanking attack. On arrival it was discovered there was a whole section of enemy and a gun group. In the confusion that followed, enemy joined the QRF section and vice versa. The only way to distinguish between the two was that the enemy had no covers on their helmets. In the light of the flares and thunder flashes people could be seen running around feeling each others helmets. The most noteable achievement that night was **Sig Al Brown** managing to 'kill' both the QRF and the enemy by firing the LMG straight into them all. That evening the Squadron Commander was shot and killed (twice)!

The following day we were hit by persistent nerve agent as the enemy gave up trying to infiltrate our location and started playing dirty. We then carried on our routine in defence in NBC kit and the move back to Vogelsang camp was also carried out in respirators.

Phase two which consisted of range work on the Vogelsang training area. The Troop was split into four sections F1, 2, 3 and 4 commanded by **Sgts Phil Jobling, Geordie Simpson, Trev Sparshott** and **WCpl Maggie Tomkins** respectively, F4 being all WRAC.

The Troop then carried out all the normal range work on Vogelsang. One of the highlights was the nightshoot across the lake where the following day as a result of F4 WRAC firing, dead fish could be seen floating on the lake. The girls made up for this by beating all the mens sections in the house defence shoot.

Unfortunately, the girls were not allowed to throw grenades, but the entertainment was provided by **Cpl Dave Coleman**. If the aforementioned person ever throws a split pin at you, run! because he still has the grenade in his other hand!

A selection of the events carried out on the ranges were scored and put towards an inter-section competition within 1 Sqn. There were eight sections in all, four being from Foxtrot Tp and four from our rival Golf Tp. The contest was closely fought but the eventual outright winners were F3.

A good time was had by all and Foxtrot Tp returned to camp and reality a day early to take over guard duties to allow 2 Sqn to deploy in their part of the Battle Camp.

GOLF TROOP
REGIMENTAL BATTLE CAMP

We left Krefeld for a week of fun in the sun at Vogelsang for this years Battle Camp. The first 48 hours were a tactical phase of defending a commcen in the field. After moving to a harbour area, we waited for darkness and then proceeded in the general direction of our hide location. We eventually arrived after **SSgt Roy Snape**'s diversion and **LCpl Paul Taylor**'s midnight request for recovery. After settling into our shellscrapes for the night (one hour), first light brought us all to the same conclusion of how did we manage to get the vehicles—DAFs—in there? The highlight of the weekend was the assault on Saturday night by the DS. But we were stoutly defended, amongst others, by **LCpl 'Geordie' Maughan** and his QRF (take five). We even sent out a snatch squad when the enemy, **Sig 'Taff' Rapier**, got too

When they said '66' I thought we were going to catch a bus

close to our position, but we had to give him back—unharmed! On Sunday, we moved to the barracks where the section comds and 2ICs took up their new locations—bunks! Monday and most mornings at 0630 was PT provided by the RSM, which consisted of running either up or down hill. To be fair though, we were allowed the pleasure of the assault course one day. **Cpl Doyle** obviously wasn't listening when the RSM said to run around the wire obstacle and not through it! The ranges and section competitions throughout the week were very well organised by the DS and keenly fought for by the sections; especially by the girls of G4—ably led by **Sgt Dawn Phillips**. They beat the lads of G3 in the shooting competition on the first day and most other days too due to the excellent shooting of **Pte Williams** and **LCpl Woods**. The evenings consisted of organised sport, or injury in the case of shinty specialists **Sgt Gus Alexander** and **Cpl Swain**—that's inter-section rivalry for you though. The last day will be remembered by **Sig Burke**, who tried to set fire to himself twice and **LCpl Josh McGarvey** who didn't think he would get down the manhole quick enough on the tank overrun. Thanks must go to **Sgt Colin Warnes** for his non-stick mess tins and nice cups of hot chocolate and **Sgt John Payne** for his constant name checks. All in all, an excellent week was had by all.

PS: There is no truth in the rumour that, on the tank overrun, **Cpl Easter** was paid not to tap the Sqn Comd on the head or that the Belgian tank driver was paid to speed up!

2 SQUADRON
SUMMER CAMP

Summer Camp this year was held in Heimbach, near Duren (and Vogelsang). The three activities available to us were trekking, canoeing and rock climbing. One of the sections consisted of **Cpl Pete King, LCpls Danny Bird, Wayne Coates, Sig Megsy Morgan** and **Steve Higgins**. The competition was on straight away for the 'Top Trekker Trophy'. But sense of humour failures appeared when the section started getting blisters and couldn't find the taxi ranks.

Whilst the battle for 'Top Trekker' continued, two other sections were battling it out to reach their destination first. **2Lt Emma Mawdsley** thought her section had a good lead until **Cpl Steve** 'Chalky' **White**'s section passed them with the usual compliments! The Top Trekker Trophy was finally awarded by the section to **LCpl Wayne Coates**, despite the competition from **Sig Morgan**, who was heard during the canoeing phase to shout 'Eject, Eject, Eject' before crashing and capsizing on the river.

As that battle continued, **Cpl Jeff Howe**, who thought his section was doing well, was leading them 6km in the wrong direction. But finally, all sections finished close to each other, met by **Capt Nick Keen** and **WO2 (SSM) Brian Parkhill** and a beer each.

While **Cpl Stegsy Storey**'s and **2Lt Mawsley**'s sections were setting up, a party arrived in their location. On discovering that it cost DM5 for unlimited food and drink, they decided to spend 'a quiet night in'—but still managed the next days trekking.

The trekking lasted two and a half days and covered approximately 40-50km. Each section, using its initiative—and occasionally the map—made each RV without any problems. Despite a few blisters, it was generally an experience enjoyed by all.

SHQ TROOP

This has been a turbulent few months for the Squadron, with several 'temporary' loans and detachments amongst the hierarchy adding to the air of expectation and uncertainty. But all should be back to normal when the new OC arrives—unless he too becomes a professional sportsman/challenge pursuit instructor.

Meanwhile, at the other end of the corridor, the troop would like to welcome **LCpl 'Scouse' Corrigan** from 1 Sqn, **LCpl Tim Barnett** from Northern Ireland, **Sig Ginge Anderson** and **Terry Waite** from Support Sqn and hope you have a successful tour. Good luck and farewell to **LCpl Paul** on his posting to 264 Sig Sqn and **Sig 'Oxo' Oxborough** to civvy street.

Congratulations to **Sig Tomo Tomkins** on passing the first ever Driver/Lineman conversion course.

Cpl Trev Harrison being shown the correct way to fold a cam net by two members of 13 TTR (our colocated Belgian Army Unit)

OSCAR TROOP

Tp OC	**Capt Mark Davis**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Les Robinson**
Tp Sgts	**Sgt Rich Cookson**
	Sgt Martin Littlewood
	Sgt John Dennis

ARRIVALS

The Troop would like to welcome **Sgt Rich Cookson** from Blandford, **Sgt Martin Littlewood** from Victor Tp and **Sig Pete Trant** from Tidworth, all bought for nominal fees!

DEPARTURES

The following leave the Troop on free transfers. **Cpl 'Dolly' Jowitt** to Victory Tp, **LCpl Harland** to York, **Cpl Mark Read** to Herford, **Sig 'Megsy' Morgan** to Cyprus, **Sgt John Dennis** to civvy street and **WCpl Debbie Riglar** to Catterick. **Cpl Martin Bunkle** goes to the School of Signals for an undisclosed amount and **Cpl Andy Fife** to 30 Sig Regt for a fee to be decided by tribunal after 30 refused to meet 28's asking price.

CANADIAN ARMY TROPHY (CAT) 89

Participants: **Capt Davis, WO2 (YofS) Jones, Sgts Bagshaw, Arnold, Phillips, Cpls Duncan** (acting FofS), **Sharp, Buckingham, Truan, O'Neill, Bunkle, Cook, Gilson, LCpls Curry, McKay, Corrigan, Cox, Prince, Bancroft, WLCpls Goodwin, Lumb, Sig Croxton, Morley, Reeve, Counter, Greenwood, Robinson, Harris, Hughes, Healey** and **Pte Harding**.

This competition determines the best tank shooting team, between NORTHAG and CENTAG. This year NORTHAG was the host Formation and the competition took place at the Bergen Hohne range.

Our role on CAT 89 was to provide manpower for the camp exchange, field exchange, OR's canteen, VIP bar, three other bars, Telex circuit in the press centre and Commcen Hohne.

The first few days were spent putting up tents for the bars and VIP areas and setting up the field exchange and comms complex on range 9, the main competition range. Once everything was set up and working, there was ample opportunity to watch the tank shooting, between duties, each run lasting about an hour—if there were no range fires in the meantime. The overall winner of the competition was NORTHAG.

PAPA TROOP

Papa Tp would like to welcome their new OC **Capt Andy Hill** from 212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn, **LCpl Graham Barrie** from 22 Sig Regt, **LCpl Mappa Mapstone** from 7 Sig Regt, **LCpl Nigel Weir** from 30 Sig Regt, **LCpl Eddy Palmer** from 7 Sig Regt and **Sig Pip Martin, Austin Smith** and **Mark Corsar** from 8 Sig Regt. Goodbye and good luck to **Cpl Malc McCallum** on his T1, **Cpl Geoff Hymas** and **Sig Paul Leslie** to civvy street, **Sig Russ Craig** on promotion to 8 Inf Bde and **Sig Rick O'Neil** on promotion to 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

RHEINDAHLEN ALLIED MARCHES

On a hot, humid morning Papa Tp assembled for the start of a 30km march. At 0900 hrs the team of 13 set off at a storming pace closely followed by **Cpl Grinnell** in the PRI minibus, who tried to supply the team with water throughout the march.

Early into the march, a splinter group of five raced away from the rest of the team. Despite the fact that someone had moved one of the direction signs in order to mislead, this group led by **Cpl Storey** finished the march in a time of 3 hrs 40 mins and awaited the rest of the team in the refreshment tent. Twenty-five mins later the second group arrived and finally, 45 mins later, the remainder came home. Despite the 'casual' pace set by the sweepers, the team was the first to finish that distance. The day finished with a celebratory drink, a group photo and a discussion on how to tackle the 40km march next year.

Back row (left to right): Sgt Duckworth, Capt Lee, SSgt Harris, Cpl Storey, Sig Devlin, LCpl Mapstone, Sig Greenland and Cpl King
Front row (left to right): Sig Forsyth, LCpl Coulson, Cpls White, Giles and Sig Anderson

FRAN FETE

On Saturday 8 July, 28 Sig Regt held its annual Fran Fete. The object of the Fete is to encourge both the British and German communities to come into camp and have an afternoon's fun, all in aid of charities of both countries and to promote the good relationship between ourselves and the people of St Toenis. After frantic efforts on Thursday and Friday to get everything ready by Saturday afternoon, the stalls and volunteers were in place for the opening, by Herr Beckers, the Burgermeister of St Toenis, who in 1976 granted the Regiment the Freedom of St Toenis and Vorst.

The first display was by the Freefall Parachute Team of the Army Air Corps. The team 'dropped-in' from a Lynx helicopter high above the Regimental Square. This was followed by displays of Taekwondo and a marching band display by the band of 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards.

Many ingenious methods of raising money were thought up by members of the Regiment including crazy golf, human fruit machines, Kugel-Bahn, super striker and computer games to name but a few. The most popular by far was the ducking stool. Many of the Regimental celebrities fell victim, but the most popular was **Lt Paul King** who voluntarily donated money from his own purse to be allowed the privilege of being a victim. A grand draw was also held with almost 40 prizes including a caravan which was the star prize.

After a very successful days activities over DM 14,000 was raised.

Blind leading the blind
Just smile: I don't think he's noticed

According to the instructions, the cake should last at least five bites

DEVELOP NEW SKILLS

Do you enjoy a challenge and feel your talents aren't being fully exploited? If you've some spare time in the evening join the Women's Transport Service/F.A.N.Y. and train to help in local and national emergencies for both City of London Police and the Army in communication centres. Learn radio communication, shooting, orienteering, First Aid and other skills, based at Chelsea HQ.

Age limit 18-40
Ring 01-730 2058
Monday-Thursday
9.30 am-5.30 pm

Fluent linguists especially welcome.

31 Sig Regt (V)
Hammersmith

ANNUAL CAMP

Only once before has this Regiment organised its Annual Camp outside the friendly portals of Scarborough. This year, the camp took place in the Catterick Training Centre Wathgill, with perfect weather and the use of the wide variety of training facilities offered by 8 Sig Regt, 11 Sig Regt and of course the Dales.

The camp was organised into a variety of courses including Recruits (male and female), RSDCC, Trade Training, Driver Training and Management Training. All were designed to be both challenging and fun, with the emphasis on achievement. In total almost 300 soldiers attended, a good number for camp in the UK. The wind of change at first took the Regiment by surprise, but at the end the great majority were positively looking forward to Wathgill 1991.

RECRUIT TRAINING
WRAC RECRUIT COURSE
ANNUAL CAMP JUNE

The two recruit courses, with thirty-one male soldiers being trained in 11 Sig Regt and thirteen girls on a Unit designed course at Wathgill, were a great success. The girls course, planned and supervised by **Capt Linda Coe, WO2 (SSM) Jan White, Sgt Kim Burt, Cpl Emma Robinson, LCpl Doughty** and **Cpl Diane Evans**, worked extremely hard to match the high standards set by the Depot Regt. Their prize was a joint Pass-Off Parade on the final day of camp, a first ever WRAC (TA) parade in Catterick. The top student was **WPte Shepherd** of 47 Sqn, who received her prize (a well known book on the Royal Signals!) from the Commanding Officer. A special word of thanks must go to the Commanding Officer and staff of 11 Sig Regt for their enthusiastic help and support.

Lt Col L. G. French CO 31 Sig Regt (V) inspecting officer for the first joint male and female recruits pass-off parade in 11 Sig Regt June 1989

RSDCC
ROYAL SIGNALS DETACHMENT COMMANDERS COURSE
ANNUAL CAMP JUNE

Under the watchful eye of **Capt John Ruske**, and the gentle and considerate attitude of **SSgts Gallacher** and **Harry Worth**, twenty-nine JNCOs passed their RSDCC during camp. The course was highly competitive, not least because of the mixed male and female sections. That said, all of the staff involved commented on the team spirit and high standards achieved. After lengthy discussions the top students were **LCpl Brent Copsey** (47 Sqn) and **Cpl Kay Maxwell** (HQ Sqn). Both received their prizes from Commander 11 Sig Bde, **Brig Garton** at the end of a very demanding final exercise and speed march competition. **Cpl Kay Maxwell** was also promoted to Sergeant, and the look of sincere bewilderment on her face was a pleasure to behold.

MANAGEMENT TRAINING
TRAINING MAJOR AND 'THE TEAM'
INGLEBOROUGH JUNE

While the Troops were working hard the Training Major **Allan Duncan** decided that the young officers also required training. After a very successful visit to Leadership Troop 11 Sig Regt the pattern of the course was set for the remainder of the week—transport to the event and run back.

War was declared between the 'Team' and the Training Major! After completing a Combat Team Attack TEWT the team spent three days walking the Pennine Way. Day 1, the so called 'Cream Tea' walk, introduced everyone to the Dales, and gave the TM the opportunity to show his disgust at the wide variety of fluorescent shorts and non-matching T-Shirts. **Guy Lester** was the subject of particular attention as it was suggested that perhaps his civil servant's candy striped shirt was not suitable. The final two days, covering approximately 25 miles and three peaks, included a night out in Horton-in-Ribblesdale in a not too up market camp site. The see-through windows in the ladies shower block were the cause of some hilarity, and much cheering. The final summit, Ingleborough 723m, led to the fastest downhill section to the pub in Ingleton. The young officers learned a great deal, in particular the 'Officer versus Map Theory' is in fact untrue.

The final course party, based upon Theakstones Old Peculiar and the odd Pimms, was a great success. Apart from the inevitable Officers Drill the week was a great success and much enjoyed by all concerned.

R AND R

It was, of course, not all work! Throughout the two weeks a wide variety of social events took place, carefully programmed to ensure that the 0615 hrs Regimental Run/PT Parade was as 'painless' as possible. The stories of Regimental, Squadron and Course Parties are too numerous to recount here, but the following photo-reports are offered instead. We were however particularly pleased to welcome our Honorary Colonel, **Maj Gen Oehlers**, not only to visit the Regiment, but to attend one supper and two Squadron parties in one night. His stamina is only outweighed by the obvious affection shown by the soldiers he met.

Sgt Ron Walker (PSI 83 Sqn) receiving the Individual Golf Trophy from the CO

'Don't Shoot!'
Sgt Burt regimental smoker

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON TEAM A
WINNERS OF THE INTER-SQUADRON SPORTS
CONGRATULATIONS

Capt Penny Rose has left the TA to raise a family but her husband **Capt Tony Rose** continues with the Regiment. Congratulations **Penny**, we will miss you.

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V)
Glasgow

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Having settled down firmly since his arrival at the end of April, the CO **Lt Col Michael Anderson** has now substituted wardrobes for suitcases. We take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to **Layle** and the family who have recently arrived in Glasgow—we wish them a happy tour with the Regiment.

WO1 (RSM) Steve May leaves the Regiment on commissioning. We wish **Steve, Ann** and the family the very best for the future and a successful tour with 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt. We also welcome **WO1 (RSM) Trev Mortlock** who joins us from Catterick.

WO2 (FofS) Dave Murray leaves the Regiment on promotion. By the time this goes to print he will have firmly established himself as the 'Camp Kissogram' at his new Unit! The regimental smokers will never be the same—our sad loss will be Blandford's gain. Our best wishes go to **Dave, Naomi** and the family and we wish his successor, **WO2 (FofS) Dave Andrews** and family a happy tour with the Regiment.

61 (CITY OF EDINBURGH) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

OC	**Maj Alasdoir MacGillivray**
2IC	**Capt Willie Barron**
PSAO	**Maj David Henry**
Tfc Offr	**Capt Brian Murray**
OC AFHQ Tp	**Capt Janet McClean**
OC NMC Tp	**Lt Ruth Watson**
OC Mobile Comms Tp	**2Lt Martin Savage**
SSM	**WO2 'Camy' Payn**
SQMS (NRPS)	**SSgt Frank Patterson**
PSI	**SSgt 'Chippy' Chambers**

COURSES

Every year a few people 'escape our clutches' by going on various courses. This year is no exception. Here are a few notable examples:

Capt Willie Barron has been selected to represent the TA in the annual CIOR Military Pentathalon. He has been undergoing the squad training for several weekends this year and will shortly be going off to Wurtzburg in Germany for this year's competition. We wish **Willie** and the rest of the British team the best of luck.

OCdt Ann Tonner has survived the rigours of the Scottish Direct Entry Scheme Course (DES). On this course the aspiring Officers are 'put through hell' by various instructors from Scottish Infantry Units. Now **Ann** can talk for hours about target indication, section attacks and the principles of camouflage. Of course, an all night patrol now holds no fears for her. This gruelling course is to prepare the Officer Cadets for the Sandhurst Course. When **Ann** returns from RMAS she will have well earned her 'pip'.

Pte J. Cameron was awarded top student on her WRAC Recruits Course at Guildford. This is a fine achievement for her and our congratulations are extended.

EXERCISES

Occasionally, the Squadron gets out on its own exercises, but we try to do so when the weather is at least warm, if not dry. This year we have had two visits to the region of Dumfries and Galloway. We first visited the area to take part in a day organised by Barnardos, the children's charity. Not only did we have the Squadron display on show, we also provided much needed muscle for putting up tents etc. We also entered some teams for the various competitions.

This event provided an opportunity for us to test our new equipment over a longer distance, we left one Detachment in Edinburgh and one went to Dumfries. The experiment proved successful and we look forward to our next opportunity to try this.

Our second visit to that part of the country was our annual visit to Muirkirk for the Boys' Brigade West Lowland Hike. This is a tough, two day hiking competition in which teams of three have to hike about 20km. The Squadron provided safety and admin communications and this year the weather was glorious. Our numbers were somewhat depleted as many of our NCOs were at a Method of Instruction course. However, even though we did not have many of our more experienced operators, the messages still got through. Most people agreed that the Saturday evening, when we were invited to the local Bowling Club, was a highlight of the weekend.

Ex Night Owl was a Squadron Infantry Exercise held in the Pentland Hills to the south of Edinburgh. For many of our recruits it was their first experience of such things and they had a great time learning to cook compo with hexi-burners. Some of the 'old hands' were able to show them a few tricks of the trade. We had night patrols and a dawn attack, but the most exciting part of the weekend was the 'Barbecue'. In order to save embarrassment I won't go any further, but for further information ask **Capt Brian Murray** or **SSgt John Lamb** about the flare!

SOCIALS

Each of the Squadron Messes has an active social life. Most of the time there is the informal session in the bar after training, but we also have more formal events. The JRC had an April Fool evening, with the debut of the 'April Foolettes' which included **Pte Tracey Callachan**.

The Officers' Mess main function is the annual Champagne Supper. This years was a great success (could that be because **Capt Brian Murray** was away in America again?). It is an occasion when past members of the Mess can come back and see how we are doing.

The Sergeants' Mess probably has the most active social calendar and occasionally allows the Officers to join in. The latest combined event was a dinner in the TA Centre. The main part of the evening was to dine out **Sgt Norman Heinemeier** and **SSgt 'Chippy' Chambers. Norman Heinemeier** has been our long suffering Pay Sergeant for more years than anyone can remember. He will certainly be missed as we have always been certain of receiving our pay accurately and on time.

The next social event we are looking forward to is the forthcoming marriage of **SSgt 'Chippy' Chambers** and **Sgt Sharon Dowell**. It isn't compulsory for members of the Sergeants' Mess to marry one another, but this is the second one in a year! However, we wish **Chippy** and **Sharon** the best of luck as they start their life together, especially as **Chippy** is soon to go back into civilian life.

FINALLY

Our best wishes go to **Cpl Mary McLaughlin** who was involved in a car accident earlier in the year. She was hospitalised for some time and was away from work for even longer. Happily, she is now almost fully recovered and has appeared back in the TA Centre.

More happily, the Squadron wishes to send their congratulations to **Capt Brian Gilfether** and his wife **Janet. Brian** was an officer in the Squadron and is now the Regimental Operations Officer. He was awarded an MBE in the Birthday Honours List.

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

With a successful annual camp period now well behind us the permanent staff is looking forward to block leave to get away to unfamiliar holiday areas that do not require recces or land clearance.

As usual the Regiment has had a very full diary of events with a variety of activities, coupled with this has been changeover of RSMs, which generates a social programme all of its own with farewell drinks, dining out and dining in.

We have now said farewell to **WO1 (RSM) Neil Brown** who is preparing his CVs for civvy street. We thank him for all his efforts during his tour of duty and wish him and his family every success for the future.

We welcome in his place, **WO1 (RSM) J. J. Dent** and his family and hope they have an enjoyable time with the regiment.

CAMP 1989

In June the Regiment deployed, perhaps for the last time, to the Signal Training Centre (STC) Scarborough. At the centre we were made very welcome by the Commandant **Lt Col Gordon Wallace** and his staff. They are to be particularly thanked for switching the heating back on during a freak cold spell of three days. Scarborough is the traditional alternative camp to a continental deployment and it makes both a pleasant and very useful training period possible. The Unit training team consisting of **SSgt (YofS) Paul Spilling** and **WO2 (ORQMS) Marie Watkinson** co-ordinated, directed and led seven trade courses and three demanding military courses. The military courses consisted of an officers course under the 2IC **Maj Mervin Deighton**, a detachment commanders cadre run by **Sgt Tony Crampton** (PSI HQ Sqn) and a recruit course under **Maj Derek Beckett**.

All the courses ran for seven days and in addition all participated in a Tickle BFT with the drivers attending Hazmat training organised by the MTO **WO1 Steve Davis**. The facilities at Scarborough were reinforced by using a new range complex at Rowlston near Hornsea and the day training area at Strensall.

This phase of the training was rounded off with a formal parade organised by **WO1 (RSM) Neil Brown**, for him the last Regimental parade as he leaves the army on completion of service in September. The squadrons supported him well on the day, achieving a high standard of drill. The parade was reviewed by **Col Jim Greenhill** our Honorary Colonel who also presented a number of efficiency medals, TA decorations and an LS & GC Medal.

EXERCISE YORKSHIRE RELISH

After an enjoyable, demanding and hardworking week in sunny Scarborough the Regiment deployed on Ex Yorkshire Relish. Planned and co-ordinated by the Ops Officer **Maj Jean Payne**, this took elements of the Unit to every corner of Yorkshire practising our NATO area communication role as part of 11 Sig Bde.

The Honorary Colonel presents the LS & GC Medal to Sgt Derek Noon (PSI 80 Sqn Chester)

WO2 (SSM) Tommy Watkinson receives the cup for the Champion Sports Squadron on behalf of HQ Sqn (Huyton) from the Honorary Colonel

LCpl McCoy takes the strain during the Detachment Commanders assault course at STC Scarborough

Maj Gen A. B. Crowfoot, GOC North West District visits 'A' Echelon with the CO and meets Maj Stan Quayle and a member of HQ Sqn

In addition to our Honorary Colonel we had a number of visitors during our training period most notable of which was the GOC North West District **Maj Gen A. B. Crowfoot CBE**. The GOC toured our field sites during the exercise phase and visited our echelons in Burniston Barracks where he saw the STC training facilities as well. He made a point of talking to as many as possible from the regiment and was quick to share a joke and a smile.

Our Scarborough training and subsequent exercise were a great success; the Regiment worked together and came together in the STC for a full week.

EXERCISE CONTEH COURIER

On 21 June the Regiment took part in Ex Conteh Courier which was a 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt sponsored effort in raising money for cancer research. The aim was to physically deliver a flight ticket to **Sig Robert Conteh**, an ex member of 3 Sqn who is seriously ill, so that he could fly back to Germany on 28 June and open their Regimental Open Day.

The Regiment's role was to collect the flight ticket from the ferry at Hull and using military motorcycles and 'stand in' despatch riders namely **Sgt Tony Crampton** and **Cpl Roy Sharp** escorted by **SSgt George Whitfield** in a Metro, deliver the ticket to the CO, **Lt Col David Gardiner**, who then visited **Sig Conteh** to hand over the ticket.

On 22 June **Sig Conteh** accompanied by the CO was invited to meet the Mayor of Sefton at Bootle Town Hall. The following day **Maj Bob Fortune** escorted **Sig Conteh** to Gatwick Airport to catch his flight to Germany.

All in all a successful exercise which hopefully will assist in raising funds for Cancer Research.

Sgt Tony Crampton and Cpl Roy Sharp don their despatch riders uniform on Ex Conteh Courier

HILLSBOROUGH DISASTER FUND

Members from all squadrons of the Regiment took part in a sponsored march from Sheffield FC ground to Liverpool FC Stadium on 12/13 May to raise money for the Disaster Fund.

On 28 July the results of their efforts were highlighted when representatives of the regiment accompanied by the CO presented a cheque for £1,746.91 to the captain of Liverpool FC **Ailan Hanson** and selected members of the Liverpool team. All team members and donors were congratulated on achieving such a high result.

The CO and representative members of all four Squadrons hand over the cheque to players of the Liverpool Football Club

TA SAAM 89

Having qualified in the North West District Skill-At-Arms Meeting a team of eight led by **Maj Stan Quayle** participated in the annual TA SAAM at Bisley over the weekend 8/9 July. The team was drawn from all four squadrons based in Liverpool, Manchester and Chester. Unfortunately we failed to win any prizes but learnt to swim in the rivers between the tents during the downpours of rain. We will hopefully be back with a vengeance next year.

TEAM

Maj Stan Quayle—OC HQ Sqn, **Sgt Kerry**—80 Sqn, **LCpl Williams**—HQ Sqn, **LCpl Bowness**—HQ Sqn, **Sig Wray**—42 Sqn, **Sig Cole**—42 Sqn, **Cpl Parkinson**—59 Sqn and **Sig Carleton**—HQ Sqn.

ADVENTURE TRAINING ON MONT BLANC

A team from the Regiment carried out one of the first joint TA/Regular expeditions allowed under the new regulations in July. The expedition was to the Chamonix Mont Blanc region of the French Alps. Its aim was to carry out survival and movement training at high altitude and to complete alpine ascents.

Maj Paul Gorford led the team which deployed from UK to Chamonix by train. Once in the mountain area the party of five walked up the Tre Le Tete Glacier to one of the peaks about 10,000ft, on the way negotiating crevices and steep snow slopes where the use of crampons and ice axes was mastered.

A second mini expedition was mounted to the Le Tour Glacier staying at the Albert Premier hut and the Tete Blanche and Petite Fourche peaks were conquered in perfect weather conditions. Each day started at 0400 hrs to complete the ice and snow movement before the mid-day sun melted the surface snow to cause avalanches.

Our expedition to Chamonix was a great success. All enjoyed themselves, all were fully stretched at times and all want to return to the Alps again.

OCdt Steve Paddock (80 Sqn) on top of the world in the Mont Blanc mountain region

PSI REVENGE

Ex PSI Revenge took place on the weekend 15/16 July on Swynnerton Training area. It was to be a battle type exercise introducing the squadron to platoon tactics and living out of doors under adverse conditions.

The intrepid 20 members of the squadron left the TA Centre on Friday night by coach arriving at Swynnerton about 2300 hrs. The coach stopped a good half mile from their location! At 0330 hrs it was time for stand-to. The only casualty of the night was **Sgt F. McCormack** who was shot by his own side. The day continued with the platoon moving out to carry out dry training and range work on the indoor CQBR, consisting of a single soldier walking down a street and shooting gunmen (and not the civilian population) between the clattering of dustbin lids and exploding cars. We spent the afternoon trying to find DS who kept on shooting at us and then moving (how inconsiderate). No 3 Section had to occupy a bridge and deny the enemy (LAD) the chance to recce the bridge while Nos 1 and 2 Sections had to set up an ambush to zap the LAD when they retreated. All in all the tasks went well, the enemy did manage to get a foot on the bridge but they were beaten back in a successful ambush.

On Sunday the aim was to return to safety but first meet a friendly agent and walk two and a half miles with full kit after successfully meeting a friendly guide (the first one was shot by **LCpl Hinds** for using the correct password!). The platoon moved out after being put under fire twice, the bandits stayed fast. **Sgt** 'Robbo' **Robertson** decided to take them all on with just one soldier (who shall remain nameless), but at the end of a very exacting weekend the final request from all soldiers, both male and female, was 'let's do it all again'.

EXERCISE WET FEET

Report by Cpl Lorette Fredericks

Another successful annual adventure training weekend was just starting when 80 Sig Sqn (V) Chester left home base on 28 July and headed for Capel Curig Training Camp in North Wales. The cooking was under the guidance of **Cpl Dawn Smith** with help from **Cpls Buckley** and **Jenkins**.

Although the weather tended toward 'intermittent precipitation' (it rained a lot), spirits were high as teams split to tackle the various challenging events scheduled.

My team, all WRAC members, we did not want the boys to slow us down, set out on the first morning bright and early to the stables to wake up the horses at Ty Coch Farm.

Obviously delighted at being saddled up for the day they stamped their feet and bit each other (and us given half the chance). The ride took us through the most beautiful scenery that North Wales has to offer. **LCpl Pritchard** had organised the stable visits and was to ride with all the other teams throughout the day, while the rest of the team proceeded to the next event.

Onward and upward . . . we arrive at the rock climbing site!! The tuition was provided by **Maj Gorford** and he was assisted by **SSgt Stonier** from 8 Sig Regt Catterick. **Cpl Fredericks** selflessly decided to motivate the rest of the team (translation: obliged by seniority to go first) and bravely disappeared over the edge of the precipice. **Ptes Louise Gibbs** and **Kerry Jones** were soon abseiling and climbing back up the rock face. **Pte Sheryllynne Williams** who had not attempted rock climbing or abseiling before, did particularly well.

On Sunday it's to the swimming pool for us and we are to be accompanied by another team under the 'control' of **Sgt Terry Owen**.

Whilst we WRAC practised our synchronised swimming in a very refined manner the male members of our squadrons splashed about and made a lot of noise.

80 SQN OPEN DAY

On Saturday 15 July a Squadron Open Day was organised for the benefit of the families of volunteer soldiers.

The event was masterminded by **SSgt Fred Hawkins, Sgt John Doyle** and JNCO members of the Squadron assisted by **SSgt (SQMS) Len Curtis** and the PSAO **Capt Keith Derrick**—Chief Cashier.

Elements of the Squadron's equipment was on display giving the youngsters an opportunity of looking and fiddling with all the knobs and passing messages to their pals.

In addition, small stalls were set out with games of skill which awarded the winner with bags of sweets. The most popular of the games being a mini assault course.

LCpl Carolyn Pritchard and **Sgt Karen Reddy** were kept busy, painting clown faces on all the children and most of the grown ups which did nothing to enhance the appearance of the ladies who had had a recent hair do.

The whole day was a huge success and was rounded off with a barbecue and drinks at the bar.

Photo by Courtesy of 'Tonight', Chester

Sig Gareth Jones teaching teleprinting skills to the children during the 80 Sqn Open Day

34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V) Middlesbrough

90 Sig Sqn

July gave us the opportunity to carry out military training at Squadron and Troop level.

For his final fling as PSI **SSgt Guy Richards** arranged for the Squadron to go to Warcop to take advantage of the excellent facilities it offers.

Under the watchful eyes of **Capts Brian Smith, Eric Harrison, SSgts Guy Richards, J. C. Riley** and **Gus Honey** we had the chance to fire at realistic targets on the Close Quarter Battle Range. Making sure we did only that, kept the range supervisors on their toes and sharpened up their reflexes. On the 30m range **SSgt Eddie Drake** had clothed the targets and put balloons in place of heads. He assured us that a 9mm bullet would burst them but some remained unconvinced. Meanwhile on the Unarmed Combat stand **Cpl Gregory** (our friendly instructor from 11 Sig Regt) was busy rearranging limbs. This proved a popular spectator sport and the sounds could be heard far and wide. The participants were extremely keen that everyone else had a go.

On the Recognition stand **Lt John Alexander** set up a range of military targets to identify, including a few 'jokers' in the form of pictures of well known personalities, with an amplifier to give authentic sound effects while we did it. There were various views on which were friendly and which were 'hostile'. The Climbing wall was supervised by **Capt Nick Metcalfe** (2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt) and **Lt Karen Metcalfe** who convinced even the most timid that climbing and abseiling was safe and simple. To help(?) the CO and OC to the top of the wall they set up an extending ladder. Fortunately the OC who is a surveyor noticed it was upside down and likely to collapse.

The Clay pigeon shooting proved how difficult it is to hit a moving target even when you know where it's going and the Range Staff thanked us for returning most of their clays intact.

All in all a great weekend. Our special thanks to **Capt Nick Metcalfe, Cpl Gregory** and the Range Staff at Warcop for their help in laying it on. Best wishes to **SSgt Guy Richards** in his next posting as WO2 (SSM) with 16 Sig Regt.

TROOP TRAINING

For Troop Training J and L Troop took to the hills in Hamsterly Forest near Barnard Castle to improve fitness and map reading.

On Friday night we were split into three parties and dropped off at different locations on the edge of the forest from where we made our way by compass and route card to the campsite.

After breakfast on Saturday, under the early morning sun, we tackled an 8km (nominal depending on the route!) orienteering course and on Sunday morning we were taken to three drop off points to practice navigating on a final 10km trek through the forest.

In between the hard work we were able to emulate 'Eddie the Eagle' on the dry ski slope or John Wayne at the local stables. For some this felt more like 'Blazing Saddles' and ensured soreness was not confined to the feet. Another great weekend.

SPORT

Fitness seemed to be the order of the day here amongst the Permanent Staff with the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Mike Macklin**, leading the way on what he calls a 'fun run' every Wednesday afternoon.

The Adjutant, **Capt Brian Smith, WO1 (RSM) Colin Ager** and **WO2 (RQMS) Dave Courtenay** completed the 29 mile Shunner Shuffle over the Pennines and raised £140 in sponsorship.

A host of both Regular and TA soldiers took part in the Great North Run with **OCdt Anne Marie Nichol** and **Pte Angela Gill** chasing the Chief Clerk, **SSgt Mark Bonham** all the way to the end.

On Sunday 6 August, **Lt Col Benny Newell, WO2 (RQMS) Dave Courtenay, SSgts Gus Honey** and **Mark Bonham** took part in the James Herriot Half Marathon at Hawes. **Lt Col Newell**, the RQMS and **SSgt Honey** all did a creditable time, meanwhile the Chief Clerk having an off day went for a long walk . . . nice views though.

The MTWO, **WO1 Dave McGurk** still insists that the only form of 'Driver Training' is around the golf course and is as demanding as a 10 mile run.

CONGRATULATIONS

To the following for their fine results:

On the Royal Signals TA WRAC Det Comds Course held in Catterick:-

1st	**LCpl Jacqueline Flaherty**	(50 Sig Sqn)
3rd	**LCpl Dawn Parsons**	(49 Sig Sqn)
4th	**LCpl Linda Grace**	(HQ Sqn)

and on the Royal Signals TA Det Comds Course:-

1st	**LCpl Stephen Falkinder**	(49 Sig Sqn)
2nd	**LCpl Michael Chan**	(49 Sig Sqn)
3rd	**LCpl Michael Clare**	(90 Sig Sqn)

and to **Sgt Ena Hall** for completing the All Arms Drill Instructors Course (TA) in addition to her Royal Signals Staff Sergeants Course. Watch out 50 Sqn!

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM

The Corps Museum is now firmly established on the tourist map of Southern England and the number of visitors attending the Museum has greatly increased and is still increasing.

Unfortunately the Museum is not open at weekends which means that many would-be-visitors are turned away.

To help overcome this problem a voluntary society, 'Friends of The Royal Signals Museum', was established in 1987 whose members agree to man the Museum shop and supervise visitors during the weekends between May and September.

Interested volunteers can also help in Research, Cataloguing, Preservation and identifying objects.

This scheme worked very well in 1988 but unfortunately a number of Friends have been forced to pull out this year and we need some new recruits to take their place.

Any member, or wife, who is interested in helping the Corps Museum are asked to contact: **Maj (Retd) Leslie Taylor MBE**, Secretary, Friends of The Royal Signals Museum, c/o The Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH.

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

IMPRESSIONS OF ANNUAL CAMP

AN OVERVIEW

Any thoughts of relaxing after the Regimental Tattoo were quickly overtaken by intensive preparations for our Annual Camp. This year we were off to Scarborough again and the plan was to catch up on trade, military and leadership training; training which would occupy much of the camp programme. To this end the Training Major, **Maj David Elson**, and his intrepid team worked overtime to produce a comprehensive and realistic programme of events which included two comms exercises, basic and upgrading trade training, a Detachment Commanders and Officers Leadership Course and other interesting and varied Military and Adventure Training activities to keep the mind and body occupied and our military skills on a par with our Regular counterparts. Needless to say, with the exception of one or two minor hiccups everything went according to plan and many members of the Regiment were rewarded with trade and military qualifications.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

During annual camp members of the regiment also found themselves engaged in providing aid to the local farming community in a rescue operation involving prime pedigree cattle that wandered into a marsh. The regiment mobilised a rescue team which fortunately included an expert from within our ranks **Sig** 'Farmer' **Bill Dawes** of HQ Sqn. With guidance from Farmer **Bill** the wayward cattle were herded to safety much to the relief and gratitude of **Mr Chris Swiers** the owner of Broxa Farm.

The LAD and Regimental Training Team provided recruiting displays at a local school fete, on request at short notice, which attracted a great deal of interest from the local population and one or two potential recruits for local TA Units. Our military training activities also featured prominently in the local press and we were treated to an excellent front page article. Unfortunately copies of the photographs taken and published did not reach us in time for this issue of *The Wire*.

As a result of our assistance to and involvement with the civilian community and authorities in Scarborough our close relationship has gone from strength to strength.

CAMP ACTIVITIES—NOTABLE EVENTS

VISITORS

We were fortunate to be visited by Comd 11 Sig Bde, **Brig C. T. Garton**, and by the Honorary Colonel REME (V) West **Col Phil Fitzgerald OBE TD** as well as our Honorary Colonel, **Col Mike Beatty. Col Fitzgerald**'s visit was perhaps the most memorable, particularly the spectacle of **Lt Guy Archer**, OC LAD attempting to explain to him the sudden disappearance of his detachment, captured on photograph. Suitable captions should be addressed to OC LAD who has agreed to offer a prize (TBN) for the most humourous caption.

Members of the LAD before their sudden disappearance

OFFICERS' MESS

Whilst trade and military training occupied much of the daylight hours with Regimental Officers acting as instructors or DS the CO kindly decided to give them a break. Under the guise of a beach barbecue (and many other deceptive covers) the officers found themselves trekking across the countryside to various checkpoints; one was even manned by a forestry commission ranger much to the surprise of the DS and the CO who have since nicknamed him Checkpoint (Yogi) Charlie. All Officers, including **Lt Chris Edwards** who was sent to the wrong checkpoint by an unnamed PSAO eventually arrived at the designated overnight stop where, navigational skills tested and feet rested, they barbecued their own compo. This was followed by a fowl demonstration by **SSgt John Kelly** of HQ Sqn on how to catch, pluck and cook a chicken. Judging by the various expressions a large number of officers have turned vegetarian.

Hard work over and blisters healed, except for **Capt Chris Cummings** who insists he is still suffering, preparations began for the highlight of the Camp, the Dinner Night. The evening was a tremendous success thanks to the efforts of **Capts Roger Breese** and **George Cairns**. During the evening the Regimental Officers also bade farewell to the Adjt **Capt Suzy Reed** who during her farewell speech announced that her services would be retained on a part-time basis as she had applied for a TA commission. Following the dinner the CO **Lt Col David Dobson** arranged a singalong in the bar and the QM **Capt Ian Dudding** displayed his unique musical talents. Party games in the form of escape and evasion (catch me if you can) exercises also took place. The final result: CO 10, other officers 0.

Other events included the traditional and splendid fish lunch superbly organised by **Majs David Hardy** and **Paul Renecle** and the Annual Games Night v the Sergeants' Mess which ended in a rather dubious draw.

MEDAL PRESENTATIONS

During the Regimental Parade the Honorary Colonel, **Col Mike Beatty**, presented Efficiency Medals and Clasps to the following: **WO2 I. J. Ricketts**—HQ Sqn, **WSgt Blackford**—HQ Sqn, **Cpl E. H. Stubbs**—LAD, **Sgts R. P. Finnigan**—LAD, **P. A. Pederson**—48 Sqn, **D. H. Robinson**—95 Sqn, **SSgts R. S. Moseley**—48 Sqn, **R. G. Evans**—48 Sqn and **D. Sharman**—89 Sqn.

All are congratulated on receiving their awards and for their long and valued service in the Regiment.

DETACHMENT COMMANDERS COURSE

One of our largest Detachment Commanders Courses took place during Annual Camp. The Course was a mixed one and the WRAC students competed with and kept up with the best of the male students no matter how arduous the training, all students however acquitted themselves well and put in the required effort to make them future detachment commanders and eventually SNCOs. This successful course, run by **Maj Tony Jones** and his Recruit Training Team, ended with **LCpl Lee Vincent** of 48 Sqn receiving the award of Best Student which was presented by the inspecting officer **Lt Col Gordon Wallace** the STC Comdt and **LCpl Jim Maxwell** of 95 Sqn awarded the Best Shot.

LCpl Lee Vincent of 48 Sqn receiving the award of Best Student on the Det Comds Course from Lt Col Gordon Wallace

REGIMENTAL SPORTS DAY

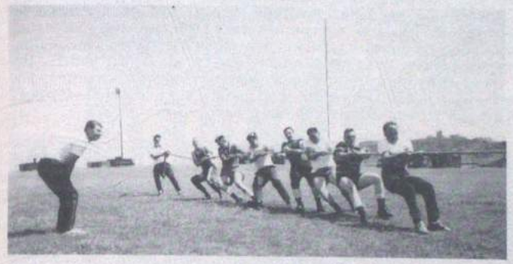
The Regiment enjoyed a terrific sports day on the middle Sunday of Camp which consisted of various competitions and games. 48 Sqn is to be congratulated on being the overall winners and taking the Trophy, courtesy of the CO. But it was a close run race 95 Sqn almost had them which sets the competitive scene for the next meeting.

SNIPS AND SNAPS FROM THE SQUADRONS AND MESSES

48 SQN

A return to Scarborough after a four year absence was welcomed by a number of old hands in the Squadron who have happy memories of the last visit and couldn't wait to renew acquaintances with the training centre and local area. The drive up to Scarborough did not go without one or two happy incidents; at the M1 Service Station **Cpls 'Bomber' Brown** and **Bill Henry** aided and abetted by **LCpl Addie Henry** were well on their way to a two week's attachment elsewhere when a coach, carrying 25 attractive young ladies, pulled up. They were rescued just in time, the ladies that is! and our errant NCOs frogmarched back to the convoy.

Trade Training was interrupted from time to time with concurrent Squadron activities. These included a relaxing walk along the coastal section of the Cleveland Way organised by **Lt Jules Webb**. 'No problem' said he 'just a few miles to stretch the legs'. Twelve miles, two sprained ankles, four hours and numerous blisters later we hobbled back into camp threatening to get even. Recovery was swift however as the Inter Sqn Sports Day showed with 48 Sqn once again overall victors beating our closest rival 95 Sqn (better luck next time fellas). Our Tug of War team deserves a special mention as they proved unbeatable.



The triumphant Tug-of-War Team

The local press also took an interest in our activities. They were on hand on a scorching day to view the Squadron being put through their paces. Section attacks an assault course, NBC and First Aid stands were tackled. At this stage a large group of tourists joined the local press just to see us suffer. Fortunately they were distracted by the arrival of a Lynx Helicopter on the Sports Field and they left us to impress the press. The First Aid stand got more than it bargained for as they had to deal with a large number of hay fever cases compliments of the tall, dry grass during section attacks.

A couple of birthdays were celebrated, **LCpl Kev Harris** being doubled to the Guard Room to collect his birthday cake. **Maj Tony Jones** a former Sqn 2IC was invited to inspect the troops and some of those joined **Kev Harris** in the Guard Room.

Finally we would like to congratulate **Cpl Carol Howes** and **Gary Bushell** on their wedding on 15 July—we all wish them well in their new life together.

The Happy Couple—Cpl Carol Howes and Gary Bushell on their wedding day

58 SQN

Annual Camp was our major event. Activities during camp were divided between military and trade training and day one started with a Regimental BFT. Our training programme took on a new interest however with the help of 656 Sqn AAC. **Capt Dick Hemmings** the 2IC who has maintained his regular army contacts, arranged for 656 Sqn to conduct helicopter familiarisation training and many members of the Squadron were treated to a flight in a Lynx which was put through its hair raising paces. Our next training day involved a visit to the QRIH and we were allowed to scramble over their impressive armoured vehicles including the Chieftain and Scorpion. In the meantime certain members of the Squadron, **LCpl Tracy Hughes** and **Pte Wanda Machnicka** in particular were missing out on all the fun. They were both working hard on their Detachment Commanders Course and are to be congratulated on passing with flying colours.

Spirits remained high throughout camp and increased on the eve of the Squadron Party. This included a charity fundraising event involving **LCpl Wink Watson** who shaved off his treasured moustache to raise a magnificent sum of £120 for the CO's Charity Fund.

Capt John Dillon, WO2 (RQMS) Pat Cassidy and SSgt Karen Baugh preparing for take off?

LCpl David Watson minus his pride and glory, hands over the money he raised to the CO watched by Maj Chris Fidler and WO2 (SSM) Lambert

Camp ended as it had started with a Comms Exercise. This proved to be interesting for Access Node C1 as they were 'volunteered' to act an impromotu enemy for the RAF based at Church Fenton, note the potteries connection. In the meantime Access Node C2 were made most welcome in Sheffield by their hosts 38 Sig Regt (V) who provided

Sig Craig Jenkins on an RR Exercise

washing and sleeping facilities. Thank you 38 Sig Regt for making our stay a pleasant one, even our comms were excellent. In conclusion Annual Camp was another success for 58 Sqn with some notable personal achievements. **2Lt Paul Roden** successfully completed his Sandhurst Commissioning Course. The new 2IC **Capt Richard Hemmings**, ex Regular REME completed the Potteries Marathon and within hours of crossing the finishing line joined the Squadron at Scarborough. The Scarborough Spring Water, or more likely the Yorkshire Bitter, worked wonders for twelve members of the Squadron who passed their promotion boards during Camp. Statistically this was one in four members who attended camp either qualifying or gaining promotion and finally **Sig Stephen Cook** who rendered first aid to a motor cyclist who was involved in a traffic accident outside the STC.

89 SQN

With families waving farewell at the TA Centre gates the Squadron set off, on a gloriously sunny and warm day, to Scarborough ready and prepared to carry out whatever training commitments were waiting. A number of Squadron activities were organised to run in parallel with Regimental activities and we took time out to engage in orienteering and canoeing. The orienteering, organised by **Sgt Paul Fundak**, took place in Dalby Forest on a route which took us through some of the most scenic views in North Yorkshire. This obviously distracted one or two participants who missed some of the checkpoints

Our intrepid canoeists

or decided to stroll elsewhere. Needless to say it was an enjoyable day and improved our map reading skills—although it could have had something to do with a case of cold beer waiting at the final checkpoint. Canoeing was something else and the sight of **SSgts Charlie Walker** and **Derek Sharman** resembling two beached whales will be etched on the mind forever.

Thoughts of trade and military training suspended for a while we tried hard to prepare for the Regimental Sports Day. Unfortunately our numbers were depleted by a strong Squadron presence on the Detachment Commanders Course and we had some problems fielding a strong team. Nevertheless we made a valiant effort doing well in the volleyball and other games and our Tug-of-War team is still recovering from rope burns, what clown said wear trainers?. Our final position was a creditable one and we were only a couple of points away from getting second from bottom position. Things won't be so easy for the other Squadrons next time though!

Annual Camp did not finish without some individual successes and achievements. In particular we congratulate: **Cpls Stephen Davies** and **Rita Riseley** on their promotion to Sergeant. **Sgt Harry Mossop** on promotion to Staff Sergeant. **SSgt Derek Sharman** on his award of the Territorial Efficiency Medal and finally **Cpls** (who stole my mag) **Vowles, Alan Hawes, LCpls Paula Mason, David Pollock, Steve Phillips** and **Sig Tony Griffiths** on passing their Detachment Commanders Course. Certain officers of 89 Sqn who were instrumental in producing an officers news sheet (The Limp Line) during camp. **Lt Steve Pell** (Ed) assisted by **Capt Colin Meikle** and **2Lt Ian** (who me) **Barnes** produced a humorous news sheet of distorted facts relating to individual or group mess members. To whet your appetites here are one or two of the most amusing entries:

BROUGH IN THE ROUGH

Our esteemed (acting) Adjutant bit the dust this morning as he went for his morning run on the beach. It appears that someone had been digging slit trenches. **Capt David Brough** was seen to exit down one of the trenches only to reappear looking rather sheepish hoping no one had seen him. Much to his horror the QM and Chief Clerk had!

Capt Dennis Hawkesworth to **Lt Dave Threadgold** 'What is that Triffid Mast doing there? **Threadgold** rather puzzled, 'That's not a Triffid Mast **Dennis** it's the lamp post they use to illuminate the petrol point'.

If **2Lt Alan Jacobs** continues to collect extra duties at his present rate, he will not only surpass **Lt Julian Webb**'s existing score but he will also need most of the camp days in 1991. Needless to say, all the subalterns are behind **Mr Jacobs** in his current campaign!

Our Camp extra mural activities finally came to a close with the Squadron Party held at the Scalby Manor Hotel which appeared to be the favourite venue for every Squadron. We had a feast and disco and let our hair down and began to ponder about BAOR Camp next year and started to look forward to going home. All good things must come to an end!

RUGBY CARNIVAL

The weekend following camp (a closed weekend) we found ourselves involved in the Rugby Carnival which hopefully would attract new recruits to swell our members. The theme of our float was prehistoric and we set about building a dinosaur. This mammoth task was given to **Pte Ronnie Derrick** ably assisted by **Linda Vowles** the wife of **Cpl Vowles** and **Rex Stapleton** our vehicle fitter. Volunteers to act as cavemen were also enlisted and our float with papier-mâché rocks, bales of straw, dinosaur and reluctant cavemen (drinking coke!!) joined the carnival procession where recruiting leaflets were distributed and the public encouraged to join our club. Seriously though one or two genuine enquiries have been made and they are now being followed up by our Recruit Training Team.

95 SQN

En route to Camp a Squadron packet under command of **SQMS Bill Taylor** came across a serious road traffic accident. Squadron personnel treated the injured and it is now known that without their prompt attention at least one of the civilians involved may have died. Well done all concerned.

Members of the Squadron did extremely well on the Detachment Commanders Course with **LCpl Jim Maxwell** awarded the best shot. Other reportable successes during camp are **Sgt Bob Watkins** on being promoted Staff Sergeant, and **Sgt Derek Robinson** who at long last received the first clasp to his Efficiency Medal, only six years late. The paper work has now been submitted for his second clasp which is expected to appear three years after his discharge.

Unfortunately **Sgt Clive Winstanley** broke his ankle on the last day of his RSSSC at Catterick but both he and **Sgt Nigel Alderson** were pleased to report that they had both passed. Both are congratulated on their achievement.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

The month of June proved to be a very busy period for the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. On 3 June, **WO2 Dave Cottom** and **Sgt Alan Balderstone** received awards from **Lord Aylesford. WO2 Cottom** was presented with the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for Meritorious Service and **Sgt Balderstone** with his LS & GC Medal. The presentation ceremony was followed by a very enjoyable lunch in the Mess to which all the Regimental Officers were invited.

These were not the only medal presentation ceremonies to be held in June. At annual camp in Scarborough no fewer than eight Efficiency Medals were presented to Mess members. Special mention must be made here of **WSgt Andrea Blackford** who actually had a parade all to herself. Needless to say all those medal presentations were celebrated in the time honoured fashion although it did take some 'gentle encouragement' from the RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Mick O'Hare** to remind the recipients of this military tradition.

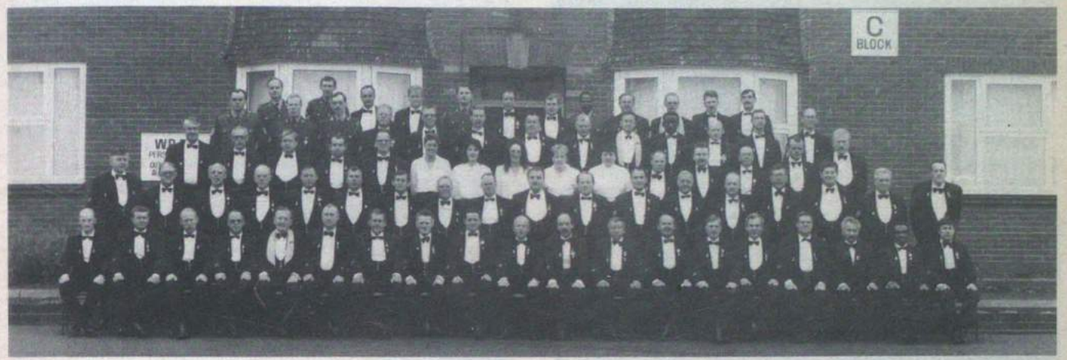
Newcomers to the Sergeants' Mess during June were **Sgts Davies, Mair** and **WSgt Riseley** who were all promoted just in time to attend our Regimental Dinner.

REGIMENTAL SPORTS

GOLF

On Thursday 1 June all the known Golfers in the Regiment and a few unknown ones headed for Alsagar Golf and Country Club to compete in the Regimental Spring Meeting. Guests included Comd 11 Sig Bde (V), **Brig Conrad Garton, WO1 (RSM) Bob Keen**, Birmingham UOTC and **WO2 Mo Harkin** also from 11 Sig Bde (V). At the conclusion of the morning round **SSgt Trev Loughton**, HQ Sqn led the way, although his good score earned him a reduction in handicap along with the RSM, an honest 26, and **Sgt Jock Gibson**.

The afternoon saw the weather change for the worse but some good golf was still being played, with **Capt Roger Breese** and **SSgt Stu Waring**, the old double act from 58 Sqn showing the way. The prizes were quite well spread, even **RQMS George Fitzgerald** won something, but there was only going to be one winner and our CO, **Lt Col David Dobson** presented the Marshall Cup to **SSgt Trev Loughton**.



35 Sig Regt's Sergeants' Mess Scarborough

R·S·A

The Royal Signals Association AND YOU

THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION—IT MAY MEAN MUCH MORE TO YOU NOW THAN DURING YOUR SERVICE

The principal aims of the Association are:-

- To try and keep those who have served the Corps in touch with each other with a view to keeping alive a spirit of comradeship—a feature of Corps life you will miss when you leave the Service.
- To help serving and retired members of the Corps (and their close dependants) who find themselves in difficult circumstances with advice and practical aid, financial or in kind.
- To assist, where possible, resettlement in civilian life by trying to find employment and generally advising.

The Association endeavours to achieve these aims by:-

- Sponsoring branches in the main towns and population centres of the UK. These branches often meet for social occasions, and there is generally an annual dinner.
- Organising annual reunions at Blandford and Catterick. These provide the opportunity to meet old friends, for the retired to see something of the serving Corps and, but not necessarily on every occasion, to remember the dead.
- Running a welfare and general advice section at Association HQ, which is at the service of all members.
- Publishing the Corps magazine. *The Wire*. Taking out a subscription will help to keep you in touch with Corps and Association affairs.
- Selling items of Corps goods such as Corps ties, car badges and diaries. These are listed in *The Wire*.

MEMBERSHIP

Nearly all members of the Corps have, whilst serving, been contributing under the Day's Pay Scheme which has greatly benefited our Benevolent Fund. As you conclude your Service, may we thank you most sincerely and remind you that, by virtue of your contributions, you are a Life Member of our Association. Please write **NOW** for registration as such. If you have not contributed at all you can become a Life Member for £2.50.

THE FUTURE

If, in the future, you are confronted by circumstances or problems where you consider the Association may be able to offer advice or help, please contact The General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD (Tel: (01) 630 0801). Please give your service particulars when writing.

Your Corps Association has flourished for many years, but only the support of those leaving the service will enable it to continue doing so. If a branch is near you join it and so make your personal contribution towards this end.

36 Sig Regt (V)
Wanstead

FREEDOM OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF REDBRIDGE

On Saturday 24 June the Regiment exercised its right to the Freedom of the London Borough of Redbridge, a privilege granted in 1963.

In glorious sunshine, led by two mounted police officers and the Corps band the Regiment paraded through the centre of Ilford and past the Town Hall where the salute was taken by the Mayor of Redbridge and our Honorary Colonel, **Col Seys-Phillips**.

Following the parade a Regimental lunch was held at our Ilford Centre.

Maj Jepson leads HQ Sqn past the saluting dais

The Corps of Drums performs during lunch

The WRAC contingent led by Capt Allen

44 SIG SQN
EXERCISE BEAGLES CHASE

On a hot Saturday morning members of the Squadron gathered for 1st Parade at 0800 hrs. Attendance was high—recruits, junior ranks and a few seniors and officers—so we knew it was going to be fun.

The weekend was to test leadership skills amongst the Juniors—**OCdt Caroline Fielder-Greenhow** was to lead us (the Scuds) and **SSgt Phil Meddemen** was in charge of the 'Tartans'. Move out from Gillingham was at 0900 hrs to the Cinque Ports training area.

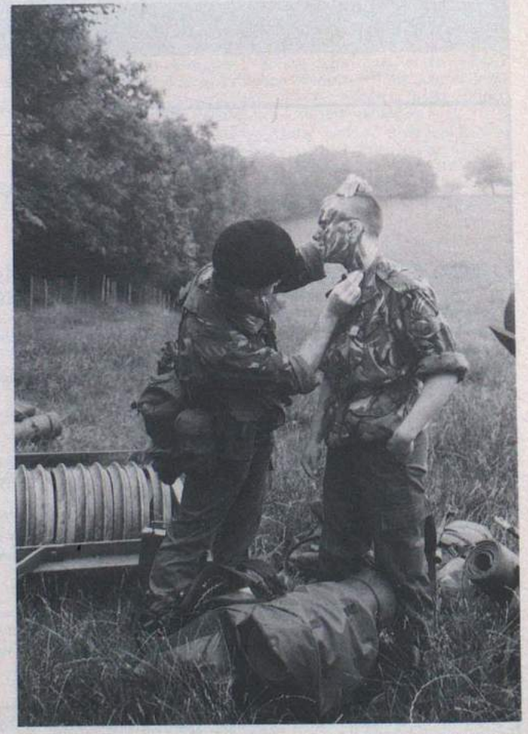
After the usual safety demo of pyro (trouble is nobody warned the sheep what was going on), ammo was issued, we cammed up and prepared to move out by foot to our RV. We waited until the Tartans were out of sight, then our patrol snaked out along the quiet country lanes of Folkestone. We were under orders not to attack the locals—but this did not stop a local dog from attacking **Capt Boxell**!

Once we had arrived at our location, the order was given to 'dig-in', 1 Section on the reverse side of the slope and 2 Section on the down side. Facing the Tartan camp below, shell scrapes with overhead cover and each gun groups fire trenches were also prepared.

During the afternoon, we were probed many times so 2 Section was kept busy whilst 1 Section had a quiet afternoon sunbathing.

At 1900 hrs the four man recce patrol departed under **Cpl Kingston** to recce the enemy camp, but true to form got ambushed on the way in—one 'dead' **Cpl Dave Kingstone** and one dead PSI! The information gained, however, did enable an eight man fighting patrol to be organised—the aim, to catch one female and destroy enemy positions.

Charlie was to lead the snatch while Delta created the diversion. Charlie crept into position and when shots rang out, thought that our base was under attack—we later found out, it was us being fired at! The attack went ahead as planned, the diversion involved LMG firing at No 1 trench while the first pair went in for the kill moving and firing



Camming up—LCpl Nigel Hodgson assisting Sig 'Flash' Carter

and throwing the 'grenade'. Unfortunately we were wiped out by a hidden trench just after the attack started.

The diversion attack had worked but to no avail, the trenches intact, one half of the patrol lost and the battle lost.

Pte Sally Howson a Tartan Warrioress

The Tartans—LCpl Nigel Shannon and Sig Peter Chittock

Later we were to find out that the Tartans were carrying out their own ambush on our own position coincidentally. They also failed to complete their mission so an amicable draw was agreed in the bar afterwards.

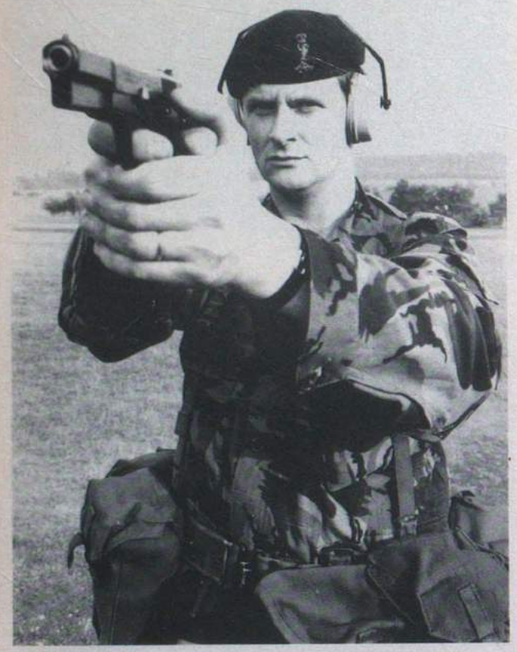
Sig Brian Davidson digging in

The Scuds O Gp OCdt Caroline Fielder-Greenhow, Cpl Dave Kingstone and Capt Ken Fickling eavesdropping

37 Sig Regt (V)
Bristol

SHOOTING

Capt John Newton is the new Western Wessex Territorial Army Pistol Shooting Champion. He won the recent contest for TA Units throughout the South West region with a score which, if he had been eligible to take part, would have won him the equivalent Regular Army contest as well. **John** has a completely different role in civvy street, he is training to be a Baptist Minister.



Capt John Newton, of Westbury-on-Trym pictured after Western Wessex Skill-At-Arms Meeting

The long hot summer has seen the Regiment as busy as ever.

In June we participated in the CO's annual regimental military skills competition which was held in the Sennybridge Training area. The familiar military skills activities were supplemented by a new event—a CO's Special—a night orienteering exercise.

Sgt Lou Carr and LCpl Sandie Blocksidge point the way during training

The winning squadron (for the third year running) was 43 Sqn. Led by **Sgt Barry Pearce**, one of the two LAD sections won 'Best Section'.

For the first time the Avon ACF attached to 57 Sqn in Bristol was invited to take part. A section of seven cadets, made up to full strength by **LCpl Liz Fitzsimmons** and **Pte Gail Jackson** and section leader **Sgt Nigel Caldicott**, almost stole the show and the winner's prize by producing consistently high marks. ACF 'B' Company 2IC **Capt Martin Scott** was delighted with his cadets' performance. We hope to see some of these excellent young soldiers in the making joining the TA.

SSgt Dick Lee gives an NBC demonstration during Military Skills training

NB

A fishy result for **SSgt (ORSQMS) F. W. Dawson**, our Regular Chief Clerk, on winning the Individual West District (Group 4) Angling Competition held on the River Avon at Bradford-Upon-Avon on Wednesday 12 July—congratulations.

Representatives of RHQ and all five Squadrons attended the 2 Brigade Officers Study Period at Blandford at the beginning of June. The Study Period provided the opportunity to get up to date on developments within the Brigade and discuss issues of the moment with colleagues from other Regiments.

The summer months have brought two departures and one return to the fold. The Officers Mess dined out **Maj Fred Ward** who has joined the staff at HQ 2 Sig Bde. One of his final duties with the Regiment was to take a parade held in his honour during the Skills Training Course held by the Regiment at Burniston Barracks in Scarborough.

The Sergeants' and Warrant Officers' Mess dined out **WO1 (RSM) Bernie Thomas** who is finishing his Regular Army service with the Regiment. We wish him and his family all the best in their new life.

We welcomed back after a sojourn with 39 Sig Regt **Maj Chris Laurence** who joined us in June as Regimental 2IC.

43 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
CHARITY PROJECT

The Charity 'Help the Aged' approached the Squadron for assistance to raise a little money for their Somerset headquarters. Initially the OC, **Maj Chris Eskell**, was a little suspicious because the PSAO, **Capt Peter Clarke** and the SQMS, **SSgt Bill Charman**, are in the 'age bracket' of those targeted by the Charity.

It was on a warm Saturday in May that the efforts of the Squadron over an undulating course recced and organised by **Capt Rosemary Tuhey** came to fruition.

On the command 'By the Front Quick March', from **Col Keith Brown OBE** the mass start from the TAC was underway.

The fastest team formed by the PSI, **SSgt Dave Beattie** and **Sgt Vincent Mann** completed the 20 mile course in four hours. The day was successful for all concerned and the Squadron raised £1,000 which was presented by **Capt Rosemary Tuhey** to **Mr John Nickolls** at a social held in the TAC.

Col K. Brown gives the signal to start the RA Charity March in Bridgwater

The Talented Team
(Left to right): LCpl Ian Galliford, Cpl Maxine Taylor, Sig Kevin Brooks (hidden), LCpl Fiona Abernethy, Pte Catherine Reece, LCpl 'Compo' Hemens, Capt Andrew Cornish, LCpl Sue Palfrey, Cpl Lin Reeve and Sig Tiny Woodfood

SSgt Dave Beattie receiving a trophy for the fastest team from Mr John Nickolls of Help the Aged. Capt Rosemary in the background

CONGRATULATIONS

The most important aspect of any unit in the TA is its 'new blood'. Congratulations go to **Ptes Julie Rowe** and **Ursula Martin** for completing and passing their recruit course at Guildford and also to **Sig David Merriott** and **Garth Draisey** for surviving Catterick.

Also to our new SSM, **WO2 Ray Cardwell**—those oldies in the Corps might remember the name.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Welcome to **2Lt Peter Gurr** from 36 Sig Regt. With our Squadron he only has four appointments.

Fond farewells from all of us to **Lt Gabriella Summers** who has moved on to a full-time career in banking.

Also to **Capt Andrew Cornish** who moves to 31 Sig Regt. Thank you for your hard work throughout your 12 years in the Squadron. The computer now resides quietly in the corner.

FINALLY

Are you shortly to retire after a satisfying career? Why not continue your association with the Corps? Give a little thought to us when you have settled in Somerset or Devon. Even if you haven't the time for a full commitment we can accommodate you.

53 (W) SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Squadron has said goodbye to **Maj John Insley** who has been OC for the last three years. We have welcomed **Maj Edward Widgery** back to 53 as the new OC.

The Squadron has had a busy couple of months including several exercises and the Regimental SAAM where the Squadron had a convincing victory after a couple of fallow years.

We had a good shoot at WALSAAM and won the falling plate and a storming day at SWSAM where as the cutting edge of the Regimental team we had a convincing overall win, for the fourth time **Sgt 'Bonzo' Head** was runner up in the overall rifle and LMG Match.

53 Sqn pictured after Western Wessex Skill-At-Arms Meeting

Brig Le Blanc-Smith has a few words with *(left to right):* Cpl Walker, SSgt Giles (PSI), Sgt 'Bonzo' Head and Sig Pierce

The Squadron was blessed with marvellous weather in mid May when the Troops 868, 869, 900 and CMHQ Tp, went to Cwyrt-y-Gollen for a weekend which included a walk across the beacons, a visit to local caves, 900 Tp office? and a clay pigeon shoot and a barbecue.

Finally congratulations to **Capt Jane Buckels** and husband **Paul** on the birth of a baby girl.

57/HQ SQN NEWS

A team from 57 and HQ Sqns with representatives from 53 Sqn, Avon ACF and Bristol UOTC attended the International Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford during July to assist with communications during the biennial air show. 57 Sqn took the opportunity to mount a recruiting display during the two days of the show.

A team from Mould Tp, led by Troop OC, **Capt John Crackett**, assisted the Royal Wessex Yeomanry during the Badminton Horse Trials by providing a Mould rebro.

A first for 57 Sqn was a weekend 'Methods of Instruction' Course for JNCOs preparing to instruct for the first time. For many of the students this was the first time they had seen themselves on CCTV. Students and trainers agreed the weekend had been interesting, worthwhile and great fun for all concerned.

'Yes I will tell the General when I see him'
Sig Mark Heenan enjoys the peace when Mould Tp provided a rebro during the Badminton Horse Trials

40 Sig Regt (V) Belfast

VISIT OF COMMANDER 12 SIGNAL BRIGADE (V)

Over the weekend of 13/14 May the Brigade Commander, **Brig S. G. McK Gordon** paid a visit to the Regiment during one of the weekend training sessions at Magilligan WETC in the North of the Province. He was met at Belfast International Airport by the Honorary Colonel, **Col Elliott Wilson** on Saturday 15 May and arrived at Magilligan just after lunch.

After changing into uniform and a discussion with the CO, he visited the various training stands and attended an Officers' Mess barbecue in the evening.

On Sunday he travelled to the Depot, Royal Irish at Ballymena, Co Antrim to inspect the Passing Out Parade of No 5/89 TA Recruits Course of which the Regiment had seven recruits attending from our Larne TAC.

After lunch he departed for the Airport accompanied by the Adjutant, **Capt Mick Weston**.

The Commander chats to the recruits

FAREWELL TO THE CO—LT COL I. C. SHUKER

Sunday 2 July saw the last day of service in the Regiment of **Lt Col Chris Shuker** after two and a half years. His day began with signing the Handover/Takeover documents with the new CO after which he visited the JRC and Sergeants' Mess for a last drop. After lunching with the officers he consumed enough Dutch Courage to prepare him for the Rolling Out Ceremony.

His staff car had temporarily lost its wheels so he had to succumb to being towed around the camp in an appropriately decked out landrover trailer. As a special treat we allowed him to drive a Humber Pig round the camp in Starsky and Hutch fashion during which he was bombarded by members of the Regiment with bits and pieces of everything, he was then washed down at the gate during a routine testing of the fire hose.

We wish **Col Chris** and **Audrey** all the very best on his new posting to HQ NORTHAG.

RSM WO1 Ian Urquhart says farewell to our intrepid humber pig driver

Wash down—Lt Col Chris Shuker driving

FAMILY CONNECTION

Another unique first in the history of the 40th occurred when **Pte Joanne Jamison** was attested by the PSAO, **Maj Ray Kinkead. Pte Jamison** is the third generation of one family to serve in the Regiment all at the same time. Her grandfather, **Maj Jimmy Chambers** is the Regimental Paymaster and her uncle, **LCpl Ian Chambers** is currently serving in the LAD since 1988 after 12 years regular service.

Three generations—Pte Joanne Jamison is sworn in by the PSAO—Maj Ray Kinkead whilst grandfather, Maj Jimmy Chambers *(centre left)* and uncle, LCpl Ian Chambers look on

Maj Harry Squance receives a clasp to his TD from Comd 107 Bde

WELCOME TO THE CO—LT COL I. G. HENDERSON

The new CO is well known to the Regiment having served in it for 18 years, the last two and a half years as 2IC. We wish **Col Ian** and his wife **Katie** a very successful term in Command.

'Now it's my turn'—Lt Col Ian Henderson signs the handover/takeover certificate

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the Ops Officer, **Maj Harry Squance**, on receiving a Clasp to his TD during a recent visit of the Comd, 107 Bde,' **Brig Clive Wilkinson**. And to **Maj Jenny Wilson** on her appointment as 2IC.

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; and**
  - **(b) process the film in a sensible time frame to permit you to select the best photographs and ensure they are properly captioned.**

W DAY −60 TO W DAY −10

- **Encourage others to write up events for you. Our Corps magazine provides the opportunity for all ranks to reflect the enjoyment and satisfaction of participation and achievement. Edit and correct expression rather than attempting to do it all yourself.**
- **Target on events rather than input from Squadrons/Troops which can be repetitive by covering the same regimental activities.**
- **Do not overlook wives. Their contribution to some unit activities can be considerable and they in common with all components of a unit, like to see their efforts recognised in print, supported by photographs.**

W DAY −10 to W DAY −4

- **Assemble all your material including photographs. Read with a critical eye for accuracy.**
- **Pass for typing.**

W DAY −2

- **Check the typing—or better still seek the assistance of another person who you know will have a critical eye for accuracy, good English and spelling.**
- **It is helpful to annotate contributions to show where photographs connect with the written words. Check captions carefully; spelling names incorrectly is a bad error.**

W DAY

- **Despatch notes 'first class post' to The Editor, *The Wire*.**

continued on page 486

News from Squadrons

NORTHAG Air Support Radio Sqn
BFPO 18

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Peter Hryhoruk**
2IC	**Kapt Gerrit Palm RNLA**
SSM	**WO2 Ray Bruce**
YofS	**WO2 Andy Fulton**
SQMS	**HFW Josef Schoenmackers GEA**
OC Comms Tp	**SSgt Tony Doherty**
Chief Clerk	**Sgt Rick Warne**
MTS	**Sgt Brian Rogers**

The year so far has seen our small, four nation Squadron participating in many more activities than of late. As with all units, people come and go, but here in NASRS we must hold the record for the quickest turnover of personnel. This is due mainly to our continental colleagues, who quite often, as conscripts, leave training and remain in this, their one and only 'working unit' for only 9-14 months.

Of the British element, the Squadron welcomes a new SSM, **WO2 Ray Bruce** and his wife **Marge** and family. **Cpl** (soon to be Sgt) **Paul Hubble** along with **Tina**, his wife and apprentice Mancunian **Matthew**. Will **Paul** ever get the hang of NATOisms, NATO circuit numbers and getting leave? New faces also include **Sig Andy** 'Dewhurst' **Andrews** and **Gi** 'DOH' **Knowles** from 7 Sig Regt and **LCpl Brett Cowley**.

EXERCISE WINTEX 89

The Squadron deployed for this exercise into the muddy avenues of Zutendaal airfield, here in Belgium. Arrival in the first location proved amusing, as some local 'lumber-jacques' had contributed to the greenhouse effect by chopping trees down all over the place.

The exercise passed very quickly, with the Squadron changing location every other day. This apparently was the first time the Squadron had 'stepped up' in this manner. We also extended our Dutch vocabularies to include such phrases as 'God Verdomme'. The final location was the Squadron Club where some members of the Squadron found themselves wet on the inside, as well as on the out!

NORTHAG SIGNAL GROUP TRIATHLON

With the arrival of **WO2 (SSM) Ray Bruce** came the formation of the Tongeren Sado-masochistic running fraternity or triathlon squad. With a collection of eager hand-picked volunteers, the Squadron embarked on an arduous training programme. Other team members were soon to witness **LCpl Bear Convery** and **Sig Gi** (allsport) **Knowles**, (both of whom are 1033'd from 7 Sig Regt), disappearing into the distance. The remainder plodded on over the following few weeks, sampling the Pays Liegois.

Towards the end of the training a few of the Squad visited the UK to take part in the BTR 89. The team did exceptionally well on the run, with all the lads completing in around two hours (journalistic licence?). They were the only overseas entrants. Special thanks must be passed on to the organisers of the event who looked after the team so well, this also includes a certain Chelsea Pensioner named **George**!

The actual traithlon competition which incidently was hosted by NASRS, was hard fought and produced some excellent results for the Squadron team. **Sgt1 Ronnie Boeser** RNLA won the overall individual prize and **LCpl Bear Convery** won the individual best shot award. A final 'well-done' must be passed to **LCpl John** 'Airfix' **Batts** for a brave effort—well done **John**.

PRINCESS ROYAL DAY

For the first time, the Squadron entered a 'guest' multinational team in the Princess Royal Day competition.

At a little after 0300 hrs the team sleep-walked into the Squadron minibus to be shuttled to the ranges near Munster. Arriving at 0500 hrs the team were shortly awakened by the OC, **Maj Peter Hryhoruk** and **WO2 Ray Bruce** not for breakfast but for a preliminary team talk.

The team consisted of the OC, SSM, **Sgt1 Ronnie Boeser** (RNLA), **Sgt Keith Barker, Sgt1 John Dupont, Cpls Dave Oliver, Paul Hubble, LCpl John Batts, Cpl Hans Lacroix** (RNLA), **OG Ton Steinacher** (GEA) **LCpl Convery** and **Sig Gi Knowles**. All managed to complete the event and enjoyed the day and look forward to next year's mystery venue.

NASRS SKI CAMP

Each year members of the Squadron participate on a voluntary basis in the units ski camp. This year the location was in Reit Im Winkle in the South-eastern most tip of Germany.

Snow conditions, surprisingly, proved fantastic and everyone from novice to expert had a thoroughly enjoyable fortnight.

The photograph shows a few members of the group relaxing after a hard evening in the bar with Cpl Ron Williams! *(Left to right):* the skiers are: Cpl Ron Williams, Annette and Cpl Dave Oliver, OG Thomas Fugmann, LCpl 'Schnapps' Batts, OG Stephan Glas and friend, WCpl Chris Williams, Sldl Schueller and Sldl Van Der Kam

continued from page 485

● 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 within the minimum of delay by first class post.

IMPORTANT POINTERS

● There has never been—or will be—any obligation for every component of the Corps to make a contribution to each issue of *The Wire*. If there really is very little worth reporting, carry forward the input to the next issue. No restriction is placed on the size of the contribution. Use common sense—and aim for quality rather than quantity of content.

● Situations will arise when it is necessary for The Editor to shorten a contribution or defer it to a later issue. *The Wire* is printed in a multiple of four pages eg 100, 112 or 116 pages. This imposes restraints.

● Any photograph of any size—colour or black and white—can be processed into our Corps magazine. Contrast is an important factor and the very high quality 'PR Style' black and white gloss photographs should be sought for any important unique occasion eg a visit by our Colonel-in-Chief. With this qualification, any competent photographer with a good camera should be able to take photographs of sufficiently good quality for incorporation into *The Wire*.

TYPING THE CONTRIBUTIONS

● Type with 'double spacing'.

● Do not type places and names in capital letters.

● Ranks and employments should be abbreviated. (See Joint Service Staff Manual, JSP 101 and SOinC's Policy Directive No 1).

● We like to use christian names. If you use them, decorations should be omitted.

ie Maj John Smith—correct
Maj J. T. Smith MBE—correct
Maj John Smith MBE—incorrect

● Number all sheets, and photographs.

● Number all photographs lightly with a soft pencil or ball point pen—but not felt tip. Photographs are easily demaged and degraded.

● Captions should be typed on a separate sheet(s) and related to the numbered photographs.

19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
(209 Sig Sqn)
Colchester

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Richard Hoole**
2IC	**Capt Dave Raleigh**
QM	**Capt (QM) Bob Lockwood**
AO	**Capt Adrienne Winchester WRAC**
OC O Tp	**Capt Mike Griffiths**
)	**Capt Richard Quinlan**
OC N Tp	**Lt Neil Holden**
OC P Tp	**Sgt Steve Rook**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Anthony Tomlinson**
MTWO	**WO1 Mick Hewitt RCT**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Mal Allerton**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Dennis Prince**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) Tom Ferry**
ASM	**WO2 (AQMS) Colin Fenwick**
CC	**WO2 (ORQMS) John Manley**

INTRODUCTION

Over the last couple of months the Squadron has helped to run the CCF Central Camp at Proteus on both the Admin and Training side. All participants got a tick in the box from Proteus. We have also had personnel on Ex Pegasus Mane with 24 Bde and others on Ex Coldstone (another RAAT task) and UOTC, CCF and ACF tasks. However the major event was the arrival of **WO1 (RSM) Tomlinson** to take over from **WO1 (RSM) Simpson**. We welcome **WO1 (RSM) Tomlinson** to the Squadron and wish **WO1 (RMS) Simpson** and his wife **Brenda** a happy retirement.

NOVEMBER TROOP

June began with Ex Panthers Tail, a Brigade Logistic Unit exercise on Dartmoor Training Area. The Troop deployed early to be inserted by foot (helicopters could not make it!). The two man patrols walked fully kitted with a manpack 351, four spare batteries, ground spike antenna kit, rations for 72 hours, water etc. Carrying all this equipment over Dartmoor, the Troop wondered if this was some kind of selection test. Needless to say everyone did exceptionally well, the UHF report line comms worked with manpack rebroadcast stations giving the desired coverage. The DCOS was suitably impressed with 'his' signal troop! The remainder of Ex Panthers Tail involved the Troop in ranges, assault courses and the like. A good exercise was had by all.

June continued with **Capt Quinlan** off on a two week KAPE tour recce. The end of June was celebrated with a week on the Porton Battle Run on Ex Panthers Gas. This was the climax of last month's NBC training and everyone got suitably hot and sweaty but all agreed that far more NBC training should be included in the training programme (amazing!).

July saw the continuation of RAAT training. This means that all members of the Squadron are involved in support to other Regular, TA and Cadet Forces. What with Cassims and Proteus training camp, London UOTC training camp, Ranges, CCF National Radio Net to mention but a few, the Troop has been kept busy.

July finished with summer camp at Renney Lentney Camp, Plymouth. This is a great little holiday camp overlooking Plymouth Sound—worth a visit folks! The Troop engaged in a whole variety of water-sports, and adventurous pursuits.

We now look forward to Block Leave and then it will all start again with exercises, KAPE tours, adventurous training. Plus ca change, plus c'est la même chose.

Finally, welcome to some new members of the Troop, **Sig Jenkinson, LCpl Hitchen** and **Lt Holden** as new Tp Comd. We also say goodbye to some. These include **Sig Hall, Haley, Mortlock, LCpl Watts** and **Capt Quinlan** who goes to Oscar Tp! Good luck—you'll need it.

PAPA TROOP—THE SHARP END

With yet another Flying Falcon completed, Papa Tp lived up to its reputation and provided key detachments to the two Rebros, HQ BAA and not forgetting The Brigade Commander's Tactical Headquarters crewed by **Sgt Steve Rook** and **Cpl Perriwinkle Tubb**, who go where others may fear to tread. Having said that, the Tac Crew thank 2IC **Capt Raleigh** for finding us some of the wettest, boggy locations in BAOR!

With Flying Falcon gone, the Squadron geared itself for adventure training at Renney Lentney Camp, Plymouth, with the troop showing its prowess this time in the art of sailing, water skiing, climbing, sunbathing and canoeing. A good time was had by all, and now suddenly we find ourselves preparing for leave.

INS AND OUTS

We shortly say farewell (hopefully) to **Sig Brooks** who for some reason wants to join 264 Sig Sqn. **Sig Steve Rook** also leaves soon on promotion to 249 Sig Sqn AMF(L). Best wishes to him and his wife **Sue**. Finally, congratulations to **LCpl Steve** and **Mrs Alison Beeney** on the birth of their son **Daniel**.

QM TROOP DETACHMENT PROTEUS CAMP

Well it has been a busy time for at least two members of the Troop. **Cpl 'Mac' McDonald** and **Sig 'Sutty' Sutton** set off for Proteus Camp in Nottinghamshire for the Annual CCF Camp. We were sent to deal with the important tasks of Ammo and Arms. We arrived on the first day in the pouring rain in Notts and after driving around we eventually found the camp hidden in Sherwood Forest. We were sorted out with accommodation in huts that looked quite comfortable from the outside. But once inside you went back in time 30 years. We settled in and thought that it was going to be a swan; then the cadets turned up and the work started. Each day started early with the rush hour in the morning with hundreds of cadets and irate teachers trying to get equal amounts of weapons through the small hatch. Once that rush was over we participated in serious UV training until lunch time when the schools would wait until you were seated and about to take a bite of food before they came to get us for the midday rush.

The days were quite long but also quite enjoyable with the chance to meet other helpers from other Units. We also found the Patron Saint of RAAT while we were there 'Brown Bottle' who saw us safely through the camp with no Gremlins.

MT TROOP

During the past few months there have been a number of changes in the Troop. A few old faces have gone, and newer, shinier ones have arrived.

The current personalities are:-

MTWO	**WO1 Mick Hewitt RCT**
MT SSgt	**SSgt Andy Ross RCT**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Chris Allen**
Details Clk	**LCpl 'Ronnie' Biggins RCT**

The workload on the Troop has been as heavy as ever, but somehow it has managed to survive with smiles on faces. (Maybe not too many though). The 'normal' routine was upset by a terrific shortage of manpower within the Squadron due to exercises, detachments. courses etc which has meant the Troop has had to do more than its normal share, though the morale continues to be high. This might be due to the fact that the members hardly ever see each other, but the hierarchy would believe its because they are happy in their work!!

The vehicle fleet management staff has also found it very difficult to keep up with the continuing influx of new vehicles that appear on the horizon at all too frequent intervals. (Rumour control has it that **Pte Joe Carlin** is soon to get his own self drive metro!)

The Central servicing station has been as busy as ever. It is however, more time consuming reminding Troops that their vehicles are due, than actually servicing them. Lately this task has fallen to the ever tactful **LCpl 'Geordie'** (How many times can my car be broken into) **Smee**. His basic approach and enormous vocabulary seem to be producing the right result! (Why change something that's working well)?

History was made during the first two weeks of July, when the Troop managed to get away to do its own adventure training. This was the first time the MT Tp had ever been able to do such a thing. Normally you would find us driving or administering for other Troops, not having the time to join in. It was a first, and, hopefully, not a last.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **LCpl** and **Mrs Steve Jenkins** on the birth of their first child, a son. Also **LCpl Ronnie Biggins** and **Dvr Scott Armstrong**, both being selected for promotion.

POSTING OUT

LCpl Andy Kellet, into civvy street, good luck, **Sig 'Dolly' Parton** to Northern Ireland . . . 8 Bde's gain, **Dvr 'Simon' Sharpe** to civvy street, **Dvr 'Jock' Munro** to pastures new and **SSgt Bob Berry** to 254 Fd Amb.

POSTINGS IN

SSgt Andy Ross, the new Troop 'Staffie!!', **Dvr** (soon to LCpl) **Scott Armstrong, LCpl Peel, Dvr Nicholson** and **Dvr Sibley**. Welcome all to 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn MT Tp.

TM TROOP

Troop members are returning from various exercises just in time to go on Summer Leave. We say welcome to **Cpl Cameron Lockhart**, RA Signals, and his wife **Kerry** who have joined us on Ex Long Look and goodbye to **Cpl Al Aimer** who leaves us for sunny Catterick and his T1 course. Good luck **Al**. The Troop is led from the front (particularly on the runs) by **WO2 (FofS) Mal Allerton** and ably assisted by the Troop Sgt **Bob** (Tough of the Track) **Drysdale**, who must be Colchester's most elusive man.

The Radio Section led by **Sgt Andy Davie** comprises **LCpl Craig Brankin**, who has bent yet another landrover, **LCpl Steve Hazelwood** (still trying to get his T2 project working) and **Cpl Steve Armstrong** who is sunning himself in Australia on Ex Long Look.

The Radio Relay Section are still displaying that age old skill of making a first line inspection last all week but **Cpl 'Oggy' Ogden** assures the Foreman of Signals that to achieve perfection it takes time.

The TE Section headed by **Sgt Cal Downie** (who likes to think he's in charge) professes to be the busiest and is held together by **Cpl Adie Eaton** (R&I and Stores), **Cpl Martin Silvey** (R&R) and **Cpl Al Aimer**. The Foreman of Signals wants to know who will do all the work now that **Cpl Al Aimer** is leaving.

On the social front the troop held its first barbecue in June, a resounding success, even **Sgt Bob Drysdale** had enough to eat! Had the refreshments not run out at midnight **Sgts Cal Downie** and **Andy Davie** would still be in there!

In September, it will be exercise time again for another round of interesting tasks, exercises and **Cpl Lockharts** housewarming.

EXERCISE CELTIC TROT 1
SNCO IC Sgt Allen

The aim of the exercise was to practise navigation and map reading, and to improve the standard.

After Ex Celtic Trot 1 and after endless deliberation it was decided that 5-15 July was the time. (Little did we know then!) Forty per cent of those attending were relative newcomers and unknown quantities, so it was with trepidation that we faced Day One. What follows is a brief outline of events day by day.

5 July

The uneventful long trip to North Wales and settling in to the caravan site.

6 July

0700 hrs: Troop PT. A gentle jog to warm-up!

0900 hrs: A 30km cross-country yomp following nature trails/ footpaths, collecting rashes and blisters on the way. Never before have so many been so glad to see a white mini bus!

7 July

0700 hrs: Blister PT.

0900 hrs: Map reading exercise of 25km.

Problems were set and all were solved. Although the phone box/ Tardis proved a talking point as did the electrical storms that hit the camp site with fantastic ferociousness that night!

8 July

0700 hrs: PT. What Blisters?

0900 hrs: Visit to the summit of Snowdon by foot.

A long way up to find fog and mist, but the tea at the top was refreshing. The walk down proved harder than going up; anyway who wants to ride on a mountain railway?

9 July

0700 hrs: PT cancelled.

0800 hrs: Navigation Test. All personnel were dropped off at different unknown locations, and had to make their way back to camp. At each drop off point they were given a map and nothing else! Special mention here for **Dvr Scott Armstrong**, who discovered where he had been dropped, got a grid reference, and made his way back to camp (21km) in the second fastest time. All this from a map of Scunthorpe!

It was agreed by everyone that it was a very worthwhile exercise and a lot had been learned. (Did you know that swimming pool attendants are part of NALGO? Or that Bangor has two Safeways stores?) Special thanks must go to **WO2 Pete Dean ACC** and **Sgt Mick Cronin RAPC** for their help and guidance.

The exercise achieved its aim, and proved that the standard of map reading and navigation in the Troop is high.

227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT)
BFPO 18

THE MANAGEMENT

OC	**Maj B. Robinson**
Admin Officer	**Capt C. S. O'Nians WRAC**
SSM	**WO2 A. W. Williams**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We welcome the following and their families to the Squadron and wish them a pleasant stay: **SSgt (YofS) Sutherland, Cpls Matthews, Wilson, LCpl Hallett, Sig Joyce** and **Shirley**.

We bid farewell to the following, and take the opportunity to wish them and their families all the best for the future: **SSgt (YofS) Glasby, Sgt Purnell, Cpls Ellis, Nodwell, Tweedlie** and **LCpl Crosbie**.

RUGBY

Congratulations go to the three members of the Squadron currently supporting the local Dutch Club, Maastricht, for a fine season which resulted in promotion to the second division of the National League. With the 'A' Team coached by 'Fat Man' **Derek Pocock** (Don't tell the MO) and the 'B' Team by **Dave Toleman**, the team had a successful tour at Kings Norton, Birmingham, where it was lucky to stumble upon some very expensive Burgundy Hessian Blazers! To save long faces a congratulatory message 'well done **Andy**' is passed to **Sgt Andy Pagdin** who has been flying around the pitch all season. The three are currently awaiting clearance to visit Czechoslovakia in October on another tour. A successful 1989/1990 season is on the books again under the direction of Corps-wide well known **Derek Pocock**. Lastly but not least, after being white washed in practice, due to old age creeping up on him, great thanks must go to **FofS Graham Atkinson** (now 'Subalterning' it in Colchester), for his expertise.

SWIMMING

As a novice team the Squadron achieved an excellent joint fourth place in the RCZ Championships under the expert eyes of **Cpl Lawrence-Crockford** and **Cpl** 'Action' **Jackson**. We hope for further improvement next year.

GOLF

Interest in golf this season has been inspired by new blood being posted in, members of the AFCENT and JOC Association and also club members at RAF Golf Club Bruggen. Main achievements so far are the **SSM 'Taff' Williams'** reduction in handicap from 18 to 16 and **Cpl Angus MacPhersons'** first outing in the JOC meeting who also reduced his handicap from 18 to 16 and returned at 42 points in the afternoon round Stableford.

ATHLETIC SQUAD

The Squadron Athletic Team worked hard again and had a successful season. Special mention must be made of **Sgts Billy McCreath** and **Steve Strefford**. Their efforts in coaching the track and field athletes, and their willingness to give up so much time, mostly in the early mornings, was appreciated by all team members.

Another notable success goes to the RSM for prising money out of the PRI for new tracksuits, to **Sig Pigott** for winning the discus and the 4 × 400m squad (**Sgts McCreath, Shields, Sig Berry** and **Cpl Ellis**) for outstanding effort in their event.

Well done to the whole squad and good luck for the next season, with another set of new tracksuits please!

OC Maj B. Robinson *(centre)* with 'was it a borrowed blazer?'

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go to **Cpls Wilson** and **Jackson** on being selected for promotion to Sergeant.

238 (London) Sig Sqn
Chelsea Barracks

SUMMER CAMP

After terrorising the North of England for two weeks last summer, this year the Squadron decided to give Fremington Camp in North Devon a visit. For those who were fortunate enough to attend Summer Camp in June, the delights of top roping and abseiling, canoeing, orienteering and a number of other enjoyable activities in the Devonshire countryside were awaiting them.

As OC Summer Camp, **Capt Mike Dunn** decided that in addition to wearing everyone out during the day, a competition consisting of hockey, softball, volleyball and basket-ball would take place in the evenings, ending with a 'fun' assault course on the last day. The overall competition for both weeks was won by **WO2 (SSM) Gus Hales**, after all, it was the SSM who organised the teams!

At the end of the first week a celebratory barbecue was held in the warm Devon sunshine. **Cpls 'Brummie' Seaton** and **'Norrie' Small** displayed new talents as Cordon Bleu chefs as they very ably grilled the juicy steaks (or was it bangers and beefburgers?). Even the OC, **Maj Peter Dick-Peter**, managed to get his escape chitty signed in order to spend a few days in Devon, and after the barbecue presented (liquid) prizes to the winning sports team, and best male, best female prizes to **Sgt Bob Dodds** and **LCpl Kay Durrant** for the orienteering competition. Unfortunately, due to the inclement weather, the barbecue for the second week was postponed till next year. However, the prize giving ceremony went ahead as planned, this time prizes were presented by the 2IC, **Capt Therese Crook**, to the SSM and his team and **Cpl 'Boogie' Knights** and **Pte 'PJ' Price-Jones** as best male and female in the orienteering competition.

In addition to the fun activities such as falling off horses or trying to do 'wheelies' on mountain bikes, we were fortunate to have **Cpl 'Dock' Docherty**, absconded from the London District Provost Company, to instruct members of the Squadron in the art of top roping and abseiling. All participants enjoyed this activity especially **LCpl Nicki Humphries**, who started her descent from the abseiling tower on all fours. **Capt Crook**, on the other hand, thought she had entered a rodeo competition as she was seen with one hand on the rope and the other in the air (yes, it's all on the video!). **LCpl 'Tweaky' Stevenson** of the Irish Guards was our instructor for the canoeing element of summer camp. At the end of the second week, he was so confident in the canoeing skills of the participants that he persuaded them to be pushed off a bridge some 20ft up! **Sig Terry McDermott** decided to go one better, and was given top marks for his backward somersault off the bridge (thankfully without a canoe).

Unfortunately the two weeks seemed to pass far too quickly, and soon it was time to pack up and return to Chelsea with everyone looking forward to next year's summer camp.

'I'm sure I should be the other way up' thinks LCpl Grant McNee. Sig Terry McDermott, on the other hand, thinks it might be worth losing some penalty points by 'spilling' some water

DEPARTURES/ARRIVALS/CONGRATULATORY

Over the past two months the flow of old faces leaving and new ones arriving has continued. Farewell and good luck to **Capt Mike Dunn** who leaves us (possibly to supervise the making of chocolate in the North of England), **Cpl Janette Dallimore** and **LCpl** 'Crow' **Webster** to Northern Ireland, **Ptes Sue Webb** to 13 Sig Regt and **Simone Rouse** to Berlin, and **SSgt Paula Dean, Cpl 'Mitch' Salmon** and **LCpl Ken** and **Sonja Scoins** to civvy street.

A warm welcome to all new Squadron members: **Capt Max Knobel** the new OC Radio Tp and husband **Bruce, SSgt John Morgan**, our New Chief Clerk, **Sgt Steve Gallimore, Cpls Avril Laver, Bev Hill** and **Pete Davies, LCpl Mark Buffery, Ptes Jane Aldred** and **Jacqueline Malcolm** and **Sig Terry McDermott** and **Christopher Leeds**.

Finally, congratulations to **Cpl Billy Scott** and wife **Lorraine** on the birth of their son.

RADIO/MT TROOP PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Max Knobel**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt 'JB' Bragg**
T Det Sgt	**Sgt Steve Matthews**
Mt Sgt	**Sgt Tracy Dodd**

The Troop has just come to the end of its ceremonial silly season, at least until November. So the lads will get a break from polishing their boots and sellotaping their hats!

In the last couple of months the Troop has been involved with the Queen's Birthday Parade (Trooping the Colour for the uninitiated), a State Visit (see article below) and numerous Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace. Poor **LCpl Jock Plunkett** will have to wait another three months before coming face to face with his heroine, the Prime Minister. For the first time ever he was left speechless when **Mrs Thatcher** spoke to him.

A successful PRE (well done everybody!) was celebrated with a Troop barbecue. The entertainment was courtesy of **Sgt Steve Matthews, Cpls 'Brummie' Seaton** and **Kev Salisbury**. They now have firm bookings for all future parties, Barmitzvahs and weddings. **'Trapper' McDermott** was again on form much to the disgust of the rest of the Troop especially **LCpl 'Buff' Buffery**.

Finally the Troop would like to send their best wishes to **Sig Mark Benson** and **Maxine** on their wedding on 26 August.

STATE VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

At approximately 0930 hrs Thursday 13 July the Squadron deployed from Chelsea Barracks to locations within London to test comms for the visit taking place the following week. The test went well initially with even the 'handbags' getting to grips with the complicated tuning required to operate the Pye PFX. However as the morning progressed the lack of a NAAFI break began to take its toll and comms degenerated as call signs re-grouped in the local MacDonalds for a 'Mac attack' and to admire the migratory wild life which is plentiful at this time of year.

After a successful comms check the next event in the lead up to the visit was an early-early morning rehearsal starting at 0415 hrs in full No 2 dress for the operators to meet and liaise with their respective users for the visit. This again went well but alas the effects that the 'Knapp Factor' would have on comms on that fateful day were not taken into account.

The Knapp Factor, for those of you not familiar with it, is an anomaly which affects communication deployments, particularly in inner city areas reliant on rail and tube transport systems. The way this normally happens is that a middle aged balding Scotsman appears on television and tells all train drivers to take a certain day off that week. Now normally the Knapp Factor can be predicted with a certain degree of accuracy but all attempts to reach such a prediction this week were to no avail and the Knapp Factor occurred on the Tuesday of the visit.

This had a catastrophic effect on the preparations for the visit, the President would not be arriving by Royal Train at Victoria, nor would he be travelling the route from Victoria to Buckingham Palace by state coach but instead would come straight from Heathrow by fast car with Police escort. So no Guard of Honour at the station, no street liners on the route, no mounted escort, no comms. In short a full squadron deployment cut to only four operators, three SNCO's, two officers and one WRAC flag waver in the 'shape' of **Sgt Tracy Dodd**. Even King's Tp RHA resorted to using Landrovers to pull the guns instead of horses.

So the moral of this story for all you potential Yeoman of Signals and Traffics is be warned, don't forget to allow for the Knapp Factor!

241 Sig Sqn
Donnington

Our report this time is mainly pictorial. The Squadron was visited by **Maj Gen P. R. F. Bonnet MBE**, the GOC Western District, he is shown in the Transmit Mode. We spent a weekend walking along the Shropshire Union Canal on the Welsh border. The walk was sometimes through long tunnels and over high aqueducts, the weather was kind and most seemed to manage an additional walk out to the local pubs in the evenings. The photo shows the members of the Squadron who took part, together with two spouses (**Mrs Denise Webster** and **Cpl 'Taff' Morris**) who came along for the walk and to ensure their spouses didn't enjoy themselves *too* much!

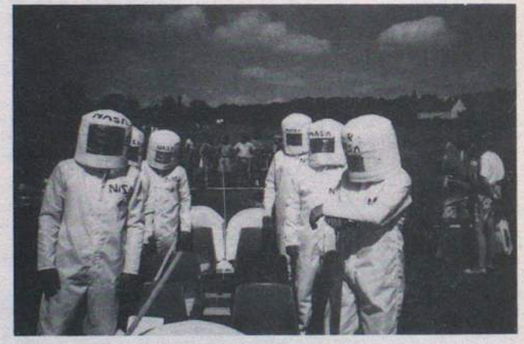
The other photos depict our Shuttle Crew which paddled for 90 minutes down the River Severn in the Donnington Raft Race. Our thanks and congratulations to **Mr Ross Kennedy**, our SWS PTO, whose hard work got them into orbit. We confess pieces of the Shuttle now lie at the bottom of the River Severn, but at least the crew all arrived at the finishing line in a creditable time with small blisters and large thirsts.

The Squadron wishes good luck to **Cpl Paul Harding** on his retirement, to **LCpl Liz Lee** on her engagement and her posting to the Falklands Islands, to **LCpl Gail Travers** on her posting back to 68 Sqn RCT and to **Sgt Richard Booth**, off to scratch away his last few hairs on the Foreman of Signals course. We welcome **Ptes Jane Hinchliff** and **Elizabeth Hannaford** to their new life of living out of a suitcase and getting paid to visit Cardiff, Sutton Coldfield or even sunny Sennybridge!

Maj Gen P. R. F. Bonnet, Sgt Graham Cross, LCpl Colin Raynor, FofS Peter Bruce and Mr Ross Kennedy

Back row: Cpl 'Taff' Morris, Cpl Ann Morris, Ptes Jane Hinchliff, Martine Flynn, Maj David Stubbs, Mr Martin Finney, LCpl Colin Raynor, Cpl Alan Murphy and Sgt Graham Cross
Front row: Maj Eric Webster, Mrs Denise Webster, Ptes Joanne Turner, Debbie Vince, LCpl Gail Travers and SSM John Mountcastle

Mr Ross Kennedy, Maj Eric Webster, Mr Martin Finney, Sgt Richard Booth, SSM John Mountcastle and Cpl Alan Murphy . . . . . .



. . . . . .The same crew, in disguise!

244 Sig Sqn (AS)
RAF, Brize Norton

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj A. J. Hutt**
2IC	**Capt T. J. Pengelley**
Ops Offr	**Capt P. W. Glibbery**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Humble**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) Charlton**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Pywell**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Howells**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt (ORSQMS) Smith**

ARRIVALS

We would like to say hello to a few new boys to the Squadron; firstly **Capt P. W. Glibbery** and **Lt G. P. Horn**, on joining us after their holiday at Shrivenham and **WO2 (RQMS) Chris Charlton** having come from 4 Div and **SSgt (ORSQMS) Graham Smith** the new Chief Clerk from MOD.

DEPARTURES

A farewell to **WO2 (RQMS) Bob Atkinson** after completion of 22 years, however carrying on, on the long service list and now posted to 33 Indep Fd Sqn (RE) NI. We all wish **Bob, Florence** and family all the very best wishes for the future.

EXERCISE OCEAN WAVE

On 31 July 1989 the Squadron departed on Ex Ocean Wave 89, the annual Squadron Adventure Training Camp to be held in Weymouth.

However life is never that simple, the deployment of the Squadron was to be via military type stands as Sections using their respective Radio Detachments. There were a total of eight stands to pass through. These were located at Bulford, Blandford and Bovington and the Sections were in competition with each other.

The stands consisted of—at Bulford, range work firing foreign weapons courtesy of **WO2 (SSM) Humble** to include MP5K, M16, M203, HK43, HKP9S. Air-Prep by **SSgt Wise** and initiative tests by **Lt Clewlow** and **Sgt Anderson**. Blandford camp consisted of comms and an appreciation by **WO2 (YofS) Pywell** and First Aid by **SSgt Duddell**. Bovington with defence position digging by **WO2 (FofS) Howells**, NBC by **Sgt Geelan** and Driving by **Sgt Barker** and **Cpl Chatfield**.

On an initial brief given to Section Comds by the 2IC we were given first grid and an arrival time. Some were shocked to find that having driven to Bovington for fourteen hours the next grid was at Bulford—yes that's the right grid **Cpl Ward**.

Eventually over a two day period all Sections completed the course and a winning Section was found. Well done **Cpl Mackfall** and his Section for winning the competition.

Finally the Squadron arrived at Weymouth and it was sports kit for the next few days. With perfect weather conditions for canoeing, windsurfing, climbing, sailing and of course visiting Weymouth in the evening.

A special mention for **Sgt** (Skippy) **Geelan** for hanging onto the outboard engines for the safety boats during this phase only.

LCpl Longstaff, Sig Smart, Cpl Whiting, LCpl Wilson, Sig Dryden and LCpl O'Neill 'relaxed and posing'

Finally after much sun and sea, a tanned Squadron left Weymouth for a tactical convoy drive home. A total distance of 464 miles was covered, with POL and feeding half way provided by the Echelon. The only event on the drive of note was **Cpl Pearson** driving the 2IC (yes Sir, I did check the wheel nuts, they must have sheared) there should be one in each corner. All in all the Squadron enjoyed summer camp, the mixture of military and adventure training worked very well.

ECHO TROOP (V)
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**Lt K. Snaith WRAC**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt King**
PSI	**Sgt Crosby**
Tp Clerk	**LCpl Prew**
Typist	**Mrs Parker**

Echo Tp is the TA arm of 244 Sig Sqn located at Maindy Barracks, Cardiff. The Troop operates six FAC dets and three MAOT dets. All the dets work independently with an FAC or MAOT Officer in charge. The crews travel all over the country and to Germany, Denmark, Belize and Norway.

The previous 12 months have seen a good deal of movement of personalities; we said goodbye to **Mrs White** our typist for nine years and wish her and her husband happiness in their retirement. **Cpl Richards** moves to Cardiff UOTC to continue his TA service, make sure you keep your Royal Signals Cap Badge! We have also said goodbye to **SSgt Duddell**, back to his own Troop at Brize Norton, and **LCpl Carpenter**. To fill their places we welcome, **Mrs Gaynor Parker, Sgt Crosby** (PSI) and new establishments of **Cpl Casely, Sig Milan** and **Curtis**.

On the Officer front we welcome: **Capt Partridge** (OC 620), **Maj Evans** (OC 622), **Capt Bendix** (OC 625) and soon **Flt Lt Carter** as OC 624.

In what is now our very busy time, we still find time to keep up the 'social' functions with various family day trips, annual dinners and informal days. These are welcome opportunities to see the ladies of the Troop who, it seems, are only too glad to get rid of their men at weekends!

Echo Tp held a Wives Day on Saturday 8 July on a blazing hot day. They had a go at shooting on the small bore range, all came out with a smile having convinced themselves that they were, in fact, Annie Oakleys! Besides that they tried putting up nine by nine tents (fair), cooking a compo meal for 30 (not bad). The best of the day was the 8m mast. With the guy ropes looking like so much spaghetti with so many bends in the mast, but it somehow managed to stay up. A good day was had by all.

Our other activities include support to the TA SAS, The Man versus Horse Marathon, Pro Celebrity Golf tournament and assistance to other Units.

To the nine people about to go to Belize for six weeks to cover the Regular FAC slot, we say, have a good time, and with the little free time you get make the most of it. Life is tough in the TA!

MIKE TROOP

Mike Tp is the Technical Maintenance Section of 244 Sig Sqn.

In recent months things have been happening in Mike Tp. Our new foyer, that we all worked so hard to build was torn down in a matter of minutes by the PSA, but I'm glad to say we're in the process of having a new brick one built, but I fear it will lack the quality of workmanship which the other one had.

Congratulations are in order for **LCpls Andy Amies, 'Rocky' Bentley** and 'Veteran' **Luffman**, who all gained the qualification of T2 last month. **LCpl Luffman** has taken over as Chief Printer, but needless to say, nor for long, 'Cor blimey, he's skived again!'.

Good luck to **LCpl Bentley** who will be taking his driving test next week, third time lucky and reading lessons are in order for **LCpl Amies**. **Cpl Irwin** is at present on his det commanders course, we all wish him luck, because he'll need it! The Troop said farewell to **Cpl Williams** who left a few months back, but to continue the saga, we now have a case. We say farewell to **WO2 (FofS) Howells** on his posting to Benbecula, and on his promotion to Warrant Officer 1 and buying a brand new 'F' Reg Rover 216S.

We say hello to **WO2 (FofS) Stockdale** who will be joining Mike Tp next month.

254 Sig Sqn (UNFICYP)
BFPO 567

PRINCESS ROYAL DAY

Wednesday 28 June was Princess Royal Day which was celebrated in the Squadron.

After many hours and much hard work, the newly decorated 'Wire Inn' (Squadron Club) hosted the UN Force Commander, **Maj Gen Milner** and many officers, Warrant Officers and SNCO's from the UN to a Cocktail Party and Buffet amid a setting of Squadron vehicles and flags of the UN Contingents.

An 'Its a Knockout' Competition was staged on the airfield. Fancy Dress was the order of the day. Included in the festivities was a display by the UN version of the Royal Signals White Helmets—The UN Blue Helmets led by **Cpl Nick Turner** and **LCpl Jim Swain**.

The climax to the day came in the evening with a disco and barbecue in the Wire Inn. Coloured lights adorned the vehicle/flag display providing a party atmosphere. A most enjoyable day was had by all—here's to next year.

LCpl Jim Swain and Cpl Nick Turner leading the 'UN Blue Helmets' display team

COMMCEN TROOP
MYSTERY TOUR

The Mystery Tour started with a call at our NAAFI for essential rations. It didn't take long to reach the Turkish border on our way to Kyrenia, the main tourist attraction on the Turkish side. Our first stop was an old British Fortress built by Richard the Lionheart on one of his many crusades. Fortresses are of course built on hills, and this one was no exception, nobody wanted to climb the steps until somebody pointed out that there was a bar half way up. So once again our illustrious Troop was off maybe not to the top but everyone made it to the half way point. After about an hour of sightseeing we got back in the mini bus and left for an old outdoor tank museum to pose for pictures after which we went to the beach for a barbecue. **YofS Nick Hammett** took it upon himself to be the cook and after being fed with burnt steaks, we started up a game of baseball and followed it up with a game of volleyball. Surprise, surprise the Yeoman of Signals team won. A few of us decided to do a bit of diving and threw ourselves off the highest rocks we could find, **LCpl 'Taff' Hughes** causing the largest splash of all. We all then headed back to camp thoroughly tired but having had a good day.

COMMCEN TROOP 12 BORE SHOOTING COMPETITION

The event took place on the 12 bore range (obviously) on the UNPA area on a mega hot day. Dress was the usual beachwear, but unfortunately no beer or chicks. The shoot started off with a practice shoot, **Sig 'Shaggy' Shahi** getting the first four clay pigeons. The competition itself started with difficulty, well with people not having done the sport before what more would you expect, but there were a few porkys by some people. Our Tp Sgt, **Sgt 'TG' Thornton-Granville** did some hotshot shooting, when he claimed it was his first time (cough, cough). Towards the end of the shoot things were really hotting up as everyone had got the hang of the shotgun, there were joint first and second place. But finally in first place was **Sgt 'TG'**, yet again another (cough) and two of our many amateurs **Sig 'Taff' Richards** who just shot anywhere for the fun of it came second, and third place was **Sig 'Shaggy' Shahi**. Last but by no means least our own **LCpl Rick Wood**, better luck next time matey. All in all a good day out was had by everyone. Well here's looking forward to more fun packed Commcen Comps.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Commcen Tp has said farewell to **LCpl 'Taff' Hughes, Sig 'Ackers' Ackland, Sig 'Chilly' Hanrahan** and **'Warty' Ward**. We wish them the best of luck.

We say a warm welcome to sunny Cyprus to **LCpl Parkes, Sig 'Jon' Denison, Neil Pollitt** and **'Taff' Jones**.

DASH 5

Friday 30 June brought about the Inter-Troop March and Shoot Competition. The training for the Dash 5, provided by **Sgt 'Stan' Holden**, proved to be of great value to all teams concerned, with Commcen Tp providing two teams, Radio Tp and Tech/Line both providing one team each. The final result turned out to be a surprise to us all. The draw for the run was made at 0515 hrs with the first team Commcen A led by **Cpl Mick Ginty** ready to go at 0530 hrs. With the four teams setting off at 10 minute intervals, we were in for some very good times for the 7km dash. The result of the run provided no surprise to anyone with Radio Tp leading in first place, closely followed by Commcen A, Commcen B and Tech/Line trailing in last. There was no doubt that the winners would come from Radio Tp or Commcen A, but how wrong we were. Off we went to the ranges with Commcen A shooting first followed by Radio Tp, Tech/Line and finally Commcen B. With a lot of points to be made from the shooting, anyone of the four teams could walk away with the trophy.

There was some good shooting especially from **Sgt Alf Norrie** (Tech/Line), so final positions were starting to materialise, Radio Tp was still adamant that the trophy would go to them, until they started their shoot. Unfortunately it just wasn't their day.

A surprise to us all, Tech/Line having produced a very good shoot stormed away with the trophy. Commcen A still believe the trophy should go to them having taken two second places. Positions for the shoot were: 1st—Tech/Line, 2nd—Commcen A, 3rd—Radio Tp and 4th—Commcen B.

It proved to us all that there is no point in being able to get from one place to another rather quickly, when having got there, you can't hit your targets, Tech/Line proved just that.

Final positions for 1989 Dash 5 were: 1st—Tech/Line, 2nd—Commcen A, 3rd—Radio Tp and 4th—Commcen B.

TECH AND LINE TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**SSgt (FofS) Whiteford**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt P. Hancock**
Tech Sgt	**Sgt R. Jarvis**
Line Sgt	**Sgt P. Jennings**
Tp Comedian	**Sgt A. Norrie**

Thanks and 'Au Revoir' to **Sgt Stan Holden** and wife, **Audrey, Sgt Graeme Hossell** and **Cpl 'Evs' Evans**. Good luck to you all in your new Units. A warm welcome is extended to **Sgt Paul Jennings** and wife, **Janine, Sgt Roy** (I'm not coming back) **Jarvis**, who's back, **Cpl Paul Collins, LCpl Jim Beech** and **Sig Terry Hall**. We wish you all a successful and enjoyable tour.

Congrats go to **Cpl 'Evs' Evans** and **Cherie** on their marriage, here in Nicosia. Congrats also to **LCpl Jim Beech** and the Troop March and Shoot team, who yet again wiped the floor with the rest of the Squadron in the coveted March and Shoot. Say no more Commcen.

Cpl Evans and bride Cherie

Tech and Line Tp July 1989

TA VISIT

81 Sig Sqn (V), whilst on a two week visit to the Squadron lived up to their motto: 'If it moves—rewire it', as the 200m range and RAF Flt soon found out. When they weren't working, they found their way to the swimming pool and local bars, apparently chlorine tastes like Keo. A good two weeks was had by all. Thanks for your help lads, hope to see you next year.

EXERCISE MELENDA ENTERPRISE

The Squadron held a weekend sea canoeing exercise at Melenda Beach, Episkopi. **Lt Neil Makepeace** led the exercise, while **Sgt Roy Jarvis** was the instructor. The rest of the nine man group consisted of **Sgt Alf Norrie, Sig 'Tosh' Pope, 'Barney' Barnett, 'Scouse' Barton, 'Poser' Winckle** and **Paul Davie**.

The canoeing went well, although **Sig Pope** did complain that his canoe must be bent, since it wouldn't go in a straight line.

Eventually all canoeists, save **Sgt** 'I'll sit this one out' **Norrie**, were paddling quite competently—which is more than can be said for **Lt Makepeace**'s landrover driving. After he took the boys for a shower, they felt the need to retire to Limassol for a bit of Dutch courage.

A good time was had by all in the end—despite the efforts of Monsieur 'Le Chef' **Norrie**.

SWIMMING COMPETITION

The UNFICYP Support Regiment Swimming Competition was held recently at the United Nations Support Regiment pool in Nicosia. Six Squadrons swam numerous individual, relays and chain of command races.

Prior to the big day, training/coaching sessions were held under the watchful eye and whip of **WO1 (YofS) Hammett**. The team worked hard and were all set for the competition.

On the day, all the swimmers performed above their training times, and though no individual golds were won, the Squadron won several silvers, **Sgt Jarvis** being narrowly beaten in the over 35's race (a creditable performance). The team was well placed going into the relay races. With wins in the freestyle (**Sig Dickinson, Cpls Ginty, Liverly, Turner**), chain of command race (**Maj Peck, Capt Giles, Sgt Jarvis, Cpls Ginty, Liverly**) and a second in the Medley (**LCpls Plowman, Stewart, Capt Giles, Cpl Turner**) the team cruised into the number one slot. The winning trophy (for the second year) was collected and the Yeoman was thrown in, yet again. A good result for a fine squad effort (remembering **Cpl Hopkins, FofS** and **LCpl Swain** who never swam), hard training by all, to produce the right result. Champions.

Standing (left to right): SSgt (FofS) Whiteford, LCpl Swain, Sig Dickinson, Cpls Ginty, Liverly, Capt Giles, Sgt Jarvis and Cpl Turner

Kneeling (left to right): WO1 (YofS) Hammett, LCpl Stewart, Sig Barnett, LCpl Plowman and Maj Peck

259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Lynn Relph**
2IC	**Capt Mick Fogg**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Tim Wallis**
Chief Clk	**SSgt Neil March**

TRIATHLON

The Squadron entered a team in the first Cyprus National Triathlon. The Competition consisted of a 1km swim in open water, a 35km hilly bike ride and an 8km run.

Over 150 competitors took part. The Squadron acquitted itself very well coming fifth overall. The team, with individual placings, were: **SSgt Mick Doherty**—25th, **Cpl Stan Staniford**—27th and **Cpl Gaz Davey**—70th (puncture during bike race).

MOUNTAIN TROOP

First and foremost, a mention of the tremendous performances put up by our Troop OC **Capt Standen** and **Cpl 'Taff' Bull**, who were our Troop representatives in the Squadron Shooting Team at Bisley. You can read of their achievements in the Sports Section of this issue.

On the social front, we challenged 254 Sig Sqn to a Games' Night, which we unfortunately lost, but everybody entered in the right spirit and the result was unimportant. A mention must go to **SSgt Andy Fullwood** who found out the hard way, that the step at the exit is 2in high.

At the end of July the Signals Bar had a Pig Roast for its summer function. Everybody enjoyed it and our thanks go to the members of the Troop who organised the function, and to the Chefs for giving us such excellent food. Although the Troop consists of only 11 people, there has been quite an extensive turnaround over the past couple of months.

We have said goodbye to the OC **Capt Iain Standen** who joins ORLO in Blandford, and say welcome to the new OC **Lt 'Tiny' Coleman**, who has joined us from 7 Sig Regt. We also said goodbye to **WO2 (FofS) Dave Gunn** who stays in the Squadron but moves to Episkopi, **Sgt 'Woz' Wosika** who leaves sunny Cyprus to go to the sunny Shetlands, **Sgt Mark Keller** who has departed for civilian life in his native Bishops Stortford, **Cpl Carl Bremner** who moves to Brizlee Wood, and last but by no means least **LCpl Nick Campbell** who takes up a new post in RMA Sandhurst.

Our best wishes go to them all and we hope they enjoy their new postings.

As well as welcoming a new OC, the Troop also welcomes **SSgt Andy Fullwood** who joined us from Episkopi, **Sgt 'Knocker' Bennett** who, everyone agrees, is the handsomest and hunkiest man on the mountain (can you guess who's writing these notes!), and **Sgt Chris Ballin** who takes over the Radio Relay Section.

Next week, Mountain Tp has volunteered to help the RAF Police Dog Section put their dogs through their paces. You can read about **Sgt 'Knocker' Bennett, Cpl 'Taff' Bull** and **Sig 'Fraggle' Sutton** being chased by 85lbs of snarling Alsatian in due course.

SHOOTING

Following the Squadron's successful winning of the Near East Skill at Arms Meeting (NESAM) the Shooting Team travelled to the UK to compete in the Royal Signals Skill at Arms Meeting at Bulford, and Regular Army Skill at Arms Meeting at Bisley. Despite having lost two key members of the team, and having to fill their places with two talented but inexperienced newcomers, the team performed well achieving the results listed below:-

Royal Signals Skill at Arms Meeting

Minor Units runners-up	
Minor Units Roupell	1st
Minor Units Association	1st
Minor Units Gun Match	2nd
Fire Team Match	2nd

Pistol Match: **Capt Standen** — 1st
Maj French — 3rd

Capt Standen: Champion at Arms
Best Class B
Best Officer
Best British Shot (Queen's Gurkha Signals Trophy)
Best Class B in Whitehead

Regular Army Skill at Arms Meeting

Minor Units Championships	10th/22
Fire Team Match	5th
Pistol Tiles	1st

Sniper Aggregate Match: **Maj French** — 2nd
Capt Standen — 3rd
Cpl Bull — 4th
Cpl Kelly — 5th

Pistol 30: **Capt Standen** — 7th

In addition **Capt Standen** shot as a member of the Royal Signals Methuen Cup Team that won the Woolwich Bowl. He also shot as a member of Regular Army Pistol Team in the Inter-Services Match and shot the highest score in the Army Team.

The Team: **Maj C. K. R. French, Capt I. G. Standen, Cpl J. T. Cauldwell, Cpl P. Kelly** and **Cpl D. Bull**.

262 Sig Sqn
BFPO 58

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Nick Naylor**
AO	**Lt Jane Heywood**
SSM	**WO2 Dave Thomas**
YofS	**WO2 Bill Jackson**
SQMS	**SSgt Dave Edgecombe**
Chief Clerk	**Sgt Trevor Glover**

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Once again the Squadron has seen considerable changes in manpower and our third Sqn Comd this year. So hello and welcome to OC **Capt Nick** and **Barbara Naylor, SSgt Andy** and **Eveline Hockley, Sgt Chris** and **Sarah Bough, Sgt Andy** and **Jaqueline King, Sgt Dave Porteous, Sgt Danny** and **Angelina Still, Cpl Neil** and **Karen Inman, LCpl Rick** and **Chrissy Hogan, Sig 'Simmo' Simpson** and **Pte Katy Rogan**. To all our new faces—welcome and enjoy your tour in Cyprus.

(Left to right): Capt Colin Bachelor, SSM Dave Thomas and Capt Nick Naylor. On leaving the painting was presented to the Squadron by Capt Colin Bachelor

A number of departures heading off to pastures new—**Capt Colin** and **Margaret Bachelor, WO2 (FofS) Peter** and **Jennie White, WO2 (FofS) Brian White, Sgts Val Holsgrove, Tim** and **Carol Wynn, Shaun Prior, Pete Harvey, Jerry** and **Gail Johnson, Russ** and **Jackie Dale** and **Sig** (soon to be LCpl?) **'Milesy' Sweeney**. Goodbye and good luck in your future postings.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Sgt Bob Wymer** on his recent promotion and to **Sgt Chuck Robertson**—off to RAF Cranwell as an Engineer Officer in the Royal Air Force.

CHANGE OF COMMAND (AGAIN)!

In the last issue of *The Wire* we reported on the handover of command by **Maj Nigel Cory** to **Capt Colin Bachelor**. Well this one reports on a further handover with **Capt Nick Naylor** taking over the reins of the Squadron. **Capt Colin Bachelor** completed a brief three months stint at the helm while waiting for the arrival of **Capt Nick Naylor** from 251 Sig Sqn via JCUFI. What made the handover that bit more unusual is **Capt Bachelor** is a TOT and **Capt Naylor** is a Traffic Officer! A very warm welcome from all Squadron members is extended to **Capt Nick** and **Barbara Naylor** while best wishes for the future go to **Capt Colin** and **Margaret Bachelor** now at 8 Sig Regt.

RAFT RACE
by LCpl Dave McInnes

Once again the annual Raft Race on Cessac Beach Dhekelia came on the horizon. Plans were made, kit was drawn and work started at a frantic rate (well, we only had a week to get ready!) After much deliberation it was decided that the raft should take the form of a racing car. The day arrived and a place was 'found' on the beach on which to site the raft for the start. The first wave started and it was chaos. We were in the second wave and ours was no different. We did however have quite a good start and after numerous collisions with the other rafts, we got underway. The mile course seemed to take 10 by the time we finished, but finish we did! The prize-giving then took place, the presentations being made by the Garrison Cdr, **Col C. G. Champion**. It was judged that ours was the 'Best Designed Raft' and we were presented with a magnificent trophy. Thanks must go to all who helped in the preparations and especially to **Sgt Graham Philpott** of 62 (Cyp) Sp Sqn RE, for organising the event. The team for the MT/Comms Tp was: **Cpl Al Dummer, LCpl Rick** 'Fat Boy' **Hogan, Sig Rod** 'The Pin' **Helps**, and **Sig Dean** 'Babyface' **Whitworth**.

COMMCEN DHEKELIA
by Cpl Sally Oldridge

At 1200 hrs on 17 March 1989 the Garrison Comd, **Col C. G. Champion**, opened the Commcen in its new location.

Whilst the opening ceremony was taking place, with a sandwich buffet (for those not on shift!) **Sgt Val Holsgrove, Cpl Sally Oldridge** and **Pte Karen O'Connor**, anxiously awaited the arrival of the first signal which to everybody's surprise did arrive without problems and was promptly delivered!

After a good start, the girls settled down to a routine until the first of the exercises, namely, 'Bugle Call'.

All went well until **Cpl Lynn Goodall** decided to redecorate. She promptly removed the only pane of glass we had much to the SQMS' despair, but to the amusement of **LCpl Fern** (Where's the party?) **White**, who having missed the worst of the exercise thought it was 'All jolly good fun'.

On a brighter note we'd like to congratulate **LCpl Karen** (diplomatic) **Murray** (née **Taylor**) on her marriage to **Sgt Lee Murray RAMC** earlier this year and her promotion on posting to Aldershot. All the best **Karen**.

We'd also like to say hello and welcome to two new arrivals **Cpl Andy Maynard** and his wife **Karen** (née **Turnbull**) who is ex-WRAC and to **Pte Katy Rogan**, who have recently joined us. Welcome.

SPORTS FIELD

Hockey sticks and skis have been put away for the summer as 262 now heads for the athletics track, the swimming pool and tennis courts (or as a last resort the beach!) Congratulations to **Cpls Sally Oldridge** and **Mick Garbett** on their recent individual success in the inter-services athletics championships. More medals for the case! Good luck to **Sgt Dave Porteous** and **Cpl Mick Garbett** leading 262's challenge in the swimming events. Meanwhile the AO, **Lt Jane Heywood**, is working on some ingenious plan to take a WRAC tennis team back to the UK for the Army championships. Although she assures us that she's 'sometimes in her office'—ring first to check!

– News from Troops –

633 Sig Tp
BFPO 12

The Troop

The Management Team
(Left to right): WO2 (YofS) Bob Marshall, Capt Steve Ardagh-Walter, SSgt Don Blacklaw and WO2 (FofS) Tim Prince

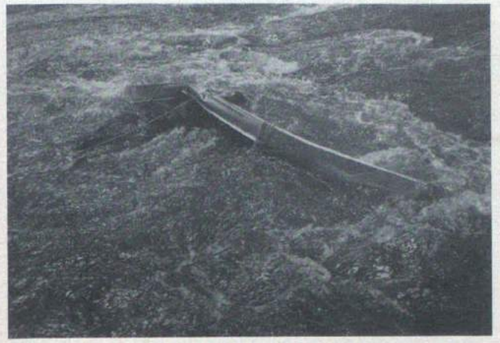
The past two months have been a busy time for 633 Sig Tp. As well as the usual problem of a high rate of personnel turnover (33% in just two months) June produced the twice yearly defence exercise; Toucan Blade. As usual the Radio Section *disappeared* into its GDOC air conditioned hole while the rest of us sweated it out in our defensive positions. The excitement for the first night was provided by Tower 1. It seems that the platform could not stand the combined weight of 60 sand bags and **Cpl 'Woody' Woodward**. The Troop is diplomatically refusing to comment on this! At dawn the main enemy assault, consisting of around 40 guardsmen from the 1 Bn Welsh Gds, were spotted by **Sgt Vince Murphy** cutting their way through the chain link perimeter fence. The enemy duly arrived at their target, the commcen, unscathed (there is never an umpire around when you need one!) but then made a bad tactical error by leaving Airport Camp by the same route. This time we did have an umpire! The days then drifted into a routine of patrols with the occasional skirmish which culminated in the final heliborne assault by the enemy on the airfield. By this time **WO2 (YofS) Bob Marshall** had joined the resolute defenders and positioned himself on the roof of the transmit site where he continued to fire his GPMG from the hip despite being declared 'killed' by the umpire. This just goes to prove that Yeoman are immortal.

We say farewell to **Capt Steve Ardagh-Walter**, who after eight months in Belize deserves a couple of days leave, and welcome the new Troop OC, **Lt Neil Stevens**. Farewells are also extended to **Sgts Ian Jenkins, Vince Murphy, Neil Chatterton** and **Frank Grant, Cpls Tony Pope, Phil Holland, Phil Davis** and **Cpl Bryan Smith, Sig Chris Green, Danny Wilson** and **Ian Kennedy.**

EXERCISE MAKAL WARRIOR

This took the form of a white water canoeing expedition and was organised and led by **Cpl Tony Pope** with **Cpls Aidy Boom** RAF and **Jim Mills** RAPC as team members. Support was provided by a Canadian canoe crewed by **LCpl Lee Penketh** and **Sig Danny Wilson** and **Chris Quinn.**

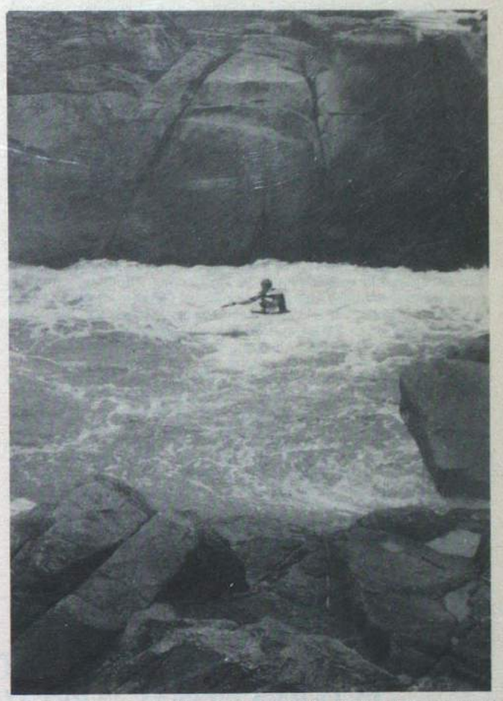
The exercise suffered a major blow after 9km when the Canadian canoe was wrecked in a grade 3 rapid with the occupants experiencing the delights of a white water swim. After this setback the kayaks continued whilst the remainder joined a safety party that was already established. At the end of the exercise the party can lay claim to being the first ever to descend the 40km stretch of the Eastern Branch River which was in flood at the time. **Cpl Tony Pope** can also lay claim to being the first Troop member to experience a Regimental board of enquiry.



The Canadian canoe as moored up by LCpl Lee Penketh and crew

The team members enjoying a brief respite from the raging torrents

Sig Chris Quinn, having been rescued, was seen to leap back into the rapids to save his brand new bergan. **LCpl Lee Penketh** promptly jumped in to save him followed by **Sig Danny Wilson**, much to the amusement of the other expedition members, who had just spent an hour bringing them all to safety. Needless to say this was an eventful expedition.



Cpl Tony Pope negotiates a stretch of the Eastern Branch River

3 Cdo Bde HQ and Sig Sqn RM
Plymouth

by Cpl Dave Matthewson

The Royal Signals detachment here is a small compact, versatile unit consisting of 10 men at present (FOS, four Tele Techs (sys) and four Tel Op (tg/data). Our role within the Brigade is to provide a secure workshop and cypher cell in support of the Commando Amphibious Task Force both on ship and on land.

The year begins with the Brigade deploying to Norway for most of the winter (January-mid March). All Troops are trained to fight and survive in the severe conditions of the Artic. A fine mellow approach is adopted in the daily routine which often includes downhill skiing, gym work and the occasional run ashore. The final three weeks are taken up by the major exercise in the north, usually close to the Narvik area. Being a large amphibious NATO operation there are mixtures of nationalities, colours and creeds. Once Endex is called it's full speed ahead for home shores, back to Guzz for two weeks leave.

The summer season is our most relaxed period, after completion of PRE inspections and security checks. Adventure training takes place in June, last year it took place in Rhyl in North Wales where the Troop engaged in such activities as windsurfing, climbing, canoeing, clay pigeon shooting, fishing and socialising. We are all hoping for a similar experience at Brown Down near Portsmouth this year (commiserations to **Sgts Dave Rook** and **Dean Briers**, who will be pushing them out on their All Arms Commando Course while we're pulling in the rays). Weapon training also takes place in June-July, a variety of weapons are used such as pistols through to sub-calibre 84mm, depending on time and availability.

Our main exercise of the year is held after summer leave. Over the past two years the exercise has taken place in northern Norway. The laborious task of sailing seems pleasurable compared with the climate similar to that of a wet Scottish mountain in mid-winter, with snow already falling close to sea level. Lack of funds this year will leave us digging in on Salisbury Plain, a little closer to home and perhaps a little bit drier.

A few weeks of post exercise admin and were off again to one of the UK's mountainous areas, either Wales, Lake District or Scotland. Mountain training used to entail a complete week of mindless yomping, a familiar term with the long toothed ML's (mountain leaders) but the new younger breed have a more adventurous approach such as gully climbing, extensive abseils and river crossings. The week always turns out to be demanding, very entertaining and worthwhile.

Preparation for Norway takes up most of November to December. Checking and packing equipment, breaking in ski-march boots (very comfortable honest!). But Christmas is around the corner and festive spirits are always high before the first Hercules takes off for Gardermoen.

EXERCISE DRAGON HAMMER 1989

by Sig Ian Pollock

After the cold climate of northern Norway, the Troop Commander decided that it would be nice to visit sunnier and warmer shores, so, 30 ranks of Comms Troop were detailed to leave their dets, take up arms and act as enemy against 40 Cdo in Sardinia during Ex Dragon Hammer.

Early on the morning of 15 May, we set off on the trek from Plymouth to Lyneham via the AMC at South Cerney for the flight to Decimomannu Airbase in southern Sardinia.

Prior to the exercise we had time to sample the sunshine and local run ashore under the guise of acclimatisation.

All to soon came the morning of 19th and the task of changing from Tourists to Gravs. We deployed to the hills and prepared to confront the invading forces of 40 Cdo and elements of the American 4th MEB. Due to the fact that we were outnumbered approximately 15-1, it was decided that in order to keep them busy and to give us a fair chance, we would have to adopt hit and run tactics.

After Endex, we had the chance to meet members from other nations, try out different equipments, weapons, swing a few lamps and of course enjoy a few wets.

On the morning of 28th, we returned to Guzz, I was pleased as this was the first exercise where I had actually used the skills I had been taught on my Commando Course, and as a Tele Op (tg) there are not many of us who get the chance to be a rifleman in a Royal Marine Section.

THE BURMA STAR ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL 'APPEAL FUND' FOR THE ERECTION OF A 'MEMORIAL STATUE' TO THE LATE

FIELD MARSHAL THE VISCOUNT SLIM KG, GCB, GCMG, GCVO, GBE, DSO, MC

Early in 1990, a magnificent 'Memorial Statue' now being sculpted by a Holder of The Burma Star, **Ivor Robert-Jones CBE, RA**, will be erected on Rayleigh Green in Whitehall, London, very near to The Cenotaph. This belated tribute to the British Soldier who became a Field Marshal and who was to prove himself to be the greatest fighting Army Commander the Nation has known since Wellington, will set the seal of recognition on The Fighting Soldiers General. He was a soldier of the highest ability and his most remarkable quality was the influence he had over the troops under his command, both British and Indian alike. He had the Love, Honour and Respect of every Sailor, Soldier and Airman, men and women who had the Honour to serve under the command of this charismatic and famous son of Britain.

WILL YOU PLEASE GIVE THIS APPEAL YOUR KIND ATTENTION?

DONATIONS MAY BE SENT TO:

'FIELD MARSHAL THE VISCOUNT SLIM' MEMORIAL STATUE APPEAL FUND

The Burma Star Association, 51 St George's Drive, London SW1V 4DE

For further information please contact: Statue Project and Appeal Fund Controller, W. H. P. Clarke, 9 Park Parade, Cambridge CB5 8AL (0223-62196).

NATO Satellite Ground Terminal, F17
Balado Bridge

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

During the previous 12 months there has been a large turnover of personnel at Balado Bridge, we would therefore like to say good luck and farewell to the following: **Sgt John Thompson** and family, **Sgt Elton Prince** and family, **Sgts Ged Donelan** and **Jack Smart** and **Cpl** and **Mrs Leigh Wade** who have all decided to try their luck in civvy street.

'FofS' Tony Brend and family took the easy option and got posted to 22 Sig Regt. We congratulate him on his promotion to WO1.

In August we will be losing our Station Commander **Maj Trevor Kay** and family who also fancy their chances in civvy street. At the end of a long and distinguished career we wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

We welcome **WO2 (FofS) Ian Hugill** and family, **Sgt Shaun Desmond** and family, **Sgts** and **Mrs Steve Preston, Ian England, Cpls Chris Smith** and family, **Nigel Morley, Jim Myers** and **LCpl Andy Ellis**.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Sgt P. R. 'Nobby' Clarke** who received his LS & GC Medal and **Maj Trevor Kay** who received a certificate of appreciation of his service with the Allied Command Channel.

The presentations were made by **Wing Cdr R. W. Cripps RAF**, Deputy Controller Rocchan on the occasion of his visit to the Station on Wednesday 26 July.

BALADO BRIDGE CUP

The first event of this year's competition was the orienteering, which took place on 15 and 16 March.

The event was well attended by the Troop, even the lame and lazy were involved in the arduous tasks like time keeping, starting etc. The credit for a successful two days goes to (then) **WO2 Tony Brend**.

The runners competed in a search for 15 check points which were well hidden around the Loch Ore. On this occasion the Scottish weather let everyone down, by allowing the sun to shine for two whole days!

Everyone completed the course but in **Sgt Bob Thomas**'s case we aren't quite sure where he came as he lost his check sheet (honest!). **Sgt Shaun Desmond** came back having found the deepest mud hole in the area, he was saved by his figure, which meant he was dry from the waist upwards.

SSgt Tim Scragg came back looking very relaxed, not all the check points but a nice stroll around the pond.

All in all a high standard of map reading, mountain climbing and swimming?

Since the orienteering the armchair gladiators have had their chances in the darts, golf and badminton with the fitness event to follow.

4th INTERNATIONAL SATCOM FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Viewed through the eyes of **Sgt** 'you can't swing any lower than me' **Desmond**. Although shunned by all the national selectors the eight athletes in action from Balado Bridge set off for the 4th International Satcom Football Tournament at Euskirchen in West Germany on Thursday 18 May.

Expectations of success were high due to the rigorous physical training sessions which preceded the event. But we reckoned without the subversive hospitality which greeted us when we reached Satcom Ground Terminal F2, who were our hosts for the tournament. Consequently when the tournament commenced on Saturday morning we were somewhat at a physical disadvantage compared with our NATO brethren due to the necessary social integration on the Friday evening. This did not completely daunt our eight brave warriors and we managed to complete Saturday's fixtures, with enough victories to ensure our qualification for Sunday's knockout stages, due mainly to the efforts of **Sgt Bob** 'Sniffer' **Lond** and **SSgt John Middleton**.

Sunday saw us gaining 10th place out of some 40 teams this being our highest placing so far in the annual tournament. It even managed to bring a smile to **WO2 (FofS) Ian Hugill**'s face for the first time.

Not content with punishment and injury (physical and mental) sustained during the football tournament, on Monday morning we headed south toward Landau for the F20 cross country competition which although only 6km long has a reputation for separating the men from the boys. This did in fact prove to be the case. But to avoid embarrassment to all concerned I will avoid listing which category we fell into.

On Tuesday drained but happy our valiant group set off on the 24 hour journey back to Scotland happy in the knowledge that we had cemented international relations with our allies in NATO.

The 1989 Balado Bridge Football Team Prior to departure to Euskirchen

SUMMER CAMP

242 Sig Sqn held its annual summer camp at Balmecara House by the Kyle of Lochalsh between 20 May and 4 June. Members of Balado Bridge were invited to attend but unfortunately due to other commitments only **Maj Trevor Kay, LCpls 'Baldrick' Booth** and **'Archie' Ellis** were able to take part.

The weather was surprisingly good for Scotland. This gave **LCpl Booth** perfect conditions for his speedboat, which he had kindly brought to the camp to teach water skiing. The water skiing was a challenge that only a few people managed to crack and the 'Dreaded Biscuit' was a challenge that everybody tried and all failed to crack. The 'Biscuit' is a big rubber ring in which you sit whilst being towed at about 30 miles per hour by the speedboat although when you turn a corner you go about twice the speed of the boat. The highlight of the biscuit for everyone watching was the number of somersaults, cartwheels and backward flips performed by people 'leaving' the Biscuit (it happened to everybody).

Back on dry land **Maj Trevor Kay** took charge of hillwalking for the duration of the camp and incorporated in the two week period was a 'crash' course in vehicle re-designing as demonstrated by himself.

The camp was a great success and fun was had by all. The instructors did a great job introducing challenges that most people hadn't tried before. Everybody on the camp tackled everything with interest and all achieved their own personal goals or at least had a good go! Thanks to all members of the camp from Balado Bridge.

Association News

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE FORTY FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT CATTERICK GARRISON ON 2 JULY 1989

OFFICIATING

Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE	Chairman
Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon	General Secretary
Maj G. Schofield MBE	Assistant General Secretary
D. Greenbrook Esq	Administrative Officer

Present:

Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB, MBE, DL	Master of Signals and President
Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook	Signal Officer-in-Chief
Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB, MBE	Colonel Commandant
Maj Gen D. R. Horsfield OBE	President Indian Signals Association
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 175 members of the Association.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The Chairman opened the Meeting by thanking Branches for responding so magnificently to his request for maximum numbers of both Standards and members to parade at the 25th Anniversary of the Granting of the Freedom of Richmond. The people of Richmond had been delighted with the turnout and the Chairman said that such a loyal response to his request was most warming and he was most grateful.

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and, in particular, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock** and **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook**.

The Chairman read out the exchange of telegrams between the Master of Signals and all ranks, and the Colonel-in-Chief Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal GCVO, on the occasion of Princess Royal Day.

MINUTES OF THE 43RD MEETING

The Minutes of the 43rd Meeting were *approved*.

ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman reported that although accumulated funds had increased by 4.7% in 1988 this had not matched inflation; moreover in the same period the market value of the Association Portfolio had only increased by 1.2%. However the increase in value of the portfolio in 1989 was more encouraging during the first half of the year. The increase in grants from the Benevolent Fund showed a rise of 8.9% and we needed to ensure that income matched expenditure. In this connection the price of *'The Wire'* would have to increase to reduce the current subsidy which has risen to £42K annually. Most people could afford to pay more for *The Wire* and the Chairman was prepared to subsidise individuals if this proved necessary rather than have older members stop taking the magazine.

Reunions in 1988 cost less than in 1987. The Chairman said we were grateful to everyone in the serving Corps in Catterick, in Blandford and in 31 Sig Regt (V) for their support in these functions. The Chairman also wished to thank the SOinC and the serving Corps for their continuing support for the Association and the Corps through the covenanting of the 1 Days Pay Scheme.

Welfare was once again ably managed by **Mrs Pat Haw** and she was helped by the following Officers who chaired the regular welfare meeting in RHQ: **Maj Gen W. T. Macfarlane CB; Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe CB, MBE; Brig J. D. T. Brett OBE; Brig J. C. Clinch CBE; Col G. J. C. Moss MBE; Lt Col B. A. Beattie; Lt Col G. Mellor**; the late **Lt Col C. Mitchell** and **Lt Col R. L. Murray OBE**. The Chairman said he was most grateful to these Officers and to those members of the Corps who help form the Committee on each occasion.

(Afternote: The Chairman did not appreciate that **Lt Col C. Mitchell** had died a few days prior to the AGM after a short illness. He has since written to his daughter and son to express our appreciation of his work for the Association over several years and, of course, to offer our condolences).

During 1988 some 904 individual grants were made from the Benevolent Fund amounting to £116,774 a 2.25% increase on the 1987 figure. One item causing constant concern to the Chairman and Committees is nursing home fees. The figures for this type of Benevolent support are:-

1985	1 case	£ 2,033-20 from Corps Funds
1986	8 cases	£ 8,949-20 from Corps Funds
1987	12 cases	£ 8,257-99 from Corps Funds
1988	17 cases	£14,556-00 from Corps Funds

If we say that the total provision over these four years is less than the support given to *'The Wire'* in each single year perhaps the situation is put into perspective. Nevertheless the figure is rising and we have to keep a careful eye on the situation. In answer to a question the Chairman confirmed that every single case was carefully examined on its merits.

APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL VICE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman then outlined the recommendations that he and **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander** had made in a paper accepted by the Corps Committee which would affect the structure of the Association to a small degree. The paper had highlighted a weakness in the current system of failure to use, to best effect, our retired Brigadiers and Colonels who remained largely untasked at present, this is to be corrected by using them as Vice Chairmen of the Association. The Association Zones will be replaced by five areas which will match exactly the Areas under the Area Recruiting Scheme. Additionally, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will have a Vice Chairman of their own. In effect the two existing Vice Chairmen, one Ex-Officio, will be replaced by eight but only two will be members of the Central Committee at any one time. The changes do not affect the Area (previously Zone) representation except that there will be five area representatives whose responsibilities remain the same, nor will they affect the Branch structure. The eight Vice Chairmen will be asked to co-ordinate the Branches of the Association in their area and to liaise with Area Brigadiers over recruiting and Corps publicity matters. The size of the Central Committee will remain essentially the same. It remains for the Chairman of the Association to put the scheme into effect by approaching potential Vice Chairmen in each of the eight areas. If Branch Chairmen, or Zone Representatives, have recommendations in this regard, the Chairman would welcome their advice.

ACCOUNTS

The Audited Accounts of the Royal Signals Association Benevolent Fund for 1988 were approved.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

In accordance with Association Rules the following elections/re-elections were *approved:-*

Chairman and 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 Comd Trg Gp Royal Signals
Zone 'A' Representative	— **T. Smith Esq** (Leeds Branch) vice **C. Cooke Esq** (Darlington Branch) retiring in rotation

ADDRESS BY THE SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF

Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook, the SOinC, addressed the Meeting on matters concerning the serving Corps. His address which is published below was greeted with warm applause.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Maj E. P. Hughes (Middlesex Yeomanry OCA) reported the failing health of **Brig E. D. Good CBE**, and invited the Chairman to convey our thoughts and good wishes to him. The Chairman readily agreed to do so.

(Afternote: The Chairman wrote to **Brig Good** that evening and has had a reply from **Mrs Good** thanking everyone for their concern.)

The Liverpool Branch representative wished to place on record their appreciation to **Mrs Pat Haw** for her unfailing kindness and understanding of members' welfare problems.

The Newcastle Branch representative wished to record the view that we should consider a 'National Association Standard' or 'Guidon' for use by the Association in addition to individual Branch Standards. The Chairman said that this was a matter for the serving Corps.

PRESENTATIONS

The Chairman invited the Master of Signals to make presentations to:-

In-Pensioner D. H. Young BEM (Royal Hospital Chelsea) on behalf of the Preston and Blackburn Branch, and to **Mr D. Greenbrook**, Administrative Officer to the Association, on his impending retirement.

FUTURE EVENTS

Reunions in 1990 are:-

Blandford — Sunday 20 May
Catterick — Saturday-Sunday 23-24 June

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The 45th Annual General Meeting will be held, in Catterick Garrison, on Sunday 24 June 1990.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

ADDRESS BY MAJ GEN R. F. L. COOK, SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION—2 JULY 1989

Thank you for the opportunity at this the 44th AGM to tell you something of the Corps' activities over the last year or so. It has been a busy period: there is a great deal going on in the equipment area, as well as plenty to keep us occupied on the operational side.

OPERATIONS

NORTHERN IRELAND

Shortly after I took office, I visited all five Squadrons in Northern Ireland and can tell you their morale is high and that they are a credit to the Corps. Appreciation of their work was expressed by the GOC and Brigade Commanders. Although much of what we do is unsung, we continue to play a critical role in the Province. Our activities there extend to all aspects of the use of the electro-magnetic spectrum and much is technically very demanding.

Recent changes have brought the Royal Signals presence in the Province to well over 600 but that number is far greater when you consider the families.

NAMIBIA

The United Nations operation in Namibia—officially started on 1 April this year. The Multi-national force has been deployed to supervise the holding of elections, the withdrawal of SWAPO Guerillas and South African forces, and the transfer of power from South Africa to an independent government.

We were asked to provide brigade level communications for the force and some 180 signallers from 30 Sig Regt are currently deployed in this challenging and high profile operation. The late deployment of the three Bns of the Force was well publicised—and many of you will have seen on TV how well our soldiers rose to the challenge of taking over some of their tasks until deployment was completed.

By September the Squadron will reduce to 113. They are currently helping with the repatriation of refugees from Angola.

EQUIPMENT

On the equipment front it has been an interesting period. There has been a successful launch of the Skynet 4B satellite—a long overdue increase in our strategic capability. A further two satellites are due to be launched this year and next.

Two new projects, Martlet, the mid life enhancement for Ptarmigan; and Bowman, the successor to Clansman are currently being staffed through MOD. For the TA we have Conrad 2 (long range HF) in 2 Sig Bde, Euromux (secure muliplexers) in 12 Sig Bde and Triffid (Radio Relay) for 11 Sig Bde.

MANNING

So far I have been able to give you a pretty positive report on the Corps. One area that gives cause for great concern is that of manning in the Corps.

Despite our commitment to manning, and efforts in both external and internal recruiting, our problems are worsening and the prognosis is not good. We are now 1,100 men short that is 12%, and outflow is exceeding our capacity to recruit and train replacements. I seek your help, and ask you all to look around and try to identify and encourage suitable young men into a career in Royal Signals.

Officer recruiting is another area where I seek your help. We need 50 officers each year for the Regular Corps. The quality of those coming forward is good, but the quantity is insufficient. Again please look around you and help us to try to identify suitable young men.

Finally on manning is the Government's commitment to the maintenance of Gurkhas. We hope to see a Gurkha Brigade with two Queen's Gurkha Sig Sqns in UK, one of them for the BAOR reinforcement Brigade. We are also actively considering the use of Queen's Gurkha Signals to alleviate some of our existing manning pressures. I hope to see more of these excellent members of the Corps in the UK very soon.

FRATERNAL CONTACTS

We continue to maintain close and friendly contacts with our affiliated Signal Corps of other nations. **Maj Gen Alexander** visited the Pakistan Signal Corps in January and was received with great kindness. They clearly regard us with affection and retain many of our traditions including the use of our Corps colours. His visit was preceded by a party of Veterans from the Indian Signals Association who toured Pakistan under the leadership of **Maj Gen D. R. Horsfield. Maj Gen Butt**, the Pakistan SOinC accepted our invitation and visited UK in April. My United States opposite number, **Maj Gen Childs**, US Chief of Signals, visited us in March and we continue to maintain a very close relationship with his Corps. I hope myself to go to USA next year.

You may know that the Master of Signals has recently visited Australia and New Zealand to renew his long acquaintance with their respective Signal Corps.

SPORT

To close on a lighter note I must mention some of our outstanding successes this year. We featured strongly in all the major Army competitions. The most notable team success was in Rugby with 7 Sig Regt winning the Army Rugby Final.

As a climax to an outstanding Soccer season the School of Signals won the Army Soccer Cup (UK) and for the second year were runners-up in the Army Challenge Cup.

2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt won the UK Group 5 Orienteering Competition and the UK Army Squash: 16 Sig Regt were runners-up in the Army Basket Ball Championships and 22 Sig Regt had some excellent results in Skiing.

In summary the Corps is in excellent shape and has emerged from the last year with its reputation enhanced. There are testing times ahead as we face the usual pressures on the Defence budget, our search for economies leading to organisational studies, and our ever present manning problems.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 1988

1987			1988	
		INVESTMENTS AT COST		
739,963		Listed	774,017	
5		Unlisted	5	
	739,968			774,022
	12,515	LOANS		5,180
		CURRENT ASSETS		
9,032		Stocks	—	
6,432		Sundry debtors	10,457	
13,000		Income tax recoverable	13,081	
97,579		Cash	105,017	
126,043			128,555	
		CURRENT LIABILITIES		
(22,438)		Sundry Creditors	(13,561)	
	103,605	NET CURRENT ASSETS		114,994
	856,088			894,196
		Represented by:		
	£856,088	ACCUMULATED FUND		£894,196

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 1988 and of the excess of income over expenditure for the year then ended.

7 April 1989

Price Waterhouse
Chartered Accountants

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31 December 1988

1987			1988	
		INCOME		
203,676		Receipts from Corps Fund	247,120	
8,882		Subscriptions and Donations	22,977	
67,852		Investment Income (gross)	70,673	
9,768		Interest on deposits	8,229	
1,813		Other Income	—	
	291,991	TOTAL INCOME		348,999
		EXPENDITURE		
43,564		Running Expenses	33,193	
3,003		Audit	2,650	
94,941		Corps Activities	124,796	
13,834		Reunions	12,619	
153,621		Benevolence	167,331	
	308,963	TOTAL EXPENDITURE		340,589
	(16,972)			8,410
	153,099	Profit on sale of investments		29,698
	136,127	EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		38,108
		ACCUMULATED FUND		
	719,961	Brought forward 1 January		856,088
	856,088	Carried forward 31 December		894,196

Notes to the Accounts—31 December 1988

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

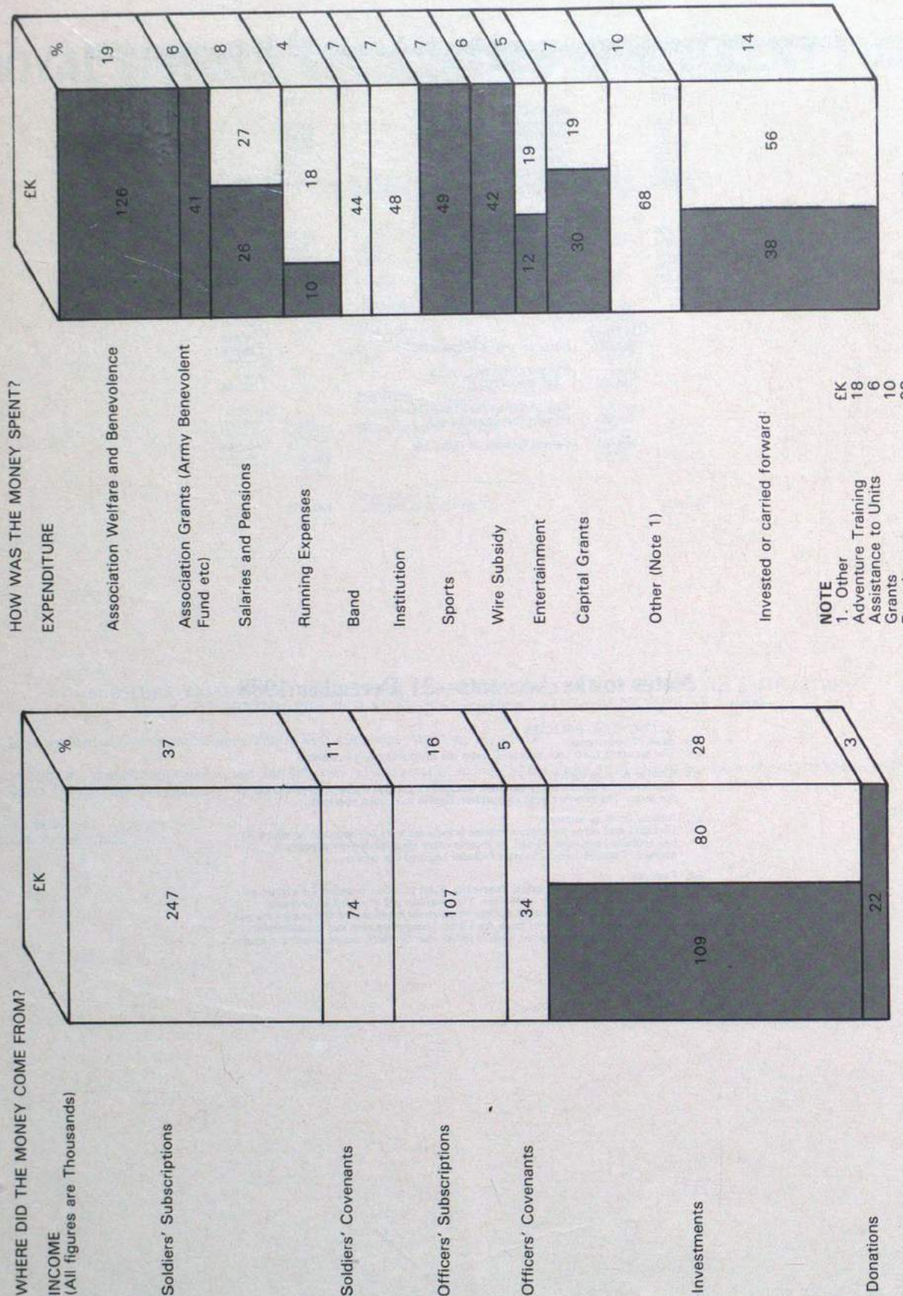
(a) Basis of preparation
The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

(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.

CORPS AND ASSOCIATION FUNDS—1988



THE 1989 REUNIONS

The Blandford and Catterick Reunions were both well attended this year. The Blandford Reunion was held on Sunday 14 May and well over 500 members and guests attended. Once again our sincere gratitude is passed on to the Camp Commandant and all those responsible for the organisation of a very successful 'Day Out' for the invasion force. Special thanks to the Catering Staff who laid on their usual very high standard and there was nothing but praise coming from those who had the pleasure of partaking in the meals provided. Unfortunately there was not a qualified photographer on hand to take pictures. Maybe we can sort this out for the future.

The Catterick Reunion, held on Saturday-Sunday 1-2 July was preceded by the 25th Anniversary of the Granting of the Freedom of Richmond which took place on Friday 30 June by a parade through Richmond, which comprised Squadrons of the serving Corps and a Squadron of the Retired Corps (including Association Branch Standards). The parade was followed by The Playing of Retreat, performed by the Corps Band, in the Richmond Castle grounds. We thought that the event may have been rained off but the rain, appropriately, held off throughout the whole ceremony. The Association Squadron comprised 23 Standards and over 300 'Old Comrades' and the Squadron was commanded by **Col L. W. Wright TD, DL** and the Standard Marshal was **Mr David Greenbrook**. The salute was taken by the Mayor of Richmond, **Councillor Mrs H. K. L. Ibbotson** accompanied by the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB, MBE, DL**.

The normal Reunion that followed over the next two days was, again, attended by over 500 members and guests. The majority left Catterick on Sunday afternoon counting the days until the next reunion which is to be held on Saturday-Sunday 23-24 June 1990 which, if you need reminding, is the 70th Anniversary Year of the formation of the Corps.

The Association Branch Standards March Past the Chairman of the Association, Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle on the Church Parade after the Reunion Service

'We did not have to crane our necks so far to read the heliograph'. Three members (two readers and one writer) looking/awaiting the arrival of the Blue Helmets into the Arena Display

The middle of the 'Old Comrades' Squadron marches past the Mayor of Richmond at the Freedom of Richmond Parade. Also seen on the saluting dias is the Master of Signals

EX-BOYS 2547-2548-2549 (1942 to 1946)

The photograph below shows ex-boys of the war years at this year's Catterick Reunion. They are, from left to right: **Dai Rees, Jim Crow, Cliff Wood, George Severs** and **Peter McNaughton**. Attending at the reunion, but not in the photograph, were **Dave Greenbrook, Jim 'Boots' Potter, Jess Weir** and **Gordon Schofield**. The nine of us, during our 'Get together' recalled many more of our contemporaries and wondered if, in the 70th Anniversary year of the Corps, it would be possible to get as many of the 2547/8/9 numbered 'boys' together during the already arranged Catterick Reunion in 1990 the dates of which are Saturday-Sunday 23-24 June 1990; after all it is 44 to 48 years ago that we were all in Catterick as boys.

Would all those who think that they may be able to make this event please write to **Dave Greenbrook**, c/o RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD, as soon as possible, certainly before the end of the year, to enable him to make the necessary arrangements with HQ Trg Gp Royal Signals if the response is big enough. An idea in our minds was the possibility of gathering on the Friday evening before the actual reunion as there will not be a Freedom of Richmond Parade next year.

A few names that were mentioned during a chat were: **Ageros, Trickett, Pearsall, Drugan, Taberrer, Gilroy, Snowy Davies, Lombard, Lamsden, Holtum,** both **Marsh's, Phillimore, K.** and **V. C. Brown, Kennedy, Jeffries, Head, Tremelling, Carpenter, Stanley, Onions, Crampton, Crease, Coppick, Sharp, Day** and **Love**. Mention must also be made of **Alan Searle** who put names to faces on the picture that appeared on Page 288 of the May 1989 *Wire*. Perhaps **Alan** will be able to join us next year. We are sure that those already mentioned, plus many more, are out there somewhere! Come on let's hear from you.

CALLING ALL BRANCHES

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.

OLD FRIENDSHIPS RENEWED

From: Fred Weatherill

It all started in October 1939 when I was called up into the 15 Divisional Signals. After training we were formed into 2 L&M Section where I met **Mick Nacey** and we went right through the war together being demobbed in 1946. We then lost touch. I started attending the Catterick reunions in 1986 and almost 'gave up' as I never met anyone I knew there! But this year whilst checking in at Reception I felt a touch on my shoulder and heard a voice 'It's not **Fred Weatherill** is it? Imagine my delight when I discovered it was **Mick Nacey** on his first reunion! I hope you all enjoyed the weekend as much as we did and will continue to come to Catterick each year either to renew old get togethers or meet up with friends from years ago as I have done. See you there in 1990! The photograph shows me and **Mick** in Belgium in 1944. I am holding the telephone and **Mick** is behind me—note the Corporal's stripes!

Mr W. R. Fraser (a young 70 year old) who cycles from Innerleithen, Nr Edinburgh, each year to attend the Catterick Reunion. He is someone who does not have transport problems, except for other road users, in getting to and from the Reunion

ALDERSHOT BRANCH

The Branch accompanied by members of the Reading Branch took to the water on a lovely summer evening. The party included their President, **Maj Gen W. T. Macfarlane CB** and **Mrs Macfarlane**, but in fairness it should be mentioned that the General is a very active member of our own Branch and the reporter is not sure which hat he was wearing that evening.

The occasion was a cruise on the Basingstoke Canal in a painted barge which had a little bar serving drinks and sandwiches. Some of us took picnic baskets. After about an hour we reached our destination, a little ruined castle by the river bank, built by King John. Here he stayed en route to Runnymede to sign the Magna Carta, and we disembarked while the barge was turned for our return journey. Half a dozen geese had provided a guard of honour when we left the landing stage, and they were there drawn up in a single rank for our return. It was a tranquil and pleasant social evening.

WEST LONDON BRANCH

Members of the Branch recently spent a very pleasant evening at HM Tower of London. The visit was arranged by Yeoman Warder **John Kenny**, who served in our Corps, retiring as a Warrant Officer to take up his present appointment.

We didn't see any ghosts but **John** did introduce us to 'Ronald', the only Raven to have been bred in the Tower, or so we understand. We are not sure if this makes them one over establishment. We congratulate **John** on his great repertoire, which contributed to the interest of the evening, during which we enjoyed the hospitality of the Yeomen's Club and a very good buffet supper.

Our next social occasion will be our Dinner in October, and we look forward as usual to having the pleasure of the company of our friends in other Branches, and of any Ex-Corps personnel able to attend.

3 DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB—REGIMENTAL WEEKEND, SOEST 23-27 JUNE

by E. E. Bayley, Honorary Secretary

On a balmy evening, 22 June, six veterans of the 3 Divisional Signals Reunion Club got aboard Coach No 60 at Victoria Coach Station to begin a very memorable Regimental Weekend with the 3 Armd Div Sig Regt from 23 to 27 June. Among the six which included the Secretary were three of our oldest members, **Pedlar Palmer** (85), **Porkey Edwards** (83) and **Bill Spittal** (80). At Farthings Corner **Mr** and **Mrs Holden, Mr** and **Mrs Browning** and **Mr** and **Mrs Wright** joined us and **Mr Spratley** and **Mr Hounsell** at Dover. **Mr Addison** and **Lt Col Mike Philp** and **Mr Fred Timms** completed our party of 17.

We arrived at SOEST at 0915 hrs where **Capt Rodgers** and **WO1 (FofS) F. F. Brown** greeted us. Over coffee, a programme of events was set out by **WO1 (FofS) Brown**. These included a visit to the PRI's shop, a tour of the surrounding area including Tor House and the Mohne Dam. On return we found that **Charver Elwick, Mrs Elwick**, and daughter **Mrs Peters** and her husband had arrived by air to join us.

Maj Ken Smartt, Maj Derek Roberts and their wives arrived by car to be house guests of the CO **Lt Col Jonathan Cook**. **Maj Tim Kelly**, now living in Sennelager with his son-in-law was staying with **Capt Steve Marshall**, and he was joined by **Capt Arthur Hughes** and **Mr Flash Dukes**.

At 1830 hrs the Commanding Officer accompanied by **Brig T. I. M. Waugh** arrived at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess accompanied by the Adjutant, Second in Command and Officer Commanding HQ Sqn and after a short speech of welcome, the weekend programme was launched, and everyone wished an enjoyable and memorable time. The Commanding Officer hoped that the programme planned was not too strenurous and said he felt honoured to see so many present who were veterans of the D Day landings.

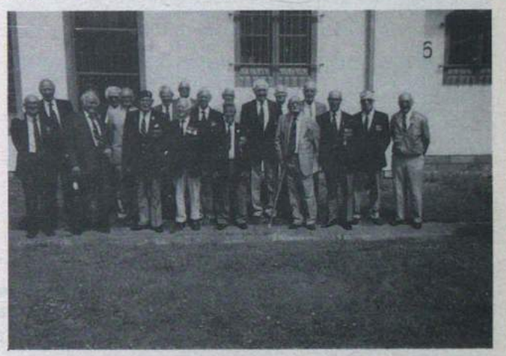
Saturday dawned, a cloudless sky and early morning mist proved that it was going to be a sizzler of a day. After breakfast and with three minibuses at our disposal **WO1 (FofS) Brown** and **Lt Fraser** accompanied us on a shopping and photograph expedition. Reboarding the minibuses we were taken to the Mohne School Fest for lunch. The school fest was a resounding success with the helicopter proving the main attraction for the children. The Regiment had some equipment on display which was of interest to the veterans. We returned to the barracks at 1600 hrs to prepare for the formal dinner in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess to which all the veterans were invited. It was a splendid meal with a choice of German or French Menu. A disco provided music for dancing which continued into the small hours. The Officers attended the annual Summer Ball with three bands held in the Officers' Mess. Everyone enjoyed their evening and we thank the President, PMC and members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess for such a magnificent occasion.

Sunday 25th—A glorious Summer's day and very hot it was too, 85°F. A 39 seater coach was laid on to take all the veterans to St Lukes Church in Salamanca Barracks for a re-dedication service. After the service and the clicking of cameras the coach set us down at the Cricket pavilion in San Sebastian Barracks for a barbecue lunch and drinks before an exciting cricket match between the Officers and Senior NCOs, which, rightly, ended in a draw. Returning to quarters, burnt by the sun, a short rest before going on to the Corporals' Mess to be received by **WO2 (SSM) M. O'Callahan** and **Cpl Garbett**. I took along a photo album, and was astounded at the interest shown by the young men especially those ex Harrogate boys, as they studied the photographs and asked many questions. Everyone took part in the competitions arranged. **Mrs Roberts** excelled in darts. One of the WRAC girls got on to a table and sang a song 'Climbing up a mountain'. The first up this mountain was **Pedlar Palmer** (85) with his mouth organ, followed by **Porkey Edwards** (83), **Tom Dean** and even **Bill Spittal**. I was getting a bit nervous in case of an accident, but all was well. Everyone enjoyed themselves, Veterans and non-Veterans alike.

Monday 26th—How lucky we were with the weather, another hot day. This was the day of reckoning for us as we were driven to 3 Sqn garages and split into two parties. Group 1 for AFV driving and Group 2 for Sharp shooting and the subsequent change over of Groups.

Never having driven a car in my life, with a little instruction I was to handle an AFV weaving my way through an obstacle course and ending up surmounting two cars at the end of the course! It's easy when you know how! Everyone had a go, including the ladies. **Pedlar Palmer**, also a non driver, did very well indeed. The shooting range proved a little more difficult with coloured targets and spotting heavily camouflaged figures, which changed constantly. I guess we did well but once down it was a little difficult trying to get up again. Anno Domini I guess. The Regiment now has a reserve of snipers and AFV drivers to call on at anytime! Leaving the 3 Sqn garages we were transported to the Mohnesee Sailing Club where a barbecue lunch awaited us. Unlike the wet, windy and squally conditions last year, the Mohnesee was becalmed and not too good for a thrilling sail. It was wonderful down at the dam and most people went sailing while some wandered into the woods. Returning to quarters at 1600 hrs, the evening had been set aside for a bowling evening as guests of the Officers of the Regiment at the Bowling centre in Salamanca Barracks. The other ranks at Salamanca Barracks were hoping to entertain the Veterans too, but this could not be arranged and it is hoped that this will be possible when possibly we return next July. I surprised myself by knocking over nine pins with my first ball but the second shot nearly took me with it. I decided to retire with honour. It was a most enjoyable evening ending all square between the Veterans and their ladies and the Officers and their ladies.

Tuesday 27th—A good start to the day, rather muggy and humid with some thundery clouds about. A Burg Tour was arranged starting off at 1015 hrs under the guidance of **WO1 (FofS) Brown** and **Lt Fraser**. We arrived at a very interesting castle built between 1603 and 1609 and known as Wewelsburg, as a supplementary of the Prince Bishops of Paderborne and located above the Alme river on lime rock. This triangular shaped fortress was used by the SS during the war. We returned to San Sebastian barracks for lunch, and left for home departing at 1915 hrs. **WO1 (FofS) Brown** must have been relieved to see us off! Before we left **Lt Col Mick Philp** thanked **Lt Col Cook**, the Officers, **WO1 (RSM) Reeves, WO1 (FofS) Brown** and all members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess for their kindness and warm hospitality. **Mr Len Addison** from Wirral presented a plaque to the RSM from the Liverpool Branch of the RSA. The Secretary presented **WO1 (FofS) Brown** with a tea cloth with the epitaph 'Knackered' which he said he would be hanging up in his office. Just before we left the weather broke and brought heavy rain and a thunderstorm as we made our way to Calais to board our ship.



Through the medium of *The Wire*, I wish to take the opportunity of saying how very much everyone enjoyed the Regimental Weekend and appreciated the hard work which must have gone into the planning of the programme. Our grateful thanks to all. I would like to stress again that the 3 Divisional Signals Reunion Club is open to all serving and ex members of the Iron Division. Our next Reunion luncheon will be on 24 March 1990 at the Victory (Services) Club, Marble Arch, London our 38th Reunion and to which the ladies are invited. See you there!

CLUB PARTY

Mr W. J. Addison, Mr E. E. Bayley, Mr and **Mrs R. G. Browning, Mr T. H. Dean, Mr F. G. Dukes, Mr W. T. Edwards, Mr** and **Mrs A. G. Elwick, Mrs E. Rae, Mr** and **Mrs W. H. Holden, Mr S. G. Hounsell, Capt A. Hughes, Maj H. Kelly, Mr P. Munchin, Mr** and **Mrs M. Peters, Lt Col M. A. Philp, Mr H. W. Palmer, Maj** and **Mrs D. J. Roberts, Maj** and **Mrs K. N. Smartt, Mr W. Spittal, Mr W. A. Spartley, Mr** and **Mrs H. F. Timms** and **Mr** and **Mrs L. Wright**.

SAILING

RSYC DINGHY AND DAYBOAT SAILING REPORT
RSYC (UK) DINGHY REGATTA NETLEY 8-10 MAY 1989

The regatta was attended by only eight crews which was one more than the previous year. The weather was mixed and so only a total of six races were held in the ASA's Kestrels. The results were:-

1st	**Capt Lewis-Taylor** **WO2 Mower**	30 Sig Regt
2nd	**Sgt Hassell** **SSgt Smith**	School of Signals
3rd	**Cpl Richardson** **Cpl White**	243 Sig Sqn

The racing showed the benefit of regular competition. Those who at the time of the regatta were sailing regularly won easily at the start of the competition but were subjected to more pressure as the competition went on, from those who were beginning to get back in touch with competitive sailing.

NORTH V SOUTH REGATTA RIPON SC 22 MAY 1989

This event was held in response to the regular complaint that the sailors in the north of the country rarely managed to show off their skills against those in the south who consequently dominated team selections. In many ways the north was proved to have a point by comprehensively winning the day's event.

The team from the north was well led by **Sgt Chas Cowell** in his last event before departing to Cyprus, ably assisted by **ATs Stuart** and **Box**, names to look out for in the future. The team from the south included **Capt Scott Workman, Maj Stephen Galpin, LCpl John Driver** and **Cpl Simon Richardson** all taking their chance as helms. A worthwhile event and it is hoped to repeat it in the future.

RSYC DAYBOAT REGATTA SEAVIEW 1-2 JUNE 1989

Entries for the competition were down on last year because of the late withdrawal of the entries from 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. Nevertheless a total of 14 crews were entered, not all of which were single unit teams. It was especially good to see three crews from AA Coll Harrogate and one from 8 Sig Regt making the long journey south. Entries from 71 Sig Regt (V), Wavell Project Office and 2 Sig Bde broadened the competition whilst there was the usual strong contingent from Blandford units.

Racing was very much affected by the weather as is normal at Seaview and of the planned seven races only six were actually held and of these only three were sailed in reasonable wind conditions. The last race was actually abandoned because a number of boats were unable to reach the start line due to a strong tide and no wind.

The results of the competition were:-

1st	**LCpl Downie**	School of Signals
2nd	**Sgt Hassell**	School of Signals
3rd	**Col Roper**	Wavell Team
4th	**AT Stuart**	AA Coll Harrogate

It was encouraging to see the AT crews doing well at times and **AT Stuart** was a consistently good performer. Newcomers to Seaview and those with little tidal experience learned a great deal about the effect of tide especially in light wind conditions.

TRIANGULAR REGATTA SEAVIEW 15-16 JUNE 1989

The regatta was again a second place for the Corps being well beaten by the Sappers but staying well ahead of the Gunners. That said it was the usual good competition with one notable helm sacrificing a commanding lead by losing his sense of direction. Perhaps orienteering during the winter would help! The four helms in the Corps boats were **Capt Graham Lewis-Taylor, Lt Col Keith Powell, LCpl Paul Downie** and **Sgt Doug Hassell**.

INTER-CORPS LEAGUE EVENTS

At the time of writing the Corps has sailed six Inter-Corps League events against the RA, Infantry, REME, RAPC, RCT and RE winning all matches except that against the Sappers. In addition the Corps sailed against the RAF Signals Command as part of the annual competition and won an exciting match.

Stalwarts of the UK Corps sailing fraternity this season have been **LCpl Paul Downie** (good luck with the baby), **Sgt Doug Hassell** (good luck in retirement and thanks for all your participation in Corps sailing), **Capt Graham Lewis-Taylor** (well done winning the Halcyon cup again—at last success!), **Lt Col Keith Powell, Cpl Simon Richardson, LCpl John Driver** with keen assistance from **Capt Scott Workman, Maj Stephen Galpin, SSgt Stu Bromidge, LCpl Rocky Ramharak, WO2 Colin Peck, Sgt Thorpe-Willett** (good luck on the Round the World Race) and **Sgt Keith Pammenter**.

Finally, thanks to **Capt David Ellis** for setting up the Season's events and to **Capt Mark Castle-Smith** for taking on the jobs of Bosun and Racing Secretary during the absence of **David Ellis** on holiday down south. We hope that on his return we will be able to report on the successful campaigning of the ASA J24 Chieftain in local, national and international competitions.

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.

SHOOTING 1989 SEASON

1989 has been a good year in terms of results for Corps shooting, despite the fact that we have lost the services of Stalwarts in Target Rifle such as **WO2 (YofS) Brian Hayward** to Oman. Likewise known shots such as **Lt Col R. J. Evans** were unavailable due to overseas tours. The Corps' SAM saw a record number of competitors (143) with Queen's Gurkha Signals holding off 7 Sig Regt to win the Major Unit Championship and Communications and Security Group (UK) narrowly winning the Minor Units from 259 Sig Sqn.

The meeting was held at Bulford/Perham Down Range complex over the week 11-16 June. The weather was again kind to us with warm dry sunny days throughout. The Major and Minor Unit Championships were more closely fought than in previous years with the Minor Unit silver being well spread across the Corps. The Individual Rifle Match was also closely contested with **Sgt Navindra** taking the RSRA Champion Shot Cup and **Capt Iain Standen** the President's Cup as the Best Class B. **Lt Scott** of 22 Sig Regt won the 14 Regt Cup as the Best Young Officer and **Sig Ross** of 8 Sig Regt won the Best Young Soldier. The Champion at Arms and winner of the Goulding Bowl, awarded to the individual with the highest aggregate in matches 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 11, was **Capt Iain Standen** of 259 Sig Sqn.

The Regular Army meeting saw a good number of Corps' teams, six Major and six Minor Units entered and again QG Sig performed well winning every match in the Series B Championship. **SSgt Krishna Gurung** is to be congratulated on his outstanding individual performance where he was Champion at Arms, winning The Old Contemptibles Cup, second in the Army 100 losing the Queen's Medal by one hit and first in Match 4, the Association Cup. **Capt Iain Standen** was seventh in the Pistol XXX, **Maj Colin French** was second in the Sniper Rifle Match and 259 Sig Sqn won the Pistol Tiles.

The National Meeting saw some success in the Service Weapon events which were regrettably abandoned due to splash back in the butts which led to several of the butt party being injured. **Sgt Navindrabikram** is to be warmly congratulated on winning 'The Standing', 'The Rapids Aggregate' and taking fourth place overall in the Rifle Championship. **Sgt Navindra** won some £40 and eight Medals and Bars during the meeting. The Corps team won the SMG Team Match and four NRA Silver Medals. **Capt Jim Body** from the School won the 'McQueen' Cup in the Sniper Match.

A weaker team than in the past represented the Corps in the National Target Rifle Meeting but produced some very creditable results. **Sgt Morrell** from the School and **Cpl Taff Alden** of 16 Regt won places in the Regular Army Short Range Team while **Capt Jim Body** made the Long Range Team. **Cpl Taff Alden** won the Tate Cup and NRA Silver Medal by one point from **Capt Jim Body** with an aggregate score of 543 in the Royal Signals Championship.

Firers in Service Rifle Events were of course using weapons with iron sights either SLR or SA 80 with iron sights with a consequent lack of target acquisition capability and inaccuracy at longer ranges. This makes the achievements of **SSgt Krishna** and **Sgt Navindra** all the more commendable.

This year's results add weight to the impression that overall individual scores are improving! This is mainly due to increased interest by Senior Officers, individual application and dedication from Team Managers who at last have realised that success in top level competition requires thorough preparation, physical fitness and a will to win.

CORPS MEETING
INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
RIFLE MATCHES 2, 3, 4, 6 AND 7

Best Any Class	— RSRA Champion Shot Cup—**Sgt Navindra**—QG Sig
Best B Class	— President's Cup—**Capt Standen**—259 Sig Sqn
Best R Signals Officer	— Exell Trophy—**Capt Standen**—259 Sig Sqn
Best Young Officer	— **Lt Scott**—22 Sig Regt
Best Young Soldier	— **Sig Ross**—8 Sig Regt
Best Non R Signals	— **LCpl Dodd** RPC—4 ADSR

BEST ROYAL SIGNALS IN MATCH 2, 3, 4 AND 6

Queen's Gurkha Signals Trophy	— **Capt Standen** — 259 Sig Sqn
The Goulding Bowl	— **Capt Standen** — 259 Sig Sqn

CHAMPION AT ARMS

Aggregate score in matches 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 11.

Sgt Navindra with The Standing and Rapids Aggregate NRA Cups

The NRA Trophy haul *(left to right)* Capt Jim Body, SSgt Krishna, Sgt Navindra and Maj Iain Brown

BISLEY MEETING

MATCH WINNERS	**MAJOR**	**MINOR**
Match 2—Roupell	QG Sigs	259 Sig Sqn
A Class	**Sgt Navindra** QG Sigs	
B Class	**Sig Tekbahadur** QG Sigs	
Match 2—Whitehead	QG Sigs	19 Inf Bde HQ
A Class	**Sgt Navindra** QG Sigs	& Sig Sqn
B Class	**Capt Standen** 259 Sqn	
Match 4—Association	QG Sigs	259 Sig Sqn
A Class	**SSgt Krishna** QG Sigs	
B Class	**Sig Tekbahadur** QG Sigs	
Match 6—Whittaker	QG Sigs	19 Inf Bde HQ
A Class	**SSgt Krishna** QG Sigs	& Sig Sqn
B Class	**LCpl Mayell** 19 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn	
Match 7—Roberts		
A Class	**Sig Yamkumar** QG Sigs	
B Class	**Sig Tekbahadur** QG Sigs	

The SOinC presents QG Sigs with the Major Unit Team Trophies

Capt Iain Standen receives the Goulding Bowl

The SOinC presents Comms & Sy Gp with the Minor Unit Championship Trophy

Match 9—Ind SMG Match			
A Class	**Capt Lilbahadur** QG Sigs		
B Class	**Sig Sibachan** QG Sigs		
Match 25/26—SMG Team	QG Sigs	19 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn	
Match 101—Target Rifle			
Winner	**Maj R. T. Hoole** 19 Inf Bde		
Runner-up	**Sgt Morrell**—School of Signals		
Match 11—Pistol			
Winner	**Capt Standen** 259 Sqn		
Runner-up	**Lt Col McLean** Sch of Inf		
	MAJOR UNIT	**MINOR UNIT**	
Match 31/21—Section	QG Sigs	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)	
Match 33/34—Team Snap	QG Sigs	201 Sqn/1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn	
Match 29/30—LMG	QG Sigs	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)	
Match 27/28—Para Cup	QG Sigs	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn	
Match 37—Falling Plates	QG Sigs		
Major Unit Championship	QG Sigs		
Runner-up	7 Sig Regt		
Minor Unit Championship		Comms & Sy Gp (UK)	
Runner-up		259 Sig Sqn	

RASAM RESULTS
MAJOR UNITS

OM	Unit	Match	23	25	30	31	27	33	Champ Pts
1	QG Signals		1	1	1	1	1	1	240
11	14 Sig Regt		15	12	8=	13	7	11	72
12	2 Inf Div Sig Regt		10	14	15	11	14=	12	54
13	School of Signals		16	13	5	12	12	14	52
14	21 Sig Regt		12	16	16	10	11	16	47
16	22 Sig Regt		14	15	13	16	8	15	44

MINOR UNITS

OM	Unit	Match	24	26	30A	32	28	34	Champ Pts
10	259 Sig Sqn		12	9	19	5	8	14	168
14	Comms & Sy Gp		16	14	8	17	13	8	133
19	201 Sig Sqn		19	21	15	22	14	22	49
20	8 Inf Bde Sig Sqn		21	18	12	18	18=	20	45
21	39 Inf Bde Sig Sqn		20	22	18	13	0	21	38
22	249 Sig Sqn		22	20	22	21	0	17	16

OTHER TEAM MATCHES

Match			
21	The Dunlop Trophy	—	QG Signals
21	The Brooke Bond Cup	—	QG Signals
25	The 14/20th King's Hussars Cup	—	QG Signals
39	The Southern Command Cup	—	259 Sig Sqn
40	The Woolwich Bowl	—	R Signals Team
101	Silver Bars	—	22 Sig Regt
101	Bronze Bars	—	School of Signals A
104	Bronze Bars	—	School of Signals A

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

Match			
1	The ARA Silver Jewel	OM 2	**SSgt Krishna**
2	Bronze Bar	18	**SSgt Krishna**
3	Bronze Bar	14=	**Sig Anjan**
4	Gold Bar	1	**SSgt Krishna**
4	Bronze Bar	22	**Sig Saunders**
5	Money Prize—£4.50	2	**SSgt Krishna**
6	Bronze Bar	28=	**SSgt Krishna**
7	Bronze Bar	4	**SSgt Krishna**
9	The Victory Cup and Date Bar	1	**SSgt Krishna**
9	The Prem Stage Cup and DB	4	**Capt Lilbahadur**
9	Date Bar	7	**Sgt Navindra**
9	Medal and Date Bar	12	**Sig Tekbahadur**
9	Medal and Date Bar	26	**Sig Marhang Rai**
10	Old Contemptibles Cup and GB	1	**SSgt Krishna**
10	Bronze Bar	22	**Capt Lilbahadur**
11	Date Bar	7	**Capt Standen**
11	Medal and Date Bar	20	**Capt Lilbahadur**
11	Medal and Date Bar	22	**SSgt Krishna**
13	Silver Bar	2	**Maj French**
13	Bronze Bar	3	**Capt Standen**
13	Bronze Bar	4	**Cpl Bull**
13	Bronze Bar	5	**Cpl Kelly**
13	Bronze Bar	3	**WO2 Rogan**
100	ARA Small Bronze Medal		

DON'T FORGET TO ORDER YOUR *WIRE* FOR 1990

(see page 405 for Order Form)

ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS DIARY—1990

The Museum Shop is supplying the 1990 Corps Diary to all units.

The diary will be a slim pocket diary with a blue stiff leatherette cover, gilt corner mounts, ribbon marker and the Corps badge on the front.

The retail price per diary will be £2.50 in the UK.

Bulk orders from PRIs and Royal Signals Associations of 50 or more will attract a discount of 20%. Overseas units' orders will be less VAT.

Order early to avoid disappointment.

WINDSURFING

ROYAL SIGNALS UK WINDSURFING CHAMPIONSHIPS —RESULTS

The Royal Signals UK Windsurfing Championships were held at Browndown Camp, Lee-on-Solent on 8-10 June 1989. Some 27 individual entries were received which included three guest competitors and four unit teams competed for the Inter-Unit event.

Conditions were variable with the first day providing good force 5 gusting to 6 strength winds, and second and third days having light winds (Force 1-2) in the mornings the light to moderate (Force 2-3) in the afternoons. No rain marred the event and apart from the stronger winds of Thursday, which combined with heavy seas caused one race to be abandoned, the weather was very good.

The entry was well supported with more sailors competing this year, in what is the first dedicated UK event, than sailed last year in the Corps-wide event which included BAOR sailors. This is very encouraging and augurs well for this year's Corps-wide event scheduled for 30 August-2 September.

The support given by all Unit Commanders in helping to make this event the undoubted success that it was, is greatly appreciated.

Capt Gilchrist, Hon Sec, Windsurfing writes:

UK INTER-CORPS

As reported in the March issue it is hoped that an Inter-Corps Windsurfing League can be started within UK, probably commencing officially next year. As a forerunner all Corps are being encouraged to run trial events this year. To date we have had two events, with one more definitely planned.

The first took place at Theale Reservoir on 10 May against the REME in next-to-no wind. It was only possible to conduct one race and the team results in this very dubious contest were: 2nd—**Cpl Sammy Anderson**, 5th—**Capt Bill White**, 6th—**WO1 Steve Bailes**, 7th—**Capt Dave Gilchrist** and 10th—**Maj Brian Pettifer**.

Suffice to say the REME won 24¾ points to 30. A return match is being organised when hopefully some decent wind will help the occasion!

The second event against the ACC at Netley held on 26 July was altogether different with winds varying between force 3 to 5 making it possible to run four races. Our results were much improved although to be fair the opposition was not so strong but we also fielded a weaker team having many of our stars either unfit or required for duty.

The total points and overall places achieved for the four races by Corps sailors were: 2nd—**Capt Dave Gilchrist** 6¾ points, =3rd—**Capt Bill White** 14 points, =3rd—**Sgt Doug Maher** 14 points and 5th—**LCpl 'Nobby' Hall** 20 points. These results enabled the Corps to win convincingly by 54¾ points to 101¼.

ARMY INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Army Championships were held on 24/25 June at Browndown with reasonable winds of force 3. Regrettably no BAOR Corps sailors could support this event but happily 10 UK members were able to keep the Corps flag flying. The individual results were: Lightweight: 9th—**Maj Brian Pettifer**, 15th—**Cpl Paul Wooding**, 17th—**Sig 'Smudge' Smith** and 18th—**LCpl 'Jonno' Johnson**. Heavyweight: 5th—**Cpl Sammy Anderson**, 8th—**Capt Dave Gilchrist** (Army Veteran), 9th—**Sgt Phil Pett** and =12th—**LCpl 'Nobby' Hall**. Open Class: 1st—**OCdt Colin Pettifer**, =2nd—**Maj Mark Edwards**. These placings were based upon the results of the three races held on Saturday 24 June only. Regrettably severe pollution in Stokes Bay from a fractured sewage pipe prevented further racing on the second day!

JOINT SERVICES INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

It was the Royal Navy's turn this year to organise the event and it was held at Eastney over the weekend 29/30 July in winds varying on the Saturday from force 3/4 to force 5/6 on the Sunday. Five races were conducted with the following results for the three Corps sailors who managed to turn out for what was an excellent contest: Heavyweight: =9th—**Cpl Sammy Anderson** and =9th—**Capt Dave Gilchrist**. Open Class: 3rd—**OCdt Colin Pettifer**.

A brief look forward now with two major events still to come in this years calendar. Firstly the Corps-wide Championships incorporating both individual and team events will be held at Browndown on 30 August to 2 September. Secondly the Corps will be trying to regain its hold on the BAOR Inter-Corps trophy when this event is held at the Dummersee on 25/26 September.

Individual Awards

Overall Champion	— **WO1 Bailes**
Heavyweight Champion	— **Cpl Anderson**
Heavyweight Runner-Up	— **Maj Edwards**
Heavyweight Best Novice	— **SSgt Skinner**
Lightweight Champion	— **Maj Pettifer**
Lightweight Runner-Up	— **Sgt Maher**
Lightweight Novice	— **LCpl Rees**
Veteran	— **Capt Gilchrist**

Unit Team Results (run over four races)

Team	Sailors	Total Points by member	by Team	Team Posn
249 Sig Sqn (AMFL)	**Capt White**	15		
	Sgt Maher	3	59	1
	LCpl Rees	41		
School of Signals	**WO1 Bailes**	16		
	Capt James	32	82	2
	SSgt Arundel	34		
1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn	**Capt Gilchrist**	13		
	Capt Avison	35	87	3
	LCpl Hall	39		
8 Sig Regt	**Sgt Pett**	23		
	Sgt Winterbottom	14	89	4
	Sig Baxter	52		

ROYAL SIGNALS UK WINDSURFING CHAMPIONSHIPS 1989—RESULTS

Overall Individual Results (run over six races)

	Rank	Name	Unit	Overall Posn	Overall Pts	Weight Class Posn	Weight Class Pts
	WO1	Bailes	School of Signals	1	5	Hvy 1	5
	Cpl	Anderson	233 Sig Sqn	2	7¾	Hvy 2	10¾
*	Mr	Pickard	School of Signals	3	18¾	Lt 1	8¾
	Maj	Edwards	5 AB Bde Sig Sqn	3	19¾	Hvy 3	16¾
	Capt	Gilchrist	1 Inf Bde Sig Sqn	4	24	Lt 2	9¾
	Sgt	Maher	249 Sig Sqn	5	26	Lt 3	10½
	Maj	Pettifer	Elec Branch REME	6	27	Lt 1	9½
	Capt	White	249 Sig Sqn	7	29	Hvy 4	20
	Capt	James	School of Signals	8	32	Hvy 5=	25
	SSgt	Arundel	School of Signals	9	52	Hvy 7	36
	LCpl	Hall	1 Inf Bde Sig Sqn	10	56	Hvy 8	38
**	Sgt	Pett	8 Sig Regt	11	60	Hvy 5=	25
**	Maj	Filby	HQ NI	12	64	Lt 6	35¾
	SSgt	Skinner	87 Sig Sqn (V)	13	74	Hvy 10	52
	Sig	Smith	1 Inf Bde Sig Sqn	14	77	Lt 9	44
**	Capt	Mather	1 Inf Bde Sig Sqn	15	81	Hvy 9	46
	LCpl	Rees	249 Sig Sqn	16	83	Lt 4	33
	Capt	Avison	1 Inf Bde Sig Sqn	17	84	Lt 5	35
	SSgt	Chorlton	School of Signals	18	87	Lt 7	36
	LCpl	Johnson	1 Inf Bde Sig Sqn	19	92	Lt 8	41
	Sig	Calderwood	249 Sig Sqn	20	94	Hvy 11	58
	Cpl	McDermott	30 Sig Regt	21	99	Hvy 12	59
	Cpl	Fernandes	249 Sig Sqn	22	102	Lt 10=	46
**	Sig	Baxter	8 Sig Regt	23	113	Lt 10=	46

*—Guest sailor. Notional result only.

**—Late arrival. Only sailed on second day.

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IT IS YOUR GOLDEN JUBILEE IN 1990

ARE YOU OR HAVE YOU BEEN AIRBORNE?

The Airborne Divisions were formed from volunteers drawn from all units of the British Army. We are in the process of establishing the names and addresses of all members of Royal Signals who served with Airborne Forces. If you were a member of thé brotherhood but are not now in contact with the Corps' parachute unit, would you please write, giving details to:-

The Administrative Officer, 5 Airborne Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron, Arnhem Barracks, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2AU.

THE

wire

The Royal Signals Magazine

November 1989

How do you feel about leaving the Army?

As you're well aware, serving in the Forces isn't just a job. It's a way of life. So, it's no surprise, that after leaving, many people feel as though they're high and dry, like a fish out of water.

But there's no need for you to feel this way. It's perfectly possible for you to keep up with old friends, make use of the unique skills you've acquired, *and* make a vital contribution to the nation's defence into the bargain.

How? Simply by becoming a member of the Volunteer Forces, which make up a third of our Army and represent a significant part of our commitment to NATO.

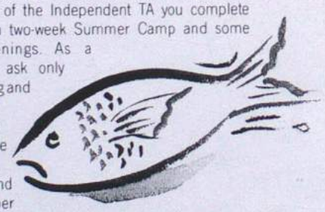
There are three options open to you.

Firstly, you can join one of the Territorial Army Independent Units based in the TAVRA region in which you have decided to settle. An ideal route for those leaving Infantry or Cavalry regiments.

Secondly, if you are leaving a Corps, you could retain your capbadge and become a member of either an Independent Unit or a TA Specialist Unit. In either, you can maintain and extend the special skills that you have learned.

Thirdly, you could join the HSF, which fulfils a vital role in our home defence, and in particular is suitable for people with limited spare time.

You can contribute as much time as you want in any one year. The minimum that we ask is that as a member of the Independent TA you complete 6 weekends, a two-week Summer Camp and some weekday evenings. As a Specialist we ask only 15 days training and two weekends.



And, as a member of the HSF, 6 to 10 days training and one evening per month. In return you will receive payment equivalent to the rates paid to Regular Army soldiers plus an annual tax-free bonus.

If you would like more information about how you can stay in the swim of things, write to the address below, giving details of which option you are interested in, your current age and address, your intended county of residence, and of the regiment you have left or are leaving.

The Territorial Army, Freepost, 4335 (Ref: 9000), Bristol BS1 3YX.

The Royal Signals Magazine

November 1989 Vol. 43 No: 6

The Wire

All correspondence and matter for publication in **The Wire** should be addressed to **The Wire** Royal Signals Association, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Tel No: London District Ext 8246 STD 01-873 6356.
Matter for publications must be received by the 15th of February, April, June, August, October and December for publication six weeks later.

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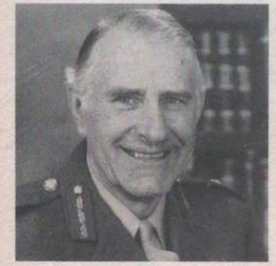
Editor Lt Col K. E. P. Andrews MBE
Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs
The Wire is a member of the Association of Service Newspapers



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 1989 FROM THE MASTER OF SIGNALS

Those members of the Corps of my generation will remember the days when we served in Internal Security areas with their attendant restrictions upon personal liberty for both soldiers and their families; my Squadron was restricted to a tented camp for two years, only going out on operations or in groups of four, all armed. For families, it meant living in shuttered houses and the husband having his personal weapon at hand at all times.

So our sympathy goes out to all ranks of the Corps who now find their lives restricted by the current need for security awareness not only in Northern Ireland. But as in the past, there are compensations—a tighter, unified unit and family spirit and a dogged determination to see it through despite the hardships. The Corps will not be found lacking in this respect and Christmas will nevertheless be enjoyed as much if not more. Let us hope that the coming year will see a return to normality.

To all serving and retired members of the Corps, my wife and I send you our warmest good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF

Since taking up my appointment in April this year I have seen a great deal of the Corps in our Squadrons and Regiments in the United Kingdom, BAOR, Cyprus, Hong Kong and elsewhere. I have also visited our Units on operations in Northern Ireland and with the United Nations in Namibia. Everywhere I have been tremendously impressed by the enthusiastic, dedicated and highly professional approach of our officers and soldiers, both regular and volunteer, and by the high regard in which they are justifiably held by those with whom they work.

Just as impressive is the lively good humour and determination to enjoy life and all aspects of their soldiering that prevails at all levels in our Units. It is this positive attitude which will help us to surmount our current problem of undermanning and to meet the additional commitments we constantly acquire as the technology we are responsible for in the army continues to expand.

Perhaps just as important, however, is the strong sense of family and identity which exists among serving and retired members of the Corps as we approach our 70th Birthday. I have personally found great friendship, pleasure and job satisfaction from my time in Royal Signals. In wishing all ranks and their families a very happy Christmas and successful New Year my wife and I hope that you too will continue to find inspiration, enjoyment and reward from your service in the Corps.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS — EXCHANGE OF TELEGRAMS

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

The Master of Signals, Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army) and all ranks of the Royal Corps of Signals send their warm greetings to the Representative Colonel Commandant, Director and all ranks The Royal Australian Corps of Signals for their Corps Day on 10 November. The warmth and hospitality extended to me during my visit earlier this year served to remind me of the bonds of friendship that exist between us which I am sure will last forever. With every good wish for Corps Day 1989.

The following reply has been received from the Representative Colonel Commandant, Royal Australian Signals.

Thank you for your message of greetings on our Corps' Day 1989. Your kind words have been promulgated to all members of the Corps. Be assured that the bonds of friendship that exist between us will continue to strengthen in future years.

COVER PICTURE

The cover picture shows the Corps' recently acquired adventurous and external leadership training facility. The Whernside Centre. The photograph shows the main entrance to the 18th Century Manor House. The Centre and its facilities are now available for use by the Corps at large and an introductory article by Lt Col Collyer is at page 517. On the back cover are some of the deployments and activities of 602 (SC) Sig Tp during 1988-89.

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL *WIRE* READERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

Readers will be aware that from the beginning of 1990 the cost of *The Wire*, for single and bulk orders, is £1.00 per copy. We are making another change in the New Year in order to meet the requirements of our Advertising Agents and to obtain some commercial advantage.

In 1990 the first issue of *The Wire* will be published and distributed, as formerly, at the end of January reaching some of our readers late January and other in early February depending upon the post. This issue will be called the February issue. Subsequently during the year other issues will be titled April, June, August, October and December, reaching readers in the first fewdays of the month of publication.

Matter for publication *must* reach the editor six weeks before the publication date, ie by 15 December for the February issue and subsequently by 15 February, April, June, August and October for the April, June, August, October and December issues respectively.

It is always helpful to have material for the February issue BEFORE 7 December because of the Christmas break. For other issues it would help if contributors were to ensure that the material is with the editor by the due date.

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION RATE

The Wire will be £1 per copy from January 1990. 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 1 December 1989. 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. If you pay by Bankers Order, please advise your Bank accordingly. (This does not apply to those who pay a Retired Officers Subscription).

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VISIT OF HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL TO 633 SIGNAL TROOP

VISIT OF HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL

The highlight of a busy period was the visit to Belize, and in particular to 633 Sig Tp, of our Colonel-in-Chief **HRH The Princess Royal GCVO. HRH** arrival in Belize was welcomed by a combined services quarter guard of soldiers and airmen from all arms and Regiments serving in Belize. The right marker was our very own **SSgt 'Stiff' Blacklaw** who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time and far too close to the GSM. The parade was an unusual affair because the Welsh Guards participants were in possession of SA80 rifles whilst the remainder sported SLRs. Despite this the parade passed off without event and all were pleased with just how smoothly everything ran.

HRH visited 633 Sig Tp on Saturday 2 September and visited all Royal Signals personnel serving in Belize.

HRH appeared relaxed and at ease at lunch with the Troop. The following photographs highlight some of the aspects of **The Princess Royal**'s visit.

HRH The Princess Royal, Capt Keegan and Lt Stevens look for WO2 (FofS) Mick Cooper who parachuted in to present HRH with the scissors for the official opening of the telephone boxes

WO2 (YofS) Marshall talking to HRH in the Commcen. LCpl Woods and Cpl Graham also in the picture

HRH The Princess Royal, Brig J. O. C. Alexander, Comd 2 Sig Bde and Sgt Gerrish. 'It's for you ma'am'

Lt Stevens, HRH and Brig Alexander all enjoying Sig Moylett's rendition of 'Singin' in the Rain'

Brig Alexander, Capt Keegan, HRH, Sgt Gerrish, Lt Stevens and Mr Campbell, head of BT Americas look on as HRH makes a call to the Master of Signals

Our Colonel-in-Chief presents the LS & GC Medal to WO2 (YofS) Marshall in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess in Airport Camp

VISIT OF THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF TO 602 SIGNAL TROOP

On Monday 24 July the Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness, **The Princess Royal GCVO** visited the HQSC UK base station. The itinerary included a visit to the Military Wing, of the station, manned by members of the Troop. The OC, **Capt Kevin Fisher** gave a presentation on the role of the Troop deployments, followed by an equipment demonstration. **Her Royal Highness** later presented **WO2 (YofS) Keith Bell** with his LS & GC medal, the Yeoman having to undergo a quick change routine, from his normal working dress (suit and tie) to his number two dress.

HRH The Princess Royal presents WO2 (YofS) Keith Bell with his LS & GC on 24 July 1989

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE OF THE REGIMENTAL COLONEL
SOLDIER RECRUITING RESULTS

The table below shows the Royal Signals soldier recruiting targets and achievements for the first six months of this recruiting year. As can be seen, the shortfall is substantial, in Adults and Young Soldiers (A&YS). Although the Apprentice and Junior figures are good, there are signs that they too are beginning to dip. While unit support for recruiting is assisting in getting in substantial numbers of recruits, we have to try even harder if we are to rectify the Corps manning situation. Retention has improved in recent months, but the losses of 1988/89 have not been made good.

		Target	Achieved Apr-Sep 89	Achieved Apr-Sep 89
A & YS	—	400	198	232
JLdrs	—	138	138	126
JSig	—	191	163	199
Apprentices	—	353	298	310
	Total	1,082	797 = 74%	867

SOLDIER RECRUITING AND MANNING MEASURES EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN

Units will be aware of the move towards the greater employment of women in the Armed Forces. Suitable posts are being identified and we as a Corps, already one of the largest employers of women in the Army, will be among the leading players in this strategy. Currently, the recruitment of women is much easier than men, and the filling of posts will ease the manning situation.

NEW EMPLOYMENT GROUPS

To ease the task of all arms recruiters, the Corps has divided its trades into four employment groups:-

Techician Royal Signals	—	Tele Tech, Tele Mech
Specialist Operator Royal Signals	—	Tel Op (Spec), Tele Op (Ling)
Telecommunications Operator Royal Signals	—	(Tele Op (R), Tele Op (RR) (Tele Op (TG), Tele Op (Data), Tele Op (Syş)
Soldier Royal Signals	—	Dvr Elec, Dvr Lmn, Stores Acct, Tele Op (P&A)

Soldiers joining the Corps will not be job briefed and allocated specific trades, until after arrival at Catterick for basic training, or in the case of Junior Leaders and Apprentices, arrival at Harrogate. The Royal Signals PSO at 11 Sig Regt is responsible for detailed job briefing and trade allocation of all entrants.

SATISFIED SOLDIER

The Satisfied Soldier Scheme is now a Priority One recruiting support effort and although overall figures are much improved, some Units have not addressed the matter in earnest. The presence of young, articulate Royal Signals soldiers in ACIOs is a most effective recruiting measure. They are able to attract the attention of their peers, and explain how they have found Army life. We know they do this well and with enthusiasm, resulting in soldiers opting for the Corps rather than for other cap badges. The timely identification of soldiers returning to the UK and BAOR on leave or courses for participation in the Scheme is most important.

KAPE

This years KAPE tours have now been completed. All successfully, and some excellently. Several District Recruiting Staffs have given our teams the highest praise with such comments as, 'the best I have ever seen'. Well done and keep it up. Running and participating in a successful KAPE tour gives a great deal of job satisfaction for all concerned.

HANDOVER TAKEOVER OF REGIMENTAL COLONEL

This month sees the departure of **Col M. L. Jennings** after four years as Regt Col. Luckily his expertise and influence in the field of recruiting will not be entirely lost to the Corps as he is to take up the RO1 Inspector of Recruiting post with the Directorate of Army Recruiting. His successor, **Col R. D. K. Thompson**, takes over on 1 December on relinquishing command of 4 Sig Gp.

THE CORPS ADVENTUROUS TRAINING CENTRE, (THE WHERNSIDE CENTRE)

In August of this year the Corps became the proud owners of a Grade 2 Listed 18th Century Manor House, and its five acre estate, in the heart of the very beautiful North Yorkshire National Park, near Dent in Cumbria. The Royal Signals Association purchased the property for the benefit of members of the Corps as an adventurous and external leadership training facility which, by virtue of its location, offers some of the best outdoor pursuit training in the country. The Whernside Centre is staffed and run by the Training Group Royal Signals and is open to any Unit, Group, or individual wishing to engage in a comprehensive range of adventurous training activities at very modest cost, for anything from a weekend to a fortnight. The adventurous activities which may be undertaken at the Centre include:-

FELL WALKING/EXPEDITIONS

The Centre is situated on the slopes of the Whernside feature with access available directly from the rear of the property. This and the challenging Howgill and Barbon Fell areas are ideal expedition areas with the more demanding regions of the central Lake District only a short drive away. Land clearance is taken care of by the Centre's staff who have established a good relationship with local landowners and the community at large.

CLIMBING AND ABSEILING

Single-pitch rock climbing for all levels of competence is close to the Centre and a disused viaduct is equally convenient for teaching a range of abseiling techniques. A little further afield are the established areas of Malham Cove and Central Lakeland which offer high quality multi-pitch climbing for the more experienced.

CANOEING AND WINDSURFING

Killington reservoir is just 15 minutes drive away and provides ideal conditions for the novice canoeist and for windsurfers of all standards.

CAVING

Whernside is at the heart of what is the country's premier caving region with caves for the novice and for the most adventurous of 'moles' within easy reach of the Centre. Caving is an adventurous pursuit experienced by few in the Service principally because of the relatively few caving areas readily to hand. It follows that experience and qualifications in this field are also scarce, the overall effect being that a highly popular sport is denied to the majority. For the past 10 years or so the Corps adventurous training team based at 11 Sig Regt has been amassing a fund of experience, qualifications, and equipment which, until now, has been confined to some of those who have passed through the Training Group. Those who have experienced the investigation of an underground cave system will testify to the unparalleled thrill of the sport and now, thanks to the Whernside initiative, the Corps' considerable expertise in this specialist discipline is at the disposal of all those who use the Whernside Centre.

The Whernside Centre is open from early February to mid December. There is accommodation for up to 80 students, male and female, and the services include full board, equipment and instruction for novice and expert alike. The bulk of the training time available at the Centre is given to members of the Corps under Phase 1 military training, for whom adventurous and external leadership training is a mandatory part of their course. A minimum of 30% of the year is available to the remainder of the Corps and on offer is an adventurous training package which is difficult to match; just turn up on the day and the Centre's resident expert staff take care of the rest.

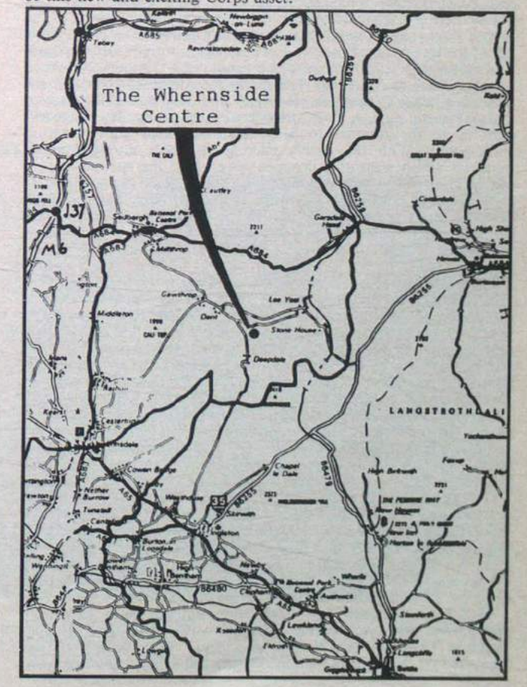
The Whernside estate includes a self-catering facility for up to twelve people. The Oliver Statham Memorial Bunkhouse, as it is known, was built in memory of a local, pioneering cave diver. It is completely self contained and is ideal for groups having their own equipment and means of instruction or supervision who are looking for a base in outstanding adventurous training country from which to operate. A further similar facility in the grounds with the potential for accommodating up to six people is earmarked for development in 1990. When completed it will make a wonderful 'holiday let' for families seeking a break amidst the unique and tranquil beauty of the Dales.

The Whernside Centre is being run on the basis of no cost to the Corps. The charges which have been set for Service men and women are based soley on running costs plus a small element for investment in improved equipment and facilities in general. The result is a package of accommodation and training which is available at a fraction of the cost normally associated with similar facilities elsewhere. For example, from 1 January 1990 the daily cost to a member of the Corps taking full board and instruction in any, or all, of the pursuits available at the Whernside Centre will be £7.30. With food and accommodation refund added to Unit and other adventurous training grants to provide a subsidy, the single soldier can enjoy training which is second to none for as little a personal contribution as £2.00 per day.

Since the Centre became operational there has been a flood of applications to take advantage of the facilities on offer. Many have been from outside the Corps but have only been accepted where there was no conflicting demand from a Royal Signals source. Priority for booking the Whernside Centre is with Royal Signals Regular, TA, and sponsored Units but early applications are required if disappointment is to be avoided. Applications are accepted from any Service or Service-sponsored Unit or Department, subject to priority and availability. Such organisations as the UOTC, CCF, ACF and Welbeck College are encouraged to take advantage of the facilities at Whernside and to see for themselves the quality of life enjoyed by members of the Corps.

For the first time in its history Royal Signals has a permanent, dedicated facility offering training which is universally recognised as one of the best aids to the development of team spirit, individual character and leadership skills. At the very least, every young entrant to the Corps passing through the Training Group will now experience the thrill and enjoyment which only adventurous training can give and, hopefully, will be sufficiently stimulated to want to make the most of this aspect of Service life throughout his, or her, career with the Corps.

For reasons which include difficulties with planning, the provision of qualified instruction and supervision, and cost, this type and quality of training has not hitherto been as widely available as one might have wished. The Whernside Centre means that such obstacles need no longer stand between dream and reality—a simple telephone call will secure a place in this outstanding facility and the extremely professional and popular programme of training it provides. Contact the Training Adjutant; 11 Sig Regt for further details—telephone Catterick Military 3706. Don't delay, be sure of securing your share of this new and exciting Corps asset.



— From our "In" Tray —

THE UNIVERSAL 500

Report by Capt G. M. Lewis-Taylor

'A hard race in the soft south' was what the organisers dubbed the new arduous sailing and running event, the Universal 500. Similar in concept to the Three Peaks Yacht Race, this event included over 500 miles sailing and 80 miles running in just over four days. An Army team built around Corps sailors and runners sailed the ASA yacht *Redcoat* to second place in the Monohull Division, and 4th overall, from 15 starters. The runners surpassed themselves by winning the Royal Marines Endurance Course Section, and third fastest total running time for the race, behind two groups of professional fell-runners.

The fleet enjoyed a blustery northerly force 6-7 as it left the Hamble, through the Needles and out towards Salcombe. For **Cpl Nick Withers** that leg was the longest 15 hours he can ever remember; his evening meal, lasagne, managed to find its way into most parts of the yacht! Worse for wear, he and **Capt Nick Bateson** were quickly despatched by rubber dinghy to begin the 20 mile run to Dartmouth. Having overtaken two other pairs of runners en route, the 'two **Nicks**' appeared to be in remarkably good shape on arrival at Dartmouth. The speed of the yacht and runners had been so much faster than expected that the Shore Party had not made contact at this stage! A short passage to Lympstone afforded all concerned a short respite before the endurance course section in daylight the next morning.

Three runners from each yacht were required to complete the endurance course which consisted of water-filled underground tunnels and gullies oozing black mud, preceded and followed by four miles of road running. With Royal Marines runners from the Queen Anne's Battery Catamaran and experienced Three Peaks fell runners from the *Karrimor* sponsored by Barracuda 45 there was no lack of competition. However the *Redcoat* team consisting **SSgt Jack Goodwin APTC, Capt Nick Bateson** and **Cpl Nick Withers** came to within 40 secs of the *Karrimor* team (which started 3 minutes earlier), and won the race in 66 mins.

As the runners returned to the Exe estuary, the tide was at full ebb and *Redcoat* was in danger of going aground even in the main channel. After a sprint across the mud flats and frantic rowing of the rubber dinghy, a successful escape was made and *Redcoat* led the fleet out of the estuary. Light and flukey conditions initially were replaced by a moderate westerly breeze which produced a glorious sun-bathed spinaker reach to Alderney. Here it was the combined efforts of the helmsmen, **Capt Graham Lewis-Taylor** and **Maj Bob Hill** that kept *Redcoat* in the race. A close struggle with the Sigma 38, *Universal*, right up to the entrance to Braye Harbour, kept both crews on tenderhooks. With the yachts making 10 knots at night under spinakers which were only dropped once inside the harbour—there was no place for the faint-hearted! *Redcoat* squeezed in just ahead of her rival, and **SSgt Jack Goodwin** and **Capt Nick Bateson** went ashore. Neither of them had been to the island before, so 10 miles night orienteering on Alderney was quite a challenge. Two hours of 'wandering' found them back at the yacht for the next Channel crossing.

The leg to Fowey was a strategic success for the crew of *Redcoat*. Whilst most of the fleet sailed north, we tacked westwards towards the windshift expected following the passing of a front. After a couple of hours the wind became more southerly on cue and lifted us to Fowey on one long port tack. Amazingly we gained six hours over a yacht that had left Alderney at the same time and made the fastest passage time. The runners then embarked on the longest run—30 miles of coastal path, at night! Five hours and 40 minutes later the two **Nicks** were very nearly 'nicked'. On approaching Cawsand, they were hastily pursued by the local Police. It transpired they ran past a house which had just been burgled and immediately became prime suspects. After intensive questioning the Police finally realised the runners were in no fit state to commit a crime and released them to continue the race.

Unfortunately the arrival of the runners coincided with a calm descending over Plymouth Sound. However we were well prepared for this eventuality. Two 12ft rowing eight oars, from the Christchurch Rowing Club, were strapped to guardrail stanchions either side of the cockpit, and the rowing began. One hour and two aching bodies later the breeze filled in from the south-west and the crew enjoyed a 'relaxing' 17 hour broad reach to Yarmouth.

SSgt Jack Goodwin and **Capt Nick Bateson** were noticeably unimpressed with yet another night run—this time 10 miles over Tennison Down to the Needles and back. They were even less impressed on their return to find that the rest of the crew had spent their time in 'The George' sinking a swift half or two.

Capt Bateson slept through the final leg to Hamble and only woke to sign the race declaration form after the finish. No one blamed him—he had just run the equivalent of three marathons in as many days. Mention should also be made of **Capt Nigel Montague RE** who navigated the whole way, using the latest Decca 5 equipment.

The race had been an outstanding success for **John Harding**, whose company Universal Shipyards organised the event. It also engendered mutual respect between sailors and runners who became so dependent on each other to do well. Certainly the crew of *Redcoat* are 'fired up' to enter the Three Peaks Race next year if a suitable yacht can be found. The Royal Signals Yacht Club and 30 Sig Regt generously sponsored the team.

EXERCISE ANNAPURNA EXPLORER

A Brief Exposé
by 2Lt P. S. Wilkinson, University of London Officers Cadet Training Corps

The aim of our six week foray into Nepal, during July and August, was 'to circumnavigate The Annapurna Himal of Western Nepal.'

The expedition was a joint ULOTC/Imperial College (London) one, consisting of: **2Lt Dave Southall RE, JUO Spencer Mannings, W/OCdt Liz Greenstreet, Ms Joanne Chamberlain** and me.

Financial sponsorship was provided by The Royal Signals, UKLF and The Imperial College Exploration Board. Medical aid, in the form of first aid training and various medicaments, was provided by The Royal Geographical Society and numerous major pharmaceutical companies.

As the sole member of the advance party (arriving in Nepal via Hong Kong), I met the rest of the group at Kathmandu International Airport on 17 July; whilst waiting in the arrivals lounge, it soon became apparent that there was a problem, as the rest of the passengers from the flight had all passed through immigration, and still there was no sign of the group. When, eventually, the group did appear, they were minus two rucksacs.

This unexpected turn of events caused a delay to our schedule. When three days later, a rucksac arrived in Kathmandu—with compensation, we felt confident that it wouldn't be long before the other rucksac would be in our possession.

A further two days wait proved fruitless and we eventually decided to start the trek; we were by this time only five days behind schedule.

The first leg of the trek was from Pokhara to Jomsom; the ground was ascending and consisted of open, arid plains, tortuous mountain tracks and lush, green leech-infested undergrowth.

As we were in Nepal during the monsoon season, tourists were scarce; the majority of people passed on the trail were Nepalese—usually porters carrying Coca Cola to guest houses difficult to reach other than by foot.

En route to Tatopani, a village with hot springs, we had the unusual experience of using a Nepalese-built bridge. This remarkable feat of engineering consisted of a metal cage, connected to a metal rope via a pulley. The cage, complete with passengers, was pulled over the river by two crews of locals pulling on ropes attached to the cage. After a rather interesting ride, we arrived in Tatopani to discover that the springs were too hot to bathe in!

After leaving Tatopani, I managed to sprain my ankle whilst crossing a river. The remainder of the journey to Jomsom was spent travelling in style on horseback—much to the chagrin of the rest of the group!

After five days rest, my ankle was well enough to enable the group to attempt The Thorong La mountain pass at 17,780ft. The crossing went well until **Dave** started to exhibit signs of altitude sickness (loss of co-ordination, breathlessness, headache etc.)

We were just in the awkward situation of deciding who should descend the mountain with **Dave**, (and how we should split up the available funds), when out of the blue, two Tibetan horsemen appeared. After much gesticulation, we managed to indicate the nature of the problem, and, a short while later, **Dave** could be seen, tied securely to the back of a horse, riding into the sunset.

A mere two hours later, the rest of the group (and **Dave**'s kit) managed to gain the summit; three hours later we were joyously reunited with our leader.

After a steep descent, we saw the bedraggled figure of **Dave** awaiting us at the first guest house we came to; also there were the two Tibetans waiting patiently for recompense for their labours!

The difficult part of the trek now over and **Dave** having recovered with the drop in altitude, we made good time via Manang to Dumre; from Dumre, we took a 72km, seven hour bus journey back to Pokhara, most of the journey was spent sharing the roof rack with baskets of bananas, holding on for dear life, as the bus negotiated the treacherous Nepalese roads!—the trek finished, it was now time to party!

With hindsight, I can say unequivocally, that the expedition was enjoyable, and I would recommend everyone to participate in similar adventurous training expeditions.

1989 RMP AND CITY OF CHICHESTER MARCHES

The 'British Army Team Award' was won by 8 Sig Regt team. The driving force behind this success was **Sgt Terry Carter**, a veteran of the Nijmegen Marches. It was he, who persuaded and cajoled some other permanent staff members to enter for this international event. Teams came from as far afield as Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Holland, Italy and the USA, soldiers, sailors, airmen, policemen, policewomen and civilians of all ages, shapes and sizes.

Capt Shelagh MacLeod was coerced into leading the team on the day she arrived in the Regiment. Other cadre members were **Sgt Geordie Maughan, Cpls Frey Romain, Jonno Blood** and **Sig 'Arthur' Daly**. The rest of the team was made up of extremely enthusiastic young trainees, WRAC Tele Ops (Data) and R Signals Dvr Elecs. Even a gruelling eight hour bus journey could not subdue their infectious high spirits, they sang all the way down. Their marching songs were to be a major contribution to their success in winning an award.

On completion of a arduous 25km in very hot and dusty conditions up and down the beautiful Sussex Downs, the team changed to take part in the two and a half mile long full dress parade through the street of the lovely city of Chichester. After all this we enjoyed the hospitality of **Lt Col Phil** and **Mrs Sue Spooner** who not only kindly fed us but let us drink them out of house and home as well. It is worthy of note that **Lt Col Spooner** completed the 45km course in 4 hrs 51 mins.

OPERATION RALEIGH

Operation Raleigh Expedition to Queensland—August-November 1989
With Col John Blashford Snell, looking out over the Great Barrier Reef on Operation Raleigh, is solicitor Capt Vicki Hutchinson (28) of Hammersmith. Vicki, who finds her TA training with 31 Sig Regt (V) is proving valuable in the outback, says 'This is an experience of a life time'. She is leading the Operation Raleigh conservation project in the Far North Queensland rain forest

LS & GS PRESENTATION

SSgt Angie Warnes was presented with her LS & GC medal at a ceremony held at the WRAC Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, Krefeld on 17 October 1989
The former Commander 4 Sig Gp, Col R. D. K. Thompson made the presentation

BYE BYE BILLY

At the end of August 7 Sig Regt said goodbye to their QM(A) **Capt Billy Miles** and his wife **Kay. Billy** is known throughout the Corps for his sporting prowess we felt that we couldn't let him go without acknowledging his achievements while serving with the Regiment.

BAOR 10 Mile Road Race	Winter (Veteran)
Royal Signals Cross Country	Winner (Veteran)
Royal Signals BAOR Tennis Singles	Champion
Royal Signals UK Tennis Singles	Champion
4th Division Tennis Singles	Champion
4th Division Tennis Doubles	Champion
Royal Signals Squash	Winner (Over 35)

In addition he captained the Inter Division Tennis Championships and was a member of the Champion Inter Corps Squash team. For these outstanding achievements and for his consistent and enthusiastic support he was awarded the following in the 1988/89 season:-

Corps Colours	Squash
BAOR Colours	Tennis
Div Colours	Tennis
Div Colours	Cross Country
Regimental Colours	Cross Country, Tennis and Squash

With a sports complex almost at the entrance to his new home at the Bristol TA we can only guess at his activities next year. We wish **Billy** and **Kay** all the best in their new post.

(We add our congratulations to **Capt Miles** on his outstanding record of achievement.)

Capt Miles checking his trophies against the inventory

MERSEYSIDE ARMY CADETS

For their Annual 12 day Camp this year Merseyside Army Cadet Force went to Culltybraggen Army Training Camp, set in the breathtaking heart of Perthshire, Scotland.

The Camp has changed very little since the last war when it was a prisoner-of-war camp.

Nearly 400 Army Cadets, 30 of them girls, from all over Merseyside, St Helens and the Wirral, attended the 12 day Camp, and during the period there was a full programme of activities for them ranging from sports to assault course, abseiling, first aid, drill and turnout, an expedition, a signal course, map and compass, skill-at-arms, building and sailing rafts, assault boats, an exercise and canoeing on beautiful Loch Earn.

A total of 12 VIP's made special visits to the Camp to watch the Army Cadets involved in the various activities, and three of these were **Brig C. T. Garton**, Merseyside Garrison Commander, **Brig I. R. D. Shapter**, Secretary North West TA and VR Association and **Col W. M. S. Jeffery**, Honorary Colonel Merseyside ACF.

The Garrison Commander stops to talk to two of the girl cadets who have been canoeing, Debbie Page and Ann Smith, (with Commandant, their Company Commander on right, Maj Roland Parry, and Garrison Adjutant in background)

Col Graeme Davidson, the Merseyside ACF Commandant stated 'We were at this same Camp two years ago, and very lucky to get it allocated so soon once more, as it has excellent facilities for our very ambitious 12 day programme, that also gave the cadets the opportunity to see some of the beauty of Scotland. They also had some free time when the Senior Cadets visited the Edinburgh Tattoo and the remainder visited Stirling on their day off. When we were here last time, we had a very good relationship with some of the local people, and this time it was arranged by them that each day small parties of cadets could try their hand at trout fishing, which proved very popular and a surprise to one cadet who caught a large pike. In return, as part of their good citizenship training, a party of cadet volunteers cleaned the local War Memorial at Lochearnhead. As I went around the cadet activities over the days at Camp, it was obvious that the cadets were enjoying the programme of events, although heavy rain almost spoilt it on some of the days, and the cadets can be very proud of the high standard that they set themselves, and the excellent results that were achieved by all of them.'

DAVID GREENBROOK

David Greenbrook retired on 31 October 1989 on the completion of 21 years as the Administrative Officer of the Royal Signals Association at Regimental Headquarters. Add to this his 26 years as a Regular and you have a complete and dedicated member of the Corps family. There will be few in the Corps who will not have known **David** and he has contributed unselfishly towards the well being of the Corps at large for a very long period. It was a sad day when he left Regimental Headquarters, an end of an era, and he will be sorely missed. We will of course always look forward to seeing him at the Association Reunions which would not be the same without him. The Corps family will I am sure wish **David** and his family the best of good fortune for the future with thanks for all that he has done for so many.

David Greenbrook receiving a bronze statuette of 'Jimmy' from the Master of Signals on behalf of the members of the Association during the Catterick Reunion

CORPS COLOURS 1988/89 SEASON

Hockey
SSgt (YofS) K. Roach — Royal School of Artillery
Maj P. G. F. Wilkin — AA Coll Harrogate

Sailing
Cpl D. Avey-Hebditch — 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt S. J. P. Spiers — RMCS Shrivenham
LCpl S. Richardson — 243 Sig Sqn
LCpl P. Downie — School of Signals
Sgt D. Hassell — School of Signals

Rugby
LCpl S. Bartliff — 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt P. Stephenson — 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt M. Walker — 249 Sig Sqn

Football
Sgt C. Moye — 13 Sig Regt
LCpl A. Robinson — School of Signals

HONORARY CORPS COLOURS AWARDED
Sailing
Cpl C. Murby — School of Signals
Sgt A. J. Morgan — School of Signals
Maj J. Barrett MBE — School of Signals

Rugby
Lt Col M. J. Bowen — School of Signals

Football
Brig T. H. Wheawell — Signals Directorate

— Movements —

WOs and SNCOs

OCTOBER 1989

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (FofS) M. McDonald	7 Sig Regt
AWO1 G. Armstrong	36 CTT (Perth)
AWO1 T. Ferry	31 Sig Regt (V)
AWO1 (FofS) R. P. Grist	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
AWO1 W. Heelan	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
AWO1 (FofS) M. G. E. Howells	632 Sig Tp
AWO1 J. W. Mackay	8 Sig Regt
AWO1 (YofS) S. J. McMahon	13 Sig Regt
WO2 R. P. Alcum	13 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) B. D. Colvin	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 J. J. Cullen	32 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 G. L. Jackson	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 J. P. McCafferty	249 Sig Sqn
WO2 (FofS) J. Naylor	BDLS Australia
WO2 R. A. Rack	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
AWO2 R. Bragg	JCUFI
AWO2 A. Hayes	9 Sig Regt
AWO2 M. Hopper	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO2 N. D. Jameson	Glasgow and Strathclyde UOTC
AWO2 (YofS) S. A. McElreavey	71 Sig Regt (V)
AWO2 (FofS) D. L. B. Pickard	JCUFI
AWO2 (FofS) F. S. Roberts	HQ AFCENT
AWO2 R. F. Stonier	22 Sig Regt
SSgt I. D. Blacklaw	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt S. P. Bush	7 Sig Regt
SSgt G. Butler	COD Donnington
SSgt C. Clark	SHAPE Sig Gp
SSgt R. A. Cooper	School of Signals
SSgt R. Farmer	13 Sig Regt
SSgt M. W. Halford	254 Sig Sqn
SSgt M. A. Herbison	22 Sig Regt
SSgt M. J. Leighfield	HQ 4 Sig Gp
SSgt D. J. Mullen	21 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) P. D. Murton	RSA and Larkhill Garrison
SSgt N. R. Phillips	259 Sig Sqn
SSgt W. E. Smith	9 Sig Regt
SSgt P. Taylor	Northag Air Support Radio Sqn
ASSgt S. A. Read	34 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt S. Rook	249 Sig Sqn
ASSgt J. C. Wooley	HQ Northag Sig Sp Gp
Sgt N. Allan	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt R. M. Auton	9 Sig Regt
Sgt S. R. Bungay	RAF Mount Pleasant
Sgt P. E. Childs	36 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt D. M. A. Doody	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. Downie	8 Sig Regt
Sgt P. A. Ellis	244 Sig Sqn
Sgt I. Flooks	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt R. D. Goode	249 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Jenkins	School of Signals
Sgt S. Johnson	Rocchan Balado Bridge
Sgt S. C. Morrin	28 Sig Regt
Sgt J. C. Payne	32 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt D. R. Preston	ACIO Canterbury
Sgt J. W. Prowse	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. F. Rennie	SHAPE ACE Commsec
Sgt B. V. Roberts	SHAPE Sig Sqn
Sgt A. Suttie	22 Sig Regt
Sgt H. Swift	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt P. A. Szczesiak	ACIO Edinburgh
Sgt T. P. Taylor	608 Sig Tp
Sgt K. Thurling	16 Sig Regt
Sgt I. Unsworth	22 Sig Regt
Sgt A. D. Ward	ACIO Shrewsbury
Sgt L. M. B. Watkins	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt G. H. Young	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt G. J. Chapman	21 Sig Regt
ASgt M. E. Evans	1 R Anglian
ASgt P. J. Green	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASgt P. C. Headlands	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASgt I. C. Heward	31 Sig Regt (V)
ASgt J. N. Nevill	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASgt J. H. Peat	16 Sig Regt
ASgt R. A. Robertson	JCUFI
ASgt A. Simpson	JSSU
ASgt S. R. Webb	2 Fd Regt RA

NOVEMBER 1989

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
AWO1 (FofS) J. D. Gorse	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO1 (YofS) S. J. Whytock	233 Sig Sqn
AWO1 (YofS) M. J. E. Wood	HQ AFCENT
WO2 (YofS) J. H. Chilcott	32 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 (YofS) P. A. Forryan	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 (YofS) R. W. Marshall	Northag Air Sp Radio Sqn
WO2 G. S. Shelley	36 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 (FofS) K. Thompson	AA Coll Harrogate
AWO2 (YofS) N. S. Molyneux	22 Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) K. E. Roach	22 Sig Regt
SSgt J. P. Beecham	11 Sig Regt
SSgt R. C. Bray	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
SSgt I. W. Brereton	30 Sig Regt
SSgt N. R. Churcher	16 Sig Regt
SSgt W. H. Dyson	35 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt D. J. Faherty	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
SSgt K. M. Fitzpatrick	21 Sig Regt
SSgt N. J. Flintham	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt T. Hague	21 Sig Regt
SSgt C. W. Skelton	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASSgt W. T. Laurie	34 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt J. Richards	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt K. Allen	251 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. A. Anderson	1 QLR
Sgt W. M. Barnett	14 Sig Regt
Sgt S. H. Beattie	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt R. Brown	QG Sig Regt
Sgt A. T. W. Carmichael	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt M. Cole	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt M. S. Gibbons	School of Signals
Sgt P. Griffiths	243 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. Isles	16 Sig Regt
Sgt A. A. M. Kemp	21 Sig Regt
Sgt S. D. Lee	30 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Lynch	3 Queens
Sgt J. Marsh	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt J. McLachlan	School of Signals
Sgt K. E. Orme	71 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt N. R. Parkinson	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. J. Ruddock	13 Sig Regt
Sgt N. C. Shaw	Rocchan Balado Bridge
Sgt R. A. Snow	31 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt C. A. Swann	22 Sig Regt
Sgt I. G. Tepielow	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt A. Zammit	8 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Anwyll	Ammo Inspec RAOC
ASgt I. R. Druce	244 Sig Sqn
ASgt J. H. Eddowes	7 Sig Regt
ASgt M. C. Fisher	7 Sig Regt
ASgt A. Hamilton	11 Sig Regt
ASgt K. E. Lanton	3 RRF
ASgt P. Marshall	7 Sig Regt
ASgt P. D. Matthews	AA Coll Harrogate
ASgt P. Merrill	7 RHA
ASgt C. W. Naylor	School of Signals
ASgt R. J. Rice	33 Sig Regt (V)
ASgt W. Weston	640 Sig Tp

MOVING?

Have you told RHQ? Your *Wire* will be sent to your old address unless you tell us of a change.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during September 1989:-

HQ Training Group Royal Signals	£316.00
A. J. Dixon	£200.00
Maj R. H. Blizzard	£ 35.00
In memory of Sig Kilpatrick	£ 10.00
Misc	£ 13.00
	£574.00

The following donations were gatefully received during October 1989:-

PRI 21 Sig Regt	£1,611.23
7 Sig Regt	£1,314.46
Lt R. N. Cary	£ 75.00
4 Coy: 2nd Air Formation Signals Reunion	£ 30.00
J. C. Green	£ 25.00
Glossop and District Royal Signals Old Comrades Association	£ 25.00
In memory of S. A. C. Jackson	£ 10.00
J. Gatehouse	£ 10.00
J. M. Cairnes	£ 10.00
30 Sig Regt	£ 10.00
In memory of Cpl S. Allen	£ 10.00
J. Neville	£ 5.00
H. A. Simons	£ 4.00
	£3,139.69

NOTICES

DEATHS

Boyle—Maj J. Boyle—died 21 September 1989.
Collins—Col J. J. Collins MC TD—served 1936-59—died 21 October 1989.
Crowe-Brig J. G. Crowe—served 1949-57—died 4 November 1989.
Cullum—Maj D. H. Cullum—died 21 June 1989.
Dodd—Maj M. Dodd TD—served 1936-1953—died 25 October 1989.
Duke—Mrs R. Duke, wife of Lt Col P. A. Duke OBE—died 23 September 1989.
Gethin—Capt P. L. Gethin Royal Signals (V)— died 8 August 1989.
Hay—Lt Col N. M. Hay MBE—served 1929-56—died 22 September 1989.
Hoy—Mrs P. M. Hoy, widow of Capt C. L. Hoy—died 22 September 1989.
Melmore—Capt L. M. Melmore—died 13 March 1989.
Panton—Col J. H. E. Panton OBE—served 1929-58—died 27 September 1989.
Robins—ex WO2 J. L. N. Robins—served 1931-54—died 8 october 1989.
Robinson—ex RQMS R. S. Robinson—served 1920-38—died 19 September 1989.
Seys-Philips—Col M. H. Seys-Philips TD DL—served TA1946-67—died 5 November 1989.
Warren—Brig D. E. Warren—served 1939-75—died 13 November 1989.
Yule—Lt Col R. C. Yule OBE—served 1929-52—died 29 September 1989.

OBITUARIES

Aldred—Pte J. M. Aldred. It is with very much regret that 238 Sig Sqn announce the tragic death of **Jane Aldred** during a motorcycle race at Snetterton Park, Norfolk on 21 October.

Jane joined the WRAC as a driver on an 'S' type one year engagement from the TA and was posted to 238 Sig Sqn in the beginning of July 1989. During her time with the Squadron, she became the first female Signals despatch rider, often on duty at Buckingham Palace. **Jane** had a great personality and character and had made many friends quickly. She will be sadly missed by all members of the Squadron.

Brose—Frau Ursula Brose BEM—25 April 1919—7November 1989—It is with great regret that 7 Sig Regt announces the death of **Frau Ursula Brose** on 7 November 1989.

Frau Brose will be well known to members of the Corps. She gave many years service to 7 Sig Regt first in the Regimental MT, and then as the Regimental Civil Labour Clerk. That simple statement cannot adequately reflect what **Frau Brose** did for the Regiment throughout her many years service.

Since her retirement **Frau Brose** had become housebound and had suffered the trauma of two hip replacement operations. Despite all this she remained very cheerful, and though in considerable pain, she never once complained or alluded to her problems to her many visitors. She always retained her interest in the Regiment—'her Beloved Regiment' as she called it, and to the end avidly scanned local papers and journals for details of what was happening in the Regiment.

In recognition of her many years devoted service to 7 Sig Regt **Frau Brose** was awarded the British Empire Medal in October 1980.

Frau Brose's funeral was held in Herford on 13 November 1989. The family wished that no flowers were sent, but requested that donations be sent in her memory to the German Childrens' Cancer Charity. Donations may be sent in sterling or Deutsch Marks to the PRI 7 Sig Regt, and will be acknowledged and sent on to the charity from there.

'Leg' alles still in Gottes Hände,
das Glück, den Schmer', die Stunde und das Ende.'

Clark—Sig H. A. Clark. It is with much sadness that we report the death of **Howie Clark** who was killed in a traffic accident on Saturday, 12 August 1989. **Howie** joined 11 Sig Regt as a Junior Signalman in September 1986 and completed his training in March 1988. He was posted to 7 Sig Regt where he was employed as a Systems Technican in a 1 (BR) Corps HQ node. **Howie** was a cheerful and enthusiastic soldier and a popular member of his Squadron as well as being a very competent tradesman. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family in Carlisle.

Froggett—SSgt K. A. Froggett. Kevin's untimely death on 16 September 1989 has deprived those who served with him of a very good and well respected friend. Very many members of the Corps attended his funeral in Somercotes.

WO1 (YofS) Tony Reynolds paid the following tribute to **Kevin** at the service: 'I first met **Kevin** in 1970 when he entered the Army Apprentice College Harrogate as part of intake 70C, which at the time was the largest intake in the College's history. Even among so many young men **Kevin** stood out, showing maturity and commonsense beyond his years. Those of us in the Services live the life of a gypsy never staying long in one place. A lot of his career was spent in Germany. One tour was spent at the Trade Training Regiment Catterick and **Kevin** used his strong personality, character and knowledge of trade to ensure his students left the course with high standards. He was very much the professional soldier. **Kevin** loved Army life along with Nottingham Forest Football Team. He was proud of his Corps and he was always willing to help others.

Our hearts go out to **Serena, Emma, Liam, Jonathan, Michael, Kevin**'s parents and family in their sad loss. We have all lost a true friend who gave us all an example of how to live life.

Henley—ex SSgt D. E. C. Henley—It is with regret that we report the death of **'Don Henley'** which occurred on 30 August. **Don** served in the Corps from 1963-1986. He saw service in BAOR, Singapore and was in 30 Sig Regt from 1982 until he left the army. We extend our sympathy to his widow and family.

Kimber—ex Sgt R. G. Kimber. It is with deep regret that Guernsey Branch record the death of **Bob Kimber**, who served in the Corps from 1945-1948 and was an active and valued member of the Branch and the community. The Branch were represented at the funeral. Our thoughts and sympathy go out to **Bob**'s widow, **Freda**.

Leech—Maj A. C. Leech TD—It is with very much regret that 33 Sig Regt (V) records the death of **Maj Adrian Leech** on 2 August 1989 aged 51 years, after a long illness.

At the age of 16 he became a boy bandsman in the TA Band of 7 Cheshire Regt TA. From 1955 to 1957 he did his National Service in the Cheshire Regt serving a tour with the band in Berlin. In 1965 he enlisted as a potential officer in 42 Sig Regt TA which became 33 Sig Regt (V) on the reorganisation in 1967. He was commissioned in 1969 and held the post of OC Comcen Tp 42 Sig Sqn (V) as both a Lieutenant and Captain. In 1975 he became Squadron 2IC until 1977 when he was promoted Major and took command of 42 Sig Sqn (V). In 1981 he was appointed Regimental 2IC a post he held until 1987 when he had to resign due to illness.

In a 32 year career with British Telecom he was involved in a number of significant changes.

Adrian was a man who possessed a good sense of humour, and was completely unflappable irrespective of the situation. His technical expertise and drive and initiative contributed in no small measure to the success of the Regiment. He was an officer who earned the greatest respect from all those with whom he came into contact. Anyone who served with him can look back at the times together with both pride and affection. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, **June** and his two sons **Andrew** and **Robin**.

McGrory—Sig N. I. McGrory—it is with deep regret that we report the sudden and tragic death of **Nixon** during Ex Flying Key on 29 September 1989, whilst serving with 211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn. **'Mac'** as he was known in the Squadron, enlisted at Glasgow on 28 August 1985. He qualified as a Telecommunications Operator (Radio Relay) at 8 Sig Regt in August 1986. He was posted to 211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn in October 1986 and remained with the Squadron, with the exception of a short attachment to BATUS, until his death. **Mac** was a popular and hard working young man who was always cheerful. He was very fit and had undertaken courses in rock climbing and skiing. He was due to undertake a French Commando Course in the near future and had boxed for the Squadron in the BAOR Minor Unit Novices Boxing Finals where he put up a spirited performance. **Mac** was about to be promoted and he would have made a strong and talented young JNCO who will be greatly missed. All ranks of 211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn extend their deepest sympathy to his family.

Tighe—Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe CB MBE. It is with deep regret that we have to report the death of **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe CB MBE** on 23 October 1989.

Gen Tony had the unusual distinction of serving as the head of two different Corps being successively Inspector of the Intelligence Corps and Signal Officer-in-Chief.

His first wife died in 1972. He is survived by his second wife **Princine**, and by two sons of his first marriage.

A Memorial and Thanksgiving Service for **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe CB MBE** will be held in the Chapel, Christs' Hospital, Horsham, West Sussex on Sunday 14 January 1990 at 1500 hrs.

Toole—ex WO1 F. T. (Frederick Thomas) Toole. It is with regret that we record the death of WO1 Toole on 27 October after a short illness. He served in the Corps from 1956-78 and his last posting was as RSM at 32 Sig Regt(V). A life member of the Association and a member of North London Branch. We offer sincere sympathy to his widow, **Elizabeth**, and to his children, **Michael, Christine** and **Peter** and to their families.

FOR SALE

MESS DRESS

Three piece Royal Signals Sergeants' Mess Dress. To fit 40in chest, 5ft 6in-5ft 7in in height. In very good condition. Price £55 ono. Contact **WO1 (FofS) Kirkwood** on Larkhill Mil Extn 5548 or (0980) 52239 after duty hours.

LANCER K1 MARATHON RACING CANOE

A well used fibre glass version of the above is available free to any unit wishing to collect from Bulford. Although not in pristine condition it may be a useful addition to a unit's fleet. Contact QM 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)), Bulford Mil 2284.

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Two Way Radio communications business in South West. Expanding and profitable, Offers around £150,000. Apply in writing to **Box No 1, CSP Ltd, P O Box 4, Farnborough, Hants GU14 7LR.** Service personnel with suitable qualifications only, please state.

PERSONAL

Capt (Retd) T. Guest tells us that ex **WO2 'Dusty' Millar** who served in the Corps from 1961-83 is now serving as a Captain with the Jamaican Defence force. They have recently visited the UK on an exchange visit with 1 Bn Cheshire Regt. **Dusty** and **Grace** will be pleased to hear from any of their friends in the Corps. Their address is: **Capt** and **Mrs O. S. Millar**, PO Box 150, Red Hills Post Office, Golden Acres, St Andrew, Jamaica, West Indies.

'Ex Royal Signals **Cpl Phillips**, driver of General Stockwell's Command Saracen during the 1956 Suez operation. The Royal Signals Museum project planning staff wish to contact the above. Any information to help locate **Cpl Phillips** would be gratefully received. Tel: Museum Curator, Blandford (0258) 452581 Ext: 2248'.

GLIDING/HANG GLIDING

Grants are available to R Signals Glider Pilots to offset the full cost of gliding for 1989.

Pilots wishing to claim are to contact, as soon as possible, **Maj A. O. Harkins**, Corps Gliding Secretary, 243 Sig Sqn, Ward Barracks, Bulford Camp, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 9NA.

The following is required in support of pilots claims: Number, Rank, Name, Unit and Unit Address. Hours flown for 1989. Total hours flown to date. Number of launches for 1989. Total launches to date. Full flying costs for 1989. Badge flights gained and attempted. Any noteworthy flight. Details of competitions and expeditions. A resumé of year's flying activity.

CORPS DATES

A CAROL SERVICE AT ST STEPHEN WITH ST JOHN, ROCHESTER ROW, WESTMINSTER

An evening Service of Lessons and Carols, is to take place in the Parish Church at St Stephen with St John, Westminster, on Tuesday 19 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 ***in writing*** so that seats may be reserved and the refreshments ordered. Since the overall capacity of the Church is only 350, allocations will be made on a first come, first served, basis.

CORPS CAROL SERVICE

We shall be raising a choir to lead the singing at the Corps Carol Service, as we did last year. Sight-reading ability is highly desirable as there will be only one full reheasal on the afternoon preceding the Carol Service. Music will shortly be available, and choristers are asked

COMBINED SERVICES RUGBY TEAM v USSR NATIONAL XV

The above match will be played at Aldershot Military Stadium on Wednesday 13 December at 1800 hrs. This is a unique match, Tickets available from: **Cdr Merrick RN**, Ministry of Defence, Main Building, Ext: 7224; **Lt Cdr Brickwood RN**, Brickwood, Portsmouth Dockyard, Ext: 24193; **Maj Murray**, Aldershot Military, Ext: 3573 and **Wg Cdr Mulvenney** RAF Abingdon, Ext: 641.

Maximum support is sought for this event.

OPERATION RALEIGH

Serving or retired, Regular or TA Officers, Warrant Officers or NCO's are needed as Staff on expeditions in Australia, Botswana, Chilean Patagonia and Zimbabwe during 1990. In 1991 expeditions are likely to be in Chile, Malaysia, Pakistan and Guyana.

Those who feel they are reasonably fit (including ROs who can run to catch a bus), have boundless patience, like roughing it in the wild, enjoy directing enthusiastic young people in simple community tasks or adventorous projects—and are themselves young at heart, should find it an interesting and rewarding three months.

Staff are asked to pay their air fare plus cost of food and insurance cover at approximately £6.00 per day. Regular Servicemen have to be approved as on duty in accordance with DCI J 164/83. Food costs may be recovered by claiming CILOR. TA personnel may be awarded up to 90 man training days.

Those interested should write to: **Maj Peter Ormerod**, Operation Raleigh, Alpha Place, Flood Street, London SW3 5SZ or ring 01-351 7541 and ask for the Staff Selection Office who can advise them on what is available.

REUNIONS

ROYAL SIGNALS WEEK IN GUERNSEY

In recognition of the 70th Anniversary of the formation of the Corps next year the Guernsey Branch of the Royal Signals Association is planning to hold a Royal Signals Week in Guernsey beginning 7 May 1990 and would like as many members, wives and families as possible from UK Branches to join us. All travel and accommodation arrangements will be made through a local travel company at advantageous terms and sent to Branch secretaries. We ask them to send the names and addresses of those who will be coming to Guernsey. As an added attraction Wednesday 9 May next year the island will be celebrating the 45th Anniversary of their Liberation from German Occupion. Any queries—telephone: (0481) 45595.

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 Friday 15 December 1989—1200 hrs for 1230 hrs.

If you would like to attend this event at the Royal Aldershot Officers Club contact: **Lt Col D. Crookes OBE**, 110 Field Way, Aldershot, Hants GU11 4UL. The cost for each person attending will be £12.50.

3RD DIVISION SIGNALS REUNION CLUB

The 38th AGM and Luncheon will take place at the Victory (Services) Club, 63-79, Seymour Street, London W2 on Saturday 24 March 1990, from 1030 hrs to 1700 hrs. Lunch is at 1300 hrs. Ladies are invited. Past members of the 3rd Div Sig Regt are invited to join the club. We Need You! Details of the Reunion from: **Maj K. N. Smartt**, 'Imber', Millway Road, Andover, Hants SP10 3EU. Tel: (0264) 52297. Membership details from: **Maj D. J. Roberts**, 'Westmead', Park Avenue, Chorleywood, Herts WD3 DY. Tel: (0278) 3144.

HONG KONG STUDY DAY

A two day Study Day on 'The Fall and Occupation of Hong Kong 1941-1945' is being held in Hong Kong 18/19 September 1990. The Commander British Forces Hong Kong very much hopes that those who fought in the battle will be able to attend, touring the battlefields and contributing, if they wish, to presentations on what happened. **Col Oliver Lindsay** can provide more details. He can be contacted at The Cadet Training Centre, Frimley Park, Camberley, Surrey GU16 5HD.

GLIDING/HANG GLIDING

Grants are available to R Signals Glider Pilots to offset the full cost of gliding for 1989.

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The following is required in support of pilots claims: Number, Rank, Name, Unit and Unit Address. Hours flown for 1989. Total hours flown to date. Number of launches for 1989. Total launches to date. Full flying costs for 1989. Badge flights gained and attempted. Any noteworthy flight. Details of competitions and expeditions. A resumé of year's flying activity.

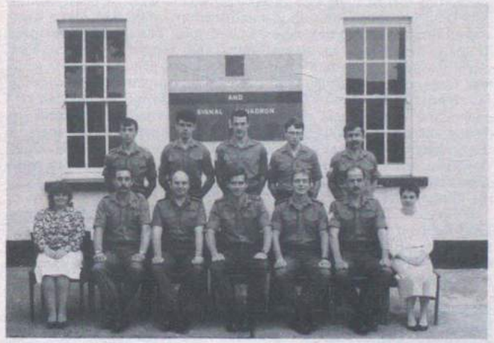
REPORT FROM ULSTER

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn BFPO 807

A busy time for the Squadron (so, tell us something new, they groan), but as usual, the Squadron with an extra sense of humour in its back pocket soldiers on manfully (womanfully?), coming up with the goods time and time again for the hard-pressed warriors of 8 Inf Bde whilst keeping eyes in the back of its head for the latest 'and for our next trick' from Comms Branch.

THE MANAGEMENT

OC	**Maj Jeremy Ellis**
2IC	**Capt Jake Thackray**
AO	**Capt Brian Williams REME**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) 'Dixie' Dean**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Ron Coburn**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) 'Noddy' Baugh**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) Bob Taylor**
MTWO	**WO2 (MTWO) Pete Mulvihill**
Ch Clk	**SSgt John O'Donnell**
OC Comms Tp	**Lt Emma Pascoe**
Comms Tp SSgt	**SSgt Gordon Hitchen**



HELLO AND GOODBYE

Hello to the approximately 65% of the Squadron strength who seem to have arrived since we last did this; we wish you the very best for your time in the Maiden City. Goodbye to the slightly larger number who left during the same period; enjoy yourselves in Civvy Street and don't forget to write. (Was it something we said?)

OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

Bags of stuff, actually, but unfortunately we can't tell you any of it because it's a secret. The only way to find out is to demand a preference posting to this Unit (but when you do get here don't ask the FofS).

Suffice it to say that as personalities change, so do concepts of operations, and we've all been kept on our toes providing an even greater level of flexibility than we thought possible a few short months ago. Our efforts have been strenuous, but the results satisfying. On a more humble scale, Rover Gp has been paroled from the confines of the Married Quarter sangars and the wrecking crew is back patrolling the mean streets—good news both for them and RPC Manning and Records (who can now look forward to having some soldiers left to post to BAOR at the end of their tours). Still, all work and no play makes Jack a pretty strong case for having a resident psychiatrist in the Province, so we have managed the odd jolly. Here they are in no particular order of precedence or enjoyment . . .

VIVE LA REVOLUTION!

(8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn do their bit for the Bicentennial thrash)

April in Paris.

The bright spring sunshine reflects a kaleidoscope of colour from the surface of the River Seine. Rooks circle and swoop over the soaring towers of Notre Dame, squawking merrily as they settle to the cool greenery of the Ile de la Cite. In Montmartre, philosophers and artists huddle, as they always have, to discuss emotion and its relation to life. From beyond the muted horns of the rush hour traffic, the traditional sounds of the Parisian morning may still be heard: "Ere we go, 'ere we go, 'ere we go'—Yes, the representatives from Derry have arrived—they're going to get some culture or they're going to die trying.

Capt Jake Thackray, Cpls George Farrah and **Wayne Freeman, LCpls Jim Gray** and **Andy Buckle** and **Sig 'Taff' James** and **Paul Marsden** decided that the 200th anniversary of the storming of the Bastille etc etc could only truly be celebrated in style if they were there to add their own brand of revolutionary ardour.

The trip had begun on the rainswept (as always) main square at Ebrington Barracks, with the Second-in-Command waving goodbye to the intrepid explorers as they drove out of camp in a much overloaded PRI minibus (no-one told them there are no duty frees between the Province and the Mainland). 'Thank God I'm flying as far as Heathrow,' he was heard to mutter as they careered in the general direction of Belfast. It takes more than just insanely bad driving to keep good men down, however, and next morning found the team barrelling down toward the south coast. A brief stopover to collect our interpreter (arranged by the Second-in-Command—whose in trouble if her boyfriend reads *The Wire*), and another to collect the Second-in-Command himself, and the last freedom bus out of nowhere city was Continent bound. As part of the orientation process, a number of fine wines were sampled (in extreme moderation) on the midnight ferry to Dunkerque. With only one small sip, **Wayne Freeman** gave a dazzling display of epicurean ability: 'I can say without a shadow of a doubt that this is definitely a red wine'—stunning. (Never mind **Wayne**, most people find £1.99 Liebfraumilch a real tester.) Down the autoroute with **Paul Marsden** at the wheel, time for a quick stopover just before the peripherique, and into the city itself; French driving methods proving no problem to veterans of the A29 to Dungannon.

A varied programme was planned (and to a certain degree followed). We saw all the sights you are supposed to see; The Eifel Tower ('No, I would go up it, honest, but it was built to last 10 years, right? Stands to reason it's going to fall down sometime—why take the risk?'), The Arc de Triomphe ('More work needed on those uppers, Mr Gendarme'), Versailles ('My dad's got a place just like this in Newcastle'), and even the treasures of The Louvre ('Who's that bird with the enigmatic smile then, Mister?'). More pleasures of the vine were sampled, and after much persuasion, snails were eaten—not to be repeated in the cookhouse please Master Chef. We finished our tour with a brief picnic in the grounds of the magnificent chateau at Chantilly, where hundreds of French schoolchildren were introduced to our enormous lack of footballing talent. We had a splendid time (to be repeated as soon as we get some more pocket money), and the French tourist board said they hadn't had such well-behaved English visitors since Agincourt. (Hmm, perhaps Rome's a better idea . .)

Paris One: The team next to obvious French landmark
(Left to right): Sig 'Taff' James, Cpls Wayne Freeman and George Farrah, LCpl Andy Buckle, Sig Paul Marsden, Capt Jake Thackray and our interpreter who wishes to remain nameless

EXERCISE IRON FIST (SQUADRON BATTLE CAMP) 89—WARCOP

The big trouble with engaging in any military training within the Province is that suddenly everyone becomes operationally vital; after half an hour or so at the range its extremely urgent that all there deploy back to Ebrington immediately. Not this time, said **WO1 (RSM) 'Dixie' Dean**, this time we're going to go to the last place on earth. And so Iron Fist was born.

The main aim was to prepare the Squadron for the switch to the SA80, which is, we are told, imminent (about as imminent as the turn of the century, say the cynics, but we live in hope). The first day was therefore spent familiarising with the weapon. At just about the time that the optimistic members of the Squadron were hoping to sample the wacky, zany nightlife of Cumbria, they were deployed into the 'boot unfriendly' environment of Merton Pike, and dispatched in the general direction of numerous orienteering markers, placed in the most inaccessible areas of the mountain by the DS; **WO2 (RQMS) Bob Taylor, SSgt Kev Bailey** and **Sgts 'Geordie' Tough, Rick Shepherd** and **Gerry Garnett**. The deployment was not without its pitfalls; **SSgt Kev Bailey**, in an attempt to move from A to B in a straight line, parked his Land Rover in a small puddle—a small puddle that reached up to the tailgate. He tried to pin the whole thing onto the vehicle commander, but as he happened to be the RSM this was not to be. (The whole area was immediately christened 'The Bailey Bog', which will mean something to Northern Ireland readers familiar with our Tech Staff Sergeants many inventions.)

The night passed without serious incident, bugouts came and went, and the morning found the sections combing the hillsides for the elusive markers (congratulations to Section 2 'Recon!', under the guidance of **Sgt Trevor Tilley** and **Cpl Shean Dewar**, for realising that marker four was in fact buried 60ft under the mountain—full marks for effort). The Second-in-Command impressed Section 4 mightily with his morale-boosting leadership, even more mightily with his announcement at 0430: 'Sack this lads, it's too dangerous, rest in this gully and get the brews on', and mightier still with his unerring ability to avoid dry ground at all times. Section 1 decided that the best way across the exercise area was in one straight line, which unfortunately left them 200m short of the NBC stand (in the vertical plane), and Section 3 were notable for having the only section commander **(Cpl 'Tommo' Thomas)** who not only volunteered to be the casualty in the stretcher race, but actually managed to fall asleep whilst being carried. Still, all finished in cheery good humour (am I fooling anyone?) and managed to remove the bogged-in Land Rover by hand.

The next three days were spent primarily on range work; the large variety of facilities at Warcop being used to full effect. Each range and concurrent activity was a competition in itself, scores adding to the exercise running total to decide the winning Section. Extreme aggression was displayed at the IBSR, equal amounts of hopefulness at the moving target range. The march and shoot showed that falling plate shooting is an activity best left to the pro's at Bisley, and the inordinately long obstacle course tested even the mettle of the DS (standing on the sidelines, shouting: 'Remember lads, train hard, fight easy!' can be so tiring). The range most enjoyed was the section in defence; **Cpl 'Max' Maxwell** a demon on the gun (those sheep won't be messing with anyone for a long, long time), and **Cpl Dave Kidd**'s succinct fire control order at close proximity targets: 'Section, er . . . kill 'em!'.

A tired group of hardened veterans boarded the ferry, happy in the knowledge that they had been tested and not found wanting, and secure in the fact that, wherever they go in the service of Her Majesty, they'll never ever have to do the Warcop BFT again (try it and see what I mean).

Section 4 were worthy winners of the overall competition.

LCpl Russ Craig and Section 3 begin The Obstacle Course—a lot less smiling 18 obstacles later

LCpl 'Scouse' Elliott awarded best exercise participant

SQUADRON ORIENTEERING—A BELATED ENTRY

The orienteering team has tried hard all summer and autumn to maintain the excellent standard set last year; unfortunately the ever-growing list of security restrictions concerning sport within the province has limited their activities severely (the FofS, **WO2 'Noddy' Baugh** says it's also due to his huge personal workload, but he's fooling no-one). Despite this, the Squadron manipulated its stretched resources and duly despatched a team to the UKLF championships at Brecon. Despite a scratch team (some of whom had not run since before this sort of thing was called fun) we managed to complete the hilly Day One course with no disqualifications—fate then lent a hand and all results for that day were declared void. The evening was spent in team discussions in several pubs and restaurants throughout Cardiff, and the next day's run in Monmouth proved another good test. Once again, however, things did not go our way; in the running for eighth position (and so qualifying for the Army championships), one of our runners was disqualified. We returned to Londonderry disappointed but unbowed, having rekindled interest in the sport in the Squadron. Our next event was the RCT competition at Hankley Common, and here fortune favoured us at last (indeed, had our team consisted of more members of the RCT, we would have carried away the minor units' runners-up award).

We have said goodbye to two stalwarts of the team; **SSgt Martin Leighfield** on posting to 16 Sig Regt and **Sgt Sam Harris** to civvy street—we wish them both well. Interest has picked up once again in this sport within the Squadron, and the new blood will send us to the competition at Blandford with two determined teams.

The Squadron Orienteering Team—Summer '89
Back (left to right): Sgts Pete McCormick, Sam Harris, SSgt Martin Leighfield
Front (left to right): WO2 (MTWO) Pete Mulvihill, WO2 (FofS) 'Noddy' Baugh (Captain) and Cpl Andy Dawson

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Steve Johns**
2IC	**Capt Paul Ford**
AO	**Capt Peter Anthony The Queen's Regiment**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Andy Melville**
RQMS	**WO2 Derek Coker**
YofS	**WO2 Chris Aitken**
MTWO	**WO2 Ron Philp RCT**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt Clyde Atherley**

SHQ

WELCOMES

We welcome our new AO **Capt Peter Anthony** and his wife **Sandra** who arrived in July and a belated welcome to the Chief Clerk **SSgt Clyde Atherley** and his wife **Jan** who arrived in May.

FAREWELLS

In this issue we say farewell to **WO2 (YofS) Chris Aitken** who left in October for sunny Belize, **WO2 (RQMS) Derek Coker** posted to 38 Sig Regt (V) in October, **LCpl Trev Ellis**, posted to Benbecula in September and to **Sig 'Jonno' Johnson**, the Orderly Room Clerk who leaves for civvy street. We wish them all the best for the future.

With the expected reorganisation of the Orderly Room by the AO and Chief Clerk, **Cpl Rab Rennie, 'Jonno'** and typists **Annette** and **Carol** had a busy time. However, they are now back to normal routine. So normal that all SHQ staff have found time to go on leave although in **'Jonno's'** case it was a case of fitting in work between leave.

Finally, congratulations to **Capt Paul Ford** and his wife **Anne** on the birth of their son, **Benjamin**.

TM TP

OC	**Lt Matt Fensom**
FofS	**WO2 Russ Moren**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Bob Wright**
Tels SSgt	**SSgt Mick Couston**

RIGGING SECTION

We in the Rigging Section have finally been given the chance to explain what we really get up to — and how much of it there is to do.

The section is made up of two Combat Linemen (oops sorry Driver Linemen), **Cpl Vince McNaught** and **LCpl Andy Dutton** as well as **LCpl Mick** 'The Woman Puller' **May**, the friendly Telemech. The section is responsible for all the rigging within the Brigade TAOR, including Cougar Talk-throughs, base stations and heli-tele stations.

Recently the section has concentrated its efforts on the new Lisburn 3 Mast. In this round-the-clock exercise we were assisted by TM Tp (thanks lads!) and managed to complete everything ahead of schedule.

Now that this has been completed we have moved on to other tasks such as the rigging of two Royal Navy Patrol Boats, but that's another story.

A selection of the Lis 3 riggers
(Left to right): LCpl Phil Gash, Sig 'Stig' Richards modelling the latest in hard hats, LCpls Andy Dutton getting hands on experience for when he's a pad and Mick May

MORE NEWS

ONCE IN A LIFETIME EVENT!

Halleys Comet passing over Lisburn? No, TM Tp had a sports afternoon! To celebrate this momentous occasion the Troop entered two teams in the Squadron five-a-side football competition . . . and won! The 'A' Team under the name of 'Total Madness'—blasted to victory with a hat-trick by **Cpl Frank Nevens**. Also in the team were **LCpls Mick May, Andy Dutton, Cpls 'Shuggy' Hughes** and **Colin Burgess**.

It is with great sadness that we have had to say 'Tarazan' to our favourite Talkthrough, 35 Brian. In a very moving ceremony in the early hours of the morning this charismatic transportable was replaced by a grey cabinet. There wasn't a dry eye in the Cougar hut.

The Troops love-hate relationship with the MT continues. They hate to give us cars—we love sending back the broken remains. Current potential Emerson Fittipaldi's include **Cpl 'Dill' Dillon**—(this road ain't big enough for the two of us)—and **Sgt 'BJ' Finister**—'my altimeter wasn't working.

Morale hit rock bottom recently when **Sgt Frank** 'Capt Admin' **Roberts** found 793 bags of waste to be burnt. Suddenly the Troop deployed and every outstanding task since 1657 was completed. Unfortunately the bags were still there on return. After much ducking and diving by the Troop, **Cpl Vince McNaught** and **LCpl Mick May** were caught and sent to the incinerator.

The depression of the burning was alleviated by a Troop brief in the rigging shack. Topics of discussion included the wearing of swarfega, the angle of deflection of a can at terminal velocity off the Foreman's head and the relationship between riggers and flying cat traps.

COMINGS AND GOINGS
OC TM, THE OLD AND THE NEW

After two years at it **Capt Alistair Beard** couldn't hack TM Tp any more and has packed his bags for the cricket pitches of Namibia. His successor is **Lt Matt Fensom**. His experience with juniors will stand him in good stead when coping with the Troops' sense of humour!

AND THERE'S MORE

Welcome, bienvenu, wilkommen to **SSgt Bob Wright** from sunny 7 Armd Bde. **Sgts Frank Roberts, Mick Murphy** from an extensive sporting holiday in Berlin and **Cpl 'Rab' Rabbetts** from RMAS—the finest military academy in the world. So the OC says! Hello, and the bags for burning are in the garage.

Farewells and good luck go to **Cpl Stevenson, LCpl Tim Jones** (now serving in civ Div) and **SSgt Mick Partridge** who after 3 Millenia is off to RMAS—'the finest military . . .' yes we know Sir!

CONGRATULATIONS

Our heartiest congratulations go to **SSgt Mick Partridge** who prior to his departure was presented with the GOC Northern Ireland's Commendation by the OC, **Maj Steve Johns.**

The Troop would also like to congratulate **LCpl Andy Dutton** and his wife **Shirley** on the occasion of their marriage, most Troop members attended the reception. We all wish them both the very best for their future together.

TECHEMPLOY

Technician Employment Agency

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SSgt Mick Partridge being presented with his GOC Northern Ireland's Commendation by Maj Steve Johns

COMMUNICATIONS TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Steve Felton**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Mike Hendley**
Tp Radio Sgt	**Sgt Chas Tolton**
Rover Gp Sgt	**Sgt John Rutland**
Crypto Sgt	**Sgt 'Scouse' Shield**

BRIGADE COMMANDERS ROVER GROUP

Sgt John Rutland took up the reins in March but we have been unable to locate him since. Any '**Rutland** sightings' should be reported.

The month of June saw the departure of our long serving Group Cpl, **Cpl 'Scouse' Wharton** on promotion. Congratulations and many thanks. **Dvr Lorimer** has left us for Belize. The Dep Comd should now feel safe in his car. **LCpl 'Archie' Gemmell** left us for Berlin, not bad considering two years ago he joined us from there.

Well done to **Sgt John Rutland** on passing his RSSSC, **LCpl Paul Storey** on passing his RSDCC and **Sig Oldfield** on completing his B1—with flying colours.

RADIO SECTION

Once again the Garrison Fete was upon us with Radio Section providing a 'smash the plate' stall. **Cpl Phil Horne** and **LCpl Steve Royston** were at their wheeling and dealing best producing large quantities of porcelain pigs and Irish crystal for prizes.

We congratulate **Cpl Alan Payne** on his recent promotion, and bid a fond farewell to **Cpl Steve Ferris** and his family who are off on posting. Welcome to **LCpl Simon Marvel** and his wife **Sharon** from 202 Sig Sqn, and to **LCpl George Johnston** and his wife **Alex** from the Berlin Sig Regt. We hope you have an enjoyable tour.

SYSCON/COMMCEN/CRYPTO

Welcome again to the nerve centre of the Squadron. Everything has quietened down upstairs and Battlecamp 'war stories' are no longer heard in the Horseshoe Club. Things are running smoothly at present, with **Sgt 'Chas' Tolton** at the helm.

Manning and Records has been kind to us recently. **Cpl Andy Burdge** and wife **Alda** are off to Hong Kong, **Cpl Rob Hood** and **Gill** are bound for Gibraltar and **LCpl 'ET' Tait** is on his way to Cyprus, with a promotion as well. Best wishes to you all.

As I write, the Sqn 2IC **Capt Paul** 'Skis' **Ford** has become a proud father. Congratulations to him and **Ann**. Welcome to **Sgt 'Chas' Tolton** and **Jackie** all the way from Londonderry and also to **Cpl 'Biddy' Baxter** and **Jayne** from 8 Sig Regt. Hello to **LCpl 'Geordie' Bartlett** and **Sam** from 1 Inf Bde Sig Sqn and to **Sig** (not another Rangers fan!) **Stott** from 3 ADSR.

Congratulations to the Troop OC, **Capt Steve Felton** on his recent marriage. We wish him and **Joanna** all the best for the future.

CRYPTO OFFICE

The Crypto office is under the management of **Sgt 'Scouse' Shield**. **Sgt Shield** did not enjoy a long handover, he missed his predecessor altogether! Best wishes to **Sgt Derek Styles**.

However the father of 39 Bde Crypto is still with us, **Cpl** 'Dad' **Curtis**. In between his leave and adventure training he manages to show his face once in a while and provide the answers to everyone else's crossword puzzles.

We bid a fond farewell to **Cpl Graham** 'almost a Sgt' **Gee** who is flying off with promotion and a private pilot's licence to 20 Maritime Regt in sunny Marchwood.

EXERCISE BROTHERS PARTING
PERSONALITIES

OIC	**Capt Paul Ford**
Instructors	**SSgt Mick Couston**
	Sgt John Rutland
	Cpl Ian Curtis
Students	**Cpl Paul Ellwood**
	LCpl Gary Clapham
	LCpl Geordie Aspery
	LCpl Steve Trenholme
	LCpl Woody Woodray
	Sig Phil Oldfield
	Sig Dave Gough

At Larne Harbour seven soldiers stood waiting for the next ferry across the water to Stranraer, their faces torn with the anxiety of what was to happen to them in the next 10 days.

This was the Squadron's Adventurous Training Camp being held in the Lake District and designed to give the younger soldiers a chance to try their hand at various activities in a different environment. The programme had two subjects; five days' progressive rock climbing/abseiling followed by five days' progressive hill walking including a two-day expedition.

ABSEILING

The Cathedral Caves didn't prove to be everyone's forte, but, **Sig Phil Oldfield** finished off an enjoyable day by demonstrating a 130ft flying angel in front of a group of school children.

WALKING

This took in the major peaks of the Lake District, Scafell, Helvellyn and the High Street.

Ascents were varied and interesting. The most spectacular descent for the group was coming down Striding Edge off Helvellyn which can only be summed up by **LCpl Steve Trenholme**'s entry in his diary. 'Hard to believe what we did, it will be even harder to forget'.

CLIMBING

This proved to be the most challenging of all the activities. There was now to be a new rock athlete in the climbing fraternity, **LCpl 'Geordie' Aspery** who not only overcame his fear of heights, but happily led very difficult standard rock climbing.

The final day was spent with the four mountain goats. **Sig Dave Gough, Cpl Paul Ellwood, LCpls Gary Clapham** and **'Geordie' Aspery**. Their reward—a 230ft rock climb—which everyone completed. To summarise we all enjoyed the camp and have vivid memories of it.

The group before the scramble of Angle Tarn Ghyl

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225 Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Hugh Bardell**
2IC	**Capt Ron Clay**
AO	**Capt Andrea Perks**
Tech Adjt	**Capt Paul Towers**
OC F	**Capt Alex Gaw**
OC D	**WO1 Cliff Davey**
OC E	**WO1 Bob Hodges**
SSM	**WO2 Taff Cox**
RQMS	**WO2 Wyn Gordon**
CC	**Sgt Howie Ripley**

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

Welcome to the following personnel who have recently joined the Squadron—**SSgt John McEwan, Sgt Mick Tate** and family, **Sgt Taff Cassells, Cpls Max Roberts, Nigel Frith, WCpl Lyn Kenyon, LCpl Steve Willis** and family, and **LCpl Noddy Holder** and family. We wish farewell and good luck to **WO2 Dave Andrews, Taff Edwards, Sgts John Wheater, Jim Moody** and family, **Cpls Hammy Hamilton, John Sutton, WCpl Billie Redman** and family, and **WLCpl Faye Davies**.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the **Shrubb** family on the birth of **Stuart** and to the **Sutherland** family on the birth of **Kim**.

Congratulations are also passed to the following on their recent promotions—**WCpl Lyn Kenyon** and **LCpl Bob Hollamby**.

SPORT

The Squadron continues to do well at sport. Congratulations to **Sgt John Wheater** on his selection for the Army volleyball team. It has mainly been a 'wet' season as the men's swimming team won the NI Minor Units Swimming Championships and was runner up in the water polo. In the ladies swimming team that competed at Sandhurst in the Army Championships were three members of the Squadron, namely **Capt Andrea Perks, Cpl Liz Johnson** and **LCpl Alison Cable**.

Sadly the NI girls team was beaten into third place but it received NI Sports Colours. Congratulations to **LCpl Alison Cable** on being selected to train with the Army squad for the Inter-Service competition. Congratulations also to **Sgt Dave Roberts** on his selection to the Royal Signals water polo team against the RAF. **Cpls Liz Johnson** and **Lorna Proctor** were selected to represent NI at tennis in the Army Tennis Championships and after a fiercely contested competition were beaten by one point to come second. The Squadron Inter-Troop Summer Sports Trophy is nearly over and with just the golf to be played, G Troop is currently leading the rest of the Troops by two points.

CITATION BY GOC

On 6 July, the Squadron's Officers' wives gathered together to have coffee with the GOC. Unbeknown to **Mrs Anne Clay**, the GOC had come specifically to present her with a Commendation and read the Citation that she received for all her sterling work, fund raising in Cyprus. For over two years **Anne** worked tirelessly to improve the community and enhance the quality of life for the families at Ayios Nikolaos. After the initial shock and threatened divorce proceedings to **Ron** for keeping it a secret, **Anne** was delighted to receive the framed Commendation from the GOC.

Mrs Anne Clay receiving her Citation

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Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

BRADLEY SQUADRON

This month there have been a few changes in the Squadron and unfortunately we must now say farewell to the OC, **Maj Mike Fisher**, who leaves us for College Headquarters, best wishes for the new job. We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome **Fran**, the new clerk, to our fold.

THE TROOPS

Rapier and Whitespear Tps form the 89B intake for the Squadron and are presently undergoing basic recruit training. OC Rapier is **Lt Kevin Bowers** and the Troop Sgt is **Sgt Harris**. The Troop Sgt of Whitespear Tp is **Sgt McPhee** (when he is not playing football), and the Officer in the Troop is **Lt John Frazer**.

OC Quadrant Tp will be **Lt Tony Urwin**, when the new recruits arrive in October. Presently he is preparing for the onslaught, when he is not doing JSMEL, Adventure Training or playing hockey. His Troop Sgt will be **Sgt Ken Shepherd**, late of the SQMS department.

ROYAL TOURNAMENT
Report by Lt Guy Bewsher

The main event for Lightning Tp this year, and some elements of the old Rapier Tp, was the Royal Tournament at Earls Court in London in July. It was a special honour as it was the second consecutive year that the Troop has provided the Arena Party for the Tournament. This year we teamed up with 238 Sig Sqn, suppliers of the communication support, and the RAF riggers who made up the roof party.

During the Tournament 2,500 performers were involved in 30 shows over 16 days, an estimated 300,000 people saw the show live with a further 10 million or so seeing it on television. Also nine members of the Royal Family attended, including **Her Majesty the Queen** and **Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal**, and the Commanders in Chief of the Services.

With this amount of coverage the Corps has again been in the limelight represented by its Junior Leaders and the Permanent Staff and we hope we may have assisted in the current recruiting drive.

Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal talking to JL LCpl (Jacko) Jackson at the Royal Tournament. (Photograph courtesy of the Royal Tournament)

THE CORPORAL WOOD MEMORIAL RUGBY CUP COMPETITION

The Memorial Rugby Competition was held at Harrogate on Wednesday 27 September 1989. The three Royal Signals major units in the North East participated and provided some hard fought and most entertaining rugby in near perfect conditions. The Permanent Staff game between the Apprentices College and 8 Sig Regt was of a particularly high standard, with 8 Sig Regt as worthy winners after being 10—0 down at half time.

The competition took the form of a series of 'Sevens' games at both Over 19 and Under 19 level with a try and point scoring system in the event of an overall tie. The matches (15 minutes each way—exhausting), and were well refereed by **Sgt Smith RAC** and our own **SSgt (YofS) Easton**.

RESULTS

Apprentices College v 11 Sig Regt
Over 19: College 36, 11 Sig Regt 0
Under 19: College 56, 11 Sig Regt 0

8 Sig Regt v 11 Sig Regt
Over 19: 8 Sig Regt 44, 11 Sig Regt 4
Under 19: 8 Sig Regt 52, 11 Sig Regt 0

Apprentices College v 8 Sig Regt
Over 19: College 10, 8 Sig Regt 16
Under 19: College 42, 8 Sig Regt 0

The College thereby won the Memorial Competition by virtue of the number of tries scored and were presented with the Memorial Cup by the Commander Training Gp, **Brig A. F. Eastburn**.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
Report by SSgt J. Guy

The College once again holds the Army Apprentices Challenge Cup. This was achieved over the weekend of 23/24 September, the first time the competition was held over a full weekend. The competition was hosted by AA Coll Chepstow and was also used by the Army FA (Youth) to assess the potential players for Army honours.

The semi-finals were to be played on the Saturday with the final and third/fourth play off held on the Sunday.

The competing teams were: AA Coll Harrogate, AA Coll Chepstow, AA Coll Arborfield and AA Coll Aldershot.

The College drew Arborfield in the semi-final. All the Colleges are of a similar standard, or so we thought! However, Chepstow and ourselves were fortunate enough to be able to 'poach' one or two players from our respective Basic Recruit Troops.

Our semi-final kicked off at 1430 hrs and after a slow settling in half in which we failed to put one or two chances away we went in at half time 0—0. In the second half we capitalised on our pressure with two goals coming from **Tharby** and **Smith**. Our keeper, **Horner**, incurred an old hand injury but still managed to pull off a penalty save. The game ended 2—0. It was a hard match but all respect to Arborfield who had some good chances to score.

Army Apprentices Challenge Cup—Winners
Back row: Lt Col Melhuish, Cpl Woodford (Assistant Coach), AT Wyllie, JL O'Neill, JL Walsh, AT Burton, AT Cpl Horner, AT Collins, AT LCpl Hayhurst, AT LCpl O'Neill, AT Sgt Strouts and SSgt Guy APTC (Coach)
Front row: AT Cpl Walton, AT Elliott, AT Martin, JL Brown, Sig Smith, AT Cpl Scott, AT Boston, AT LCpl Tharby and AT Allmark

THE FINAL
AA Coll Harrogate v AA Col Chepstow

Sunday was a lovely summer's day. We kicked off at 1130 hrs and failed to settle into a routine allowing Chepstow to find many holes in our midfield but with our back three that's as far as they got. We had practised many set pieces in training and it paid off for our first goal. **Smith** crossed the ball from a corner and there was **Tharby** to head in.

The team settled after this and it wasn't long before **Tharby** got his second. Chepstow recovered a little but still could not penetrate our back three gladiators—**Strouts, Collins** and **Scott**. From a breakaway **Smith** scored our third with half time approaching. **Tharby** scored two more in the second half (five in the whole competition) and Chepstow's only reply came from a penalty. Final score 5—1 to us.

The Squad all worked hard during the weekend and showed great commitment and attitude. The 'back room' training staff thank them for this and well done.

SATORI KARATE CLUB
Report by Mr Steve Barnett

The College Karate Club is going from strength to strength. There is a hard core of very dedicated young karateka (this includes **Maj Dave Hopwood** who, we are sure, is pretending to be over 25).

Although a Karate Club they practise other martial arts such as Aikido and Jui Jitsu and have a very open mind towards their training.

There are regular visits to the Association HQ, Wolverhampton, where they train with the highest of grades from all other styles. The Club is a Wado Ryu Club but has members from Shotokan, Tae Kwon Do and even Chinese Kick Boxing. The Club is fortunate enough to have no less than three black belts (all apprentice tradesmen and all from different styles of martial art).

Sensei **Steve Barnett**, the Club senior coach, runs a traditional Club with traditional values. Sport Karate is offered for those who wish it, but is secondary to the true way of Karate (**Steve** is an instructional officer in Ops Wing in his spare time).

The Club would like to hear from other Clubs with a view to an exchange of ideas and possible training together.

Some of the Club members at the start of the Club
Is Dave Hopwood meditating? (far right)

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SILVER EXPEDITION
LAKE DISTRICT
Report by WO2 (RQMS) George Firth

During the summer a group of Permanent Staff and Apprentice Tradesmen spent four days in the Lake District on a Duke of Edinburgh Expedition.

Taking part were: The Expeditioners: **ATs Iain McHenry, Neil MacGillivray, Scott Jones** and **Lionel Jones**. All of Rawson Sqn. The Assessors: **WO2 (RQMS) George Firth** (The Boss) and **OCdt 'Dusty' Miller** (2IC). The Assistants: **Mrs Pat Firth** (The Referee), **Sig Ian Firth** 8 Sig Regt and Penny the dog (Navigator and finder of water supplies for **Iain**).

The group left Harrogate in the Assessors' cars and had an entertaining trip to the Lake District with **Dusty** and I comparing the performance of a 2 litre Capri with a 1600 Capri. After a stop en route at Kirkby Lonsdale for a cuppa, in most cases, and for **Iain** to attempt to eat the whole stock of the snack bar's Burgers, we arrived at the start point in Langdale.

The expedition party headed for the hills for their first night on the Fells and the Assessors went off to Borrowdale to spend the night in comfort.

The Assessors and Assistants set off into the hills and after a bit of wandering around in the mist the group eventually appeared and the days work commenced. The walk from Pavey Ark to Angle Tarn went without any mishap and a good rest was had there, **Iain** attempted to drink all the water in the stream and **Lionel** was looking even shorter than he did at the start. The 'grind' up to Ore Gap came next, the Assessors shot off like hares up the slope leaving the poor pack mules to follow on behind. Then followed the ascent of Esk Pike, by now **Lionel** had shrunk so much that we could have done with a roller skate to put on the bottom of his Bergen; **Iain** was again asking where the next water was; **Scott** was saying very little; and **Neil** was certainly slowing down. A lovely downhill walk then led into the over-night stopping place above Sprinkling Tarn, tents were set up, food cooked and Day 1 was over.

Day 2. At 0850 hrs I arrived, complete with wife and dog, for the start of the day's work, a quick five minute chat about the aquatic sports which had taken place in Sprinkling Tarn the previous evening, then we were off again. The first target for the day was Scafell Pike (at 3,210ft the highest mountain in England). The way lay over vast areas of stones and boulders with fantastic views of the surrounding mountains, a number of photo stops (rests really) were taken on the way and we eventually arrived at the top. A passing 'stumbly' (tourist) was coerced into taking a photograph of the whole group on top of the summit cairn and we then set off, downhill towards Lingmel Col and Styhead Tarn. After a lunch break at Styhead Tarn we commenced the ascent of the infamous Aarron Slack (an ascent of 1,000ft in 1 mile), the ascent was completed in 50 minutes, **Neil** took only 45 minutes but he went ahead to get photos. We then ascended another couple of hundred feet to take in the summit of Green Gable and headed off downhill towards Haystacks and the next campsite at Blackbeck Tarn. The clouds were starting to darken and rain was looking like a definite bet. I mentioned, in passing, a mountain hut that I knew of which was left unlocked for people to use. We separated. I with my wife and the dog setting off for another 4 miles back to the car and the expeditioners heading for the mountain hut. Day 2 ended with a very comfortable night in the hut.

Day 3 (Final Day). I drove up to Honister Youth Hostel where I was to meet up with the group. The weather looked as though it was going to make up for the previous sunny days so they had managed to get into the Youth Hostel to await my arrival. As we were about to start walking the rain arrived, and it was decided to leave the heavy Bergens in my car and to do the last day with just one rucksack for the group, this was not a sign of weakness on my behalf but an injection of sanity from **Pat**. Off we went feeling much lighter up Dale Head and then on to Robinson, the pace was definitely quicker and even **Neil** could not stay in front all the time. From the summit of Robinson we had a long, grassy ridge to follow (downhill) to Newlands Church. Just short of the church was a steep, smooth grass slope of about 500ft. **Dusty** demonstrated the alternative method of descent by shooting downhill on his backside copied by the more lunatic members of the group. A short walk took us to Little Town where once again we started uphill to cross the flank of Maiden Moor and arrive at Low Manesty Caravan Site where it all finished. Tea was drunk, kit was sorted and the trip home was started, this time with **Dusty** standing a chance as my wife took my passengers from the outward trip in our Metro, she beat him back to camp. The weather and the hills got the better of me and I decided to stay on for the rest of the week to do some serious walking.

The group had covered 30 miles and ascended 10,465ft in the four days, whilst I, in the interests of comfort went on to do 40 miles and 13,000ft.

Front row: AT MacGillivray, AT S. Jones, WO2 George Firth, Dog Penny and Mrs Pat Firth
Back row: Officer Cadet Dusty Miller, AT McHenry, and AT L. Jones
On the summit of Scafell Pike, height 3,210ft

HQ Queen's Gurkha Signals
BFPO 1

248 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON

One of the many reasons for reading *The Wire* is to see if you know anyone who is posted to the more exotic places. So having said that, here is a quick rundown of most of the British personalities in the Squadron: **Maj M. J. M. Emslie** is our sharpshooting Squadron Commander. Runner up to that position is **Capt N. Pope**. Our recently arrived RQMS is **WO2 Kirwin Gilder** who spends many an early morning punishing all who take part in his PT sessions. Our long standing YofS is **SSgt Bill Thompson** who spends most of his time trying to persuade the FofS **(WO2 Paul Wood)** that a new radio workshop is not required at Fanling golf course! **Sgts Dave Fraser** (posted to 8 Sig Regt soon) and **Martin Webb** are our resident TE Techs. In our commcen there lurks **Sgt Brian Carlin**, recently arrived from 247 Gurkha Sig Sqn, and **Cpls Phil** (I'm trying to get my handicap down) **Vinnicombe, Andy Lewis** and **Ian 'Ginge' Parker** who still hasn't had time to acclimatise yet. Last but by no means least is our only RAOC member in the form of **SSgt Mick Williams**, who after finishing his two year stint with Signals is departing to sunny Bicester. Bad luck **Mick**.

The Squadron has been involved in such diverse activities as adventure training to jungle warfare courses, and, lest we forget, even communicating!

Our new OC **Maj M. Emslie** arrived in January to pick up the reins from **Maj Law**, who left to go all the way to JSSS Hong Kong, a distance of about 1 mile as the long tailed Drongo flies. **Maj Emslie** has already shown us what a good rifle and pistol shot he is but we're hoping that we don't lose him to the shooting team for any great length of time.

WORK AND PLAY

The lion's share of the year's work has been providing and maintaining the colony's military commercial radio network. This network embraces the whole of the colony and therefore enables members of the Squadron to travel all over the colony, if you are able to defeat the traffic.

248 Sig Sqn has 10 Hong Kong Military Service Corps Telemechs serving alongside them. They do a splendid job in maintaining the high standards expected of their work. Although mainly concerned with the installation of telephones and cables and their maintenance; the telemech side of life is now moving into the future with the up and coming use of fibre optics.

As well as fibre optic courses our telemechs also go to Catterick for their T2 to T1 upgrading courses. Most recently it was the turn of **Sig Ho Wai Yin** and **Ho Kwong Yip**. They enjoyed the course very much (so they say) but were obviously very enthused with the darker, less sparkling forms of beverage, than those found locally.

On the way back from their course these hardworking lads decided to stop in the Valley of the Kings for a few days. On meeting two Egyptian Telephone Company workers they were soon to discover that they suffered the same type of problems in Egypt as we do. As can be seen in the photograph below, even the Egyptians have transport problems getting to work.

Sgt Shivakumar Rai and **WO2 Dorje Tamang** eventually returned from their Jungle Warfare Instructors Course in Brunei. After the course both participants said that they enjoyed it, albeit with 20/20 hindsight. Congratulations to both of you for your excellent grades on the course, and it serves **Sgt Shiva** right since he's soon to be posted to Brunei as an instructor. At the moment 248 has **Sgt Dave Fraser** on the same course. Nothing has so far been heard of him but we are treating this as 'no news is good news'. No doubt **Sgt Fraser** will be glad to return to civilised life, as he knows it here.

ADVENTURE TRAINING

WO2 (RQMS) Gilder was tasked with organising the first of the Squadron's adventure training camps in June. The location for this was the island of Ping Chau, which lies off the North East of Hong Kong in the South China Sea. Luckily for us the island lies far enough off-shore to escape most of the pollution problems that beset the water of Hong Kong.

The main activities were rock climbing and abseiling, canoeing, basic scuba diving and swimming; all mixed in with a fair helping of PT and barbecues. All who went to Ping Chau returned with enhanced sun tans and large bar bills, proof of a good week.

Sgt Kishor, our intrepid chief clerk, is living proof that the camera can lie. Thanks to fast shutter speeds this magic 'moment' was captured.

With all these varying activities taking place it is easy to forget our main task, which is of course communicating. With the ever changing needs of military communications in HK prior to 1997, the Squadron is guaranteed a very busy time for the next few years.

Sig Ho Wai Yin and Sig Ho Kwong Yip at the start of an Egyptian Khud Race

Sgt Kishoor—A professional beach start?

1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt BFPO 32

HQ SQUADRON
RHQ

The Regiment has recently undergone a substantial change in the command element. **Lt Col Richard Farrimond** and **Annette** have left for the United Kingdom. The Regiment wishes them all the best in the future and hopes you do not forget your ride 'in and on' the 432. The Regiment welcomes the new CO **Lt Col John Kirby** and his wife **Kim**. To complete the change, we now have a new Regimental Sergeant Major, **WO1 Brian Dalton** who took over from **WO1** (now Lt) **Derick Boyd**. The only major change we have seen so far is that of height.

Lt Col Richard Farrimond hands over the Regiment to Lt Col John Kirby

TM TROOP
HELLOS AND GOODBYES

There has been a large turnover of personnel in the troop this year and although we have said goodbye to a lot of good friends, we are still an efficient troop.

Back row: LCpl Darren Kemp, Cpl 'Gaz' Williams, Cpls Dave Bowes, Rocky Ferrer, LCpl Mark Vile, Cpls Tim Hayter, Steve Gadsdon, LCpl 'Coops' Cooper, Cpls Dinger Bell, Stu Ridgeway, 'BJ' Fenton and John Harvey
Front row: Sgts Barney Patel, Dave Thorpe, SSgt Nick Churcher, Capt Russ Davey, WO1 Chris Platts, Sgts Paul Fletcher and AJ Wells

In August we said goodbye to **SSgt Nick Churcher** and his wife off to sunny 16 Sig Regt. We have also lost **Sgt Derek Sexton, Cpls Gaz Brooks** and **John Gould** to Civvy Street. **Cpls Steve Flynn** and **Tim Hayter** have moved to 212 Sig Sqn and **Cpl Dave Bowes** now on his Satcom course, is soon to be posted to Scotland. Last but not least **Cpl 'Rocky' Ferrer** is off to Northern Ireland, good luck to him. Due to all the postings the Radio and Systems sections of the troop have been quite depleted. The arrival of **Sgt 'Barney' Patel** and **Cpl Steven Gadsdon** completely revamped the Radio Section. The Systems Section welcomes **Cpls 'Dinger' Bell** and **Stu Ridgeway** who have helped to boost our numbers.

There have been many exercises, the most notable White Rhino in September. When **Cpl Steve Gadsdon** decided to modify the cab of the Radio ERV by driving it into another ERV. This was the only accident involving our vehicles in the whole year. Congratulations **Steve**!

1 SQUADRON
SCT TROOP

Things have been fairly quiet during the past months, with many of the Squadron enjoying a well earned summer leave.

At the end of July we were kept extremely busy (wot no summer hours?) putting TN 051 to rest. It involved three weeks hard graft, but now the task has been completed, things should be better with the injection of much needed manpower into the remaining troops.

August saw **Sig Tony Flood** become the proud owner of a new mountain bike and **LCpl** 'Vergel' **Ramsey** the proud owner of a GI haircut—we think he is trying to give the SSM a heart attack. **Sgt Al Martin** was not seen at work (what is new) and **Sgt Steve** 'Disco' **Parkinson** and his inter-troop 'Combat' team were robbed of the combat trophy by Echo Tp.

EAGLE TROOP

A busy holiday season saw almost everyone away but they came back again after their holidays. A few members have left including **Sig Angus Dow**—civvy street, **Sig 'GB' Greatbatch**—Trade reallocation to Tele Op (RR) and **Cpl Kev Gardiner**—233 Sig Sqn, we wish them all well in the future.

Arrivals include **LCpl Hamill** and family, **LCpls Andy Stafford, Jeff Foster, Sig Atherton, Johno Johnson** and family. We have even accepted a few 051 refugees, **LCpl Young** and **Sig Cooper**.

GOLF TROOP

After Ex Scree Slope the main leave period started in earnest (amazing how everyone tries to get the same dates). Eventually leave was sorted to nearly everyone's satisfaction and troop members started disappearing to various parts of the globe in search of the sun. The troop also said goodbye to **Lt Alan Blackwell** who is being forced to go to Belize via New Zealand. The troop wishes him well on his two forthcoming appointments and would like to say we are not really jealous.

Cpl 'Freddie' Gardiner looks for help to control the octopus captured during an Eagle Tp adventure camp

HAWK TROOP

Life has been somewhat quiet in Hawk Tp office, partly due to the summer leave period. However thanks to the disbandment of TN 051 we are pleased to welcome some new members to the troop: **Cpl 'Yorkie' Whatley** and his wife **Wendy, LCpl Ward** and his wife **Sue, LCpl Wiggy Wigmore, Sig Sid Coles, Westworth, Grants Gratton** and **Renny Reynolds**. In addition we would like to extend a warm welcome to **LCpl Stein**, his wife **Joe** and baby daughter **Amy**.

Our congratulations are also extended to **Julie Cullen** on the birth of a boy, **Daniel**. We must also say farewell to **Sig Wedge Brown, Cpls Mac McGoldrick, Filthy Kempton** and **Paddy Murphy**.

With the manpower problem now solved, for the time being, it will be good to get back to what Hawk Tp does best, communicating and of course holding the Division together! Our poor showing in the Squadron Military Skills competition was hardly attributable to lack of effort on behalf of the team ably led by **Lt Simon Hutchinson**.

2 SQUADRON
ROVER TROOP

The troop welcomes **Sig 'Hobby' Wright** to its ranks after poaching him from 3 Sqn.

GOODBYE

Rover Tp has broken with tradition in dining out its departing members. After a pleasant meal and a few ales, the customary farewell speeches took place, these were given by **Cpl Stu Allister, Sig 'Mitch' Mitchell, 'Parky' Parkinson, Neil Watt** and **LCpl 'Boney' Bone**. The troop will miss them but wish them all good luck on their postings and their future careers. Farewell also to **Cpl** 'Herr' **Al Westoff** who is leaving for civvy street and to live in Germany.

EXERCISE PARKER DIAMOND—CORSICA

0800 hrs Monday morning 3 July two landrovers and 12 intrepid explorers left Verden to travel 2,500km to Corsica.

Corsica, the birth place of Napoleon, has many attractions. Skiing in winter, beaches in summer, but the reason for the expedition was to walk the GR 20. A 200km walk over the mountains north to south of the island.

The first three days proved to be very demanding on all members, mainly due to the heat, but after acclimatisation things became more tolerable. A chance meeting with 249 AMFL Sig Sqn at Refuge De Prati at 1,800m gave **Sgts Phil Parker** and **Steve Hughs** the chance to talk over old times. After 14 days the route had been completed, most of which had been at a height of 2,000m. It proved to be a very successful expedition, covering a wide area of skills from map and compass work to learning to speak French the Corsician way. Now a word from the admin crew who had it easy.

ADMIN

Whilst the boys were walking over the hills, base camp proceeded to arrange the resup, laundry and route to the RV. This lasted all of an hour so the rest of the day was spent conversing with the locals. Not being very good French speakers, Admin had to get by with German and English, of course this meant going to the beach to find some English and Germans to talk to.

Gradually Admin (**Al Westhoff, Spanner** and **Bob Roberts**) worked its way down the island meeting every two days with the lads for resup. Naturally all the routes to the RV went via beaches.

At the end of the 'Great Trek' four days were spent on R & R. Admin came into its own having found a good campsite at Solenzara on the beach, and with wine at five francs a litre. At the campsite the group were camped next to two Germans who were very friendly and enjoyed our invitation to the Endex barbecue. Many friends were made but eventually, sad faced, we had to leave.

Corsica 89
Parker Diamond. 'You will be happy'

3 SQUADRON
ARRIVALS

We welcome: **Sig Pete McNay** from 3 ADSR; **LCpl Stuart Jackson** from 11 Sig Regt, **SSgt Graham Miles** with his wife **Susan** and family from Soltau, **LCpl Dave Friend** from 2 Inf Div, **Sig 'Smurth' Smurthwalle** straight from training, **SSgt (YofS) George Greig** with his wife **Sue** and son **Mark** from 14 Sig Regt and **Lt Guy Owen** from Oxford University OTC.

DEPARTURES

We say goodbye to: **Lt Mark Roberts** on posting to RMCS Shrivenham to further his education, **Sgt 'Tolly' Tollington** to 7 Bde, **Cpl** (now Sgt) **Andy Drummond** and wife **Carrie** who are off to Celle for a tour with the Royal Anglians, **LCpl 'JC' Crier** on posting to 7 Sig Regt, **Sgt Sid Perks**, his wife **Karen** and family who are off to Blandford, **LCpl Eddie Yates**, off to the School of Signals and family life, **Sig 'Ollie' Oliver** and his wife, off to 22 Sig Regt, **Sig Chris Wood** and **Denise** who go to 244 Sig Sqn, **Cpl Simons** to his T1 course at Catterick, **LCpl Barker** to Osnabruck, **SSgt (YofS) Bob Tate** to the School of Signals and lastly **LCpls Atkins** and **Mickey Hogg**, who both decided the pace was too much for them and have 'escaped' to civvy street,

SHQ

At the Garrison Horse Show we ran the bar and to all those customers who thought the bar prices excessive, we will rectify that next year by wearing masks so that you will not know who is robbing you!

The last month has been quite a sad period for the Troop with the disbandment of the tech element, posting them to other Troops in the Squadron. Some of the boys have already made an impression in their new Troop. **Cpl 'Gunnie' Booker** has been thrust into a position of command in Oscar Tp, **LCpl Bruce** is not having such a good time as all the filth and grime from the panzers is spoiling his good looks. The disbandment of the techs was celebrated in the usual manner. The money left over from Troop funds went to buy the Squadron barman a drink!

LIMA TROOP

November Tp and Line Tp have amalgamated to form Lima Tp. The occasion was celebrated with a party, and the history of the two Troops is now well and truly consigned to the annals of 1 Armd Div Sig Regt.

Prior to this occasion November Tp held a fitness day. Eight members went on a six mile run interspersed with press ups, push-ups and groans. The final effort was made in the Stadium Gasthaus for three hours when numbers attending mysteriously increased.

LCpl 'Rooster' Staff posing in Comms Ops shortly before avoiding Ex White Rhino by dislocating his shoulder

OSCAR TROOP

Greeting from Oscar Tp. As these notes were written, the Troop was deployed on Ex White Rhino, the first exercise of a busy season. Here was our chance to dust off the cobwebs, forget the lazy days of summer and knuckle down to some real work!

Oscar Tp was the last to deploy on the exercise and provide Hicon for 22 Bde. The exercise was fairly static, so as we settled into a routine and it became obvious several members of the Troop were competing for the 'Golden Blanket' award. In the event our new Tp OC, **Lt Guy Owen**, was narrowly pipped at the post by **Sig 'Taff' Thomas**, but only because people kept dismantling the Tp Comd's tent whilst he was trying to sleep inside. The 3 Sqn 'tea-drinkers' had plenty of time for training on the exercise. Many an hour was spent 'drinking tea', so much so that we actually ran-out of tea bags at one stage!

Finally, we must take this opportunity to congratulate **LCpl 'Scouse' Littler** on his marriage to **Babs**, and **Sig Jack Jarvis** on promotion to Lance Corporal.

VERDEN 10KM ROAD-RACE

On Saturday 2 September the annual Verden 10km road race took place around the streets of Verden. Most members of 3 Sqn took part in the race, including two teams of ten attempting to achieve a good result in the team competition. During the two weeks leading up to the event the Squadron was busy with Ex Plug-Up 4/89 and preparation for Ex White Rhino, so training was left to individuals. Obviously a few miles had been put in behind the scenes because the Squadron 'A' team was rewarded with first place with a points total of 277, significantly ahead of 2 Sqn 'A' with 314 points. The 3 Sqn 'B' team finished a very creditable ninth, ahead of 1 Sqn 'A'.

Individual performances are as follows:-

8th	**Lt Andy Addison**	35 min 3 sec
14th	**SSgt Pete Griffin**	36 min 16 sec
18th	**WO2 (SSM) Ian Kirkpatrick**	36 min 54 sec
19th	**Lt Guy Owen**	37 min 2 sec
37th	**LCpl Matt Thomas**	39 min 9 sec
55th	**Lt Mark Roberts**	41 min 1 sec
59th	**SSgt (YofS) George Grieg**	41 min 10 sec
68th	**Sig Al Nuttal**	41 min 45 sec

The total field was some 243 runners. A good turnout from the rest of 3 Sqn helped push members of other teams further down the placings.

3 Sqn Verden 10km running team: *l to r:* SSgt Pete Griffin, Lts Andy Addison, Mark Roberts, SSgt (YofS) George Greig, LCpl Matt Thomas, Sig Tommy Giblin, Taff Elson, WO2 (SSM) Ian Kirkpatrick and Lt Guy Owen

201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
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The Squadron held its Summer Ball in mid July, organised by a 'volunteer' select committee led by **Sgt Paul Chalk** and followed by the socially aware including **Cpl Mark Rouse, LCpl Chippy Wood, Sig Mick Turnbull** and **'Mitchy' Mitchell**. The saying goes, 'if it's a cert to fail, some how it will work', and work it did. A Caribbean Night full of colour, laughter and fun, so thanks boys.

EXERCISE RED STAG

Reality was quick to creep up on us as the war returned, with the Battle Group test exercise. We, for once got our own back on the other end, by forming an elite, but small enemy force. **Sgt Kev Ludkin** and his men, including **Cpl Robbo Robinson** (Radio Op?), **Sig Geordie Reid** (Driver?), **Dvr Stanley Boardman** (The torch) became the QRF in a landrover and four tonner, not ideal modes of transport for SLTA, when everyone else was armoured, however with passengers such as **Pte Ronnie Corbett**, the vehicles were thick skinned enough.

Against all odds the merry band was successful more times than not, if only the battle group had evaluated their threat correctly.

Ex Red Stag also enabled the Squadron to host their wives and girlfriends in the field. Shooting, getting made up, (cam cream) and trips in armoured vehicles all occurred, and a great time, for all, was had.

SPORTS NEWS

Boxing was the dominating sport over this period, with an iron fist team of **Cpls Spike Forbes, Porky Raybould** and **Jock Malone**.

Without support by the Squadron who were on Ex Red Stag they produced some excellent boxing. All worked hard with **Cpl Spike Forbes, LCpl Nick Basford, Sig Mick Turnbull** and **Jason Raybould** being winning finalists. It is with much pride that the Squadron won the Regimental Inter Squadron Championships.

Thanks must also go to **SSgt Pete Smith** for his time and energy spent training the team.

EXERCISE DECI DELL

From war to peace in the space of only seven days no sooner than Ex Red Stag ends, and its off to Sardinia adventure training for a lucky few.

The party departed on 22 August for their sun baked destination RAF Decimomannou and from there they trekked across the Setti Fratelli Mountain Range to Arbatax. The only minus point was water as consumption was up to 5 litres a day per man and the island was running out of water, however they survived to continue Phase II.

Phase II consisted of climbing led by **Sgt Tim Wells** in Arbatax Harbour (NB: On the rock around the side). **LCpl** 'Disco Body' **Dunn** showed us why he is the world break dance champion with great displays at 20, 30 and 40ft. **Cpl Steve Ruxton** showed all his advanced 10 points of contact skills, but managed to release a few before climbing down.

From the Harbour the party departed to new climbs and new camp sites. The neighbours were a bit dubious at first, (well they were wild boars), and if it had not of been for **LCpl Sammy Faulds** they would have complained.

Finally, the remaining ex personnel **Sig Deano Booker** and **Asterix Gaul**, (the water babies), **Lt Mike** 'Marathon Man' **Rogers** and **Sig** 'Maniac Driver' **Perrin** must be mentioned, as their faux pas are unprintable in full.

After their return, the adventurers had a day's grace, and then off to Ex White Rhino.

The Sqn Comd pondering the manpower shortfall. Family to the rescue? (Taken at the family day during Ex Red Stag.) Maj Roger Batho and Leslie

207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 37

SHQ

For the last few weeks SHQ has been preparing for Ex White Rhino, with most departments working later hours than usual.

It's not all work and no play, however. A farewell party was held in the Jerboa Club for **SSgt Ian** and **Viv Hill**, who are off to Bordon in UK; **Sig 'Scouse' Gatrell**, who moves up to Verden on a well deserved promotion; and **Sig 'Paddy' Somerville**, who has left the Army and returned to NI. We wish all of them 'all of the best'.

Warm welcomes are extended to **Sig 'Taff' Davies** and his wife **Kate**, and to **Cfn Geoff** and **Dee Smith**; we hope you enjoy your stay in Soltau.

ALPHA TROOP

Despite valiant attempts by the German weather, summer finally arrived and with it, that immortal phrase: 'we will not work late during summer hours'. However, in between 807's, PRE and Tech inspections, we managed to fit in a summer camp. **Lt Matthew Edwards** took about 30 Squadron personnel up to Eckernforde for a week, where a good time was had by all windsurfing, deep sea fishing, cycling and helping Anglo-German relations in the K7 Disco. The OC, **Maj John Willis** visited, and had an enjoyable couple of days. Highlights included **Cpl Miller**'s cycling and **Sgt Phil Mackenzie** trying not to get caught.

Finally a few 'hellos and goodbyes': Hello to **Sgt Barry Tollington** and his wife who have arrived from 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt: it's better here, honestly; and hello to **Sig** 'Shene McGowan' **Pestell**, who has already established himself as a favourite of the SSM!

Goodbye to **LCpl McGrail**—all the best in Detmold—and a huge goodbye to the Wavells; could it be a coincidence that **Cpl** 'Barney' **Cunningham** has been praying and uttering the words 'Box Body'?

BRAVO TROOP

August saw the Squadron deploy on a weeks ramble in that glorious meadow, the SLTA. Highlights included **Sgt Andy Bailey** going er, nowhere, and Main HQ nearly being taken out by a Squadron of Challengers! The rest of the month was committed to preparation for Ex White Rhino.

Goodbye to **Sig Mark Frayling** to 8 Inf Bde. We're sure the Dungeons and Dragons crowd will miss him.

THE COMING AND GOING—HANDOVER OF SSM

WO2 (SSM) John McAveety handed over to **WO2 (SSM) Wally Drain** in July.

EXERCISE SIAMESE DIAMOND

Thailand, land of the orchid, the lotus and a thousand smiles. In July, most of these smiles broadened the faces of innumerable Thais as they watched the steady progress of six farangs (white people) sitting in dug out canoes, paddling down the River Wang.

The six were all from 7 Armd Bde Sig Sqn, participating in Ex Siamese Diamond, an adventurous training exercise.

Planning for the exercise started in Moosbach, Bavaria in August 1988. Team selection and training took place, in Master Piranhas, every weekend from February. The bitter cold of the River Aller around Celle and the White Water Slalom Course at Hildesheim proved truly testing; several original applicants fell at this hurdle.

The team left a miserable Heathrow on 27 June. **Capt D. B. 'Dustbin' Hudson**, the leader (Dustbin because of his appetite), **Cpl Vic Hayes** (the canoe instructor), **LCpl Trev Legg, Sig Brian 'Westy' Westerman, Sig 'Johnboy Sam'** (after the famous Thai teenage idol) **Slade** and **Pte Rene Allan WRAC** comprised the paddlers. The Admin party consisted of **Cpl Bob Elkins** from 30 Sig Regt. **Cpl Elkins** was selected for the exercise, after a Corps wide search, due to his extensive experience of the Far East and his intimate knowledge of Thailand.

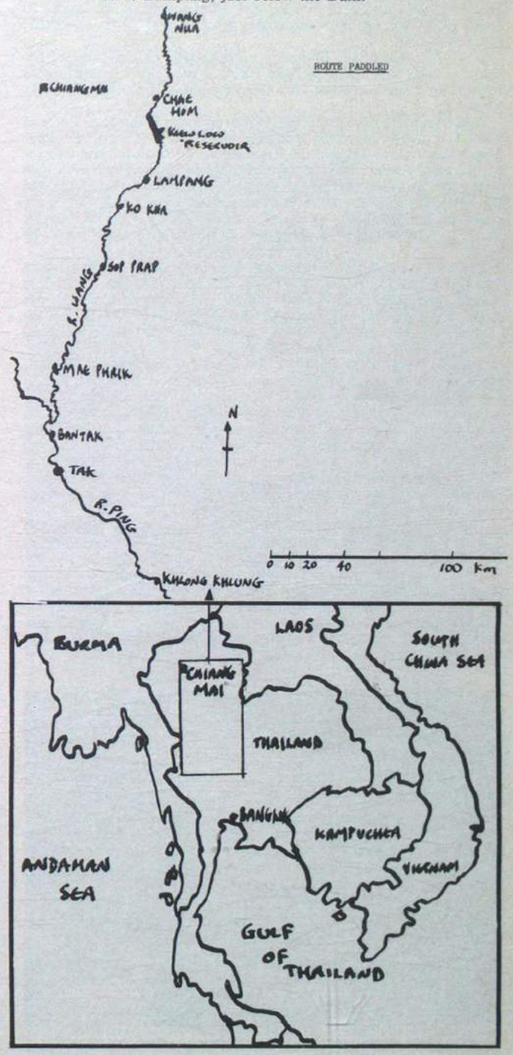
On arrival in Bangkok the team wasted no time; a minibus was hired and we travelled the 700km to Chiang Mai, Thailand's second city. 'The Lonely Planet Travellers' survival kit for Thailand' says of driving in Thailand: 'don't'. **Cpl Elkins** learnt to drive in Singapore and certainly gave better than he got.

The next six days were spent organising. The canoes had to be brought from Burma, for the hill tribes of Chiang Mai have long since learned to depend on tourists for their income. Meanwhile the leader took the team for ever popular daily acclimatisation training, paddles were constructed, rations purchased and the route to the river recce'd.

The canoes arrived. Familiarisation training was a case of fitting people to teak dugouts and sinking. Gradually they were mastered. To sit in the middle meant the least chance of submerging and also the least chance of controlling the brute. To sit at the back afforded superb handling but also placed the stern almost underwater—an inch from going under.

The first three days were hell. Sitting in the wet, scribing lazy circles along the river; the temperature hovering at 38°C in the shade during the day, 30°C at night; every now and then a short stretch of white water to sink in. Twice, short waterfalls were encountered; nightmare portages—each dugout weighed in excess of 20 stone. Nights were spent sweating inside Mosquito nets. The river bank was devoid of all habitation or signs of civilisation until Chae Hom. **Cpl Elkins'** smiling face and the yellow minibus were welcome sights. It was in Chae Hom that the first canoe was left behind and with it **Pte Allan** who joined the admin party.

Having heaved the canoes around a couple of waterfalls the 4km portage required at the Dam was to be avoided. A truck was hired to take the team to Lampang, just below the Dam.



Lampang, Ko Kha, Sob Prap were all reached. The Admin Party married up with the paddlers most nights, a base camp already set up and an invite to dinner. **Cpl Elkins** rapidly became adept at persuading local families to entertain the 'Babababour Farangs' (mad white men). Although cookers were carried they were used only to produce brews. Every evening meal was spent with a Thai family—the team provided the food, they the hospitality.

The strain of heaving teak canoes through the murky water under a relentless sun 100° E of Greenwich began to show. Tempers frayed and conversation on the water died.

The increase in habitation as we crawled on to the central plain meant fish traps: a line of bamboo stakes across the river that had to be skilfully fought through. An unsuccessful attempt meant a sinking. Habitation also meant smiles. The goodwill shown towards the team was remarkable.

And then there were four. **Sig Slade**'s canoe sprang a leak. Dental filling paste repaired the hole for a couple of hours, but the wood around the hole was too rotten to make a good repair.

The average rate of travel was 20-30km a day according to the map. However, with about 10 hours spent on the water at an estimated speed of 4-5km an hour the actual distance travelled suggests an inaccurate map.

A day of light relief; Bhudda's birthday, the official start of the rainy season, was spent in Mae Phirk. Processions of uniformed school children, gorgeous Thai dancers and saffron robed monks passed by.

And then there were three! **Sig Westerman** was taken to a doctor in Tak. The doctor suggested complete rest for a well worn shoulder. The Wang was canoed and the River Ping entered as the sun set over the Burmese border. The Ping was over 500m wide but with not much water. The rainy season had yet to take hold and the canoeing channel was restricted to a meandering stream between sandbanks. The team rested in Tak for three days, partly to wait for the river to rise and partly to recover from the diarrhoea which had affected most of the party.

The river rose and only two of us were fit to canoe. **Capt Hudson** and **Cpl Hayes** struck out. Canoeing was easier, but still there were hidden sandbanks. To be caught in the open in the torrential rain meant a sinking and awkward recovery. Finally at Khlong Khlun the team leader decided enough was enough—a minor flash flood had nearly swept the two canoeists away.

The team returned to Bangkok and then went on to the River Kwai. **Cpl Elkins** photographed every memorial dedicated to a Royal Signals soldier or officer at both the Kanchanaburi and Chungkai War cemeteries and will present them in an album to the Corps Museum; in memory of all those of the Corps who are buried there. The final phase was spent recovering from illness and over-exertion. A total distance of 260 miles (by the map) had been canoed in 19 days using the most primitive equipment partly through uninhabited, inhospitable terrain and partly along a meandering, well populated river full of man-made obstacles.

The exercise owes much to its sponsors, Zippo, the Corps, the Womens' Royal Army Corps, 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, and **Cpl Hayes**'s sister, without whom the expedition would have been put out of reach of the junior members of the expedition. Thanks to the Sqn Comd for allowing us to go and also to the rest of the Squadron for its support and willingness to cover duties whilst the team was away.

The exercise was a success, due to the determination of the team, the smooth administration provided by **Cpl Elkins** and the hospitality and friendship of the Thai people.

Cpl 'Thailand Tim' Hayes smoothes in on the local talent . . . an English teacher in Mae Phrik Junior School

Capt David Hudson helps offload the beasts at Wang Nua

The team in the water—but which way is downstream?

Pte Rene Allan and friends

212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 36

VISIT OF GOC 1 ARMOURED DIVISION

On Tuesday 8 August the new GOC of 1 Armd Div, **Maj Gen R. N. Wheeler CBE** and **Brig J. M. F. C. Hall OBE** visited the Squadron. The Squadron set up a complete Brigade Headquarters to give the new Divisional Commander an idea of how it operated on exercise and in war. He spent some time talking to members of the Squadron.

L to R: Maj Hugh Colborn, Sig Jason Gibson, Maj Gen R. N. Wheeler CBE, Maj R. E. Harrold, Capt E. B. Freely and Brig J. M. F. C. Hall

ADVENTURE TRAINING EXERCISE AWE DIAMOND 6

This year's Summer Camp took place at the 1 Div hut in Moosbach, in the Allgau region. There were three activities available, hill walking, climbing and canoeing. All those who attended were 'volunteered' for one activity for a week.

The hill walking was taken by **Lt Rob Meinertzhagen** and started with some relatively easy walks up the Grunten, though some members of the group **(Cpl Shaun Seraphin)** became unwell on the way up. This was the start of a strange mountain sickness which seemed to afflict the hill walkers. Later in the week some longer and more arduous treks were undertaken, in particular the Speiser/Wertacher Itorn where **Cpl 'Erroll' Flynn** and **YofS Bob Pemberton** invented the sport of down hill woodland tobogganing. The last day was spent on the Nebel Horn where the SQMS **Frank Baughan** made an early break for the summit. He was next seen at the highest mountain cafe, beer in hand. How did he get there?

All this was not enough for the Foreman/Yeoman combination, consisting of **Dave O'Brien** and **Bob Pemberton** who cycled up the Nebel Horn on their mountain bikes on their day off. Each to their own!

Sgt Ray Bray taught us canoeing and now takes up the story.

The canoeing took the form of a five day course culminating (for those up to the standard) in the Army Canoe Union Inland Proficiency Test.

The first day's training was carried out at the Niedersontofen See, a large man made lake.

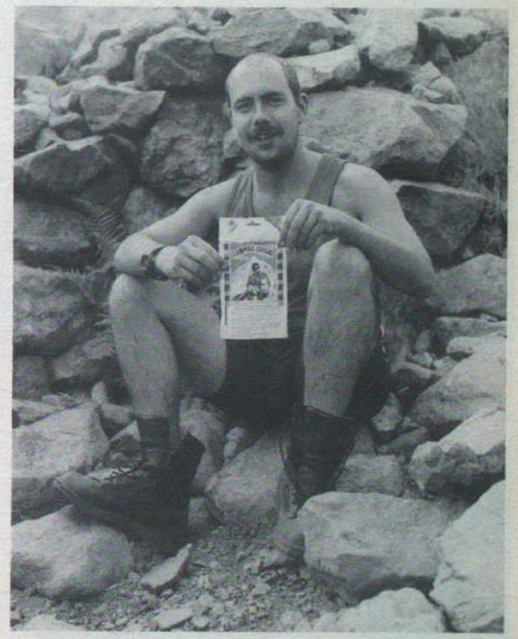
Capsize drills and swimming tests were followed by basic canoe strokes, with a world record capsize drill of 1.5 seconds by **Sig 'Gibbo' Gibson**. The second day was the introduction to moving water with a 8.5km paddle from Mortinzell Wein to Kempten. On the River Iller, we nearly had everybody swimming at the first stretch of rapids. The third day was a very good stretch of water at Pfronten near the Austrian border on the River Vills. This is a 2.5km stretch of very cold, very fast moving water. It was attempted three times by everybody and finished with a competition between the groups of the fastest time down the river. The winning team was **LCpls Paul Hornsby, Chris Birch** and **Sig Mo Morris**.

The fourth day was spent in a 13km paddle from Oberstdorf on the River Iller to the Sonthofen bridge taking in some very good white water with **Cfn Ken Mount** growing gills as he preferred to be upside down in the water.

On the last day, we did a 38km paddle from Oberstdorf to Mortinzell Wier and white water on the River Iller again. During the course of the trip, people were tested for their ACU Inland Proficiency, and over both weeks, nine people took their proficiency and I am happy to say that eight people were successful: **Cpl Erroll Flynn, LCpls Chris Birch, Paul Hornsby, Cfn Ken Mount, Sig Mo Morris, Gibbo Gibson, Tim Parkins** and **Fletch Fletcher**.

Our new arrival **Cpl** 'Johnny Dawes' **Allen** was fortunately a qualified climbing instructor and as a result took charge of the climbing. He possibly regretted this after the attempt on his life by **LCpl** 'Gupta' **Beveridge**. Both required stitches after **LCpl Keith Beveridge** fell taking **Cpl Dave Allen** with him. All dramatic stuff or it would have been had they not actually been walking back to the minibus when the 'fall' happened.

A variety of climbs were conquered by the climbers, the 'Tiefen back' a limestone very severe climb, as well as climbs on the 'Naber-



LCpl 'Mo' Morris 'You can live on it'

horn' and at Wertach. Each week there was a gradual build up of severity of the climbs, culminating in real 'disco leg specials'. I am sure that in the second week the fact that **Cpl Dave Allen** was full of stitches had nothing to do with only three volunteers for this activity.

Now that this unit has a climbing instructor and after the interest generated by the Summer Camp, there is hope of starting up a climbing club as well as organising an expedition next year.

Finally our thanks to **SSgt Ray Bray** who took on the unenviable job of organising the whole event. He did an excellent job and we would also like to thank **LCpl** 'Big Frank' **McArdle** for making everyone feel at home in the 1 Div hut.

PAPA TROOP

The turn over in personnel has been quite high for Papa Tp this month. **Lt** (now Capt) **Andy Hill** and his wife **Jane** have gone to 28 Sig

Regt to be replaced by **Lt Rob Meinertzhagen** who has come from Verden. **Sig 'Paul' Lockwood** has gone to 7 Sig Regt on promotion and is looking forward to the exercise work load. Also leaving us is **Sig Stephen McKinnie** to be a combat civilian in the UK. Also a welcome to **Sig Wells** who joins us straight from training.

Finally a 'get well soon' to **Cpl Dave Allen** after his recent spell in hospital (totally unconnected with his climbing) and we hope to see him back in the Troop soon.

OSCAR TROOP

A quiet period enabled **SSgt Ray Bray** to take advantage of winning a £1,000 holiday voucher in the Sergeants' Mess Christmas Draw. He went to Egypt with his wife, **Sue**. This gave **Cpls Craig Morgan, Steve Coombs** and **Simon Fell** the opportunity to show their mettle and value in running the Troop. With people away on leave, courses and various other worthwhile activities, we were somewhat thin on the ground.

Notwithstanding this we recorded a glorious victory in an Inter-Troop Shooting Competition with pistols and SLR.22 Heckler Koch conversion kits. Congratulations to **Cpl Dave Allen** on gaining the highest score with the pistol and also to **LCpl Scouse Connolly** and **Sig Wolfie Downing** who had the top two scores with the SLR. All the team are now the envy of the Squadron with their prizes of trendy, fashion-creating, multi-coloured rugby shirts.

We have said farewell to **Sig Fletch Fletcher** who has gone to 244 Sig Sqn where no doubt he will make a good impression. Also leaving soon is **Sig Wolfie Downing** who will be missed not only by the Troop but also by the X-country team.

Congratulations to **LCpl 'Scouse' Connolly** on passing his RSDCC so well and we are waiting with bated breath for the EPC results for **Cpls Bill Walker, Craig Morgan** and **LCpl Blue Nicholson**. Also congratulations to **SSgt Ray Bray** on passing his very demanding Army Golf Skills course. The NATO forces can rest easy with such a deterrent on our side. The Troop join with me to wish **Alison Thompson** a speedy recovery from her illness and wish her all that is well for the future.

We are now bracing ourselves for Ex White Rhino which promises to be a real thriller! After our recent Troop outing down town in Osnabruck, we could do with a breather! With the arrival of our new ultra-fashionable Troop sweatshirt, Oscar Tp cut a fine dash on Squadron PT. Being the envy of the Squadron is a heavy burden to bear but the broad shoulders of our lads is equal to the challenge.

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BORNEM 100KM MARCH

Six members from 212 Sig Sqn left Osnabruck one dreary Thursday morning to embark on the Bornem 100km March, held in Belgium. Five of the gallant party did not quite realise what **Cpl Steve Coombs** had led them into. The members of the team consisted of **Cpls Steve Coombs, Bill Walker, Tam Bennie, LCpl Wright, Sig Mo Morris** and **Phil Stroudly**. The team undertook the march on behalf of the RNLI and special thanks must go to the people of Bornem for their support and hospitality whilst we were there. The majority of the course was run on tracks and cobblestoned roads to keep the course clear of traffic. Despite the distance which has to be covered in under 24 hours, all the members enjoyed themselves, especially the staging posts held in the breweries.

THE OSNABRUCK TRIATHLON

This event took place on 2 September. The morning dawned with a dark sky and fairly solid rain. Not ideal weather for swimming in lakes. The course consisted of a 600m swim in the Alfsee followed by a 22.6 mile cycle section to the Hohnenburg sports pitches. The last event being a 5.2 mile run finishing back at the sports pitches.

From the start it was clear that someone had forgotten to turn on the lake heating system and it was clear that some of the other teams knew about this and had brought wet suits. **FofS Dave O'Brien** was the first team member out of the water, however he lost time in his subsequent wrestle with his wet suit. The cycling section was along a virtually straight road and into a head wind which made for some depressing cycling. Finally the run, in which most of the team spent the first few hundred metres learning how to walk again. Meanwhile **LCpl Tony Brook** decided to practice his orienteering.

Despite strong opposition from other teams 212 Sig Sqn won the team event with **FofS Dave O'Brien** placed an excellent third. The results were as follows:

3rd	**SSgt Dave O'Brien**	1 hr 54 mins 8 secs
10th	**Lt Rob Meinertzhagen**	2 hrs 4 mins 4 secs
11th	**Pte Tim Butt**	2 hrs 5 mins 47 secs
22nd	**Sgt Dave Woolley**	2 hrs 25 mins 23 secs
25th	**LCpl Tony Brook**	2 hrs 43 mins 16 secs

Everyone enjoyed competing in the event and our thanks to 25 Engr Regt for organising it. The Squadron has a strong team and this should lead to further success next season.

The Winning Team
Pte Tim Butt, Sgt Dave Wooley, SSgt Dave O'Brien, LCpl Tony Brook and Lt Rob Meinertzhagen

2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
York

Excon '89

The Regiment has been busy building and manning the Exercise Control for 24 Airmobile Bde's validation exercise, called Ex Key Flight, in BAOR. Generally the weather was good and the communications better but unfortunately some days were dogged by large amounts of rain.

The exercise was visited by numerous VIPs from NATO member countries and a reporter interviewed a number of people from the Regiment for 'local boy stories'. The exercise was very successful with no major communication faults, which is a tribute to all the hard work and planning beforehand.

Post exercise sees farewells in November to the Adjutant, **Capt Johnny Perks** and his wife, **Lt Bridget Perks** who are posted to Sandhurst and Bulford respectively. **Capt Mark Finch** leaves us to join 8 Sig Regt. Congratulations go to **Capt Sue Buncombe** on her marriage on 21 October and **Capt Charlie Miller** on his marriage on 11 November. **Capt Graham Complin** takes over from **Capt Peter Holliday** as OC 49 Bde Sig Tp. **Capt Peter Holliday** will then become Adjutant. **Lt Gavin Grant** takes over O Troop in November and **Lt Emma Pascoe** takes over B Troop.

OFFICERS v SERGEANTS MESS CRICKET MATCH

The annual 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt Officers' Mess versus Sergeants' Mess cricket match was played in August. Up for grabs was the new trophy, the CO's Cup. As has been the case in the previous years the officers were worried about the outcome of this match, as they had been told that the Sergeants had a couple of secret weapons in **Sgt Garth Horsfall**, an Australian who is with the Unit on Ex Long Look 89, who was supposedly able to bat like Steve Waugh; and **SSgt Dave Patel** who has played for Gloucestershire. Both these secret weapons were not as they seemed and a very close match resulted, the Sergeants' Mess finally being victorious by the narrowest of margins.

The highlights of the day were many, the spectators having a very amusing afternoon. Our Australian visitor was out for a duck from the first ball of the match, pity he did not open the batting for the Australians in the recent Ashes tour! The RSM, **WO1 Hegarty**, also showed us his nimbleness, or lack of it, on the field. OC 15 Bde Sig Tp, **Capt Miller**, getting out for a duck was also another highlight. He said he did it deliberately so that he could disappear and organise the setting-up of the Barbecue and Games Night that was to follow in the Officers' Mess! **SSgt (YofS) Ken Sirr** also provided plenty of amusement for the crowd with his excellent bowling exploits. He bowled 14 balls in one over, conceding 34 runs for the over.

The day was a complete success, all involved having a very amusing and entertaining day. The final score was 188 for 9 for the Officers with the Sergeants scoring 196 for 6.

2 SQUADRON
EXERCISE KEY FLIGHT 89

After three weeks summer leave, 2 Sqn returned to work for a final 24 hour rush preparation before departing on Ex Key Flight. Then the mass migration east to Stadtoldendorf started. A leisurely cruise followed by a 13 hour drive across Europe brought us to what was to be our home for the next five weeks.

Our arrival was made smooth by the hard work put in by **SSgt Ikin** and his advance party, who had constructed a tented village, soon to be known as 'Gotham City'!

Once encamped, the building of Excon began. Using only a Gym, the 'Corps Pack' and 2 Div's entire annual allocation of masking tape, hessian and staples, a working control centre was established. At times, the task resembled a cross between a Krypton Factor intelligence test and a Blue Peter Christmas gift. We were half expecting the 2IC, **Maj Richards** to jump out and say: 'Here's one I

prepared earlier.' Finally, we thought we had finished it, but had we? . . . No, we had to alter it a few more times—c'est la vie!

Then it was time for the Techs, under the command of **SSgt (YofS) Russ Baldwin, Sgt Bob Clair** and his 'White Lanyard Bde' of Linies along with **Sgt Brian Clark** and his powermen, to go to work. They wired, clipped and installed until finally it was ready for the Staff.

Great praise must go to **Cpl Phil Winter** for his construction of an access frame using dexion racking and 'Torpedos' for all incoming lines. This was known as the Frame Access Routing Trunk, but was usually abbreviated. This was so good that **Cpl Phil Winter** had to dismantle it and rebuild it neatly so that it could be photographed.

Once the building was finished, two shifts were organised under command of **Lt Bill Adsett** and **Lt Bridget Perks** with the two 'staffies' **SSgt Jacko Jackson** and **SSgt Gary Dodd**. These shifts worked 24 hours on—24 hours off; their main task was the running of the Burco Boiler and dealing with all problems, large, small or insignificant, that the staff encountered.

During the 24 hours off shift it was decided that we might get bored, so instead of sleeping, various activities were devised. These included such expeditions as **Sgt Mac McCafferty**'s NAAFI Tour, **Lt Perks**' Map Reading Class and **Cpl John Harris**' Down-Hill Canoeing Trip! We also managed to fit in rangework, waterskiing and picking up bar mines.

The exercise drew to a close and the strain began to show on many furrowed brows. The sad remains of many Teddy Bears littered the camp showing clearly that for some it had been a long exercise.

All were looking forward to the journey home and the reunion with our loved ones; hoping in our heart of hearts either to be posted, discharged or totally incapacitated the next time this exercise came around!

RADCON—EXERCISE KEY FLIGHT

The Radcon vehicle was run and organised by **SSgt (YofS) Terry Burbidge**. He reports that his sleeping bag has been thoroughly tested and is fully operational. The occasional Radplot was generated by **Cpls Storey, Evans** and **LCpl Whincup**.

The YofS was under severe pressure (his sleeping bag was more than 3ft away from him), becoming totally confused and trying to plot a 7 figure Ptarmigan number on the map.

Lt Andy Walker, who is new to the Regiment, was kept busy with everything from firebucket filling to Radcon Nightshift and OC Tac HQ.

The Radio Dets were held together by **LCpls Hatton** and **Gunter**. Two men for ten nets was quite a task! The Radio Tp Taxis, alias the LOs, were also in great demand throughout the exercise with **Sig McEwen** and **Scott** being kept particularly busy. Old sweats, **LCpl Whitty** and **Sig McInally**, who joined the Regiment one day before the exercise and nine days after Startex respectively, formed an 'experienced' nucleus at Tac HQ.

Finally, the Radcon crew said a sad farewell to **Cpl Hanchard, Sig McEwan, Bolt** and **Lawrenson** who are off to Civvy Street. Also to **Cpl Evans** and **LCpl Parry** who are posted.

1 SQUADRON
B TROOP

The end of the Summer block leave came only too quickly. Once again we arrived back in camp to find ourselves shipped off to Germany, for Ex Key Flight.

The OC Troop **Capt Finch** was in top form. His map reading and RR siting, usually of the highest order, went far beyond his expectations as he tried communicating with extra terrestral intelligence. Unfortunately pointing SHF dishes towards the heavens did not work this time. After reconfiguration he did manage to talk to the node home det.

LCpl Mathewson not only excelled in comms but also showed the Troops his green fingers and won 'the most homely' award for his garden display. Due to their 'Ryder Cup' commitments **SSgts Watts** and **Woodfine** missed most of the exercise and on returning to York put in an exercise loss of 22 golf balls and two teddy bears. Gut Schwobbe will never be the same.

Cpl Fallows, whilst on a visit to the 'Tardis', thought his whole world had collapsed and experienced a temporary drop in communications when the node home SHF mast fell on to this most hallowed of sanctuaries.

As per normal, morale in the Troop remained high due to the fact that OSC 132 always seemed to be leaving our location.

WHO FIGHTS FOR THE SOLDIER WHEN THE SOLDIER CAN'T FIGHT?

When a man has given his youth and strength to help us, it's our privilege and duty to help him and his loved ones when in need – even if he's still in the Service.

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4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

EXERCISE VELVET GLOVE/POTENT GAUNTLET

Ex Velvet Glove, the first phase of the 20 Armd Bde month long exercise was spent at Soltau which proved to be a valuable physical experience (quote from **SSM Bolt**), with sports facilities being scarce. This resulted in physical training that had the 264 candidates diving for cover. The main result of the week was the untimely dismissal of acting PTI **Pte Ollie Oliver RPC** with a broken ankle due to a 'fair' tackle from **Cpl Ken Robson**—much to the delight of the Squadron wrecks.

The Comms side of things was 'very successful'—this was probably due to the straightest masts in BAOR. (Comms Ops Note.)

As Ex Velvet Glove ended, Ex Potent Gauntlet started. Admittedly this was a slow moving exercise with the Squadron running both a control and planning headquarters although **Cpl Baz Brooks** and **LCpl Tiny Purnell** were tasked nearly every day by the Commander.

Finally we moved on to Ex Key Flight, after a quick couple of days in a non-tac concentration area where we could put on Orange force markings. Alternate headquarters led the Brigade assault on Blue positions, suffering only one casualty after an attack by a Squadron of Lynx helicopters. The skills of **SSgt Chris Price** and **LCpl Tony Maw** had the damaged Radio Relay back on its tracks in no time, in fact so quickly that **LCpl Geordie Brown ACC** was forced to sprint to catch up.

Now at last the silly season has ended, our month on exercise has ended so we can now gear ourselves for RSIT.

POWER SECTION
by Sgt Jim Latimer

PERSONALITIES

SNCO IC	**Sgt Zip Latimer**
	LCpl 'Nobby' Hall
	LCpl Betts
	Sig Thomas
	Sig Cowley

It has been a good year for Power Section, with **Sgt Zip Latimer** going on a winter holiday in January and not spotted again in the unit until mid March.

Sig Cowley got a cut price holiday to the South Atlantic. Will the penguins ever be the same again?

Eventually in August the Power Section was able to get together and go on a well earned rest. With a few invited guests from other sections, we set off for Friesland in Holland, to explore the canals by boat. **LCpl Betts** decided to give the canals a closer inspection than most of us (sometimes by accident but mostly on purpose). **LCpl Nobby Hall** was quite successful with the rod and line, but had some keen competition from **LCpls Betts** and **Paul Ashford** with the keep net and beer bottle method.

200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 41

FROM THE FIELD

We are now on Ex Potent Gauntlet. **Sgt Zip Latimer**, of sleepy hollow fame, has lost his golden blanket to **LCpl Taff Hall** (sorry Nobby), who has succeeded in getting at least 10 hours sleep a day. All Powermen look in: Operator—We need a powerman as the genny won't start; Powerman—Try petrol instead of diesel; and Operator—I have a fuel blockage; Powerman—Use the jerican of fuel or remove fuel pipe from under genny frame.

You see, some things never change wherever you go. The excuses are still the same. Well, we must go. A move is imminent. Anyone seen the Power Sergeant?

COMINGS AND GOINGS

A fresh bunch of arrivals, all looking very keen, has arrived in the last few months: **WO2 (SSM) Bob Bolt** and his wife **Ursula**, from 656 Sig Tp; **Sgt Al Churchward** (the young and bold) and his fiancee **LCpl Ellie Stokoe**; **LCpls Cindy Gawthorpe** and **Laura Brennan** to the Commcen; **Sgt Mick Brooks** joins us from 7 Sig Regt; **Sig Woody** and **Mrs Calderwood** from 249 Sig Sqn; **Cpl Dave** and **Mrs Gill ACC** from Lippstadt; **LCpl** and **Mrs Lee RCT** from Herford.

New 'greenies' from the factory include **Sig Vince Mitchell, Mick Fernhead, Cas Casser, Doug Lacey, Forster** and also **LCpl Grocott**.

Likewise we've lost all the bold: **Cpl Riley** and **Caroline** off to Northern Ireland; **Sgt** (now SSgt) **Mick Tanser**, whose dreams have come true and is off to 1 Armd Div Sig Regt (sic); **LCpl Ian Ewen** and **Dorothy**. Hopefully we'll see **LCpl Ewen** back in Detmold with a red cap on!

LCpl Mark Lynch and **WPte Andrea Lynch** are off too. Good luck with 28 Sig Regt. 28 Sig Regt seems to be a popular place; **Sgt Stu Morrin** and his wife are off there too.

A SNOWBALL OF WEDDINGS

Somebody must have put something in the water in 'sunny' BFPO 41. Either that, or there's been a power cut as everyone seems to be rushing to get married. The fated include: **Sig Ivan Walker** and **LCpl Shirley Docherty. Shirley** is now off to Civ Div. All the best, **Shirley. Sig Billy Duggan** and **Sharon**, who married at the beginning of the year. **LCpl Eric Waldron** and **WPte Jo Kielaus. Jo** is off to Civ Div too. Once again all the best. **Sgt Al Churchward** to **LCpl Ellie Stokoe** in October. **Sig Dave Cairns** whose wedding is in December. **Capt 'Bush' Renfrey** and **Siobahn**, who married in May. All the best to them all. Who will get caught next?

CONGRATULATIONS

WO2 (YofS) Wayne Brown was presented with his LS & GC Medal by **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB MBE** during his visit earlier in the year.

Drambuie
THE LIQUEUR YOU PREFER TO BE OFFERED
IN YOUR MESS NOW

7 Sig Regt
BFPO 15

THE VISIT OF MAJ GEN A. C. BIRTWISTLE CB, CBE

On 21 September we welcomed **'General Archie'**. He once commanded the Regiment and has many fond memories of his time here. Here are a few more for his scrapbook . . .

4 SQUADRON NOTES PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Derek Robertson**
2IC	**Capt Patrick Windsor-Brown**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Steve Hilton**
OC A Tp	**SSgt Mark Toner**
OC B Tp	**Capt Nick Romans**
OC C Tp	**2Lt Kevin Atkinson**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Dixie Dean**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Steve Whitwood**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Ken Jones**
Sqn Clerk	**Sig Lee Bailey**

ROUND UP

The summer leave period was marred by the tragic death of **Sig Howie Clark. Howie** will be missed by us all and the Squadron shares the grief of his family in Carlisle.

Capt John Perrett took several members of the Regiment (plus some from 16 and 22 Sig Regts) to Australia for Ex Cantrek Quadrant. He would have written an article for *The Wire* but insisted that the PR was being handled by 16 Sig Regt. This hasn't prevented him from showing us endless photos of him and **Gloria** diving on the Great Barrier Reef. **John** is leaving us for Verden where he will no doubt plan his next venture. We wish them the best of luck.

Other moves include **SSgt Pete Lavers** and **Margaret** to 16 Sig Regt, **Sgt Norman Ruddiman** and **Birgit** who have defected to 5 Sqn and **Sgt Geordie Scott** who was despatched kicking and screaming to the Puzzle Palace (Ops). He is lucky to have **Hazel** to pull him off the ceiling at the end of the each day.

Cpl Phil Green and **Sue** left for a fun filled tour with 5 AB Bde in Aldershot while **LCpl Dex David** and **Birgit** have moved to the quieter waters of 21 Sig Regt. **Sig Eddie Palmer**, has moved to 28 Sig Regt.

Capt Patrick Windsor-Brown and **Diana** became the proud parents of a boy in early September. He was duly named **Timothy** with approval from the Adjutant. Not only that but also . . . **Patrick** achieved a magnificent B grade on his Service Funds course and is now convinced that he understands both the reproductive process and the Squadron account.

The allegedly overworked **2Lt Kevin Atkinson** is taking leave in order to 'get things done'. He will undoubtedly find time to wash the furry dice in his car, re-style his hair and actually write something in his filo-fax.

Sig Smudge Smith is to top his bar stool with a piece of carved oak and **LCpl Pete Marnell** will, in future, check whether a service station accepts Agency Coupons before filling his awfully large Bedford fuel tank with diesel.

4 Sqn, naturally, were the overall winners at the Regimental Battle Camp (see Ex Spearhouse 1). Here is our top section.

And finally . . . To top an extremely physical couple of months we sent a Squadron team to Nijmegen '89. Despite the pain, the team made it round the 100 mile course with only one 'drop-out'. The fact that blood was oozing out of the lace holes of his boots may have been seen as an excuse by some of the more liberal minded of the spectators but we consider it weak and unmilitary and have therefore volunteered him for next year's event.

EXERCISE SPEARHEAD 1—REGIMENTAL BATTLE CAMP 89

As an alternative to our favourite training area of Vogelsang, the Regiment was obliged to deploy to ATA Haltern—Leversum Ranges. This area proved, in the event, to be just as popular and a Squadron per week over a three week period was put through its paces.

The intense training package was put together by the Regimental Training Officer, **WO1 Brian Howe** ably assisted by **WO2 Graham Twisse** and the newly 'qualified to stage 5', **SSgt Roy Holcombe**.

The basic aim of the package was to practice individual skills and progress up to section/platoon level. Included were CQB, pairs fire and manoeuvre, section in defence (day and night), section attack and

Nijmegen '89. Capt Nick Romans, SSgt Mark Toner, Cpl Pattie Patterson, LCpls U. J. Upjohn, Chris Nelson, Sig Taff Watkins, J. C. Wright, Dan Benson, Gibbo Gibbons, Wall Walsch, Robert 'Jack' Dawe and Troy Burrows

ranges. The NBC phase was introduced in midweek during which four man trenches were dug and the new split hair pin shelters (SHS) were constructed. Needless to say the Corps Lighting Troop was in its element. The tactical phase of the NBC exercise was run by the Squadron's own DS and this provided **WO2 (FofS) Gig Plumb** and **SSgt (SQMS) Geoff Woodcock** with the opportunity to shed their 'Mr Nice Guy' images and wage war (with liberal doses of CS gas and smoke) on the guys in the trenches.

Background activities included setting problems for section commanders. For example, 'How would you deal with a civilian jogger who appears in the area of the Transmitter site that you are guarding during the Transition to War phase?' Responses varied from 'I'm afraid you will have to leave this area' to 'jump him, punch his lights out and confiscate his Ausweise'.

A more circumspect individual was responsible for the longest and most sportsmanlike challenge to a fleeing enemy recce soldier; 'Stop or I'll fire a warning shot over your head just close enough to make you think that I might shoot you.' Chivalry is alive and well and living in 7 Sig Regt.

The climax of each week was the stretcher race over a gentle, undulating 2.5 mile course with some 'breath taking' hills. **Sgt Bobby Snow**'s team entered with a home made stretcher which unsportingly dismantled itself en route. The team was undaunted and carried the sandbags on their shoulders for the rest of the race.

The award for best Squadron went to 4 Sqn led by **2Lt Kevin Atkinson** and **Sgt Mick Allcock**. The winning section came from 5 Sqn and was led by **Cpl Irving** of the Corps Lighting Tp. The best JNCO was **LCpl Rogers** of 1 Sqn and the best Signalman was **Troy Burrows** of 4 Sqn.

Stretcher Race Agony
2 Section from 4 Sqn feel the heat while LCpl U. J. Upjohn *(right)* wishes he'd worn his boxer shorts

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

PUSHING FOR MONEY

On 3 September the annual British Sports Association for the Disabled Wheelchair Marathon was held at RAF Catterick. The aim is to raise money for the BSAD and to develop contacts between the disabled and service personnel. Over 70 teams were entered including 15 teams from 8 Sig Regt. They consisted of three abled bodied runners who covered the 26.4 miles in a relay, pushing a disabled person in their wheelchair all the way round. To ensure that all the disabled participated some teams had several 'sitters' and they swopped over at the end of each lap, (one circuit of the airfield is about two and a half miles).

The teams were all enthusiastic, several turning up in fancy dress and others determined to race to win. **LCpls Robins, Lee** and **Smith** of 2 Sqn were just beaten into second place by a team from RAF Catterick. **SSgt Lewington, Sig Brockett** and **Edgar** from 3 Sqn were awarded the BSAD 'Spirit of the Day Trophy' for their contribution to the spirit and aims of the marathon. The other 8 Sig Regt teams all did very well and the determination of the two WRAC teams from 2 Sqn to finish, deserves a mention. They were 'pushing' after most people had gone home but they completed the marathon.

ST JOHN'S CENTRE MINIBUS APPEAL

Members of the Regiment have spent the past six months raising money for the St John's Centre Minibus appeal. The money was raised by a variety of charity events ranging from clothes auctions and discos, to sponsored runners in the Great North Run. The CO **Col Peter Webster**, presented a cheque totalling £4,000 to Councillor **Colin Grant**, Chairman of the Steering Committee. About 30 members of the centre were invited to the presentation and afterwards to a buffet lunch.

Councillor Grant would like to thank everyone who helped towards raising this magnificent total. Well done.

LCpl Haworth dashes off to the check point, whilst LCpl Baldwin and LCpl Slinger handover. This team raised a total of £168 in sponsorship!

Col P. B. Webster handing the cheque to Councillor Colin Grant whilst soldiers and members from St John's centre look on

3 SQUADRON
D TROOP

SSgt Bell and members of D Troop, as part of the soldiers' training programme, went to Bridlington Parachute Centre for an introduction to parachuting. For some it was their first flight in an aircraft, let alone jumping out of one. Hopefully they will not feel the same urge to leap out of a commercial flight they may take in the future.

Poor weather conditions, meant that only two jumps could be completed during the three day course, apart from **Sig Gilroy** who earned a set of metal wings in the form of crutches after his first jump. He adopted an unorthodox style in landing after pedalling his legs like a cyclist on approach. The course was enjoyed by all, and we hope that further jumps will be made soon.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S FAREWELL

On Friday 22 September **Col P. B. Webster** was dined out by the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess 8 Sig Regt. The evening started with the CO arriving in a Richmondshire Fire Brigade tender, much to the amusement of the mess and to the bewilderment of the CO as to what to expect next.

The RSM, **WO1 John Mullender** presented **Col Webster** with an oil painting commissioned locally, as a farewell gift from the mess.

As the evening progressed the CO must have been pondering what his exit vehicle might be, but much to his delight the Rolls Royce that appeared clearly brought a sigh of relief and delight. We wish the CO well in his new post.

RSM John Mullender presents the CO with his farewell gift, WO1 Mick Glover (RCWO) looking on

Sig King receiving his Army (Juniors) Athletics colours

9 Sig Regt
BFPO 58

GRAND CHARITY FETE

The Regiment's Grand Charity Fete was held on Saturday 16 September 1989 and this occasion provided two extra reasons for celebration. This year is the 30th Anniversary of the formation of 9 Sig Regt (Radio) and the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Royal Pioneer Corps, so it was not only a Fete but a rather large birthday party too.

The Fete was opened at 1300 hrs by an ex-member of 9 Sig Regt, **Mr Derek Nimmo**, who had served at Ayios Nikolaos during his National Service. Then the festivities began. As with all good fetes there were dozens of stalls selling everything from commemorative mugs to candy floss. There were tombola and raffle prizes galore, with prizes such as videos, groceries, a handmade quilt, a Hi-Fi, a return flight to UK and the star prize, a Nissan Micra soft top car. Undoubtedly one of the best stalls on display was the Teddy Bear Tombola, which managed to please many of the hundreds of children who visited the Fete and left clutching cuddly toys.

Mr Derek Nimmo with Mr and Mrs Goodwin and family and the star prize from the raffle

By mid-afternoon business was booming with hundreds of people, including the Signal Officer-in-Chief **Maj Gen R. F. L Cook**, busily spending money and testing their skills on the stalls. They tried their hand at the 'beat the goalie' stall, golf putting or hitting the target on the ducking stool whilst such well known members of the Regiment as the Adjt, **Capt K. Whitehead** and RSM, **WO1 Dale** were perched high above a tank of water. After people had worn themselves out with such strenuous activities there was the cream tea stall and the beer tent where they could relax and recuperate.

Apart from the entertainment on offer from the stalls there was also an action-packed programme of arena events, which took place throughout the afternoon. The children's fancy dress competition amused many mums and dads and was won by a birthday cake and birthday present. All eyes turned upwards when 84 Sqn RAF did their helicopter demonstration which included a winching exercise and abseiling from the helicopter whilst it hovered high above the heads of the gazing crowds.

Excitement built up as the Cyprus R Signals Inter Unit Cable Drum Race took place with 262 Sig Sqn from Dhekelia being pipped at the post by 1 Sqn, 9 Sig Regt. In fact 1 Sqn had an extremely successful day and also won the Superteams competition with the A and B teams coming first and second respectively, under the supervision of **Sgts Daniels** and **Offord**. The Regimental Tug-of-War was the next prize captured by 1 Sqn who out-heaved even the might of 2 Sqn. However 4RTR pulled out all the stops by winning the ESBA Inter Unit Grand Land Rover Crush Challenge, which involved piling every bulky item you could think of on to a Land Rover and then attempting to drive it. 4 RTR also put on a memorable display with their Pipes and Drums.

Judging by the size of the crowd that attended, the overwhelming amount of money taken—which will go to various charities—and the smiling faces, much enjoyment was had by all and the fete was an obvious great success.

To end the day Guard Dog Kano was promoted to Lance Corporal as a reward for winning the Royal Pioneer Corps Dog Handling event, which was judged by the Director of Army Pioneers and Labour, **Brig D. R. Higginbotham**. Finally, as the tension built up, the Star raffle prize winners was announced. **Mr P. Goodwin** probably enjoyed the fete more than most as he won the Star raffle prize—a Nissan Micra presented by **Mr Derek Nimmo**.

Brig D. R. Higginbotham *(centre)* with all the competitors in the Royal Pioneer Dog Handling Competition. Pte Chadwick and Kano, the winners, far left

HOCKEY COMPETITION

The regimental hockey competition got underway in August with squadrons fielding their strongest teams.

2 Sqn began the defence of their trophy with a difficult game against 1 Sqn. 2 Sqn played some excellent attacking hockey, and with about 20 minutes remaining, they had a two goal lead, courtesy of **WO2 Parrish** and **Cpl Poulton**. The match looked as though it was out of 1 Sqn's reach, but 1 Sqn fought back and levelled the match in the dying minutes.

The following match was against 3 Sqn and **WO2 Parrish** once more delivered the goods, scoring all three goals in the 3—1 victory. However he was disappointed at having a fourth goal disallowed. This meant that the outcome of the competition rested on the final match, between 1 and 3 Sqn.

1 Sqn would have won the competition if they had managed to defeat 3 Sqn by at least three goals. They were confident of achieving the necessary scoreline, but 3 Sqn had other ideas.

After a hard fought game the match ended in a scoreless draw, which made 2 Sqn the regimental champions once again.

The Squadron team was strengthened by the timely arrival of **SSgts Exley** and **Muir**. A very confident 2 Sqn team eagerly awaits the start of the hockey season in early October. Jolly hockey sticks!

2 Sqn Hockey Team
Back row (left to right): Maj J. P. Wilson (OC); Cpl White; Sig Wark; Pollock; Sgts Fisher and Fanning
Front row (left to right): WO1 Leivers; SSgts Exley; Muir; Cpl Devine; WO2s Parrish and Doherty

OFFICERS V SERGEANTS MESS CRICKET MATCH

10 August saw the annual cricket match between the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. The Officers opened their innings briskly with the CO, **Lt Col Evans** and **Capt Morley** scoring runs freely. The partnership was eventually broken when the CO was bowled by **SSgt Abbott**. **Capt Morley** was retired shortly after that and tight bowling and good fielding made runs hard to come by. However, useful knocks by **Capts O'Rouke, Dunbar** and **Maj Goodall** lifted the Officers' Mess score to 121.

The Sergeants' Mess started badly, losing early wickets before **WO2 Parrish** and **Sgt Edwards** stemmed the tide. These two were eventually retired having put the Sergeants' Mess in a good position. The game then swung the Officers' Mess way with four quick wickets before some youthful running by **WO2 (ORQMS) Armitage** and **Sgt Mabbott** saw the score pass the hundred. Fittingly, it was left to the RSM, **WO1 Doherty** to crown the glory by scoring the winning runs with two consecutive boundaries. So, victory to the Sergeants' Mess and the 'losers trophy' once again has pride of place in the Officers' Mess.

VISIT OF THE SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF

Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook paid a visit to 9 Sig Regt on Monday 18 September 1989 following an eventful weekend spent at the Regimental Fete. As well as visiting and meeting the personnel who work in the various departments **Maj Gen Cook** also had a chance to see the SA 80 being fired on the range.

On the social side of life the SOinC completed his visit by opening the newly built 'Elephant and Castle' Sports and Social Club. He also presented Regimental, Corps and Army sports colours to numerous members of the Regiment who had all achieved high standards in the sports in which they participated. **Maj Gen Cook** presented the Regiment with a Corps picture.

Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook presents the picture to the CO, Lt Col R. J. Evans

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11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

EXERCISE LONG HAUL

On 10 June at 0700 hrs a group of keen, well motivated potential Coast to Coast Walkers from 11 Sig Regt met at the Guardroom at Helles Barracks eager for the off. Ex Long Haul the brainchild of **Cpl John Wardley** of CT Tp and **Capt Peter Whitehead**, OC NCO Trg Wing, was about to commence. The aim of the exercise was to walk from the West Coast of England, starting at St Bees, to the East Coast, finishing at Robin Hood's Bay. A distance of 192 miles over arduous territory which was completed in 10 days. This sponsored walk raised money for St John's Handicapped Centre.

It all started with a group photograph being taken and off we all went to St Bees, where the walk began.

On arrival at St Bees we set about preparing for the start by dividing into two groups. The weather was overcast but with a good forecast ahead. **Cpl Gregory** set off first with **Cpl Wardley** just behind him. A walk along the beach, to pick up our stores, led us to the cliffs and the coastal walk before we headed due east.

Over the next few hours the view to the Lake District would open itself up to us and we reached Ennerdale Water in good time and had an easy walk up through the valley to the Youth Hostel at Gillerthwaite.

After a healthy breakfast the first group set off to follow the valleys and the second group to go Peak Bagging over the tops via Great Gable (899m) and the Langdale Pikes. Both walks proved strenuous and after a hard day both groups arrived safely at Grasmere.

The following day the sun shone again although there was low cloud on the tops of Helvellyn (949m) and St Sunday Crag (841m). The King of the Mountain competition now started and would prove to be very entertaining. A fine walk down the ridges took both parties into Patterdale for a welcome rest.

Everyone had a very good night's sleep and with spirits high we split again into our two groups with **Cpl Alan Gregory**'s first up to High Street (828m) with the Trailblazer Team a short distance behind.

Once in the valley we followed the lake and looked for signs of the eagles but to no avail. By late afternoon we were walking in the only rain we experienced on the walk—a torrential downpour—before we reached the bunk house at Shap. Our night's accommodation proved to be comfortable but basic but Wednesday's breakfast was a feast fit for a king. With very full stomachs we set off leaving the lakes behind us and heading for more gentle terrain.

A gentle climb up to the Nine Standards set everybody up for the journey ahead. With the temperature still very high we passed over the lead mining area and down into Reeth for our night's stay at Grinton.

The end of the first week found us following the course of the River Swale to Richmond and through the gentle pastures of the sheep grazing and the golden fields. We stopped awhile to watch the sheep-dogs at work and shearers clipping the sheep. Our penultimate day was to be an easy day with time to relax. The sun was high in the sky and the temperature on the way up to the high 80's. With spirits very high we left Wheeldale for the coast. Through the meadows and the sheep tracks we followed the odd cobbles down to the bay for a dip in the sea. Along the way we rescued a sheep which was trapped in a deep hole. A peaceful night and the following morning was spent in Scarborough before our journey back home.

Half way through and still looking fit

Everyone was tired and well suntanned and a lot more knowledgeable of the hills and dales. Our awareness and knowledge of the country had led us to the conclusion that it had been a tremendous walk and experience. From the rugged tops to the clear blue sea and in searing temperatures we had achieved our task with all but two participants completing the full course. But everyone enjoyed the experience and were delighted to be able to contribute £400 to a worthy charity—the St John's Centre, Catterick—a centre for the young physically handicapped children. Well done to all those who took part.

DEPOT TROOP PERSONALITIES

OC Tp	**WO1 Terry Hughes**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Barry Webber**
Admin Offr	**Mr Frank Donaldson**

Over the last nine months there have been changes within the permanent staff of Depot Tp, notably the handover of OCs. **WO1 Robbie Burnett** handed over the Troop to **WO1 Terry Hughes** on 13 January. **WO1 Robbie Burnett** who was dined out has now left the service taking with him the best wishes of the Regiment and the Corps.

Whilst the work in the Depot has been as busy and varied as always, there has been time for the permanent staff to get in some Adventurous Training, despite our busy and varied work schedule. **SSgt Barry Webber** has led sailing trips involving Depot and Regimental personnel and **WO1 Terry Hughes** took part in Ex Long Haul 89, the Coast to Coast charity walk run by the Regiment. **WO1 Terry Hughes** was coerced into joining **Capt Geoff Nelson**, OC HQ Sqn, and **Sig Bill Bunning**, Depot Tp, in the British Sports Association for the Disabled Wheelchair Marathon on Sunday 3 September.

SSgt Barry Webber, WO1 Terry Hughes and Mr Frank Donaldson

Photograph shows Mr Terry Senior and his pushers Sig Bill Bunning, WO1 Terry Hughes and Capt Geoff Nelson after the gruelling event

ROYAL SIGNALS MANNING AND RECORD OFFICE VISIT TO CATTERICK

On 1 September 30 members of Royal Signals Manning and Record Office visited Catterick. After spending the previous day at 8 Sig Regt they came to 11 Sig Regt where they were met by **WO1 Terry Hughes**, OC Depot Tp, and proceeded on a tour of the Historical Rooms guided by **Lt Col (Retd) Fred Orr**. After this interesting insight into the history of the Corps the party moved to the parade square to watch Kohima Tp, Iron Tp and 2 Tp pass off, then on to the Prize Giving and lunch in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. A welcome visit much enjoyed by all.

THE RICHMONDSHIRE TRIATHLON

For the nine men chosen (or persuaded) to represent the Regiment in Richmond's Triathlon, the morning of 22 July dawned a little too bright and fine. Six men had undertaken to swim a kilometre, cycle 20 miles and finish with a 7½ mile run, whilst a further three were to compete in the standard event (500m swim, 10 miles cycling, 5 mile run).

Experience ranged from **Sgt Dave Carr** (a veteran of several competitions) to **Mr Tony Dobson**, a compete novice. Most of the team were good runners, but indifferent swimmers and cyclists. A combination of injury, unavailability and leave meant that the teams had to be formed on an ad hoc basis.

The standard team comprising **Cpls Andy Townsend** and **Ian Goodson** were inspired by the superb efforts of token oldie **Tony Dobson**, our very game Burnham Lecturer, whilst on the sidelines **Nettie Williams** offered encouragement to her husband **John**, who was probably wondering why he hadn't got a stress-fracture of his lower leg like **Lt Steve Wheatley** (organiser and tea-boy).

Seen from the vantage point that non-combatant status confers, the determination and stamina of all competitors was impressive, and it came as no surprise to those watching when the 'A' team emerged as overall winners; **Sgt Dave Carr** placed fourth overall, **Sgt John Williams** twelfth, **Cpls Chris Martin** twentieth and **WO2 John Sharley** nineteenth, despite his unusual swimming style and almost non-existent bike-control; a result which reflected the superb fitness of these four.

The 'A' team and standard team were both well placed individually, the standard team coming fourth overall but the 'B' team being unplaced owning to **Lt Meers** misfortunes with his bicycle!

The results were given out at 1630 hrs, the sponsorship fees going to local charities, and all teams retired from debriefing at the Town Hall Inn and to celebrate a well earned victory.

Everybody said that they had enjoyed themselves! even the participants, although probably rather closer to heat stroke than spectactors, **Lts Wheatley, France** and **Meers**. The day had been a useful insight into a rapidly growing and challenging sport, which we hope will gain greater support within the Regiment next year.

Standing l to r: Lt Steve France, Mr Tony Dobson, Sgt John Williams, Cpls Mel Hough and Ian Goodson
Front l to r: WO2 John Sharkey, Lt Steve Wheatley and Sgt Dave Carr
Absent: Lt Ian Meers, Cpls Andy Townsend and Chris Martin

Ministry of Defence (Army)
8 Signal Regiment, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire

Vacancies—Instructional Officers 1

Applications from suitably qualified/experienced persons are invited for instructional vacancies in the following disciplines:-

1. Electronics

Applicants are to be able to teach Electrical, Electronic and Telecommunication Principles and equipment to Royal Signals Telecommunication Technicians.

2. Electronics (Telemech)

Applicants are to be able to teach all aspects of the laying, jointing and termination of telecommunication cables and the correct use of hand tools to Royal Signals Technicians and Telecommunication Mechanics.

3. Telegraphist

Applicants are to be able to teach Communication Operating Skills and Procedures to Royal Signals Telecommunication Operators.

Qualifications/Experience

ONC/C&G/BTEC or equivalent qualifications in appropriate subjects coupled with relevant experience are desirable. However candidates without formal qualifications who have undergone appropriate training and possess considerable relevant experience will also be considered.

Salary/Selection

£10,000-£11,103 per annum (pay award pending).

NB For successful candidates in the Electronics disciplines starting pay will be according to qualifications.

Candidates invited for interview will be required to sit short written/practical tests and give a short demonstration lecture.

If you are leaving the services in the next few months application forms and further details are available from: **Area Civilian Staff Manager, Catterick, Horne Road, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire DL9 4JH. Telephone: Richmond (0748) 832521 ext 3153/3154.**

Applications are invited at any time. All applications received will be retained until the next formal selection board is convened.

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14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 23

PERSONALITIES

CO	**Lt Col J. M. Shaw MBE**
2IC	**Maj Malcolm McKinlay**
Adjt	**Capt Alan Madsen**
AAdjt	**Lt Frances Forster**
OC 1 Sqn	**Maj Tony Morphet**
OC 2 Sqn	**Maj John Steed**
OC 3 Sqn	**Maj Lance Byrne**
OC HQ Sqn	**Capt Mick Kerr**
RSM	**WO1 Pete Aitken**

Fresh from leave, after all our activities over the summer months with a few new faces, including our CO **Lt Col J. M. Shaw MBE.**
Here's the news!

1 SQUADRON

Little has appeared in these columns from us recently and so we have all summer's news to bring you. As usual there have been many changes of faces, so firstly the Squadron team:-

Sqn Comd	**Maj Tony Morphet**
2IC	**Capt Simon Purser**
OC J Tp	**2Lt Rob Forrest**
OC W Tp	**2Lt Nick Mutter**
OC X Tp	**Lt Paul Peel**
SSM	**WO2 Phil Abbott**
SQMS	**SSgt Dave Taylor**
YofS	**SSgt Stu Little**
Trg SNCO	**SSgt Nige Barnett**

The summer was the time to take leave, go away on courses and prepare for the exercise season and most members of the Squadron were able to take part in adventure training. **Cpl Chris Belfield** took J Troop for a day rock climbing and **2Lt Rob Forrest** got away to Colorado for a month on Ex Rocky Diamond. **WO2 Pete Bull** led a team from X Troop on a 12 day cycle expedition through 7 countries in 12 days, including crossing the Alps. The ride was sponsored and succeeded in raising a four figure sum for cancer research. **Capt Simon Purser** organised Ex Torfa Diamond, a trekking expedition to Iceland for members of X Troop, but had to drop out at the last minute. **Capt Stuart Sharman** took over and brought everyone back again safely, but **SSgt 'Stitch' Wollard** and the rest of the team wondered if the advertising for this expedition was entirely true as they waded through yet another raging torrent in the Icelandic interior. Ex Cycle Diamond was a W Troop expedition to Norway to cycle the high land routes on Mountain Bikes. The expedition was led by **2Lt Nick Mutter** and **Sgt Colin Cape**. Those taking part in two teams were: **Team A, 2Lt Nick Mutter, Cpls Bob Ackland-Snow, Pete Phillips, Sig Steve Tucker** and **Cfn Andy Millar. Team B, Sgt Colin Cape, LCpls Adrian Lawrence, Simon Jones, Sig Buzz Burrows, Ben Redstone** and **Andy Egan**.

The adventure training season is by no means over and at the time of writing **Lt Paul Peel** and an X Troop crew are bobbing round the Baltic in a Corps Yacht. There is no lack of opportunity to participate in adventure training in this Regiment.

(Left to right): Mr Alex McMinn, SSgt Alan Jarwood, Maj Andy Boyle, WO2 Pete Woodward and Cpl Tony Simpson
QM to RQMS—'RQ, this is a Map . . .'
RQMS to QM—'Sir, er . . . why is it upside down . . .?'

INTER-SQUADRON RUGBY

The sporting achievements of the Squadron should not go unrecorded. 1 Sqn took the honours in the Regimental Inter-Sqn Rugby competition with a very strong side under team captain **Cpl Richie Angove**. The first two games were won convincingly. 38—6 against 2 Sqn and 18—0 against 3 Sqn. The final game against HQ Sqn was more evenly balanced with a blank score sheet at half time. A try by **LCpl Rob Tubbs** and a try and penalty by **Cpl Shaun Yost** ensured victory with a final score of 13—0.

FOOTBALL

A friendly match between W Troop and a visiting team from 13 Sig Regt finished with a 4—2 win for W Troop after a close game. The visitors won the boat race at the barbecue afterwards however, and a sociable weekend was enjoyed by everyone.

EXERCISE WHITE RHINO/EXERCISE KEY FLIGHT

The Squadron has been on several exercises of late and is now fully into this year's exercise season. First was Ex White Rhino, the 1 Armd Div CPX. The slow time move gave the Squadron a chance to find its feet, the seniors time to find a bivvy area, and the lads a chance to find the shovels to dig all the trenches. **Lt Paul Peel**, X Troop's new Troop Comd led the troop to the next location and found that which ever way you turned the map there is just no way through a cul-de-sac. He need not have worried as he had been given the wrong grid anyway! Meanwhile **Sig Paul Bevan** discovered that a low bridge can be as much of an obstacle as a cul-de-sac if your vehicle won't fit under it. **Sig Richard Bracegirdle** learned that it helps to have the ladder in place before stepping out of a 4 ton box body and we all learned the importance of being on the right side of the river when the bridges are blown. The Squadron suffered only few exercise casualties, some of the echelon vehicles were lost to QDG Recce, but on a later encounter **Yeoman Stu Little** and **Cpl Ian Cawson** defended the Command Post gallantly with their 84mm!

As we go to press, the Squadron is on Ex Key Flight, the 24 Air Mobile Bde validation FTX . . . **Cpl 'Ned' Kelly** and **Sig Bruce Johnstone** became early exercise casualties, captured in an ambush. But in preparation for our annual escape and evasion exercise, **Cpl 'Ned' Kelly**, made a dash for freedom, leaving **Johnstone** to his captors' mercy.

FAREWELLS, CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOMES

J Troop and say farewell to **SSgt Steve Penn** who goes to HQ Sqn, **LCpls Andy Jones, 'Geordie' Green** and **Ron Wohler**. Welcome to **Cpl David Sloane** and his wife **Nicola**, and **Cpl Steve Ferris** and his family. SHQ welcomes **SSgt Nidge Barnett** to the training desk; who will keep the 'Para' presence in the office as we say farewell to 2IC **Capt John Lugg** and his wife **Karen. Capt Simon Purser** moves across from X Troop to the 2IC chair and **Lt Paul Peel**, recently arrived from Shrivenham, takes his slot. X Troop says hello to **Sgt Ward** and congratulations to him and **Mrs Ward** on the birth of a son. Also congratulations to **Cpl Mick Bamber** and **Andrea** on their marriage. Farewells to **Sgt Richie Plumber** off to Harrogate, **Sgt Henrik Kiertzner** to Catterick. **Cpl 'Mugger' Heward** who leaves on promotion, and **LCpl 'Ali' McGraw** off to 30 Sig Regt. W Troop has lost **SSgt Nick Cable** to R Troop and **LCpls Neil Francis, 'Plank' Easterbrook** and **Sig Rob Hare** all posted. Best wishes to all of them, and hello to **LCpls Martin Hall, Chris Wells** and **Jimmy Huxley** who take their places.

HQ SQUADRON CHALLENGE PURSUIT CAMP
EXERCISE LEGS DIAMOND

It was a blazing day in August when the advance party left Celle for Sonthofen. Blazing for two reasons, one, it was a fine day, two, the Bedford carrying all the adventure training stores and rations caught fire en route. The Fire Brigade was summoned but arrived without fire fighting equipment! So after a few attempts to blow the fire out it was left to burn on the hardshoulder of the autobahn. Because of the danger of being hit by exploding cans of 'trucheon meat', the autobahn was closed, which resulted in an 18km tailback.

But fire, flood and pestilence could not deter the hardy men of HQ Sqn, who two days later set off to Sonthofen to enjoy a week of challenge pursuit training.

After an uneventful 10 hour trip the party arrived at Sonthofen. It was closed.

The camp was based at the 5/32 Heavy Regt RA ski hut where, under supervision of **WO1 (YofS) Merv Finch** the camp leader and organiser, we all quickly settled in and prepared for training the following morning.

The training consisted of three pursuits, rock climbing with **SSgt Mike Halford**, who kindly used part of his leave to teach us budding Joe Browns, (the climber not the singer) **WO2 Steve Lidstone** led the trekking and **SSgt Steve Penn** took canoeing, which became known to some as submariner training.

Monday morning came quickly, and Monday teatime even quicker as the canoeists and climbers sat down to tea with everybody smiling, then in came the trekkers looking pretty tired to say the least. You've all hear of Ten Tors, well the stories that were heard that night opened up visions of a new event, Ten Alpine peaks. After tea those who weren't too tired after the first day's training ventured into Sonthofen to sample the local delights, it was still closed. So most were forced to use the cellar bar in the hut where **LCpl Ian Farmer**, the barperson, introduced us to a fate worse than trekking, 'Engelbrau' a cheeky little brew that gave you a headache just to look at the label.

Tuesday morning dawned to the groans of 'who brought the gorilla?' and as everyone sat down to breakfast prepared by one of the syndicates a swop shop opened as that day's trekking party tried unsuccessfully to swop with the other syndicates.

The week continued in the same theme. On Thursday and Friday the students were able to specialise in the pursuit of their choice. The canoeists did a two day river trip and proficiency tests, which resulted in **LCpls Pete Casson, Andy Davies** and **Steve Moss REME** being awarded their Army Canoe Union proficiency certificates. The trekkers attempted to walk the Brunnenweg, a dodgy ridge walk with sheer rock faces on either side but unfortunately due to bad weather and a slight injury were unable to complete the walk. But by all accounts the overnight stay in a mountain hostel made up for their disappointment. The rock climbers spent the two days revelling in watching a 'natch', who shall remain nameless, on the rockface his antics resembled those of a pendulum rather than a rockclimber, even one or two German walkers paid close attention.

Saturday arrived, the last day. The morning was taken up with an orienteering competition that nobody won because there wasn't a scoring system. Saturday afternoon and a chance to get into Sonthofen and buy those last minute presents and souvenirs. Yes you guessed it, it was closed.

Sunday it was time to pack up and head back to Celle. The pads with canoes in their pockets and the singlies with empty wallets and dreams of what might have been headed north after a week of fun and for most some challenging pursuits.

EXERCISE TARNISHED SILVER

Ex Tarnished Silver was an Adventure Training Weekend for the QM Departments, with a few additional Squadron members taking part. The base was at Torfhaus, in the Harz Mountains.

Having set up on the Friday evening the group had a relaxing 10km stroll just to break them in for 'Tomorrows' Trek known as Boyle's Bunion. On completion, there were a few games of volleyball, coached by **LCpl 'Geordie'** (I'm the expert) **Alsop**, a skill he picked up whilst on exercise with the Danish Forces. The evening finished with a super barbecue, provided by **LCpl Scotty Scott** and beverages to help them on their way on the next day's walk.

Saturday started off well, a good breakfast, a death pack for lunch and the prospect of a 25km stroll up and down the Harz Mountains (more ups than downs!). The CO **Lt Col John Stokoe MBE** visited for the day and took part in the trek. It was supposed to be a competition therefore the adrenaline was pumping; well for some it was.

To ensure we did not all go wrong (we are the QM's Dept after all) there was a manned checkpoint half way round. Here we entrenched the REME stores Supervisor, **Sgt Stu Cameron** and the RAOC Stores Specialist, **Sgt Tony Blyth**. Neither unfortunately could take part due to blisters from an earlier 16km tactical March which had taken place a few days earlier. Refreshments were available, fresh running water for the competitors. A couple of the competitors fell by the wayside at this point. We are not sure if it was caused by fatigue.

The event was finally won by **Cpl Rich Clatworthy** and **LCpl Colin** (we are going to run all the way) **Rich** after the QM, **Maj Andy Boyle** decided who had cheated the least. The evening continued with a marathon Trivial Pursuit which only provded that the QM Dept is not right all the time. A most enjoyable weekend was had by all and, hopefully, it was the first of many Adventurous weekends.

QM (TECH) WIVES' TRIP TO BERLIN

The Quartermaster took his life in his hands and arranged a shopping trip to Berlin for the wives. They hired the PRI minibus and set off from Celle at 0600 hrs on a sunny Thursday morning. After the mandatory stop at Helmstedt and a much needed cuppa, they drove through the corridor towards Checkpoint Bravo and Berlin.

Needless to say, after an hour there was a revolt, led by **Ailsa Simpson** who wanted a smoke break.

The 'gang' finally arrived in Berlin and escorted by **Maj Bill Griffiths**, from Berlin Sig Regt, who provided an escort, the girls crossed through Checkpoint Charlie to East Berlin.

The minibus was absolutely packed with goods on their return to the West, from standard lamps to dolls prams, crystal to soap dishes. You would think that the girls were going to man a stall in Celle market with the quantities involved. Before returning to Celle the girls went on a sightseeing tour of West Berlin. An exhausting but enjoyable day for everyone as they did not get home until 0200. Nevertheless, they all want to go again.

Darn . . . they let them come back!
(Left to right): Tracy Clatworthy, Ailsa Simpson, Rachel Boyle, Marion Thompson, Emma Rich, Caron Beardsworth, Christine Alsop, Lynn Dyson and Heather McQueen (my Hubby is PSA)

3 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Lance Byrne**
2IC	**Capt Andy White**
OC RCP	**2Lt Chris Wood**
OC Romeo	**Capt George Prideaux**
OC Zulu	**Lt Graham Neal**
OC Def EW	**Capt Carl Storey**
SSM	**WO2 Mal Geer**
Yofs	**WO2 Kev Doyle**

BORDER PATROL

In August the Squadron was tasked to provide 15 men to carry out a Border Patrol. They were drawn from RCP Tp, and led by **2Lt Chris Wood**. After staying at Soltau the patrol moved to a small hut where it would be based for the next two nights. Within minutes of arriving the lads had unpacked their vehicles and disappeared off to the nearby swimming pool.

Cpl 'Baggy Bill' Johnson's stomach had told him it was time for some food, and so he went through to the makeshift kitchen to start preparing the food.

However, there was work to do. The next morning the Guard was met by the British Frontier Service Officer, and then set off to the border. The next two days involved travelling long distances along the border, carefully noting everything that they came across during the patrol.

During the evening they were invited to a local Youth Club to compete in a volley ball competition—not only did they win the competition, but the hearts of some of the girls, with **LCpl 'Gerbil' Riley** as the Star of the show.

ZULU TROOP

One may think that due to a lull in major deployments we have been enjoying the benefits of such 'slack' periods during the long, hot summer months.

The reverse has proved to be the case as we now approach the end of a hectic but successful Squadron reshuffle and audit board. No more Papa. No more Oscar. Was there ever a need for another P&O. The Rebros have now moved across to Zulu Tp and have already passed on their 'high standards' to old troop members which helped them to a well deserved win in the Squadron shooting competition. Guess what I do for a living?

We would like to congratulate **LCpls Mark Jarvis** and **Ian Speight** on their promotions and say farewell to **Cpl Bob Duff** posted to UK on promotion to Sergeant. Also to **Cpl Taff Phillips** (now Mr). We welcome **Cpl Steven Hetherington** and **LCpl Steven Rowe** and their families into the fold and welcome also to **Sig Eddie Sharp** fresh from the factory.

21 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

VISITS

During the last few weeks the Regiment has been visited by the SOinC and Comd Comms BAOR. The following are brief accounts of these visits.

COMD COMMS BAOR

On 24 August the Comd Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen P. R. Davies,** spent half a day with the Regiment. During the visit he saw our military and trade training, equipment husbandry and presented three LS & GC Medals.

The LS & GC recipients with their families and Comd Comms. Recipients are Sgt Gillings, SSgt (FofS) Shepherd and WO2 Millard

Ex Quick Thought saw three man teams from each of the Squadrons perform a series of initiative tests aimed at encouraging initiative and lateral thought in solving problems. They included such things as capturing a live frog, capturing being the operative word as 1 Sqn proved to be butterfingers, and obtaining a copy of the Koran. 4 Sqn helped their cause by taking both copies from the library and went on to win handsomely.

Ex Vital Link was a competition amongst Troop seniors to see how many faults they could pick up on a radio relay detachment on a second line inspection. Joint winners turned out to be **SSgt Samm** of TN 039 and **SSgt Hamilton** of F Troop.

SSgts Hamilton and Samm receiving trophies for winning Ex Vital Link

Ex Ramrod was the Inter-Squadron Military Skills Competition. Teams consisted of five men who performed such tasks as First Aid, Weapon Handling/Firing, NBC, Command Tasks and Enemy Recognition. The competition was once more won by 4 Sqn.

After touring the Regiment and seeing the activities in progress everyone involved gathered in the Beaufighter Rooms where **Maj Gen Davies** presented prizes to the exercise winners. He also presented LS & GC Medals to **WO2 Millard RE, SSgt Shepherd** and **Sgt Gillings**.

On his departure **Maj Gen Davies** was presented with a cheque for the Royal Signals Association, by the CO, **Lt Col Whitemore** and a photographic memento of his visit by **WO1 (RSM) Ashwell**.

4 Sqn, the Ex Ramrod winners, Cpl Ogga Hodgson, Sig Tony McAleese, Brian Ruddin, LCpls Pete Gait and Sam Parke with Comd Comms

On Tuesday 26 September, **Maj Gen P. R. Davies**, visited 21 Sig Regt during its deployment on Ex Plain Sailing and Key Flight.

Accompanied by the CO, **Lt Col P. Whitemore,** he made a brief visit to a Trunk Node deployed in the area of Dortmund providing vital Ptarmigan communications for Ex Plain Sailing. He met the Node Comd, **Capt Janice McKee,** who was on her last exercise before being posted to UK as the first woman commander of the Blue Helmets, the Royal Signals freefall parachute display team.

The Comd was then taken in a Gazelle of 12 Flt AAC, to the Herford area to visit 4 Sqn which was providing tactical communications for the Support Helicopter Force deployed in support of 24 Bde on Ex Key Flight. The first stop was at Force Headquarters where the Commander was given a tactical briefing by the Squadron Comd,

SSgt Ray Patrickson greeting Comd Comms on his arrival at 'B' Flight, 18 Sqn

Capt A. Hickling, before meeting the Force Commander, **Wg Cdr Hunt.**

The next stop was at B Flt of 18 Sqn RAF Gutersloh where 12 Flt's Gazelle was dwarfed by the mighty Chinook. Whilst at this location, he was invited into the farmhouse of Herr and Frau Paschetag for 'caffee und kuchen' with members of the Regiment and the RAF site personnel. **Maj Gen Davies** presented a Regimental commemorative plate to Frau Paschetag in recognition of their generosity and friendliness throughout the exercise.

SOINC VISIT

On Thursday 28 September, the SOinC **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook** visited briefly at RAF Wildenrath. The majority of the Regiment was deployed on various exercises but despite this the SOinC was met with a guard of honour provided by 2 Sqn. Although the Regiment is still equipped with SLR, the eight members of the guard commanded by **Sgt Oakley** trained with and carried SA80 for the occasion.

The inspection took place at the Petersholz Gate of RAF Wildenrath next to RHQ and, after completing his inspection, the SOinC joined the CO and the Ops Offr, **Capt Bill Ritchie,** for a brief on the current exercise situation. The SOinC then went to Ops Wing for a visit to 3 Sqn and the Airfield Tp at RAF Wildenrath. During this part of the visit **Gen Cook** was given a series of demonstrations on aspects of Airfield Signal Troop work following short briefs by OC 3 Sqn **Maj Tony Whydell** and OC Kilo Tp **Capt Mick Bailes**. The demonstrations covered current project installation work on the Fibre Optic network, conventional cable jointing techniques peace and war, an overview of the RAF Wildenrath Fibre Optic installation, a blown fibre demonstration, and an opportunity to personally complete a fibre optic fusion splice. The SOinC also toured the Wing Operations Centre and talked to members of both Kilo and 855 Sig Tp (V) who were both testing and installing communications prior to the Station's Tactical Evaluation by NATO on 2 October.

SOinC completing a heat shrink closure to a jointed 100 pr UG armoured cable. Sig Beswetherick of 855 Sig Tp (V) in full IPE carrying out a Battlefield repair to a 100 pr cable in the background

SOinC checking the correct alignment of the prepared fibres, prior to completing a fusion fibre optic splice. Cpl Maxted, Kilo Tp assisting

To round off the visit, **Gen Cook** joined the Officers in the RAF Officers' Mess for a light lunch. There were a few surprises in store for both the SOinC and his ADC. First of all, due to a certain amount of sleight of hand, the CO was able to present the SOinC with a mounted version of the fibre optic joint which he had earlier made himself. This was followed by a presentation to the SOinC made by **Capt Mick Bailes**, OC K Troop (the RAF Wildenrath Airfield Tp). This depicted two Tele Mechs at work on a cable joint and was made entirely from nuts and bolts by a craftsman in Holland. Finally, the SOinC was able to present his ADC for the visit, **Lt Tony Clark**, with an engraved tankard to mark his award of the Whistler Trophy this year.

Lt Tony Clark receives a memento from the SOinC to mark his achievement in winning the Whistler Trophy

NEWS FROM H TROOP

PERSONALITIES

Troop OC	**Capt Len Carr**
Troop SSgt	**SSgt Steve Dobson**
Project Sgt	**Sgt Pip Piper**
SNCO i/c Techs	**Sgt Bill Stadius**
i/c Maint	**Cpl Bob Hindle**
MT Cpl	**Cpl Geordie Brown**
Troop Clerk	**Mrs Sue Brough**

ARRIVALS

Only one addition to H Troop since the last publication—**Sig McVeigh**—who joins us from the 'Factory'—have a good tour.

DEPARTURES

We say farewell to **Sig 'Delbert' Wilkens** who leaves for 8 Bde, after a short stay of nine months with H Troop. All the best for the future.

TRIATHLON—30 AUGUST

The H Troop Triathlon run on Wednesday 30 August was open to members of 37 Sqn RAF Regt and 52 Fd Sqn RE. The teams entered consisted of ten members of H Troop, one member of 52 Fd Sqn and five members of 37 Sqn.

The competition started at the Station swimming pool, on what began as an unusually dreary August day. The first stage was five lengths of the pool, followed by a quick change and a 12km cycle ending at H Troop's Shed 57. The next stage was a 7km run around the hill 60 area during which a pistol shoot was staged. The pistol shoot was the undoing of some of the fitter competitors, before the bonuses and penalties from the Range were counted, the top five placings were as follows:-

1st	**Wilkens**	H Troop	1.03.07 hrs
2nd	**Morton**	52 Fd Sqn	1.04.19 hrs
3rd	**Johnson**	37 Sqn	1.07.27 hrs
4th	**Waters**	37 Sqn	1.07.48 hrs
5th	**Bedward**	37 Sqn	1.08.01 hrs

When this is compared with the final placings, there is quite a significant difference which only goes to show how physical exertion affects an athlete's accuracy and concentration. The shoot was marked by: a complete miss cost the competitor a one minute penalty, a bull's eye gained a 30 second bonus and the two outer rings gave bonuses of 10 and 20 seconds respectively.

The final positions were:-

1st	**Morton**	52 Fd Sqn	1.00.49 hrs

2nd	**Johnson**	37 Sqn	1.07.37 hrs
3rd	**Stadius**	H Troop	1.07.52 hrs
4th	**Waters**	37 Sqn	1.07.58 hrs
5th	**Tadman**	H Troop	1.07.27 hrs

The competition was enjoyed by most of the competitors and, with the general enthusiasm shown, the organiser, **Cpl Tadman** of H Troop is looking forward to organising another competition along similar lines in the spring of 1990 and to include teams from other Squadrons within the Regiment as well.

OFFICERS' MESS V SERGEANTS' MESS ANNUAL CRICKET FIXTURE

The annual friendly match between the Officers and WOs and SNCOs took place in glorious weather on Saturday 19 August at RAF Wildenrath.

The RSM, **WO1 Jeff Ashwell** issued instructions that the Trophy, held since 1980 by the Seniors, was to be retained at all costs, but being a fair-minded man he restricted his own team to a mere six Regimental players, so as to give the Officers' Mess team a chance.

The Cricket Officer and Adjutant, **Capt Steve Richardson** was not so fortunate in his choice of team, and found himself press ganging the TOT, **Capt Geoff Chaloner** into the side, just as he was settling down to watch the game with his family!

The all-important toss was won by the RSM, with the CO **Lt Col Whitemore** coming a close second. Acting on the advice of his skipper for the day, **SSgt Ray Patrickson**, the RSM elected to bat first, and duly opened the innings (on merit of course) with **SSgt Dave Ryder**.

Despite some furious bowling, some of which actually landed near the wicket, the Seniors managed to rattle up a very respectable score of 229 for 6 wickets, declaring with one ball of the 30 overs remaining. This was meant to be a tactical move to undermine the Officers confidence even further, but the declaration was met with disgust by **WO2 (SSM) Brian Dalton** who was 47 not out at the time and ready to hit his sixth six of the day. However, a peace offering of a little refreshment soon calmed him down.

Good contributions during the Seniors innings came from **WO2 Brian Dalton, SSgts Nige Samm, Ray Patrickson** and **Sgts Calvin Lambert** and **John Wilkes**. The RSM graciously retired for six runs after being clean bowled by a very surprised **Capt Bill Ritchie** the Ops Officer.

Following an excellent barbecue and a little liquid refreshment, it was the officers' turn to bat. The CO opened the innings, along with a 'ringer', **2Lt Guy Bennett** who was probably posted in for the occasion!

After some friendly bowling from the RSM and **WO2 Dalton**, the opening partnership reached 51 before **2Lt Guy Bennett** had to retire having reached the magical 30. The Seniors were not too worried at this stage, for waiting in the wings were Regimental bowlers **Sgts 'AJ' Matless, Calvin Lambert** and **Chris Davison**. It was an unknown quantity as to who would do the damage, however, **WO2 (FofS) Dave Stewart** clean bowled four Officers in quick succession. This left the Adjutant, **Capt Steve Richardson** and **2Lt Guy Bennett** the impossible task of scoring almost 80 runs from the last six overs to win the match. Victory for the Seniors (again) was confirmed when **Sgt 'AJ' Matless** caught and bowled the Adjutant, leaving the Officers 73 runs short on 156 all out.

Nevertheless, it was a good effort by the young Officers' Mess team and good innings from the CO, **Majs Tony Hewitt, Jim Kennard, Capts Mick Bailes, Steve Richardson** and **2Lt Guy Bennett**. Congratulations also to those who did not trouble the scorers, and featured in that incredible mid-order collapse: **Maj Andy Locke, Capts Bill Ritchie, Cliff Webb, Geoff Chaloner** and **Lt Duncan Warne** who was probably the only man on the field who was seeing three balls at the same time!

The CO presented the trophy to the RSM at the end of a marvellous match, which was played in the true sprit of the game. After some discussion it was decided to award the 'Man of the Match' to **2Lt Guy Bennett** for his excellent knock of 45 not out.

All in all, it was an excellent day, and thanks to the following: **Cpl Ogga Hodgson** and **LCpl Spike Poole** for their professional umpiring and ability to withstand bribes from one team. **SSgt Carl Strefford** for organising the bouncing castle which kept the children (and adults) amused. **Cpl Charlie Hill** for running a generous bar and keeping **Sgt 'Scouse' Rosenthal** supplied with refreshment on the boundary.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN RUGBY 7'S

Sunday 3 September saw the annual Battle of Britain Rugby 7's tournament. The Regiment managed to field five teams, one from 1, 4 and HQ Sqns whilst 2 Sqn managed to field two teams. Last year's champions, Mech Eng Sqn failed to provide a team to defend their title. These five teams came together to face the cream of the RAF Departments in a Knockout competition. The competition proved to be both enjoyable and highly competitive. If skill was lacking in certain areas commitment certainly wasn't as teams slugged it out for an eventual final between 16 Sqn RAF Regt and 1 Sqn 21 Sig Regt. This neatly divided the spectators into Army and RAF supporters. The final turned out to be quite an even game with 16 Sqn scoring first. It wasn't until the second half that 1 Sqn replied to even the score at 6—6. Then with a couple of minutes left 1 Sqn scored again for a final score of 10—6 and secured the trophy. The winning team was captained by **SSgt Nige Samm** and the team comprised of **2Lt Guy Bennett, Cpls Taff Donald, Alexei Sale, LCpl Eric Francies, Sig Jon Streamer** and **Billy Burton**.

Finally many thanks for the magnificent support from all spectators, especially the 1 Sqn lads.

INTER SQUADRON BASKETBALL

The Regimental Inter Sqn Basketball competition took place at RAF Wildenrath Gymnasium on 11 July. The competition got off to an early start with the favourites, 3 Sqn, taking on 2 Sqn. The game proved to be closer than most expected with **Cpl Kev Jarvis** scoring most points for 2 Sqn and preventing 3 Sqn from getting into their stride. However, after **SSgt Duncan Forteath** opened up the scoring for 3 Sqn, with the first basket of his playing career, 3 Sqn took control and won by 20 pts to 10 pts.

By the half way stage of the competition it became clear that the competition was going to be decided on the final game between the surprise team of the competition, 4 Sqn, captained by **Cpl Baz Hurdman** and 3 Sqn.

3 Sqn got off to a good start with a couple of quick baskets and managed to maintain the lead throughout the game winning by 33 pts to 15 pts. The results of the competition were as follows:-

1st	3 Sqn	12 Pts
2nd	4 Sqn	9 Pts
3rd	2 Sqn	6 Pts
4th	HQ Sqn	3 Pts
5th	1 Sqn	0 Pts

RAF WILDENRATH CHARITY PRAM RACE

Sunday 3 September saw the sun rise to a brilliant day—an ideal setting for the annual RAF Wildenrath Charity Pram Race. The race is organised each year by one of the fighter squadrons at RAF Wildenrath and is open to all departments on the Station. As usual the Army was well represented by the Regiment with a large number of prams in relation to the size of the Regiment. The race took place in the Petersholz compound—much to the chagrin of the RSM who realised how much mess it would generate. The course consisted of three or four laps of the compound—a tight course with many tight bends and a reputation amongst pram racers similar to that which Monaco has amongst Formula 1 drivers.

The main difference between pram racing and Formula 1 racing is not as most would expect—speed, but the battling between teams on the route. Whilst deliberate ramming tactics were not allowed missiles such as eggs, flour, water and swarfega bombs were actively encouraged. Each heat soon resembled scenes from Ben Hur with many of the prams struggling to remain roadworthy. Prior to the heats all prams were inspected to select a winner in the best design and build category. 4 Sqn with its batmobile was tipped as the likely winner but unfortunately in what must have been a very close decision the Harrier Simulator team won with their Formula 1 race car. The rumour that the LAD did not produce a team as their pram was awaiting spares was discovered to be true.

4 Sqn's Batmobile with Lt Duncan Warne, Sgt Dave Bunt, LCpl Pete Gait, Sig Des Holroyd, Tel Terrett and Cpl Bob Harvey admiring their handiwork and SSgt Geordie Bincliffes Bat Suit

The Batmobile somewhat worse for wear

2 Sqn produced a lively little Thomas the Tank Engine drive by **LCpl Spook Pook**. Unfortunately the loss of a wheel in the first heat slowed it somewhat. However it chugged on valiantly to third place. 1 Sqn represented by TN 038 looked fast from the start with their 'Thunder Box' proving to be light and manoeuverable. They won their heat easily with **Sig Billy Burton** in the driving seat—literally. With the 4 Sqn Batmobile winning its heat the Regiment looked well placed for victory with two out of four prams in the final. Unfortunately the final turned out to be a real test of endurance for the prams with both Regimental prams suffering from severe chassis fatigue. 4 Sqn batmobile lost its body completely with **SSgt Geordie Bincliffe** being exposed in his full batman suit (rumour has it that he already had a batman suit before the race). In the end 4 Sqn came second with 1 Sqn fourth, the winners again being the Harrier Simulator team.

Special praise must go to all who spent many hours behind the scenes building the prams only to see them smashed to pieces in the melee. Also thanks to the pram pushers who, many of them having just come from a rugby 7's competition, flogged themselves around the course whilst being pelted with all sorts of missiles. All in all an enjoyable day, made even more worthwhile by the knowledge that it was all in aid of charity.

FAREWELL FOREMAN POLAND
by Capt Mike Holman

The Foremen in the Corps are mad; this is so, or so I've heard,
A view from which the cognoscenti seldom have demurred
For months they slave at Blandford burning midnight oil and peering,
At circuit boards in Ptarmigan's outdated engineering
After which to various posts and ulcers they are steered
And, just to clinch the argument, each one's a volunteer
Psychiatrists will tell you (for a far more modest fee)
That there are many types of what we call insanity
Such niceties aside it pleases me to introduce
A lunatic extraordinaire to whom we're saying Tchuss
Who scorned the list of hells his Records Branch held up for grabs,
I give you Mr Poland, who chose service with the Crabs
Not only have his ways with Wing Commanders been Quixotic
He's solaced Squadron Leaders sobs, however idiotic
But his appetite for grief he proves (of sense he is bereft)
By running to the rescue of the fiendish GRF
Who, every time they feel the urge to plumb the depths sadistic
Shout 'Eifel', 'Twin', (or similar), and watch him go ballistic
And should you need yet further proof of this man's masochism
Then on the line of fluency in German go and quiz him
What better way to prove that all his marbles have been lost
He took it on himself to woo the Deutsches Bundespost
Foreman, in the electronic jungle you're a leopard,
'Wir danken Ihnen wirklich'; Now God help Foreman Sheppard!

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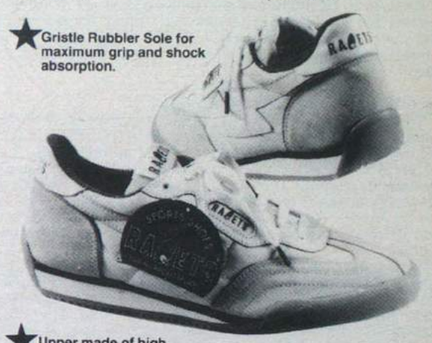

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1 SQUADRON
EXERCISE ALLGAU TRIANGLE

Ex Allgau Triangle was a two week arduous training exercise. Organised by **SSM Scotty Handibode**, ably supported by **Sgt Pete Duffy**, it consisted of trekking up some high peaks, windsurfing, trekking up some even higher peaks and canoeing.

The scenery on the mountains was spectacular, but not as spectacular as the scenery on the banks of the windsurfing lake! 'Must be the Bavarian air' commented **LCpl 'Zippo' Wilson** as he practised his windsurfing from the safety of the shore in the prone unsupported position.

LCpl Russ Martin excelled at canoeing, and at sub-aqua diving! 'Better have an air tank with you next time you stay under for that length of time **Russ**' suggest the ashen faced instructor. 'And if you could let us know where you are likely to surface, we will send transport for you!'

One or two other unusual and amusing incidents occurred during the exercise, but they are better told than written. But most of the lads will agree it was a good break from the life of luxury we lead in Lippstadt and blisters or not, we will probably be back for more next year.

JOSZI-KAPLA-GEDACHTNIMARSCH

This march is an annual event hosted by the Bundeswehr reserves from Brakel. Regular soldiers from all the NATO armies in Germany are invited to enter teams of four men and/or individuals. A variety of categories attracts many competitors, including policewomen from Dortmund, reservists from Berlin, local firemen and a selection of soldiers from nearby units. By far the most demanding category is that for the 'Active Truppe'; 20km over the hilly terrain to the south of Bad Drieburg, wearing combat boots, combat fatigues and carrying a pack.

From the start it was obvious that the Belgians were to be the main opponents; their mass turnout showed a will to retain the trophies that they had amassed last year when they won the individual event and their teams were placed, first, second and third. Our team was confident, with sleep in their eyes, compo in their stomachs, Ex Second Summit was recent history and a more physical exercise was just about to start. Marching didn't come into it much, running featured heavily over the first 10km then the hills dictated a march pace. 22 Sig Regt led from the start and steadily increased the lead all the way home, completing the course in a time of 1 hr 56 mins.

The Belgians collected the prize for second place with a time of 2 hrs 24 mins, but one suspects that, despite their good humoured banter after the march, that next year's team event will be a lot more closely contested. The day ended with a presentation of trophies and certificates in which everyone seemed to be a winner, indeed everyone who took part that day left with a sense of achievement.

22 Sig Regt's marching team consisted of **Cpl Dullaghan, Sgt Anderson, Sig Carpenter** and **Meek**.

NATIONAL ROLLER SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Regiment sent a team to UK this year to compete in the National Roller Ski Championships. They consisted of members of the Regiment Cross-Country Ski Team and the Championships were

Cpl Carl Davies the British Biathlon champion out in front during roller ski training

part of the all important summer training programme. The team had a variety of success being the first non-national Army Team in the three mile relay race and obtaining some impressive individual results. **Cpl Davis** was fourth in the 10 mile race closely followed by **Cpl Smith** in seventh place. Well done **Cpl Smith** for being the first non-national squad skier, an excellent result especially since there are 20 skiers in the national squad.

2 SQUADRON
EXERCISE FOXTROT TRIANGLE

Ex Foxtrot Triangle was a challenge pursuit camp held at the Armed Forces Recreation Center in Berchtesgaden, Bavaria.

It started with a hike to the Watzmann house at a height of 2,000m, everyone was happily surprised to find out that our guides for the two day hike were two German women. The start of the hike found everyone in good spirits, by the time we reached the hut most people were on their last legs. Volunteers were asked for to climb to the top of the Watzmann which is at a height of 2,651m. While the rest of the Troop retired to the bar to sample Bavarian hospitality, **Cpl Martin Smith, LCpl Archie Gemmel, Sig 'M' Emmerson** and **Paul Connell** decided to venture to the top. Four hours later they returned with stories about marvellous views and how they were the only ones to reach the summit, alas it all fell on deaf ears.

Wednesday 22 August saw all the Troop achieve something that none of them had done before. White water rafting was everything it promised to be, with everyone thoroughly enjoying themselves. The day consisted of a journey into Austria and a four hour raft down the River Saalach back into Germany. The water was fast and furious due to heavy rains the night before. **Cpl Stu Phillips** and **Sig Walker** spent most of the time swimming in the water trying to reach their rafts. Most of the Troop were surprised to find out that the object of rafting was not to avoid large objects but to steer the raft into and over the top of them. This resulted in most people leaving the rafts involuntarily. The American instructors were impressed with the Brits.

Thursday 23 August saw us conquer the River Salzach which also started in Austria and ended in Germany. This river was shorter but a lot faster and some stages saw whole rafts disappearing into the

Rafting in Austria 'Over the Obstacle'

water. The raft consisting of **Sgt John Phipps, Cpl Martin Smith, LCpl Ronnie Passant, Sig 'M' Emmerson** and an adopted American officer call 'LT' then started to perform tricks causing the raft to become vertical before crashing to the river, the instructor was impressed by our attempts to make the raft do things which were thought impossible. We left for the Austrian city of Salzberg on 24 August. That was an eye opener for most of the Troop who went on a guided tour.

That night we had our end of course meal at the American Hotel 'Berchlesgadener Hof'. Each person received a certificate and badge from the AFRC instructor for completion of the programme. The wine was free, so by the time we were asked to leave the stories were flying thick and fast. Everyone enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to next year. Participants were **Sgt Phipps, Cpls Smith, Drake, Phillips, LCpls Gemmell, McRae, Passant, Sparrow, Sig Breckenridge, Connell, Emmerson, Lambert, Steele, Walker, Cpl Longworth** (D Troop), **LCpl Yelland** (E Troop) and **LCpl Steve Phillips** (TA).

EXERCISE MERCURY EAGLE

WO2 (SSM) Mackay: Sgt Mac, I have got a stunt for you. I want you to organise an Ptarmigan Trunk Node exchange exercise with 123 US Sig Bn, based at Hindenberg Kaserne, Wurzburg. I have completed a recce and here is all the info you will require, dates, timings, etc, any questions?

No? Good, I'm off on leave.

After a conversation with a passing signalman, I found out that **Capt Anderson** was OIC exercise. I made a bee line for his office. Yes, I am OIC exercise, no, I do not have any info, I'm off on leave. At this point I made a mental note to find out more about this leave business.

My next point of contact was Ops. The conversation was riddled with who, what exercise, when and why. I left Ops nearly enlighted and returned to reading the SSM's notes and to my delight, discovered a contact number for our American cousins, who as it happens were not off on leave.

I was now armed with sufficient information to do the exercise instruction. On completion of this, one small problem remained, where to find 40 men from the Regiment who were not off on leave. Three days later, this problem was overcome, due to the assistance of the Regiment kindly 'donating' soldiers. The big day duly arrived and we left camp on 26 July for Wurzburg. We had a trouble free move to Hindenburg Kaserne and quickly got established in the gym, our home for the next six days.

The first two days were designated as the Ptarmigan demonstration days. The Americans were very keen to see Ptarmigan, as they are in the process of receiving MSE (Mobile Subscriber Eqpt). The two days were taken up by a series of tours and lectures on the equipment, conducted by the Detachment Commanders on their own vehicles, culminating in the visit by **Gen Shoffner**, Comd of 3 US Div, who was impressed with the professionalism of the Brits and awarded a medal of achievement to OIC exercise, who was by this time back from leave. I hastily procured the medal, and checked to see if it entitled me to American pension rights.

The next five days were taken up by cultural visits to the many areas of interest around Wurzburg, introduction to the American assault rifle the M16 A1, ranges and sports.

In summary allow me to quote the certificate of achievement awarded to every soldier who participated in the exercise: 'Your professional competence, hard work, and dedication were instrumental in making this NATO exchange a successful and educational experience. It is of utmost importance that our nations work side by side in the pursuit of freedom. Your professional execution of this critical communication exercise is in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit on you and the British Army.'

Now about this leave business . . .

Capt Anderson receiving the Medal of Achievement from Gen Shoffner

4 (JACQUES) SQUADRON

OC	**Maj Bob Carter**
2IC	**Capt Denis Weir**
SSM	**WO2 Keith Leighton**
SQMS	**SSgt Clive Sear**
FofS	**SSgt Mick Uttley**
YofS	**SSgt Ron Perry**

Well, the year continues to fly past. The expected summer lull turned into filling as many commitments as normal with 30 per cent on leave, whilst running a successful summer camp, winning the Regimental Orienteering, Basketball, and Cross Country Competitions, which I promise not to mention again.

The Squadron's performance on Battle Camp however should not go without mention. The four sections we supplied for the exercise, finished first, second, third and fifth in the competition; well done to **Sgt Nick Bell**'s section on winning. We then could not lose the best platoon prize ably led by **2Lt Jeff Pullen** and **SSgt Ron Perry, Sig Freddy Walker** being awarded the best soldier in the Platoon. **Sig 'Gadge' Garett** won the best soldier in a Company, whilst **LCpl Tony Rowell** gained the highest score on the infamous P1 rifle assault course with 95 per cent.

Led from the front by **Maj Bob Carter**, we conducted several types of ranges, enjoyed by all, even if only in retrospect. So, once again congratulations to all Squadron participants in Ex Forward Strike, let's hope the competition is tougher next year.

EXERCISE JAQUES AWAY 1/89

The Squadron Summer Camp for 1989 was based in the scenic Sauerland, the facilities and help given by our German hosts were first rate and formed a very good base for an enjoyable camp. Things started badly though, **Sig 'Soapy' Saville**, not too keen on the idea of all those watersports decided to roll his Bedford on the way down. Suggestion to all vehicle producers: make your trucks out of the same plastic as Army canoes!

The dawn of day two saw the participants being split into five sections each pursuing a set activity and rotating through each one, day by day.

The orienteering phase produced a scramble of activity each morning as there was a rush for the best bikes. The cunning ones plied **WO2 (SSM) Keith Leighton** and **SSgt Clive Sear** with beer before asking to borrow bikes. **Cpl Epps** regrets his morning sluggishness as he was left with one of the 'town' bikes, whilst **Cpl 'Trav' Travis** did have one fast enough to do a half mile detour around a loose bull.

Cpl Steve Marlow enjoyed the windsurfing so much he's talking about buying a board. Can his pension afford this?

Cpl Ron Haslam's section of **Cpl 'Pepy' St Pier, LCpl** 'Psycho' **Wall, Sig Rodney Hood** and **Hanny Hannon** were certainly the most colourful. They also won the best sketch award, but not much else. Whilst mentioning the sketches, **Cpl Carl Croft**'s section worked hard, but rehearsals are the key to success. Take note **Sig Willans** and **Freddy Walker**.

All in all a good 10 days away, with working hard and playing hard, producing a mellow exercise.

EXERCISE JACQUES AWAY TO THE SEA

Within days of his arrival in the Squadron, the new 2IC, **Capt Dennis Weir** was tasked by the OC with organising a 'different' day out for Troops. So it was then that 24 of us left Lippstadt early one August morning and headed for the North German coast.

On arrival at the resort of Cuxhaven (14 Sig Regt eat your heart out!) we changed into shorts, removed shoes and socks, and set out for the island of Neu Werk.

The island lies some 14km off the coast and can be reached comfortably at low tide by negotiating a mixture of sand, sea and extremely sticky mud. We covered a distance at a brisk pace, partly because we wanted to set a good example to German 'fellow travellers' and partly because the 2IC knew that there was only one decent pub on the island.

A pleasant afternoon was spent exploring, eating and quenching our thirst before we re-grouped to board the ferry which would return us to the mainland.

During the journey back to Cuxhaven **Cpl Mark Anderson** entertained the Troops and the other passengers with some 'tasteful' community singing and it was a tired but happy group which disembarked from the ship to board the coach for the journey home.

Sig Paul Duff, LCpls Tony Rowell, Ivan Mayland and Cpl Mac McWilliams soak up the sun on Neu Werk

ADVENTURE TRAINING IN AUSTRALIA

In June this year five members of the Regiment embarked on Ex Cantrek Quadrant, a three-phase adventurous training exercise in Australia. It has been organised over two years by **Capt John Pettett** of 7 Sig Regt and also involved five members from each of 7 and 16 Sig Regts, including three members of the WRAC.

The first phase was to trek a 200km section of the Alpine trail in the Snowy Mountains, from the Omeo Highway, Victoria, to Dead House Gap, New South Wales. The second phase was to involve white water rafting a section of the Murray River in New South Wales, known as the Sturt Trail. Finally, to get away from the cold of the south and into the sunnier weather in North Queensland, it was planned to spend the last phase sub-aqua diving on the Great Barrier Reef, one of the world's most spectacular diving areas.

The team from 22 Sig Regt consisted of **WO2 (SSM) Mike Duffin, Sgt Steve Payne, Cpl Steve Munday, LCpls Paul McClelland** and **Steve Ridout**.

After final equipment and admin preparation was complete, the team left the relative comfort of the RAEME Training Centre in Bandiana, New South Wales, and set off to cover the trail, with 10 days rations and about 20kg of equipment on their backs. The first day saw 30km of the trail covered, and after a re-appraisal of everybodys physical state, due to blisters, groin strains and knee injuries, it was decided that only six members of the team should carry on with the trek from Limestone Creek, to cover a further 100km to Dead Horse Gap.

This part of the trail gave us many variations in weather and temperatures, from being warm and sunny to packed snow and howling winds. Trekking through snow-covered bush in mid-July, seeing herds of wild kangaroos was something no-one could forget, the realisation of just how isolated we were and the distance to be covered being the thing that kept us going.

Trekkers in the snowy Australian Bush

After three days Head Horse Gap was reached, and even though there were a few aches and pains everybody felt they had achieved something at having beaten the bad weather and finding out a little more about how far they could push themselves.

After a return to camp and just one day to collect the inflatable rafts and sort our other equipment, the team set off once again, courtesy of the Australian Army Transport section, on the second phase of the exercise, the white water rafting.

From Khancoban, Victoria, on the Murray River, each four-man raft covered approximately 30km on the first day. Unfortunately the water was not as exciting as had been hoped, but after some local advice, we set off and found the kind of water we had been looking for.

Paddles-up

Rapids of up to grade five were encountered, each member of the team ending up in the water more than once! Having to make split-second decisions on which route to take through the massive rocks and drops made the rafting a very rewarding experience. It was hard work, non-stop paddling, but very good fun.

The final phase took us north from Richmond, Sydney, to Townsville in Queensland, courtesy of the Royal Australian Air Force. This was probably what the majority of the team were looking forward to most, and they weren't to be disappointed. After nearly a further week's training in the pool and collection of kit, including air cylinders, a generator, compressor and enough food and water to keep 15 people happy for a week, we set sail for the tiny deserted island of Pelorus, our home for the next seven days.

Diving off the island was fantastic, with so many different species of fish and coral life, even though in parts it was evident that the lasgue-like, coral-eating starfish, the Crown of Thorns, had passed by. The water, giving up to 30m visibility, was shared with sharks, rays, barracudas, octopus, moray eels, and other marine life. Night dives were also enjoyed, some of the team even hitching rides on turtles.

After a week on the island the team was picked up by a 60ft chartered diving boat, MV *Hero*. Diving was then carried out by sailing between various small reefs with such names as Slasher's, Kelso, Grub, Yankee and Davis. Here again the visibility was exceptional, many of the team actually seeing the Crown of Thorns at work, it's stomach turned inside out, eating the coral. The rock formations underwater also gave us some very interesting cave and tunnel dives.

After five days on the boat it was time to return to Townsville, everyone with their various stories and memories of what they had seen on the reef.

Equipment hired and borrowed handed back, the team now had time to relax for a few days in Cairns, North Queensland, at the Australian Army owned 'Cocos' Holiday apartments. Some of the team did even more diving at Cairns, but it was a good time to relax and try to catch up on a tan not many of us had, but everybody back home would expect us to have.

All too soon a Hercules C-130 flight back down south to Melbourne reminded us all that this once in a lifetime experience was nearly at an end.

A stop in Singapore for four days R & R was very interesting, not to mention sweaty, but soon we were back at Heathrow where it had all started a short two months previously.

Many things were learnt on Ex Cantrek Quadrant, we all had unique experiences and saw things we may never see again. A thank you must be said to **Capt John Perrett** for getting us all out there, even though it didn't all go exactly to plan, but then maybe that's partly what this type of exercise is about.

One thing is certain, a chance to return to Oz, a country with so much to offer, would not be missed by any member of the team.

OFFICERS' V SERGEANTS' MESS CRICKET

Once again it was that time of year when the bravest of brave were asked to step forward voluntarily and take part in the annual cricket match between the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. A Sunday in early August was decided upon, when, acccording to **Capt Bob Dobson**, the weather would be perfect. True, the weather turned out just right for the game. Those expecting a thrilling match were not to be disappointed. Lunch over and the toss made, the Sergeants' Mess went in to bat. Thirty overs later, after a fine team effort, and some individual ones too, the Sergeants' Mess team had knocked up a total of 200 for 8. The team put on a good display of attacking and aggressive batting, in particular **WO1 'Superclerk' Colin Beston** who achieved the maximum 50 runs allowable before declaring. The Officers' Mess fielding, although reasonably tight, did not reckon on having the unforeseen problem of 'The Brothers Dangerous' in their team. These being **Capts Gordon Anderson** and **Drew Robertson** whose indescribable style of bowling was something akin to a Praying Mantis trying to shot put.

So with the Sergeants' Mess innings over it was time for an interval and 'high tea' consisting of the most delicious sandwiches, scones, jam and cream. Having washed that down it was the turn of the officers to take the crease and chase a score of 200 runs.

It must be said that from the word go the officers gave a splendid display of open cricket with **Maj Ian Buckley** and **Lt Julian Leader** both retiring not out after scoring the maximum permissable 50 runs. The other team players were also giving of their all when suddenly mid-way through their innings, it looked as though the game was to be a close run thing. Ah, but then our two secret weapons in the form of the 'dynamic duo' were brought into use. Number one being that

WO2 George Burrows actually decided to start holding all the easy catches coming his way as he was beginning to owe a few rounds of drink by now. Number two was **SSgt Ian Wylie** who took most valuable wickets with an incredible sleep-inducing style of bowling that would undoubtedly interest the England team selectors!

In the end the score for the officers was 166 for 8 which meant that once more they were the vanquished and the Sergeants' Mess were the victors! It is, of course, an extra thrill to be in the winning team when the final result is given. However, on occasions such as this, a great pleasure is derived by all at having just taken part in a good spirited fun day. A final mention to **Capt Dobson** who organised everything this year on behalf of the Officers' Mess, the excellent layout of food and drink, tentage tables and chairs which all made for the comfort and success of the days event.

2 SQUADRON

VISIT TO NORWEGIAN SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

On 14 August a party of 10 from 2 Sqn took part in an exchange visit to the Norwegian School of Signals at Jorstadmden Camp, near Lillehammer about 180km north of Oslo.

We left Lippstadt at 1430 hrs on 13 August, travelling by Green Landrover Cabriolet, and drove through North Germany and Denmark, catching the ferry to Oslo at Frederikshaven. We arrived in Jorstadmden after 28 hours of travelling, eagerly looking forward to the week ahead.

For the 10 days in Norway we were looked after by **Lt Freddie Kruger**, who made our time there great fun. The programme covered a wide range of activities, including hiking in the Norwegian mountains. All credit must go to **Sig 'Alf' Doyle** who managed to fall asleep whilst walking! One of the most memorable activities was the driving of the BV206—the snowcat. This was organised at the last minute after we had seen them driving around the camp.

The Norwegian's were amazed at the British ability to give each other nicknames (and our hosts'). We obliged by producing a list of the seven dwarfs, each with an appropriate name. The reasons why each nickname is apt is kept 'in confidence' to protect the guilty, but here they are for posterity: **LCpl 'Greg' Gregory**—Doc, **Sig 'Taff' Wynne**—Happy, **Sig Alf Doyle**—Sleepy, **Sig Phil Chamberlain**—Grumpy, **Sig 'Stav' Barral**—Bashful (this one is very apt), **Sig 'Taff' Ames**—Dopey and **Cfn 'Gaz' Garrett**—Sneezy. All that remains is to mention the three left out, **Lt Adrian Metcalfe, Sgt Phil Price** and **Cpl 'Noddy' Nodwell**. We leave it to you to work out who is Snow White!

EXERCISE FOREWARD STRIKE

This year the Regimental Battle Camp at Vogelsang lasted for only eight days. We still managed to pack in a lot of experience in the time.

The 'players' were divided into two companies and each company went through two main phases. There was a ranges phase which included FIBUA, an explosives range and live firing ambush drills. Then there was a field phase which ended with a full company attack and a simulated atomic explosion.

Each member of the competing companies and every member of the administration staff also competed 'Enduro', the gruelling 2 mile endurance run from the lakeside range up, around the trim ditch circuit, onto the tennis courts and up the 400 steps to the very top.

Brig T. I. M. Waugh congratulates Maj J. McIntyre on the award of the Commendation of GOC NI

One of the highlights of the camp was the visit by the Comd Comms **Brig T. I. M. Waugh MBE**. His visit included a lakeside lunch (well done the QM(A)'s department). Fortunately the sun shone with a gentle breeze so the tent stood its ground. After a furious round of activities he had a special lesson on 'Junior Blowpipe' conducted by **Sgt Maj Cullen**. The Brigadier presented **Maj McIntyre** with a framed copy of the GOC Northern Ireland's Commendation. He also said a few words to the Regimental Shooting team, fresh from their success at Bisley. Next morning the Brigadier was up at 0500 hrs to witness the company attack and the atomic explosion.

Another highlight of the camp was the presentation of a Farewell to Vogelsang cake by the Administration team to the Regiment 2IC, **Maj Charles Kemp**. This was his third and final Vogelsang Battle Camp. He is shortly to move to Larkhill, where the gunners will experience his own special approach to the art of soldiering.

EXERCISE FORWARD STRIKE

VIEW FROM ECHO TROOP

Ex Forward Strike, as this year's Regimental Battle Camp was known, was a complete success. All of those who took part learned a great deal and actually seemed to enjoy it too. Echo Tp provided two sections worth of manpower, lean mean fighting machines or so they would have you believe. These two sections were assigned to two different platoons, each in a different company.

The exercise was split into two distinct periods. One was a two and a half day Range period, the other was a two and a half day exercise known as Ex Bruised Knee. Unusually for a Regimental Battle Camp the entire period was not spent in NBC Black digging in. This exercise was again split into three periods, Defence of a Trunk Node, Defence of Radio Relay sites and a Patrolling phase which included an ambush.

An unofficial competition was held between the platoon commanders to see who would produce the worst ambush. Despite some very tough competition 1 Platoon B Coy managed an equal third place after sleeping through the entire ambush, only to be pipped at the post for first place by **2Lt Shipley's** (attached) Platoon, who not only slept through the ambush but did so in the wrong place. Congratulations **2Lt Shipley**, the DPM Night Cap and Compass are in the post!

WIVES CLUB MILITARY TRAINING DAY

On Saturday 9 September 2 Sqn hosted a military training day for the wives. The idea was to give the girls an insight into the sort of things their husbands get up to in the course of the training year. The content of the day was devised (or should we say 'plotted') by OC 2 Sqn **Maj Tony Manders**, SSM **WO2 Martin Smith** and SQMS **SSgt Mick Brown**. Much chortling could be heard from the OC's office as the meaner side of their characters came to the fore in the planning of the various events.

At 0930 hrs the 35 daring and wary wives were suddenly bombarded by the dulcet tones of **SSgt (SQMS) Clive Sear** in his role of 'the meanest, nastiest drill master ever'. In less time than it takes to say 'I think I'll miss this bit out', a smart soldier-like body of women stood where before there had been just a group of delicate looking wives. The drill competition that followed was keenly contested and was judged by **WO1 (RSM) Kirk**. (Enter the 1st Battalion Rouge and Files, Guards' Depot beware, these girls mean business!)

The ladies were then divided into five groups and underwent a 'round-robin' of stands. During these activities it became obvious early on that when there was a need to show some aggression the proof of this was the fact that in the following few days a number of husbands came to work seemingly meeker and milder men!

On top of these activities the girls, dressed in far-from designer overalls, had to crawl under cam nets, daub themselves in cam cream and even cook their own meals from 24 hour packs. (We were going to give them live rabbits but the OC said that was going too far!) To be fair the girls put up with all of this with good humour and certainly put all their efforts and enthusiasm into the day and felt a sense of achievement and satisfaction at the end of it. Now weary, aching, dirty and 'glowing' they each received a certificate of accomplishment. Those with particular prowess at drill or shooting were rewarded with a further certificate.

The whole event was finished off with a barbecue. Those who contributed to the success of the day were: **SSgt Chris Hardwidge, Cpl Dave Fitton, WO2 (QMSI) Steve Simcox APTC, Sig 'Olly' Oliver, Sgts Graham Wilkinson, Kev Collins, Cpl 'Paddy' Black RMP, Cpls 'Noddy' Nodwell, Dick Malt** and **Sgt Phil Price**.

After witnessing the expertise shown by some of the wives during the day there have been lots of requests by the men for permission to job-share with their wives at work. If that means the men having to job-share with the wife at home as well, here's one that's dead against it!

28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
BFPO 35

CHANGE OF COMMAND PARADE

This Regiment is unique in the British Army in that it is the only British Army major unit assiged to NATO command in peace. As part of the Northag Signal Group it is responsible, in cooperation with, the German, Dutch and Belgian members of the group, for the communications of Headquarters Northag. It does so using unique NATO funded communications equipment.

On 22 September the Regiment exercised another unique aspect of its identity by marking the Change-of-Command of the Regiment between the outgoing Commander, **Lt Col B. Chubb** and the incoming Commander, **Lt Col A. W. Merrick MBE** in the presence of many national and international guests. The senior guest was **Maj Gen P. A. M. Kloeg**, Deputy Chief of Staff Operations, Headquarters Northag.

Following speeches from **Lt Col Chubb** and the retiring Burgermeister of Toenisvorst **Herr Richard Beckers**, there was a NATO Change of Command Ceremony. Passage of command of the Regiment was symbolised by the transfer of the Regimental flag between the outgoing and incoming Commander.

The Regiment marched off parade to the accompaniment of 34 Sig Regt (V) Band. We were delighted that they were here for this occasion as this Regiment is the only Royal Signals TA Regiment to have a band.

At a dinner night held in the Officers' Mess the Regimental Officers said farewell to **Lt Col Chubb**. During the evening a silver statue of Mercury (Jimmy) was presented to the retiring Burgermeister, **Herr Richard Beckers**. The gift was funded by members of the Regiment to mark the contribution made by **Herr Beckers** to foster the good relations we enjoy with the local community.

Lt Col Chubb relinquishes Command of the Regiment by passing his Regimental Flag to Col Barten, Comd Northag Sig Gp

Lt Col Merrick accepts Command of the Regiment symbolised by passage of the Regimental flag via Comd Northag Sig Gp, Col Barten

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30 Sig Regt
Blandford Camp

NEWS ON NAMIBIA

The United Nations deployment to Namibia continues. During August and September the 'Wavers Club' have welcomed troops back with one hand and waved goodbye with the other. Approximately 110 men have flown out to South West Africa to maintain the communication commitment for the United Nations Transitional Assistance Group (UNTAG).

The future is as unpredictable as it ever was, with the Namibian elections looming on 15 November. **Lt Col Neil Donaldson** has now returned to RHQ in Blandford and reassumed command of 30 Sig Regt, and has in turn been replaced as Commander BRITCON by **Lt Col Andy Whiddett**. The team heading Op Prosperous now includes **Maj Neil Couch, Capt Alistair Beard, Lt John Adams** and the latest arrival, **Capt Andy Allman**. The former Assistant Adjutant, **Lt Jane Lawrence**, managed to fit in a brief visit to Namibia under the guise of Unit Fire Officer, along with **WO2 (RSM) Pete Haywood**—though for the shortest time spent in the country on operations, **Capt Bob Wright**, Ops Offr has to have the honours—24 Hours! A long way to go for a party!

Also returned from the Angolan front line are **Maj Bill Kent, Capts John Dakin, James Bertram, Bill Olive, Joe Cooper** and **Lt Philippa Owens. WO2 (SSM) Gerry Knight** has returned to 1 Sqn and settled back into training our recruits from Harrogate.

The majority of our tanned troops, medals in hand are glad to be back in England, welcomed home by the good old wet and windy weather. Quite a change from the 40°C they have been used to for the past six months.

The novelty is likely to wear off although the stories of tarantulas, scorpions and black mambas are here to stay.

Sgt Taff Evans, LCpl Craig Bruce, Sig Mark Brooksbank, Cpl Robert Allen, LCpl Robbo Robson and Sig 'Nobbie' Noble obstructing the view of the UN Land Rover on their return from Namibia

NAMIBIAN WILDLIFE
by WO1 (RSM) Pete Haywood

Date, 29 August. Venue, the ranges in Namibia. The RSM, **WO1 Pete Haywood**, the FSM **WO2 Steve Toms** and the Admin Offr, **Capt Dave Brown**, doing a range recce on what can only be described as a lunar landscape. They had been warned of the dangers of the dreaded puff adders and man sized baboons that lurked in the undergrowth ready to pounce on the unsuspecting victim. All of a sudden the RSM shouts 'snake' on the left. The next thing that happened can only be classed as a complete act of cowardice by all three as they competed for the fastest 800m dash known to mankind. The snake in the end turned out to be a feather from a local bird!

Capt Dave Brown and RSM Pete Haywood wrestle with the snake

EXERCISE CYGNET DREAM
by Sgt Dave Beggs, 1 Sqn
SATCOM Team
PERSONALITIES

Ex Comd	**Sgt Dave Beggs**
Det Comd	**Cpl Paul Williams**
2IC	**Cpl Kev Clarke-Brown**
SATCOM Tech	**Cpl Jimmy Dahlstrom**
SATCOM Tech	**Cpl Kel Watson**
Op	**Sig Jason Shuttleworth**
Op	**Sig Chris Ball**
ED	**Sig Ronnie Barker**

Deployment to Kingston, Ontario from RAF Brize Norton was during the period 12-14 August. If only it were that simple!

The initial stage of the journey on the RAF C130 Hercules was a nine hour flight to the USAF base in Thule, Greenland. As we approached Greenland late afternoon, the myriad ice blocks and small icebergs became quite apparent. A cold 15 hours stay was our immediate thought. As we stepped off the aircraft, to our surprise, we found the temperature a mild 3° above freezing point.

How does one begin to describe Greenland? Bleak, wet, grey and different. After an overnight stop in the 'North Star Inn' and refreshments in the 'Top of the World Hotel', a period of continuous daylight, an extra passport stamp, and finally the reported sighting of an Arctic Dog by **Sig Ronnie Barker**; our interesting journey continued with a further eight hour flight to Ottawa. We finally arrived in Kingston where we were to be hosted by the Canadian Forces School of Communications and Electronics (CFSCE), the Canadian equivalent of our own School of Signals.

A Radio Op upgrading course being briefed on the role of the Regiment and introduction of the equipment by Sgt Dave Beggs

'Now you've got me!' A pensive Cpl Paul Williams seaching for an answer for a Troop Commanders course

The aim of the exercise was to gain access to the recently launched British Military Satellite, the Skynet 4B, and work to the Satellite Ground Terminal (SGT) at RAF Oakhanger.

An alternate satellite, the Atlantic Ocean DSCS III was to be used if access to Skynet 4B proved unsuccessful.

The significance of gaining access to the Skynet 4B was the fact that Canada was geographically on the extreme western edge of the 'footprint'. A phone call from Blandford instigated plan B, so initial contact was via the AO DSCS. Access to the Skynet 4B beacon would only be trialled periodically.

Communications were finally established and the exercise got underway smoothly except for the problems of **Sig Jason Shuttleworth** who found difficulty in sleeping with the noise the 'Canadian Lobsters' were making! (I think he meant locusts.) By this time the 'Chunder Book' was beginning to fill up rapidly.

The detachment, which was positioned on the side of the CFSCE sports field/track, slowly but surely became the centre of attraction for each of the courses which attended their daily sports programmes. Control of the classes became more and more difficult for each of the PTIs as the students concentration strayed towards the strange looking wok next to their running track.

The night shift of the second day received the first of the unofficial visits. The students decided it was time to 'break the ice' and loaded with enough 'Dutch Courage' presented **Cpl Kev Clarke-Brown** with a combination Pizza the size of a dustbin lid. Many more unofficial visits were to follow—saving on the night rations!

The official visits, which were co-ordinated by **Maj Burnage**, R Signals Exchange Officer and OC B Sqn CFSCE, commenced on the fourth day. One such visit was a tour given to the Canadian equivalent of the Troop Commanders course. The aim of the exercise was explained and in particular the fact that Canada was on the western extreme of the footprint! A hopeful young officer asked if our next plan was to attempt the eastern extreme but was quickly advised that no such clearance had been received from the British Embassy in Moscow yet!

The overnight stop in Greenland (0330 hrs!)
(Left to right): Sig Jason Shuttleworth, Sgt Dave Beggs, Cpls Paul Williams, Kel Watson, Kev Clarke-Brown, Sig Ronnie Barker, Cpl Jimmy Dahlstrom and Sig Chris Ball

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T. FROST (Saddlers)
SOUTH PARADE, BAWTRY
DONCASTER, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

The first weekend on Canadian soil coincided with a public holiday therefore permission for a close down was granted by CDCN. This gave us the opportunity to visit various areas of interest. One such visit was to Niagara Falls. The journey from Kingston to Niagara was approximately three and a half hours which gave us a whole afternoon to take in the amazing scenes of the Horseshoe and American Falls. **Cpls Kev Clarke-Brown** and **Paul Williams** and **Sig Chris Ball** had quite an adventure on board the *Maid of the Mist* ferry which took them to the base of the falls.

Sadly all good trips come to an end as this one did on 30 August. Our return was not so adventurous: a mere eight hour flight from Trenton, Ontario to RAF Lyneham. Our thanks to **Maj Burnage** of CFSCE, Kingston for the superb hosting during our time in Canada.

FOVANT BADGES
by SSgt (YofS) Emmerson

Volunteers from the depleted ranks of 3 Sqn spent three days in August maintaining the Corps insignia which is cut into the hillside near Salisbury, Wiltshire.

SSgt (SQMS) 'Dusty' Millar organised the working party and provided the admin. The promise of a barbecue and a beer managed to tempt the FofS **'Gaz' Wilson** out into the field., **LCpl Leach** proved an asset the beating the local darts team.

The Fovant Badges Society was appreciative of the work done on our badge and for a liquid incentive we were persuaded to weed and repair the badge next to ours; that of The Wiltshire Regiment.

HISTORY

The village of Fovant is situated on the A30 between Shaftesbury and Salisbury. On the outbreak of the First World War a staging camp was set up and soon developed into a military township. This boasted hospitals, recreation facilities and ranges. Indeed there was even a cinema and a small railway.

Thousands of troops from all over Britain and overseas, passed through the area on their way to the trenches. The first badge to be cut into the hillside was that of the London Rifle Brigade, in 1916. This was rapidly followed by others. It is claimed that one of the largest badges took over three months to complete.

The 'Jimmy' was cut in 1970 to mark the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Corps. There are 12 badges cut into the hillsides of Wiltshire near Fovant and the Society relies on assistance to maintain the badges so our small contribution was appreciated.

For those readers interested in these Badges, a fuller account of their history was given by **Sgt D. Edlin** published on page 576, November 1985 issue.

MEDAL PRESENTATION

Col M. C. Spence, Deputy Commander of Blandford Garrison, presented LS & GC Medals to: **WO2 Geoff Ellis, SSgts Jeff Smith, 'Geordie' Deeming, Sgts Dave Preston** and **Tony Allen**—(640 Sig Tp) and the GSM to **Cpl Kevin White ACC** in the presence of their families at a recent ceremony in Blandford.

(Left to right): Col M. C. Spence (Dep Comd Blandford Grn), Sgt Tony Allen (640 Sig Tp), SSgt Jeff Smith, WO2 Geoff Ellis, Sgt 'Geordie' Deeming, Cpl Kevin White ACC, Sgt Dave Preston and families

31 Sig Regt (V)
Hammersmith

The Regimental Officers

The Regiment has been busy during the last two months, with Annual Unit Equipment Inspection, Unit Military Skills Competition, a Regimental Exercise, Ranges and Bounty Test Weekend and a major Brigade FTX. On the fun side, we have enjoyed a one week Adventure Training Exercise and a wide variety of sporting activities. Who said life in the TA would be dull?

THE COBHAM CUP

Our annual Inter-Squadron Military Skills Competition, The Cobham Cup, took place in B Troop's TAC during the hottest weekend of the year. As planned, the weekend proved to be both mentally and physically demanding, as well as a lot of fun! The tests included Communication Skills, NBC, Vehicle Maintenance and of course the inevitable Speed March and Assault Course Competition.

The determined but friendly rivalry, allied to a sense of fun, ensured that the weekend was both enjoyable and closely fought right up to the last event. Congratulations must however go to 41 Sqn, who under the leadership of **Lt Richard Wyatt** and **2Lt Carolyn Oxlee**, won both the male and female trophies. Special condolences go to the 83 Sqn girls who, apart from taking the longest short cut during the three mile march, competed hard right up to the end. Before presenting the winning trophies to the Coulsdon teams the CO, much to everyone's amusement, presented **2Lt Julie Aspinall** and her team with the 'Order of the Broken Bucket', which was meant to be carried over the assault course *full* of water.

'You're telling me it's the hottest day for 13 years'

The Cobham Cup
The Winning 41 Sqn Teams

Ex Welsh Wanderer
Pte Sue Moscrop making it look easy

'Still Smiling' 2Lt Aspinall and her team receives
The Order of the Bucket

Any clues as to who this might be?

EXERCISE WELSH WANDERER

Once again the time for our August Adventure Training Exercise was upon us. After borrowing a Canoe Instructor, **Cpl Fred Perry**, from the ever helpful Irish Guards, and what seemed like months of preparation by **Sgt Ian Jackson**, the advance party at last left Southfields for the delights of Capel Curig Training Camp in the heart of the Snowdonia National Park. After the normal frenzy of administrative preparation, including the SPR (Standard Pub Recce) **Sgt Neil Holcombe** announced (with some delight) that we were ready to receive the five nurses from QEMH Woolwich and of course our twenty intrepid volunteers. Monday dawned clear and warm, but as ever not warm enough to prevent the high pitched squeals and chattering teeth when everyone completed the statutory and well loved Swimming Test. Life was soon restored however, by a liberal dose of **Cpl Sandy Shaw**'s infamous tea. The intrepid 'Wanderers', having split up into manageable groups, were then introduced to a variety of pursuits including canoeing, rock climbing, pony trekking and the ever popular hill walking. After a tiring but successful week, chasing the odd sheep over the hills and competing for the 'Upside Down Breath Holding Competition', the wanderers returned to sunny London once again to overcome their exhaust fumes withdrawal symptoms. One question still remains unanswered. How did **Capts Kendal Withers** and **Jan Westbury** manage to lay on a visit by a strange cyclist?

OVERSEAS ATTACHMENTS

The following members of the Regiment are presently serving overseas: Kenya. **Cpl Sandy Shaw** and **Pte Pat Gould**, two HQ Squadron Cooks, attached to the 1 Bn Coldstream Gds. Operation Raleigh. **Sig Brian Charlton** in Southern Chile for 10 weeks, and **Capt Vicki Hutchinson** in the tropical rain forests of Cape York, Queensland, Australia.

UK/SNCO Exchange Programme. **Sgt Andy Raynsford** and **Sgt Graham Drew** have recently returned from an attachment to the US National Guard in the deserts of South Colorado, where they were privileged to take part in an exercise involving 17,500 Troops.

SPORTS

HALF MARATHON

SSgt (SQMS) Taff Thomas, was asked to run in the Great North Run at short notice, as **Capt George Devine** was once again representing the Corps as part of the Blue Helmets Parachute Display Team. Along with 30,000 other competitors, running in extreme heat, he completed the course in a very creditable 1 hour 48 minutes and raised £160 for Guide Dogs for the Blind.

CRICKET

The Regimental Team made up its loss against the Postal and Courier Depot at Mill Hill by beating The Royal Military School of Music the eventual winners of the London District Minor Units Competition. The Adjutant, **Capt Frank Dempster** has since gone on once again to represent the Corps Team on two occasions.

GOLF

The Regimental Team, consisting of the CO, **Sgt Ron Walker, Lts Richard Wyatt** and **Mike Landsdown**, came runners-up in the Corps Autumn Golf Meet held in Catterick during September. Special congratulations go to **Sgt Ron Walker** for winning the Individual Handicap Trophy.

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V) Glasgow

ANNUAL CAMP—ALTCAR

Well, who organised the Camp? It just had to be the ops room cosy-corner under the Training Major, **Maj Brian Campbell**; and of him at Camp?—no sign. Sadly he slipped a disc in his back and had to endure at least two weeks bedrest at home whilst the rest of us struck south with passports and dictionaries at the ready.

The first week saw us flying in all directions. The Padre, **John Silcox** blessed us and the Adjutant **Capt Peter Campbell** together with the RSM **WO1 Trevor Mortlock** paraded us. Some officers even had extra drill. Morale surely hiccupped as we gathered for what the CO, **Lt Col Michael Anderson** called a 'Needle Parade'. Under the eyes of our medical team, **SSgt Marlene Niblock** and **LCpl Janice McPherson** the local doctor injected some 180 of us. Have you ever seen a box of 180 needles? Clearly **Sig Paul Brown** of our RP Staff had not and he had to be given a third one in the local hospital to calm him down.

ARU

Our ARU was conducted by **Brig J. O. C. Alexander OBE**, Commander 2 Sig Bde. He ended a whirlwind visit having danced an eightsome with **Fiona Farquarson**, to the tune of our pipers under Pipe Major **Iain Mortimer**, and the next day captained a visitors' team winning the Pistol Tile competition with a bottle of whisky as booty. Who wrote this script? The main tile competition was clearly won by 51 Sig Sqn under its OC **Maj Saddiq Ahmed**.

SPORT

Prior to our field deployment phase we all took part in an Inter-Squadron Football Competition. The Glasgow and Edinburgh teams were clearly in a friendly mood. After a close match 69 Sig Sqn from Northern Ireland beat HQ Sqn 2—1. The highlight was watching the CO's scratch team, which included all Sqn Comds and the Padre (to have Right on one's side) playing a WRAC Team. The CO in trying to save a goal was seen under a pile of the girls. What price his vetting now? All in vain anyway as the WRAC ably led by **Sgt Feeney Chambers** won 2—0.

EXERCISE BRIGHT FIRE 1

The Regiment deployed to well dispersed locations to take part in what was the largest UK-wide HF radio exercise there has ever been. The Yeoman **WO2 Paul Forryan** and Foreman **WO2 David Andrews** under the eagle eye of our Ops Officer **Capt Brian Gilfether** masterminded our daily schedules. The Mobile Comms Tp under **Capt Janet Maclean** sped from location to location acting as an invaluable back up network to our HF radio stations. **Stewart Duguid**, a Potential Officer from EHWUOTC decided to put L plates on **Pte Tracy Callachan**'s Mould set. We can report he would give Linford Christie a good match in the 100m. All who took part agreed that this was a worthwhile and invaluable exercise and what a difference from the old D11's.

OFFICERS' MESS

We congratulate five our our Cadets on passing their DAB and DES Phase 1 course, **Patricia Baird, Helene Martinski, John Maclaren, Michael Gahan** and **John McNeil**. In addition we welcome **2Lt Jackie Campbell** from Glasgow UOTC and wish her well in her new command of the TAOR Tp within 52 Sig Sqn. Finally well done **Stewart Duguid** on seeing the light and joining 61 Sig Sqn from EHWUOTC.

As we write, many will have heard of the heart attack suffered by **Maj Paddy Henry**, our PSAO with 61 Sig Sqn. We can happily report he is well on the way to a good recovery—especially when he heard that a certain Major was about to run his Squadron Accounts.

Shown below is a small collection of photographs from our Annual Camp at Altcar.

(Left to right): Sgt Billy Linton, SSgt Andy Deans, Sgt John Reilly, LCpl Alan Love and SSgt Barry Martin-Pitt—who are obviously not keen on having their photograph taken

The WRAC after the Ranges
(Left to right): WPte Angie Carter, WLCpl Carol McGurn and WPte Janice Ward

(Left to right): LCpl John McDonald, Cpl Ian Grant and Sig David Adams showing how it should be done?

What a Relief: LCpl Linda Noble and Sig Stuart Brown under the watchful eye of Lt Linda Duncan

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

Normal training activities have continued and in addition we have assisted various units and organisations with communication displays and augmentees.

During July and August two members of the Regiment took part in a two week exercise with the USA National Guard in North America.

Sgt Eddie Buchanan from HQ Sqn in Huyton and **Sgt Maurice Atkinson** from 42 Sqn in Manchester set out on their journey to Milwaukee via Chicago, on Saturday 22 July and arrived at Fort McCoy the following day.

After kit issue they were attached to Companies in the 2nd Battalion 128 Infantry Wisconsin and prepared themselves for the forthcoming training period. Training consisted of live firing with the 203 grenade launcher, M60 machine gun and TOW tracking on an anti-tank missile system.

On 29 and 30 July they were given a two day R & R which included a guided tour to Washington DC. With the weather in the 90s plenty of fluids were called for to overcome heat exhaustion.

They returned to the UK on 4 August, having had a trip of a lifetime which bore no relationship to a fortnight's annual camp at Scarborough.

Left to Right: Sgts Eddie Buchanan and Maurice Atkinson receive a souvenir of their attachment from the CO of the Wisconsin Military Academy

PERMANENT STAFF MOVEMENTS

During August and September we said our farewells to **Maj Paul Gorford**—Training Major and **SSgt Chris Deary** who has been an SSI with 59 Sig Sqn in Liverpool. We wish them both good fortune in their new appointments and thank them for all their efforts.

We welcome **Maj Peter Bowles** as our new Training Major and his family who have arrived from Sangcom. We can't guarantee the same type of weather but the Scouse humour is an experience not to be missed and should brighten up his stay with us.

We also welcome **SSgt Stephen Parry** to 59 Sig Sqn and hope he enjoys his tour.

NW REGION EMPLOYER SUPPORT CAMPAIGN

The launch of the North West Employer Support Campaign took place at the Albert Dock, Liverpool on 18 September 1989. The event was supported by all TA units from Merseyside with practical displays of equipment. Additionally, TA officers and SNCos acted as hosts and entertained and accompanied local business managers.

The Regiment was responsible for supplying a Royal Signals stand displaying the different forms of communication equipment currently being used by Signal units in Merseyside and in this they were supported by 55 Sig Sqn also based in Liverpool.

The Regiment's contribution was a working Triffid and HF detachment with a rear link detachment from 55 Sqn. The whole stand was camouflaged and looked extremely impressive on the day. **2Lt Gillian Hughes** WRAC from 42 Sig Sqn (Manchester) was in charge of the stand with **LCpl Mark Kitchen** and **Pte Joanne Fellows** WRAC from 80 Sig Sqn (Chester) on the HF detachment and **Cpl Parkinson** from 59 Sig Sqn (Liverpool) on the Triffid detachment. The erection of the stand was under the direction of **Capt Keith Derrick** ably supported by **Cpl Mac McLaughlin**, our 'resident' professional radio operator on short term loan from the Regular Army, along with members of the TA from both 59 and 80 Sqns.

The whole event was deemed to be successful with over 120 civilian firms being represented. Other notable visitors were the **Rt Hon Tom King MP**, Secretary of State for Defence, **Mr Tommy Macpherson**, Chairman of the National Employers Liaison Committee, **Mr Henry Cotton JP**, Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside and the Commander UK Field Army and Inspector General TA, **Lt Gen Sir David Ramsbotham KGB, CBE.**

The Regimental stand at the Albert Dock Liverpool

The Comd UK Fd Army and Insp Gen TA, Sir David Ramsbothom and the CO, Lt Col David Gardiner discuss the rigours of serving as a TA officer with 2Lt Gillian Hughes

34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

ANNUAL CAMP 1989

It was the second Wednesday of Camp when the Adjutant, **Capt Brian Smith** casually asked 'Can you co-ordinate *The Wire* notes, and by the way, they have to be submitted within the next 10 days' (TA Days?)

It was necessary to think what the Regiment had done over the previous two weeks, and then discount all those stories better kept in house. The Regiment had not met as a Regiment but as groups that passed in the night (North Shields and Leuth) and deployed as even smaller groups. It then became obvious that news was required from individuals who have travelled to camp in other ways, before we could produce 'A Regimental view' of events.

THE AIR PARTY

In general most soldiers prefer to travel as part of the road party. When the timetable was produced things looked decidedly different. A reasonable start at the TA Centre followed by a long coach tour through central England a leisurely dinner followed by the flight to BAOR went smoothly. All the 'Seniors' hovelled together and were briefed en route. After a light shower of rain the driver stopped the bus to tell us that he didn't normally drive because of his poor eyesight! Our UPM (ex REME) **Maj Jim Storey** went to repair the windscreen wipers but gave up when he discovered that the instructions were printed in Portuguese!

THE ROAD PARTY
FROM A TROOP 49 SIGNAL SQUADRON, HULL

Friday 15 September: As the road party pulled out of the barrack gates one wondered 'What have I left behind, too late now . . .' We were the element with the longest journey to North Shields from where we were to sail. The time passed quickly and we soon reached the Tyne Tunnel where confirmation could be seen that we were in fact heading in the right direction. The Trg Maj, **David Bannister**, was standing at the road side gleaming under the sodium lamps.

Refuelling and forming up into packets ready for embarkation we then got our heads down but were awakened shortly afterwards. Down to the departure lounge we waited and waited. The wait however was to prove worthwhile as we discovered we were to travel DFDS on the well known Tor Brittannia. The ships commandant's frequently repeated announcements over the ship's tannoy as to what we could put in the black plastic bags outside our berths and what we could not put into the lavatories caused much amusement.

Despite unkind reference to beagles forming the mainstay of the menu and the restaurant echoing to the cry of 'beagleburgers' we were extremely well fed. Rumours that the fruit and nuts were just for the Regimental Police where likewise unkind. They were in fact for the RMP as well. Entertainment on board ship was a live band. They were however usurped by **LCpl 'Mally' Banks** who proved that not only could he act (his profession) but he could also sing and gave a fine rendition of 'a whole lot of rockin' goin' on'.

On arrival at Zeebrugge the next morning there was a brief interlude whilst vehicles were unloaded and formed up into different packets and then off accompanied by police escort. A brief stop at Grobbendonk to refuel. There was plenty of brown stew—welcome after a long drive. Crossing into Germany and the final harbour area at Leuth we were reunited with the air party and formed up into different packets. Shortly afterwards we got our heads down until breakfast. At 0400 hrs? Brown stew? Rumour that this was the same brown stew that had been served at Leuth during 'Lionheart' was unsuccessfully stifled.

From there we pulled out to our mobilisation locations and there we stayed, except for a brief night time trip for some brown stew.

On our return travelling north to Emmerich we arrived at a German barracks where we said farewell to the air party and again feasted on brown stew. An evening catching up on each others' camps and we were soon on our way west into Holland, escorted by Dutch police on motorcycles whose ambition in life seemed to be to prove that not only could they do the same routine as the White Helmets but do it whilst in the fast lane looking in the opposite direction!

Getting lost no longer seems to be exclusive to us. Not only did one of the escorts get lost in his own country, he had a packet with him led by OC 49 Sqn, **Maj Clare Pickles WRAC** and driven by the SSM **WO2 M. Wilson**, who were able to point him in the right direction.

More excitement awaited us at Europort where in the back of the vehicle collecting empty jerry cans was an Australian complete with bush hat and tropical kit. **2Lt Rosie Timms WRAC** herself an 'Aussie' was seen assisting him.

The return trip across the North Sea proved less smooth than the outward journey and gave us all the excuse for being a little unsteady on our feet. Some perhaps more than others as **WO2 Joan Wilmot** celebrated her 20th anniversary in the Army and **SSgt Bill Smith** his last exercise with the Regiment (though why a posting from Yorkshire to Cyprus is any cause for celebration is a mystery!).

Docking in Hull we found ourselves alongside a Soviet Merchant vessel. Disembarkation and a quick or in some cases slightly longer passage through customs and we were back in the UK. Driving out of the dock gates the echoing cry was 'Remember to drive on the left hand side of the road'.

We're off (No, that's not our LSL)

Falling tide and a steep slope—The road party arrives

THE PADRE'S VIEW

Many questions remain unanswered and many rumours still abound, ie some are asking if it is true that you get to heaven if you drive for the Padre? If that's the case where do you go if you drive for the RSM?

The one question that does have an answer is who sings the best. Well the best way of putting it is those at Oscar had courage, those at Mike (49 Sqn) had power, but only 90 Sqn, **Lt Metcalfe** and **Sgt Hall** would produce melodic sounds.

The Regiment would like to thank 16 Sig Regt and 28 Sig Regt for their hospitality during our stay in BAOR.

THE BAND (MUSICAL MEDICS)

The Regimental Band had a most enlightening Annual Camp 1989 with their duties divided between medical training and musical engagements.

Under the direction of Bandmaster **WO1 John Dodd** they played in Oberhausen (twinned with Middlesbrough) and Mulheim (twinned with Darlington) in market places and concert halls showing versatility and flair in their repertoire which was much enjoyed by the local population. The band also had the honour to play for the change-of-command parade for the CO of 28 Sig Regt, **Lt Col Brian Chubb**. This was a splendid occasion and for many of the young musicians the first time they had been involved in a full military parade.

During the first week of the exercise the band received formal first aid instruction from **SSgt Jim Robinson** and **Sgt Jim Smith** which culminated in a well orchestrated (pun) mini mash exercise in which all the musicians were trained for their alternative role, that of medical assistants. This was a first class camp. We would like to thank everyone who helped us with accommodation, transport and hospitality during our stay in Germany.

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

AREA PRESENTATION

The Regiment's busy year continued with preparations for the Area Presentation sponsored by the Regiment on behalf of the West Midlands TAVR Association. Representatives from over 200 local companies and businesses were invited to attend. It took place at Cateswell House on Tuesday 12 September.

The primary aim of this presentation was, of course, to promote recruitment into the Territorial Army and to this end solicit the help and encouragement of employers with emphasis on the importance of regional recruiting.

Employers were invited to hear of the present day role of the Territorial Army, its importance to the Regular Army, its training commitments and the benefits which may be derived from a more motivated work force accustomed to the discipline and challenge of today's Army.

The presentation concerned not only Royal Signals; static displays were provided and manned by the Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, Infantry and REME volunteers, who produced some very effective, professional and impressive displays. The opening address was given by the CO, **Lt Col David Dobson** and this was followed by briefs from the TA and from guest speakers. Briefs were given by members of the Regiment, **Sgt Pete Mouland** of 95 Sqn, **Capt Glyn Morrison** and **SSgt John Kelly** of HQ Sqn and **2Lt Liz Hyde WRAC** of 89 Sqn. A video (courtesy of **Capt Dennis Hawkesford** our UPO) accompanied each individual brief and showed the presenters carrying out their military and civilian role. These generated great interest amongst our guests and proved to be both entertaining and informative and clearly impressed our audience. Although some were a little bemused at the sight of a Maintenance Electrician teaching weapon handling, range drills and battle PT, a Marketing Manager conducting a military training meeting followed by an inspection of his Troops, a Sales Manager of a company which manufactures military insignia and buttons preparing equipment and rations for a major field exercise and finally a female organic farming researcher leading a Troop of soldiers around a tough orienteering course in Wales.

Needless to say the Area Presentation was a hugh success and judging from the various letters of appreciation achieved its aim. Suitably motivated and encouraged by this success, arrangements are now well in had to put at least 40 young executives through their paces on Ex Executive Stretch.

WESTERN DISTRICT PATROL COMPETITION—AN APOLOGY

Much to the horror and dismay of those teams who took part in the competition, we regretfully ommitted to mention the participating teams from HQ Sqn and 48 Sqn in the July issue of *The Wire*. To make amends and to acknowledge the tremendous effort put in by both Squadrons who acquitted themselves remarkably well during the competition, belated photographs of the glorious teams are now published.

Western District Patrol Competition
HQ Sqn *Back row:* Sig John Harrison, Bill Dawes, Capt Glyn Morrison, LCpls Di Jessop and Craig Robinson
Front row: Cpl Mark Litherland, Sig Brian Phelan, Cpl Paul Trenfield, LCpl John Wall and Sig Andy Jevon

48 Sqn
Back row: LCpl Henry McLeod, Sig Tony Fellows, LCpl Stephen Daly, Cpl John Bagnall and Sig Paul Willis
Front row: Sig Simon Bloom, LCpl Tony Stehan, 2Lt Ian Barnes, LCpl Lucy Tunstall and Sig Carl Faulkner

PERMANENT STAFF—NEWS AND VIEWS
EXERCISE BEANO BREAK III

The third Adventure Training excursion for the Permanent Staff of the Regiment took place in the Lake District during September. What follows is a Day by Day account written by **SSgt (YofS) Buster Aslett**:

The first day. Helvellyn/Striding Edge. **Sgt Baines** was awarded the mountain goat medal for his stubborn refusal to go uphill. **Sgt Williams** had a refusal at the Striding Edge and sought the easy way down, which to his alarm turned out to be much harder. **SSgt Pete Marsh REME** who did not require a map, could not find his way out of the front door and **Sgt Dave Little** took up involuntary hang gliding without a glider—'I was blown 10 yards at the top of Helvellyn' he said. There were no witnesses to substantiate the Tall story from Little.

The next day. Ulswater Mountain Range. More refusals—**SSgt Loughton** failed to get past the water stop through a bad leg injury (his legs froze). **SSgt McCluskey** was the only soldier to refuse a 35lb bergen and **Capt Dudding** was always behind the camera shutter not wanting to shatter his 'street credibility' (except for one or two self portraits on automatic exposure.)

The final day. Relaxation Day. The competition between the Adventure Fishers and the Adventure Golfers was sadly lost by the Fishermen. **SSgt (YofS) Buster Aslett** and **Sgt Williams** had to go in and get them but all they could find was water. The Golf turned into a sound victory for **SSgt Shelton-Smith**, while **WO2 RQMS Fitzgerald** won only the 19th hole. Whilst all this was going on **SSgt Heaselgrave** and **Sgt Balderstone** took time off to go boating and learned not to motor further than you can paddle. Entertainment awards go to **Cpl Clarke** and **LCpl Kaines** and Wig!

Ex Beano Break
(Left to right): Capt Dudding, SSgt Pete Marsh, WO2 (RQMS) George Fitzgerald and SSgt Bob Heaselgrave

HAIL AND FAREWELL

During the past few months we have welcomed to the Regiment **Sgt Les Hoehne, Fiona** his wife and dogs. **Les** has quickly learned to swim in A Troop. **Sgt Dave Little** and **Myra** and **Scott**. **Dave** is a very nice man who often helps stranded old ladies who in turn help him to start his car and finally welcome to **Sgt Dave Ross** and **Jean, Emma** and **Colin.**

We also bade farewell to **Sgt Dave Best** and **Maureen** who we wish the best of luck and good fortune on their posting to AA Coll Harrogate.

SPORTS AND SOCIAL
WESTERN DISTRICT TA SPORTS DAY

The Regiment came an excellent second in the Western District TA Sports Day. The competition involved five separate sports events for which points were awarded for winners, runners-up and semi finalists. Although we didn't win any events outright this year, the overall performances which are described below contributed to the very good final placing.

Western District TA Sports Day
Regimental Soccer Team
Back row: SSgt Mizen, LCpl McLeod, Sig McKenna, LCpl Blakemore, Sig Faulkner and WO1 (RSM) O'Hare
Front row: Sig Nibloe, Cpl Latham, Sig Bloom and Cpl Beck

7-A-SIDE RUGBY—SEMI-FINALISTS

For the second year running the Rugby side failed to get into the final, on this occasion we were narrowly beaten by 3 Staffords. The Regiment scored a first half try and held on to the lead until the dying minutes of the game when the Staffords after a successful counter attack broke through from their own 22 area to score a converted try. Previous rounds saw some fine rugby from our strong team. **SSgt (YofS) Aslett** was top scorer for the second year in succession and excellent performances were achieved from all players; **LCpl Tony Skehan** (Team Captain), **LCpls Steve Daly, Clive Chapman, Burt Wells, Martin Thacker, Sgts Steve Baugh, Albert Mair** and **Cpl Kevin Groves.** The team now look forward to having a successful season against local sides.

TUG-O-WAR: SEMI-FINALISTS

A team not at full strength, due to other commitments, showed great determination against sides which were much heavier; they took ends which were not expected of them. The team which possessed tremendous spirit and character was formed mainly from members of the LAD REME and led by **Sgt Bob Hadaway** who encouraged them to put up a fine and creditable performance.

HOCKEY

As defending champions, hopes were high for another victory even though we had two of last year's team missing. In the league stage of the competition we came second in the group losing one game and winning three. For the superstitious this was a good omen as it was the same result when we won the competition last year. Unfortunately victory eluded us in the semi-final. A goal disallowed during normal time, we lost on penalty flicks to 3 Staffs.

CROSS COUNTRY

With nine extremely strong teams entered in the competition the Regiment improved upon their eighth position last year to a commendable sixth position. Top individual was **SSgt McCluskey** who came in eighth with good performances from **WO2 Skip Whalley, LCpl Carl Lewis, Sig Bob Platt** and **Reg Amos.**

SIX-A-SIDE FOOTBALL—FINALISTS

The football team was drawn from a tough group which included the winners for the previous two years. The team was in a confident mood and began the competition with a hard earned 1—0 victory over 4WFR, the only goal being scored by **LCpl 'H' McLeod**. This match was followed by an exciting though goalless draw against HQ 30 Engr Bde. A win in our next match would almost certainly guarantee onward progress to the semi-final stage of the competition. Our opposing team in this critical match was 72 Ord Coy; fortunately we won by three goals to one thanks to **Cpl Gary Latham** (twice) and **LCpl 'H' McLeod**. The final match in the group was against 126 Reclamation Wksp REME who had won this competition for two successive years. A goal from **Cpl Alan Beck** and a penalty from **WO1 (RSM) Mike O'Hare** were enough to dismiss the holders and set up a well earned semi final against 3 Staffords. **LCpl 'H' McLeod** was again on the mark but it took an heroic goalkeeping display by **Sig Carl McKenna** to ensure our passage to the final. Our opponents in the final were 126 Reclamation Wksp REME who had progressed with us from our group. We were confident a repeat of our earlier group victory was on the cards, but alas two first half goals by the REME team ensured that their name and not ours went on the trophy.

OFFICERS' MESS v SERGEANTS' MESS CRICKET SOCIAL

This was the second of what has now become an annual event between the two Messes; the Sergeants' Mess going into this game one up in the series. The Officers led by **Lt Chris Heaton** chose to bat. This looked as though it was a wise decision as the Officers made 197 in their allocated 30 overs with **Capts Ian Dudding** and **John Bonnett** (guest) scoring 54 and 65 not out respectively. The Officers took to the field confident that this was their game. **RSM Mick O'Hare** and **SSgt 'Mac' McCluskey** opened the batting, took up the challenge and set about chasing runs for the Sergeants' Mess. Disaster struck in the early overs with an opening collapse leaving the Sergeants' Mess 23 for 3 and the Officers smiling.

Sgt Baines wicket was the next to go and the situation was now looking pretty desperate. With the total now at 37, the 198 needed to win seemed a long way away. **Sgt Geoff 'I've got the ashes' Robinson** was next to the crease. This was the start of a partnership with **Sgt Allan Balderstone** that was to take the Sergeants' Mess to their second victory—**Sgt Allan Balderstone** scoring 107 not out was there at the end when **Sgt Steve Baugh** hit the winning runs to make it two nil in the series. This most enjoyable day was rounded off with refreshments and an excellent barbecue provided by **WO2 Mick Kearney.**

Officers' v Sergeants' Mess Cricket
The Officers—Losers

The Warrant Officer's and Sergeant's—Winners

36 Sig Regt (V)
Wanstead

54 SIGNAL SQUADRON GOES PUBLIC

The start of August saw the Squadron manning a public relations stand at the 1989 Duxford Military Vehicle Rally. On Sunday 6 August the Squadron's 706 and 707 Tps drove to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford Airfield to give the public an insight into modern military communications. This display was part of a larger one on the theme 'The History of Royal Signals Communications'. The display included a working AMC which the public could use to talk to each other. These instantly became a source of endless amusement for many children and a welcome relief for many parents trying to keep their children interested. The day was enjoyed by all, although many were none too sorry when the order came to pack up!

(Left to Right): OCdt Mark Kendrew, Sgt 'Pinky' Pink, 2Lt David Watson, Ptes Aura Sanderson and Susan Wright, take a well earned rest after a busy day at Duxford. Now the only disturbance came from our roving photographer, Lt Wesley Blewett!

(Left to right): Ptes Aura Sanderson, Susan Wright and Sig Peter Lusmore in full flow explaining how to use our phones as a mother chats to her daughter

EXERCISE GREAT ESCAPE

Ex Great Escape was a 54 Sqn escape and evasion exercise held during the weekend of 19/20 August in the Stradishall and Stamford training areas. The scene was set by **Capt Dave Watson** who briefed members of the Squadron prior to their mass breakout from a POW camp far behind enemy lines.

The Escapees, aided by local partisans made their way in small groups from the local railway station (alias the TA Centre garages) by train (alias 2 four ton trucks) to an RV on the training area.

Each group then had to make their way, using navigational skills and stealth, to a final RV where they were to meet with the local partisan leader who would effect their escape back home.

At this location they were met by the Sqn Comd, **Maj Malcolm Touchin TD**, **Capt Dave Watson**, **WO2 (SSM) Graham Chapman** and **Sgt Eddie Kikas** who, having advised the teams they had foraged for food on their trek across country, gave each team four potatoes, four carrots, one onion and a dead rabbit with which to prepare lunch.

The teams were a little stunned initially, faced with the prospect of skinning, gutting and preparing 'rabbit a la combat' but soon entered into the spirit of the exercise.

Pte 'Haggis' Sanderson went in with the sharp knife, closely followed by **Sig Martin Wright** and by the time they had done three each were getting quite expert. With the exception of two girls and one signalman who couldn't 'face it' all of the escapees had a good lunch and were raring to go for the rest of the exercise which involved defending the location against the Squadron Senior NCO's led by **Sgt 'Taff' Thomas**, the Norwich PSI and sending out patrols under the guidance of **2Lt Dave Watson** (yes there are two of them).

A dawn breakout to a waiting submarine (another four ton truck) was successful and all escapees were repatriated to fight again another day.

Sig Steve Laws, SSgt Bob Major and Capt Dave Watson with lunch

Maj Malcolm Touchin *(left)* and WO2 (SSM) Graham Chapman sampling lunch

PRESENTATION

The Officers, SNCO's and OR's of 54 Sig Sqn (V) paid tribute to Diane Collins who has been the AO for the Squadron for the past nine years on the eve of her wedding by presenting her with a set of crystal champagne glasses. All members of the Squadron wish her all the best in her new life. Please hurry back as the paperwork is mounting up on your desk!

Diane Collins being presented with a set of champagne glasses by Maj Malcolm Touchin OC 54 Sig Sqn (V)

37 Sig Regt (V)
Bristol

67 TAKES TO ITS FEET!

Three years of effort and perspiration on our Tuesday night PT sessions were finally put to the test when Stratford Athletic Club invited us to enter a 100 mile relay race!

The Cotswold Hilly 100 is a marathon of a relay with 10 × 10 mile legs, starting and finishing in Stratford on Avon.

Organised by **Cpl Freddie Hughes**, he found nine stalwarts ready to run. Not to be outdone, the veterans were well represented in the form of the Training Major **Maj John Reed** who volunteered to make up the 10th slot.

In blazing sunshine the team jogged through some of the most beautiful countryside that England has to offer—including at least half its hills! And although the best completion times were under 10 hours we were well pleased with our total time of 13 hrs 56 mins and 30 secs!

Next day the party (less **John Reed** who, despite rumours was not still completing his relay slot), set out for the Boscabel Walk which is the second stage of the competition. This consisted of an interesting single leg of a mere 25 miles! It follows part of the route taken by Charles II when he fled the Roundheads. Everyone completed the walk earning two medals for the Squadron in the two days. And, as **Sig John Lord** noted we were still able to stand at the bar! Well earned applause for the effort and support from everyone involved! With a final thought of . . . What shall we do next year . . .?

In July an intrepid group set forth with the recruiting stand to Studley. Unfortunately potential recruits had to battle their way through hordes of young boys keen to get their hands on 'the guns!' . . .

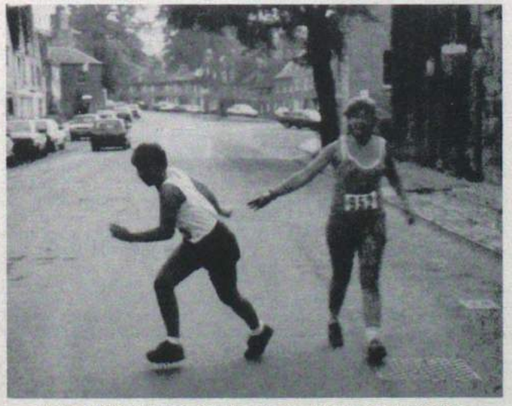
On the same day a treasure hunt was held . . . **OCdt Rob Cameron** had worked out the mind teasing course which was eventually won after a tie break by **Cpls Monty** (now Sgt) and his wife **Irene Walker**.

The Squadron SAAM was again held at Perhsore ranges. **Lt Ros Winter** took the cup for best WRAC shot while **Sig Bob Hamson** took the honours for the best SLR. **Pte Sarah Cull** took the best shot in both the pistol and SMG matches.

In August the Squadron received a visit from the Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire, **Sir Charles Smith-Ryland**. He presented **SSM Brian Smart** with the Lord Lieutenants Certificate and **SSgt Dicky Hall** received a further bar to his Territorial Efficiency Medal in recognition of 24 years with the Squadron!

In September a pre-camp dinner, organised by **LCpl Boris Carrier** provided a good send off for our two weeks 'north of the border'. So followed an enjoyable two weeks of intensive training in new surroundings far from our home ground. Rumours that Stratford now echoes to the skirl of bagpipes and swish of kilts is entirely unfounded!

And back from courses with honours are **Sig Mark Round** who achieved best recruit at Catterick and **Pte Lucy Pennington** who was designated most Improved Recruit on her course.



Cpl Freddie Hughes hands over to Pte Lucy Pennington

39 Sig Regt(SC) (V)
City of London

FOCUS ON 2 SQUADRON

After a long absence from the pages of *The Wire* (due to a dearth of willing reporters), the Regiment is pleased to report that it still exists and remains 'fighting fit and fit to fight'. Many of the 'old' hands continue to give us the benefit of their service, and a steady flow of newcomers fills the gaps of those who have departed.

It would be impossible to name and thank all those who have left us, but key personalities who should be mentioned are: **Maj Frank Smith**, who left us to become chief headhunter at ACIO Dundee; **Maj Pam Hedgecoe**, who decided that she needed more time at home to look after **Roger**; **Maj Craig Treeby**, who has gone to the Falklands; **Maj Chris Laurence**, who has gone to 37 Sig Regt (V); and **Capt John Fletcher**, who decided he needed more time to make even more money!

The Regiment is kept busy with exercises at home and abroad. We continue to 'struggle' out to Cyprus and put up with the fact that, because of flight schedules, we have to spend six days in the sun for each weekend of exercise. Yet again we returned to Scarborough for our Annual Camp and a report from 2 Sqn (1, 3 and 5 Sqns please note and get writing) on what happened while we were there is included in these notes.

Finally, we held our Annual Associate Members Dinner at Worship Street on 5 July and were delighted to see so many old friends gathered together. Thanks to the splendid efforts of both the Mess Committee and our excellent soldier waiters, the evening was a great success.

RSDCC

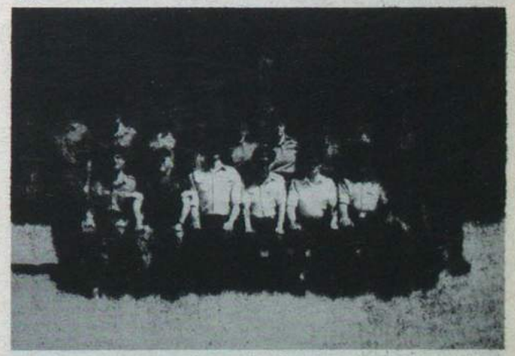
Report by WO1 (RSM) R. Brown

The course began immediately the students arrived in Scarborough—straight in at the deep end. BFT, TOETS—what other holiday company gives you these activities on a Saturday evening?

Each day began with a brisk PT session along the sea front. This was so enjoyable that the RSM insisted that the course went for a swim on two occasions. **LCpl Tam Donald**, though injured on day one was an inspiration to the remainder of the course. Injuries from then on went unnoticed.

Classroom work was interspersed with time on the drill square and sports field (weapons/tactics) under the watchful eyes of **WO2 Titch Reynolds** and **SSgt Bert Wright**.

In-camp training culminated in an out-of-camp exercise when, predictably, it rained for the only time in the two weeks. Amazingly this served only to lift morale (will I ever understand the TA mentality?). Our range day after the night exercise was most noticeable by the improvement of **LCpl Gillian McIntosh** who missed the target at 100m prone, but scored seven hits out of ten at 300m trench, after **SSgt Bert Wright** had given her some personal tuition. Thanks must also go to **Cpl Julie McMillan**, our watch-keeper for the day.



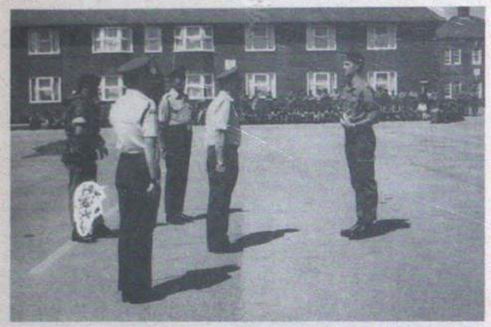
Assembled Course

Back row (left to right): LCpls Shields, Pollard, Yeubrey, Donald, Brown, McIntosh, Robertson, Cherry, Lambert and Singers

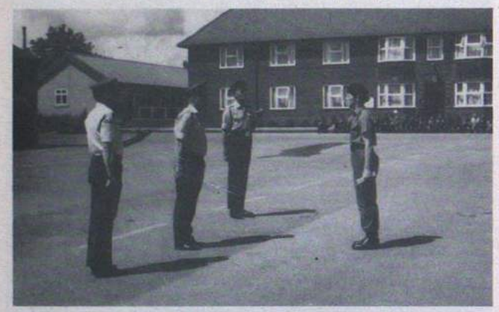
Front row (left to right): LCpl Higgins, SSgt Wright, Lt Luke, Lt Col Sharp, WO1 (RSM) Brown, WO2 (SSM) Reynolds and LCpl Hall

The penultimate day ended with the course throwing down a challenge, to any takers, over the obstacle course. The RSM took up the challenge and 'volunteered' the PSIs. In front of the whole Regiment the PSIs led by the RSM, were seen to get diplomatically trounced, special mention must go to **LCpl Dave Lambert**, who allowed himself to be used as a human step ladder to assist other members over the final obstacle.

All but one student passed the course with the best two being as close as one point in eight hundred. **LCpl** (now Cpl) **Brian Higgins** just pipped **WLCpl** (now WCpl) **Jenny Hall** for the position of top student.



Presentation to: LCpl Higgins Top Student Royal Signals Det Comd's Course 1989 receiving his award from the CO
(Left to right): SSgt Wright, WO1 (RSM) Brown, WO2 (SSM), Reynolds, Lt Col Sharp and LCpl Higgins



Presentation to: LCpl Hall WRAC Placed No 2 on the Course, by a very close margin, receives a special award from the CO
(Left to right): WO1 (RSM) Brown, Lt Col Sharp, WO2 (SSM) Reynolds and LCpl Hall

Weapon Training
(Left to right): LCpls Pollard, McIntosh and Yeubrey

PERSONALTIES

OC	**Capt E. S. Monks WRAC**
PSAO	**Capt W. Naismith**
PSI	**Sgt T. Briggs**
PSI Tech	**Sgt I. Lumsden-Gordon**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) J. Sturrock**
SQMS	**SSgt H. Wright**
Comms Tp Offr	**Lt E. Blyth**

ANNUAL CAMP—SCARBOROUGH

As ever, Annual Camp at STC Burniston Barracks from 20 May-3 June was eagerly looked forward to by the Squadron, and all the more so because there was the promise from Training Wing that it was to include the opportunity to partake in a little gentle 'Adventure Training', as well as provide everyone with loads of trade training, upgrading and hands-on experience with our various bits of kit.

Training Wing proved to be as good as its word, and from day one, Burniston Barracks was a veritable hive of activity. Syndicates were busy training, learning new skills and putting into practice all they were being taught. To no-one's surprise, the most unpopular instructors on camp were the poor souls who had to oversee the typing classes and break the bad news of failure (by however close a margin!) time and time again to their students. This however was a small price to pay, for seeing their faces light up, as one by one they cracked it.

As well as the trade training that took place, a select few found themselves taking part in the dreaded Detachment Commanders Course. All good character building stuff! And of course, the best thing about it all is the great feeling of achievement at the end, when, with the eyes of the Regiment on you, you take part in the Pass-Off Parade. (Ah, I remember it well!)

By the end of the two weeks, most people had achieved passes in the subjects required for their trades, and the Regiment had a fair number of newly-qualified and upgraded operators.

The adventure training proved to be very popular with the Troops, giving them a day away from the classroom and radio vehicles as well as the chance to try something which, in the majority of cases, was completely new to them. **SSgt Terry Yates RA** was in charge of the canoeing, and it is rumoured that this particular activity raised more than a few smiles. There was, for instance, **WCpl Doreen Simpson** who was so determined to escape from her canoe when it capsized (with a little help from the afore-mentioned instructor) that she was out and on dry land before the canoe was even half way over! Then of course, there was the group who got their own back on their instructor and tipped him in. All in all, it appears that the canoeing was very popular and no doubt there are hopes that the exercise will be repeated again at some future date.

Abseiling was another new adventure, and **WO2 (YofS) Wilf Wedge** was responsible for that. It has been reported that some of the girls found **Wilf**'s methods a touch unorthodox, to say the least. **WCpl Joy Kerr** apparently looked down the sheer cliff face (her words) which she was suspended over and said, 'I can't go down there'. **Wilf** said 'Of course you can', and at the same time gave her a gentle(?) push, and off she went. She did say later that, much as she had enjoyed the experience, she was in no great hurry to repeat it. Other participants used words such as 'exhilarating', 'terrifying', 'brilliant', 'heart-stopping' and 'the daftest thing I've ever done' to describe their feelings about abseiling. Some refused to comment (or were rendered incapable of speech by the whole thing), and a few, whilst quite willing to describe how they felt, used words that don't bear repeating!

The third choice on the adventure training menu was rambling around the moors. Quite a gentle, relaxing way to spend a day, you may think. Not at all, if the accounts of those who took part are to be believed. Word is that it turned out to be a 10km walk over some very hostile terrain. **WSgt Sarah McLean**, on her return, was totally worn out, and confided in yours truly that it had been a lot tougher than **WSgt Katie Allen**, whose department this was, led everyone to believe. However, she did say that it had been good fun and that the breath-taking scenery encountered made the blisters seem trivial.

It would be unfair to let anyone think that Annual Camp '89 was all work and adventure training and no play. It has to be said that the usual Scarborough thing happened, whereby every other night the local disco appeared to be a Regimental dance. And of course, the 'resurrection by **WO1 (RSM) Bob Brown**, of the dearly loved (and greatly missed in recent years) traditional Regimental Dance was appreciated by everyone.

Annual Camp '89 has to be voted a great success by all who attended. A lot was achieved from a training point of view which can now be put into practice in readiness for next year's camp, and of course, with the excellent weather, no-one even noticed that there was no overseas deployment this year!

SPORT/SOCIAL

The social calendar seems to have been quite empty since camp, but nonetheless a few occasions merit a mention.

On 8 July the Officers', Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess held a dinner night. Such occasions are always enjoyed to the full, and this one was no exception. Superb food, prepared by the Squadron cooks, excellent service from Squadron members prepared to give up their Saturday evening to work, and of course, the best of company. No doubt, under the auspices of **SSgt Bert Wright** the Entertainments member, plans are afoot to hold another dinner night in the not too distant future. 22 July was the date chosen by the Lynx Club committee to hold the first post-camp barbecue and disco. A well attended function, made all the more enjoyable by the fine weather and the fact that it was also a pre-wedding celebration for two members of the Squadron.

SQUADRON NEWS

The Squadron has been relatively busy since its return from Annual Camp. Over the weekend 17/18 June, having barely caught its breath, the Squadron found itself participating in a training weekend co-ordinated and run by Training Wing from RHQ. This was the third such weekend this year, and it followed the same pattern as the previous ones—with the might of the Regiment's PSIs there to pass on some of their knowledge to the Squadron. The Saturday evening proved to be somewhat of an eye-opener for those who thought that the talents of **SSgt (FofS) Steve Hatfield** and **SSgt Mark Schofield** were limited to the communications field. It appears that, between them they concoct a mean barbecue sauce . . .

15/16 July was Ex Viking Bank, a Regimental exercise with overseas deployment, as well as UK bases, 2 Sqn was tasked with manning the Cyprus det, and under the guidance of **Lt Eric Blyth** and **WSgt Katie Allen**, the operators worked well, thus contributing to a successful exercise.

Sunday 13 August saw the Squadron in action again, this time showing the public what the TA is all about at the annual TA Display at Camperdown Park, Dundee. This event is one which is eagerly looked forward to each year, despite the fact that it is a long, exhausting day spent explaining to the public just what the attractions of the TA are, and convincing them that of all the TA units who have a display, ours is the one they should join!

Ex Fisher Bank, a military training weekend, took place over 2/3 September. A refreshing change from trade training, the weekend covered all the military subjects so vital to the Squadron's role. Rumour has it that **Sgt Ian Lumsden-Gordon**'s lecture on health and hygiene in the field was delivered in his own inimitable style and raised a few laughs. (As did **Cpl Dave Christie**'s solution to the problem of defending a comms site. Apparently, all you need is a dog and a bag of wolf droppings . . .)

Post Script: Congratulations to **Sgt Tom Briggs** and his wife **Gillian** on the birth of their son.

Post Post Script: On the arrival of these notes from 2 Sqn it was noted that the main event of camp—the Scotland v England football match—had been mysteriously omitted. To set the record straight, the match ended in a resounding victory for England. This was mainly due to the inclusion of **SSgt Mark Schofield** in the English team, and nothing to do with the English referee (the unbiased RSM)!

PLEASE KEEP YOUR

UNIT NOTES

SHORT

71 Sig Regt (V) Bexleyheath

RHQ

The past few months have been a very busy period in RHQ and with the Adjt **Capt Jeremy Wilson** sunning himself in the USA, the MTWO, **Terry Curtis**, forever on the local golf course, the Chief Clerk, **Bob Wade**, gone fishing, and the YofS, **Steve McMahon** forever swanning, it has left the Trg Maj, **Barry Rowe**, and the Chiefs' dog, Peggy, holding the fort.

We welcome **Mrs Jean McLewee** to the ranks as our latest Admin Assistant.

We say a sad farewell to **Capt Jeremy Wilson** and his wife **Sue** on their posting to 9 Sig Regt.

70 (ESSEX YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON
NEWS FROM THE TROOPS
HARLOW TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**Lt Paul Wooler**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Dee Brooking WRAC**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt John Bell**
PSI	**Sgt Keith Bolton**

It has been some time since news was forthcoming from Harlow but a busy trade training season has now come to an end so the ink is again flowing. Apart from Trade Training other things have kept us busy (the Troop Commander does not have five months off!).

Congratulations go to **LCpl Julie Basson, Pte Sharon Greeing** and **Sig Phil Palmer** on their recent promotions.

The Troop has had a recent influx of recruits for the Troop RRTT to play with. The job of looking after the newcomers falls to **Cpls Steve Wair, Julie Basson** and **Mick Fidgeon** whose subtle words of encouragement can be heard when he takes them for a stroll around the streets of Harlow.

A well done also goes to **LCpl Mark Middleton, Sig Gordon McKinnon, LCpls Sharon Greening** and **Richard Turnham** for passing their Detachment Commander's Course, a special well done to **Richard** for receiving the award for Top Student.

94 (BERKSHIRE YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON

Sunday 14 May saw the Squadron on parade at Longmoor Camp—the occasion was the handover/takeover of command from **Maj Simon Frost** to **Maj Ray Wilkinson**. The outgoing Squadron Commander is ex Oxford UOTC and commanded 886 Tp at Chertsey before taking command of 94 Sig Sqn. **Maj Wilkinson** is an ex regular from The Queen's Regiment and has also commanded the Chertsey Tp. The occasion was marked with the presentation of a cake which was beautifully decorated with our Squadron emblem. Once the cake cutting ceremony was over the event was toasted with a glass of champagne. **Maj Frost** has been appointed Regimental 2IC (another Berkshire officer in RHQ).

The CO presents the TA Efficiency Medal to Sgt Barry Hearn. Capt Sampson looks on

MEDAL PRESENTATION

Sgt Barry Hearn was awarded the TA Efficiency Medal on the same parade. **Barry** has served with 94 Sqn since 10 February 1976, starting at Windsor he moved to 886 Tp. Chertsey. He is Radio Op and Powerman trained and was promoted Sergeant in 1984. He was Tp Sgt at Chertsey before being appointed MT Sgt until 1987, when he took over as SQMS.

265 (KENT AND COUNTY OF LONDON YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON

In August the annual Skill-at-Arms match between 265 Sig Sqn and its fellow Sharpshooter Squadron, 'C' Sqn The Royal Yeomanry, took place. Competition over the last four years has produced two wins each, so this year's shoot was strongly contested. The SMG match saw the teams on level pegging but team captain **Capt David Hannam** opened up a strong lead in the pistol event. This lead was further improved in the two ensuing rifle matches.

265 Sqn's team, a number of whom shoot in the Regimental Shooting team, was trained by **RQMS Terry Bodman** and **Sgt Keith Wrate** which could explain why they felt the celebratory champagne was for their sole consumption. The rest of the team soon put them right on this!

Capt David Hannam proudly displays the Winner's Silver Salver presented by the Worshipful Companies of Insurers flanked by WO2 Terry Bodman and Sgt Keith Wrate clutching 'their' champagne

ACIO'S CARIBBEAN NIGHT

Three members of the Regiment were invited to a Caribbean treat. **Sgt Geordie Patterson** from ACIO Chatham invited the RSM, MTWO and Chief Clerk to the first ever ACIO's function. **Geordie Patterson** did the Corps proud in organising such a fantastic night. The spitting images cartoonist/artist was on hand and quickly sketched the following:

The Good
RSM McKenzie

The Bad
MTWO Curtiss

The Ugly
ORSQMS Wade

News from Squadrons

NORTHAG Air Support Radio Sqn BFPO 18

PERSONALITIES

SHQ	
OC	**Maj Peter Hryhoruk**
2IC	**Capt Gerrit Palm (RNLA)**
SSM	**WO2 Ray Bruce**
YofS	**WO2 Andy Fulton**
Ch Clk	**Sgt Rick Warne**
Typist	**Miss Bijnens**
COMMS TROOP	
SNCO IC	**SSgt Tony Doherty**
2IC	**1Sgt Jean Dupont (BEA)**
Sec Rm/AS Commcen	**Sgt Keith Barker**
	Cpl Dave Oliver
MT	
SNCO IC	**Sgt Brian Rogers**
	Cpl Tim Boyle
	Cpl Pete Crawford
WORKSHOPS	
SNCO IC	**SSgt Paul Taylor**
	Sgt Paul Hubble
SQMS UK	**Cpl Steve Howard**
BRITISH IR/AR HF DET	
SNCO IC	**Sgt Dennis Morgan**
2IC	**LCpl Mark 'DPM' Wilson**
Crew	**Sig Andy Andrews**
	Sig Jimmy Rimmer
	Sig Djie Knowles

EXERCISE COLD FIRE 89

With the seemingly mass exodus of personnel from the camp in Tongeren, Belgium for leave in August, we all came back to work with a jolt. Straight into the field in September to participate in Ex Cold Fire 89. Although in somewhat whittled-down form, the exercise was interspersed with full main and step up deployments and changes of location, with all the complications this involves with so many varying 'agencies' to engineer and liaise with!

The exercise culminated in a visit by **Maj Gen Davies** Comd Comms (BAOR) who met members of the Squadron.

In outline, we at NASRS provide a link within and coordination of a large communication chain. All the air support signal message traffic for the whole Northern Army Group passes through our facilities. The Air Support Operations Centre (ASOCs) belonging to each of our four Northag Corps, pass their air support messages to us. We in turn feed our own Air Support Commcen which serves the Northag Air Support Staff.

HELLOS AND FAREWELLS

In October the Squadron warmly welcomed **SSgt Paul Taylor** and his wife and children. Good luck for the forthcoming tour all of you, (hope your MQ is large enough!). Another welcome pair of newcomers are **Cpl Pete Crawford** and his wife **Elaine** who beam down to us from Herford.

By the time this goes to press, we will probably have bade a very reluctant farewell to **WO2 (YofS) Andy Fulton. Andy** is making a break to peace time location in the North of England with his wife **Jan** and children **Iain** and **Vicky**. All the best **Andy** and may your handicap not get too high in the years to come.

We have also drunk a toast of Bon Voyage to two of our well known attached single folk heroes: **LCpl 'Bear' Convery** and **Sig 'Jocko' Band**, both set for pastures new.

We say goodbye and once more good luck to **Cpl Ron Williams** and his wife **WCpl Chris**, who both leave the Army, **Ron** after completion of 22 years service.

NASRS MILITARY TRAINING CAMP

This year's military training camp was held in North Holland in the district of Garderen.

During the exercise all the usual mandatory tests were carried out including respirator tests. I am sure **SSM Ray Bruce** took great delight in diplomatically persuading all but three of the Squadron into the CS chamber. Apart from the usual stuff, we carried out night patrols, long distance recces and ambushes. One such ambush led by **Sgt Keith Barker** actually had to sprint in order to overtake an unpunctual enemy! This mad dash in the night nearly caused some of the section to lose their legs as they careered into the many 6in high barriers laid across most of the woodland tracks.

Possibly the high spot of the week was when we sampled a battle inoculation course, courtesy of our Dutch hosts. This involved a 300m crawl through soft, occasionally exploding sand. Over, under and through various obstacles. All this in the knowledge that a few inches above our heads was a constant stream of machine gun fire.

The penultimate evening involved us in a gruelling 30km march to a new bivvy location. This proved quite a challenge both to the feet and in encouraging some of our younger colleagues. All the sections completed the march—some in shorter times than others. Time meant lost points and these would count in final section placings at the end of the week.

On the last night we were all invited into the Dutch Sergeants' Mess to be treated to a gourmet evening. The best section prize was awarded by the OC to number 1 Section, 2 Platoon led by **Sgt Keith Barker** eagerly supported by **Cpl Dave Oliver** and **LCpl Colin Goodwin** and last but by lots of pounds no means least, **Sig Andy Andrews**.

SUMMER CAMP
by LCpl Brett Cowley

On 1 July the Squadron deployed on our annual exercise, Summer Venture 89. This year we decided on Germany in the area of the Mosel, a small town called Gillenfeld. The advance party went ahead under the command of the SSM. We finally arrived (after a few detours) at Gillenfeld. The advance party then proceeded to set up camp for the main party which arrived the following day. Whilst waiting for the main party we were kept occupied by **Cpl Williams** in charge of the bar. Everything was set for a week's fun and games. The week was broken up with different activities which included horse riding, swimming and windsurfing. The football team had organised two games against the local Bundeswehr and the local football team. The results were 5—4 against and 2—2 respectively. All members contributed to a fine display of sportmanship even to the point when **Cpl Hubble** (now Sgt) argued with the referee about sending off an opposing player!

Each night the lads were given free time which started a rush for transport to the local delights of the town disco and further afield to Cochem. **WO2 (SSM) Ray Bruce** organised a competition which included the use of German rubber boats (organised by **HFW Schoenmackers**). The idea was to blow these boats up, run 200km with them and row across the lake and back. This was OK in theory, but in practice it turned out to be somewhat different. The blowing up of the boats was a mass fight betwen the three teams who competively stole each other's paddles, and let down the opposing teams boats. Once across the lake the teams had to negotiate a small hill leading back to camp, this hill would have stood us in good stead for a future attack on the north face of the Eiger. Once again this started mass commotion between the Troops, to the amusement of the local campers and civilians. Alas, only one team could win and **Sgt Keith Barker**'s team came top, to be presented with a fine selection of fruit by the OC **Maj P. Hryhoruk** accepted with gratitude.

The weather kept fine for most of the camp and on the final day the Squadron had a barbecue which was a great success. The food was excellent, provided by a local Bundeswehr and our resident 'sloppies' **LCpl Goodwin** and **Sld Overhof** (RNLA). The evening was spent in the local discos. All in all a good time was had by everybody and we are looking forward to next year and a different barbecue venue, so beware we may be near you.

SQUADRON WIVES CLUB

A mention must be made of a very important aspect of life in the 'wilderness' of BFPO 18. That is the NASRS Wives Club.

Over the past few months, the wives club really have been flourishing. The ladies meet regularly and have recently enjoyed 'cultural' outings, and a day's shooting on the nearby Tongeren Police range. It is amazing where spent cartridges can be found—**Mrs Tina Hubble** could probably verify that! The day was rounded off with a splendid luncheon organised by the OC, and **Mrs Carol Hryhoruk** and **Mrs Marge Bruce**. The whole event was thoroughly enjoyed by the ladies and their olive-green-drab better halves!

The club is presently looking forward to a 'coffee morning on ice' at the local ice rink. With padded clothing issued all round, well done to all who support the club and make it such a success!

UNTAG
BFPO 644

PERSONALTIES

CO	**Lt Col A. G. Whiddett MBE**
OC	**Maj N. D. Couch**
AO	**Capt A. P. C. Beard**
SO3 Comms	**Capt A. Allman**
MO	**Capt R. J. E. McPherson RAMC**
FSM	**WO2 S. Toms**
RQMS	**WO2 E. Marsh**
YofS	**WO2 J. Tyreman**
FofS	**WO2 L. Wookey**
Paymaster	**WO1 W. Hodkisson**
Chief Clk	**Sgt J. Reeves**

Phase 2 of Operation Prosperous, the monitoring of free and fair elections in Namibia, has just commenced. The Britcon force has been reduced from 174 to 110 personnel, mainly recruited from 30 Sig Regt but with representatives from 244 Sig Sqn, 243 Sig Sqn, 16 Fd Ambulance and 1 Postal Courier Regt RE.

The British Contingent is commanded by **Lt Col A. G. Whiddett MBE** and has three main elements, the HQ UNTAG communications staff, the Signal Squadron and the Administrative Support Troop. The new contingent has now settled in since its arrival in August and September and is currently planning the communications for the election as well as for the visits over the weeks leading up to it.

TACTICAL COMMUNICATIONS PICTURE

The 'Cub Pack' led by **Capt Andy Allman** with **WO2 (YofS) John Tyreman** and **WO2 (FofS) Lee Wookey** have been probably the busiest people concerned with Phase 2 to date. They have kept a tight rein on the civilians of UN Radio during the past fortnight, especially as we have replaced all of our tactical radio with UN Radio (Thorn McKie ARQ systems). After the initial teething problems all has now settled and the civilians have been taught how the military operates (literally).

As the election looms over us, the communication recces are under way with many soldiers deploying to the four corners of Namibia. The mission is to prepare communications for the monitoring of the 'free and fair' election taking place in early November. All the boys will be in accommodation ranging from local mud huts in Opuwo (unlucky **Sgt Steve Welding**) to a nice comfortable chalet on the sunny shores of Swakopmund. One thing is for sure, it will be a demanding time for all operators involved but nonetheless very rewarding to be part of the making of history.

NORTH TROOP IN GROOTFONTEIN

The heart of North Tp; the nerve centre where all major decisions are made is 'Mrs Miggins Pie shop'. Situated in the quaint hamlet of Grootfontein, its array of communications (one payphone), cream cakes and cups of tea, our heroic seniors find it hard. Communications are always high on the agenda, eg 'I got three letters on the last mail run'.

North Tp, as its name suggests, covers the north of Namibia, an area of some 200,000 sq kms. The detachments are based at such exotic sounding places as Ondangwa with the Aussies, Oshakati with Malaysians, Rundu with the Finns, and Grootfontein with the bulk of the Australian contingent, all working VRC 322 radio, although we are just phasing in UN equipment, computer controlled ARQ 1kw HF. North Tp also has a number of unmanned radio replay sites which include such places as Ogongo, Mahenene, Ruacana and Eenhana. A sizeable job for a Troop of 30 men. At the head of this organisation is **Lt 'incoming' Adams**. Assisting **Lt Adams** is **SSgt Dougie Wright**, a Glaswegian, which explains why he has brought £10.00 and one cheque for the whole eight month tour. In charge of the technical side of life is **Sgt Geoff Thorpe-Willett**.

Det Commander of Grootfontein is **Cpl Pete Van Den Broek**. No he is not a South African on loan. He is in fact a Dutchman who joined the British Army and is on loan from 244 Sig Sqn. Last, but by no means least, are the people who actually do most of the grafting on these operations, young techs, ED's and cooks who at Grootfontein are **Cpl Kev White**—a superb Cordon Bleu cook. **Cpl 'Taff' Connor**—every Det has to have a Welshman. Unfortunately we have two, **LCpls Taff** 'I've lost three stones this year' **Hughes** and **LCpl Kev Huffington**, our resident superfit sportsman, and of course **Si** 'pshyco' **Teck**, where would we be without him? The motley crew.

STOP PRESS—IMPORTANT NEWSFLASH

We are now at Swissmed Hospital, where a group of gorgeous Swiss nurses attend our luckless OC, **Maj Couch**. 'Sit still, this won't hurt' says a young nurse. Like **Jocky Wilson** going for a treble 20, she prepares to inject our Sqn Comd. The assistant pharmacist stops him from wincing. His mind races back two hours. There he was, just warming up, 17km out and just about to turn back. 'Might as well sprint the last 15km', he thought—Grrrrrr . . .' he froze. The slavering mongrel with no regard for rank shot across the ground and sank its diseased fangs into our unfortunate Commander. 'All done says the nurse comfortingly. Her smile is little consolation for a 90 day course of anti-rabies jabs.

RUNDU DETACHMENT

Well, what can be said about our first impressions of Namibia? The country is fantastic, especially if you like the colour brown. Brown trees, brown sand, brown dust, brown bushes. The only thing which isn't brown is the surface water which is a sort of blacky-green colour. The returning contingent made us feel at home by having a little party on our arrival. They gave us a wobbly rendition of 'we wish you a merry Christmas' which we all took in the spirit in which it was intended and I for one hope none of them contract pneumonia this winter.

The country takes a lot of getting used to. The dust gets everywhere, especially your nose, which has led to more than a few rough throats and headaches in the mornings, mind you that could be caused by anything I suppose.

You can imagine our delight therefore when we arrived in Rundu, which is about as close as you can get to the Angolan border without having to take your passport to work every morning. The previous residents of the camp, the South African Defence Force went out of their way to make the place as hospitable as possible. Namibia has a vast amount of clean underground water, so they keep the sprinklers going 24 hours a day to keep the grass nice and lush, the trees green and the insects nice and happy. That brings me to the wildlife. Rundu camp has its own little group of 'pets'. Jeefer Goat (G for goat), a peacock whose name is unprintable but you would know what we call him if you have ever heard the noise peacocks make first thing in the morning. We also have a mongrel which is 6in high with one eye, its name escapes me for the moment. The camp is situated only 6 miles from the Okavango River, on the opposite bank of which is Angola, which isn't open for day trips. The town of Rundu itself is about 5km from camp, just by the river and Rundu 'Beach' where all the locals go to do their washing on the weekends. The town itself is the capital of the Rundu province and its importance to the local area is reflected in the town planners rather extensive use of breeze blocks and wriggly tin. The majority of locals live in Kraals, small enclosed groups of straw huts, which may sound pretty humble, but when its 40°C out here who the hell wants to live in a house. The camp or camps (there are two of them), on each side of the main Rundu road) aren't just home to the Britcon Det. The largest contingent here is Finnbat. It is responsible for the monitoring of this particular sector. There are also a fair representation of other nations here. Swiss Medics, Australian engineers, Spanish and Italian aircraft crews, Danish movement control and monitors consisting of Peruvians, Kenyans, Pakistanis—all resident at Rundu.

Now that you know what the situation is like, the lifestyle and work for us Brits is pretty good. The det consists of **Cpl Les Waite, LCpls 'Sticky' Greene, Phil Lever, Sig Dave Mair** and **Dan** 'The Man' **Curtis**. We also have our resident medic **LCpl Kelv Lowe**. The work consists of the usual radio shifts, providing the Finns and everyone else with a reliable well used rear link to HQ UNTAG in Windhoek. Apart from the bars, the recently filled dish (sorry, Pool), the constant sunshine, and nearly daily barbecue's with Finnish supplied T-bone steak, our scant off duty hours here are filled mainly with letter writing to our loved ones, and the wonderful SSVC videos which are a great bonus (God Bless em . . .). Anyway I hope this has given you a rough idea of what this part of the world is like, and remember, next time 30 Sig Regt asks if you want to go to Africa for eight months, missing Christmas and New Year in the UK, make sure you say 'mmmmm yes please . . .'.

ONDANGWA DET

Ondangwa Det, as it was Juliet Det, for all you vets out there—and for the newer element TG 7. In this haven in the north are **Cpl Mick Brown, LCpls Snowy Thorpe, Kev Campbell**—our resident aspirin dealer, **Sig Sean Walsh** and **Stu Fidler**.

In addition to the normal det routine—**LCpl Snowy Thorpe** agreed to aid **LCpl Kev Campbell** in a local vaccination programme organised by the UN. A fun time was had by all especially in the vehicle recovery phase where the Landcruiser was dug out twice. Needless to say Medics are not flavour of the month.

But not everything happens off camp. **LCpl 'Snowy' Thorpe** decided to renew his old trade with a speciality compo curry for the lads, which was hurriedly washed down with copious amounts of sand and fire extinguishers. **Sig Stu Fidler** began the cultural revolution in Ondangwa. After indulging in four Tetley teas and a black pudding our resident Lancastrian was seen challenging the Ovambo Tribes greeting to 'Hey Mucka hows T' Fettlin' in th'Army? **LCpl Kev Campbell** has been frantically searching his medical store for the valium after his third day without mail and not forgetting our erstwhile leader **Cpl Mick Brown** when told 'you're on nights'—violently argued that he wasn't as it was Friday. His defence crumbled when it was patiently explained that it was in fact Sunday—right grid square wrong planet. And finally our Aussie brethren begged us to mention the fact that one of their members had to give a certain perplexed young Brit subaltern a crash course in how to use a washing machine. Judging by the results he now needs to go on the advanced course.

Lastly, the det is proud to announce the long awaited refurbishment of the frying pan (or is it really an experimental sky antenna?).

LEOPARDS VALLEY INFERNO

It was late on a Sunday afternoon, 1 October to be precise. The air was still, nothing but a slight breeze moved across Luiperdsvallei. Suddenly an orange haze filled the atmosphere, could it be the wicked witch of the east? (no names to be suggested). I think not—could it be the South West African Police on the ranges again—No, it was the Luiperdsvallei inferno.

The camp was surrounded, tall flames swept across the mountainside, this could be a job for Red Adair. Our plucky fire NCO, **Sgt Norris** was the nearest to him we could find. The blaze grew nearer as darkness approached. There was nothing that we could do but in came the fire brigade—we all felt it safe to go to sleep.

Next morning, the sky still lit by an orange haze only this time it was 100m from the fence edge. 0900 hrs and it was time to deploy. Quickly unrolling the fire hose and taking the beaters in hand a team of blaze fighting warriors took to the field.

The flames rose high overlapping the fence surrounding the camp. **Sgt Norris** on the hose managed to fight the initial onslaught. Suddenly we were attacked from the right flank. Another fire hose deployed—two teams were fighting it. Fire extinguishers were required—more bodies were brought in. Eventually the valley was filled with smoke, the occasional explosion caused by live rounds scattered around in the hills after previous fighting. After successfully putting out the fire, the contingent continued their day's work—no rest for the wicked.

SPORT—NAMIBIAN NATIONAL 15KM ROAD RACE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Three members of Britcon, **Maj Couch, Sgts John Carpanini** and **'Nipcon' Reeves** decided to enter a local 15km road race. On Saturday 7 October 1989 having risen at 0530 hrs (they must be mad) they arrived at the race start to book in. **Sgt Reeves** takes up the story—'To our horror we discovered that it was not just a local race but was in fact the annual National Championship. Not wanting to "Wimp out" we decided to participate anyway. There were many different nationals running, Namibian locals apparently do not believe in air cushioned training shoes but preferred to run in either bare feet or feet bound with sticky tape'.

Taking into account the altitude (6,000ft) and temperature in the thirties all three Britcon runners gave a good account of themselves with **Sgt Carpanini** finishing in 63 mins, **Maj Couch** just behind in 66 mins and **Sgt Reeves** in 69 mins. The standard of running was very high, there were 200 runners taking part (**Maj Couch** and **Sgt Carpanini** in the top 100). The winner was a Kenyan who in fact broke the Namibian National record, completing the 15km course in just over 47 mins. Anyway lessons were learnt by the three Brits (Don't have a beer the night before a race) who are looking forward to the next event.

VISIT OF LT GEN D. PREM CHAND PVSM

The United Nations Transitional Assistance Group (UNTAG) Force Commander visited the British Contingent based at Leopards Valley Camp, Windhoek on Friday 15 September 1989. After being met by our CO the Force Commander was given a tour of the whole camp during which he met representatives from all departments hard at work.

The visit culminated in a LS & GC Medal presentation to our Force Sergeant Major **WO2 S. M. Toms**. This was celebrated with a buffet lunch in the bar area. The Force Commander welcomed the Phase 2 personnel and wished them a good tour, he also said farewell to the few members of Phase 1 remaining and thanked them for their hard work and support.

WO2 (SSM) S. M. Toms receives his medal from UNTAG Force Commander

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1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215 Sig Sqn) Tidworth

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Tony Russ**
2IC	**Capt Bruce Avison**
Adjt	**Maj Simon Firbank LI**
QM	**Maj Stan Hargreaves**
Tfc Offr	**Capt Dave Gilchrist**
TCO	**Capt Keith Meakin RCT**
OC A Tp	**Capt Mark Castle-Smith**
OC B Tp	**Lt Mark Billingham**
OC C Tp	**Capt Rick Mather**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Fred Payet**
FofS	**WO1 (FofS) Tom Sharp**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Keith Glasby**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) John Clark**

VALÉ

WO2 (QMSI) George Bryson APTC

Many members of the Corps will have fond memories of the abilities of **George Bryson** on Detachment Commanders' Courses, as PTI at RMAS, 28 Sig Regt and 22 Sig Regt, as well as in the various messes. Good luck in civilian life to you and **Jackie**, and may your new bosses have more sightings than we ever did.

EXERCISE STANFORD SWAN

Our third visit to Stanford this year was a Squadron Signal exercise coupled with (another) UKMF exercise which required control comms and administrative support for Hicon/Locon. Charlie Tp, having chuntered on for long enough about how difficult life had been at the sharp end, was given the task of enduring the comfy cookhouse, comfy beds and hot showers whilst providing the necessary control organisation for UKMF. The rest of the Squadron deployed into the field for a fairly hectic series of controlled (or otherwise) moves, SET communication problems and Echelon baiting!

With manning difficulties becoming ever greater, Alpha and Bravo Tps were hard pushed to provide a full deployment of assets, and UKMF main thus became a shadow of its former self. However, trunk and radio communications were well tested (twice an hour at least!) and certainly movement drills were more effective by endex.

BATTLECAMP—EXERCISE YORKSHIRE SWAN 89

The beginning of September saw the Squadron bound again for the area of UK akin to that found in the upper reaches of the Mongolian outback. The road to Catterick is not as fraught with danger as that of the home of the Mongol hordes but the prickly feeling you get when turning off the A1(M) Northbound is just as unpleasant! The Squadron was based in Wathgill for two weeks; the first was spent on the ranges with suitable periods of valuable background activity to maintain interest! The second week was set aside for military skills, some less well practised than others, and some, according to **LCpl 'Nobby' Hall**, 'more useful to a set of blooming' submariners'.

Competitions were set throughout the camp; River Crossing, March and Shoot, Map Reading and Night Navigation (some had four hours practice, others 12 hours!), and the Turner Trophy, now in its 10th year. All the trophies were doggedly fought over. The River Crossing Challenge demonstrated very clearly why the technicians had joined the Army and not the Senior Service; the datas and chefs were clearly not destined for the Squadron orienteering team and the Turner Trophy was definitely named after **Sig Turner** who had already made his mark with the Australian Rules LMG load procedure!

Col Mike Galloway, from HQ 2 Sig Bde visited us during the afternoon of the river crossing, and also took the opportunity to have his first shoot with SA80—'Sure you've given him a mag of 5.56 *ball*?'. We took the opportunity to convene a 'Sergeants' to Officers' Mess', and the evening provided a splendid end to the first week. Fortunately there were no ranges the next day, although on the down side, nor was there any beer left in the Officers' Mess.

Brig John Alexander, Comd 2 Sig Bde arrived on the last day of the camp, and was in time to witness the Assault Run, the final thrash of the fortnight. A devious and demanding course, the 2IC **Capt Bruce Avison** had not expected when he designed the nasty bits, that the OC, **Maj Tony Russ**, would ask for an Officers and WOs v SNCOs trial run! Needless to say, the Officers and WOs' team won a decisive victory, albeit one man down when the Tfc Offr **Capt Dave Gilchrist** 'did his knee' on the first obstacle **(Capt Gilchrist** will accept any reasonable offer for his now redundant windsurfing kit!).

Brig Alexander presented the trophies to the winning teams and joined the Squadron for an informal supper in Wathgill Cookhouse. Congratulations to winners and losers for a hard fought and successful camp.

Col Galloway listens as SSgt (SSI) Roach de-briefs Charlie Tp Section following the river crossing
(Left to right): Col Galloway, Cpl Robson, Sig James, McCann, LCpls Hobbs (any colder in the Falklands Hobbsie?), Monks, Keogh and Young

Bravo Tp Section complete the river crossing and await a Helmet de-brief by David Bellamy

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj M. W. Edwards**
2IC	**Capt J. Turner**
Ops Offr	**Capt S. R. Workman**
AO	**Capt J. Aspinall**
QM	**Capt F. A. Bancroft**
OC A Tp	**Capt S. J. Vickery**
OC B Tp	**Lt J. J. Cole**
	Lt R. J. Healey (Designate)
OC M Tp	**WO2 (FofS) P. Gaffney**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) M. A. Granitza**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) G. M. McCrindle**
CClk	**SSgt (ORQMS) C. Clark**

A great deal has happened recently. The Squadron has deployed on several large FTXs in recent weeks and there have been several postings in and out. The highlight of the year so far has been the two week's adventurous training in Jersey on Ex South Sea.

First of all, the hellos and goodbyes. **Capt Bruce Knobel**, after several attempts, has eventually broken free from the Airborne, only as far as London though. At last, it seems he will be living in the same county as his wife, **Max**. We wish them both well in their respective new jobs in London. As I write, **Lt Jon Cole** is busy handing over to the next OC B, **Lt Rob Healey** who returns to the Brigade after an unexplained absence. He won't tell us where he's been, but he has at least returned! Good luck with the new Troop, **Rob**.

Lt Jon Cole is becoming a student again which should turn him into a 'Technical Officer'. He begins his three year Degree Course at RMCS reading Electronic Engineering at the end of September, so we wish him well and thank him for all he did here. Possibly the most significant farewell, is that of **Maj** (now Retd) **John Kirkman**, who left the Army in July. **John** joined in 1962 and qualified as a parachutist in 1969 having served for some time in 264 Sig Sqn. He was commissioned in 1977 and his last posting was with the Squadron filling the post of QM from 1986 to 1989. Throughout his army career, he has been a stalwart member of many a sporting team, leading the Squadron's cross country team to victory and always keen to take part and give his best both at work and play. He will be sorely missed by us all. We are fortunate to have **Capt Fred Bancroft** come to take over his department and wish **Fred** the best of luck in the tour ahead. All the best **John** in Harrogate and keep in touch!

Maj John Kirkman (right) receives a statue of Pegasus a farewell gift from the Squadron to mark his retirement from OC Maj Mark Edwards

EXERCISE SOUTH SEA

Ex South Sea was an adventurous training exercise involving most of the Squadron. It took place between 12 and 26 June. The aim of the exercise was to train members of the Squadron in running an adventurous training activity, with a view to becoming instructors in the Squadron.

There were five main adventure training activities—windsurfing, canoeing, rock climbing, sub aqua diving and offshore sailing. Secondary activities involved in the exercise were parachuting, abseiling and orienteering.

The Squadron deployed by C130 Hercules to parachute into St Aubin's Bay on the south coast of Jersey 1 mile away from the capital, St Helier. Those who did not achieve this landed at Jersey's St Peter Airport and met up with their kit and the parachutists at Haute de la Gerrere, Police HQ, (as seen in Bergerac) our exercise accommodation home. It was formerly an orphanage.

The offshore sailing took place from Gosport to Jersey on two Sadler 34s, and several qualifications were achieved. Rock climbing, windsurfing, canoeing and diving took place every day around the Island except those set aside for the 'P Info' activities such as abseiling down the 180ft high power station chimney, and painting a pen area in Gerrald Durrell's Jersey Zoo. A day was spent orienteering around the Island. Probably the best way to describe the activities is to let someone who took part in the exercise give a personal account.

JERSEY

by Cpl Weaver

During the slack period between 12 and 24 June an out of area operation was planned and executed on a small island off the west coast of France.

The Advance Party travelled by C130 Hercules to make a land or water drop depending on the tide. Luckily **Ronnie Raff** got it right and we hit solid ground! Unfortunately for us the residents were not on hand to welcome us, so our 'spectacular' arrival went unnoticed!

The two weeks were already organised for us and all we had to do was turn up each morning and indulge our chosen activity. The first two days on the island however were spent getting to know the area.

SSgt Nielson decided it would be a good idea to have us all abseil off the local power station chimney, only a mere 180ft from top to bottom whichever way you came down. With the local Press and TV reporters there to film it all, everyone played it cool until well out of view of the camera.

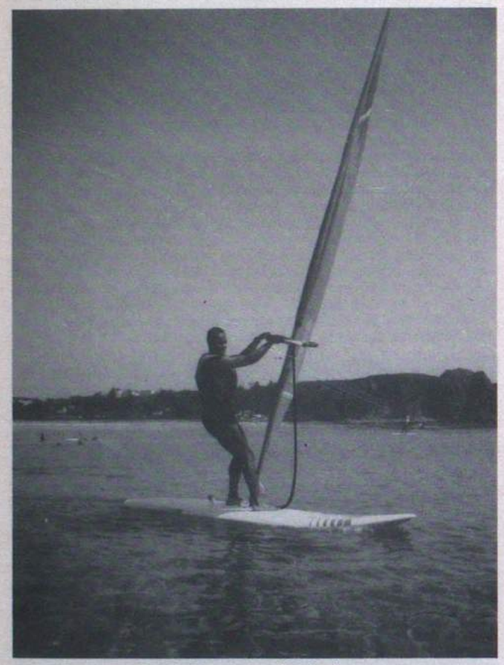
The activities available were: Diving, led by **YofS** (What's in this hole?) **McCrindle**, rock climbing (all future Chris Bonningtons), windsurfing (all Posers), and canoeing (all kept amused by **'I won't turn over' Oliver**).

The whole two weeks went by without a hitch, even on the night when the island endured its wildest barbecue which they must surely have talked about afterwards. Unfortunately all good things must come to an end so with bank accounts at nil balance, new found friends left behind, we made our way home, 'back to life, back to reality' (as the song goes).

Thanks must go to all who organised this great trip, all the Admin Staff and a big thanks to **Capt Workman** for getting it all sorted out.

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn descent upon Jersey 'early one morning'. St Aubins Bay

'With one stroke of my hand I can cut this rope.' 2Lt Jon Cole paying attention 180ft above Jersey's Power Station



Cpl Smith windsurfing in Jersey

NEWS FROM THE TROOPS

A TROOP

Tp OC	**Capt S. Vickery**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt V. C. E. Grattidge**
Tp Sgts	**Sgt C. G. McGinley**
	Sgt J. Hanlon
	Sgt A. W. Dawson

The Troop has recently witnessed many changes—in fact the number rivals the days **Cpl** 'Trapper' **Weaver** spent fishing! The Troop bade a fond farewell to the following personalities; **Cpl** 'Trapper' **Weaver** to play with EOD's; **Sgt Nixon** starts his YofS training; **Cpl Jackson** is off to serve with the Marines after his wedding and **Cpl Cowens** leaves for 7 Sig Regt.

New arrivals to the Troop are: **Capt Steve Vickery** from three tough years at RMCS Shrivenham, **SSgt Eddie Grattidge, Sgt Jim Hanlon, Sig Isiah Carol** and 'Girlie' **Girling** all from 1 BR Corps.

We welcome back the following after their bid to escape failed, **Cpl Keville** from his A1 Course, **LCpl Rosser** from Belize and **LCpl Steve Navsey**. Warm congratulations to the following on promotion: **LCpls Hogg, Coates** and **Fogg** and to **Sig** 'Mad' **Mount** for passing 'P' Coy and to **Cpl** 'Trapper' **Weaver** who recently fished for the Army. Finally 'good luck' to **Sgt McGinley** on RSSSC and to those 6 Alpha Tp chaps who are about to be thrown to the lions of Pre-para—**Sig Ford, Christie, Jones, Bell, Carrol** and **LCpl Corcoran**.

B TROOP

Tp OC	**Lt J. J. Cole**
Tp SSgt	**Sgt F. Hutchinson**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt J. O'Driscoll**

Following a busy exercise period, the Troop was in need of a change—two weeks in Jersey. The dates for **SSgt Fred Hutchinson**'s much-coveted CQMS Course appeared also: they were the same two weeks! Never mind **Fred, Cpl 'Jonah' Jones** was just as disappointed as you were even though he went to Jersey. Congratulations to the lads who went over to Guernsey and won the Open Team prize in the annual half marathon.

Airborne Forces weekend was the first event upon our return to the 'Shot'. A good period of 'partying' was had by all, unless, of course you were on duty. Meanwhile, **Cpl Gary Smith** was busy training with the Squadron Triathlon Team. Congratulations on winning lads, and good luck in the Army team, **'Smudge'**.

Ex Roaring Lion stretched the Troop manpower, deploying all of our detachments. **Cpl Mark Omodei**, the Australian on exchange with **Cpl Bernie Bernstein**, was given a detachment on his arrival, which he then had to air-prep, as he was off on exercise immediately. Congratulations to the Tele Ops (Data) for such a good effort operating at BMA, and trying to receive **Cpl Rod Cowan**'s morse from RATT Papa.

Block leave has come and gone. Gone too are **Cpl Rod Cowan** to Harrogate, and **LCpl 'Taff' Phelps** to civvy street. Good luck to you both. Welcome to **Sig 'Brummie' Ford** and **Rob Thorp**; congratulations on earning your wings.

M TROOP

OC Tp	**WO2 (FofS) P. Gaffney**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt J. Black**
Tech Sgt	**Sgt N. Preston**
TE Sgt	**Sgt J. Lockert**

As usual everyone in the Troop was looking forward to a couple of weeks 'hard work' on the Isle of Jersey and were early on Monday morning (0200 hrs) with kit packed and ready to go. The para-trained element was to parachute into St Aubin's Bay, the non-parachutists were to land tactically at Jersey Airport. The 'lob' went well with only a couple of mishaps. All that could be heard on the way down was 'happy birthday to me' from **Cpl 'Stu' Archer** and 'Steer away' from two other members of the stick. The two weeks passed without so much as a hiccup and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, some more than others!

Then back to Aldershot and on to the warm up exercise for Ex Roaring Lion. This year on Salisbury Plain (for a change). It went off without problem. **LCpl** 'A stretch' **Day** had a happy time on the GPMG after a sporting descent close to the trees. Farewell to **Cpl** 'Draughting' **Chapman** who has left us.

Q TROOP

Report by Cpl Dave Turner

Several new arrivals; **Capt** (QM) **Bancroft, WO2 (RQMS) Steve Clarke** and **LCpl Steve Lynch**, we welcome them and their families to Aldershot.

Farewells to **Maj Kirkman** now in Civ Div, **WO2 (RQMS) Arthur Hedgley** now Warrant Officer 1 as Troop Officer in 11 Sig Regt and **Cpl Mark Bayne** to 24 Fd Amb, our best wishes go with them.

In recent months the Troop has been involved in several different schemes. The SQMS, **SSgt Mac McKenzie** has been to Jersey on the annual adventure training exercise. During his time there, if his stories are to be believed, everyone had a good time and left with empty pockets.

Ex Roaring Lion also warrants a mention. The new QM and RQMS deployed to BMA. The SQMS, **Sig Pilgrim** and I were at 'A' Echelon, the sharp end. The QM and RQMS's more difficult problems included who was getting up for stand-to, or whether to have tea or coffee. All in all, the exercise went well.

Finally, congratulations are due to two members of the MT, firstly **SSgt Mick Barney** on his promotion to Warrant Officer 2 prior to his posting to 24 Sqn RCT, and **Cpl Geoff Whittaker** on his Top Student and an 'A' grading on his promotion course.

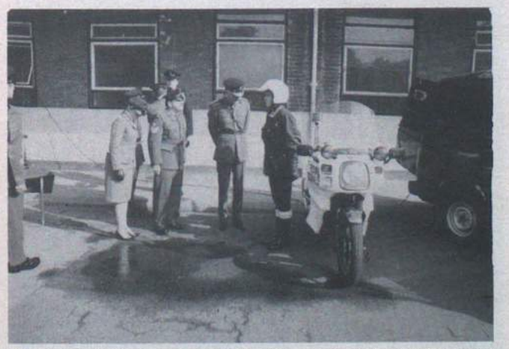
238 (London) Sig Sqn
Chelsea Barracks

ARU

At last the day of reckoning had arrived. Hours of preparation, rehearsals, briefings, bulling and polishing had taken place to ensure that the ARU went according to the programme.

The Chief of Staff HQ London District, **Col Carnegie Brown**, arrived at the Squadron accompanied by Comd Comms, **Lt Col Lee Tilson**, to be met by **Maj Peter Dick-Peter** and **WO2 (SSM) Gus Hales**. The SSM, having just highly polished his pace stick, was praying that it would not slip to the ground (from its secure position under his armpit) when he saluted. After the initial half hour briefing, which lasted about an hour, the 'inspecting party' moved on to visit the military skills stands; trade skills (morse/teleprinter), map reading and first aid. Fortunately **Capts Max Knobel** and **John Isherwood** had just finished their 'rock and roll routine' when they arrived! At the first stand **SSgt Lisa Twigg** was trying hard to get an oscar nomination for her convincing act of 'pain and agony' from beneath the Landrover. She had not realised that it was not a 'student' by her side to attend to her but Comd Comms, who was wondering what on earth she was doing under the Rover. After visiting other parts of the Squadron everyone assembled in the Bruno Club for the highlight of the day, the LS & GC presentation for **LCpl Mick Plumb**. Perhaps after the 'plug' in his citation he will now get a 'number 5' for his UN medal (perhaps **Cpl 'Robbo' Robson** would like to lend him one!). After lunch in the Officers' Mess the Chief of Staff moved on to another element of the Squadron at Woolwich in the form of the Garrison Exchange and Commcen, run by the civilian members of the Squadron. And so ended the Squadron's second ARU.

LCpl Mick Plumb escapes from the MOD to receive his LS & GC



The Chief of Staff admires Sig Mark Crompton's boots. Sgt Steve Matthews rather fancies himself in one of those white helmets

RADIO/MT TROOP PERSONALITIES

Tp OC	**Capt M. L. Knobel**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt J. Bragg**
'T' Det	**Sgt Steve Matthews**
MT Sgt	**WSgt Tracy Dodd**

The last week of September was scheduled Phase Two of the Squadron's Battle Camp 89, but this was cancelled at the eleventh hour owing to the death of **Field Marshal Sir Richard Hull KG, GCB, DSO**.

The Troop was required to be present at the funeral.

It is not unusual to have an early morning rehearsal for ceremonial events but a parade at 0330 hrs was just too much for **Sig Roy Brunt**, who by now wishes he had borrowed Big Ben as an alarm clock. **Sgt J. B. Bragg** who normally mans the control station was jiffed by the Ops Officer, **Capt John Isherwood**, to go to Combermere Barracks as an LO, to ensure the operators found their users. Whether this was because Windsor is not our normal area of operations or because the Ops Officer knew that the Guardroom area of the Barracks would be like the M25 at eight in the morning, one will never know, though I have my suspicions. A tactical control station was no bother as ØB, located in a minibus at the far end of the camp, was well away from it all.

Things worked out surprisingly well, most operators found their user, whilst **LCpl Steve Bartliff** even found his 'Mount', although it has to be said he found it a little difficult keeping step with the horse which refused to step off in time with the base drum.

Everyone was grateful to **WO2 (YofS) Ralph** for updating us on the latest amendments to VP! Of course, not every operator managed to meet up with his user in Combermere Barracks. **Sig 'Mac' McKinstry** for one, was instructed to report to the Guardroom at Windsor Castle and await the arrival of his user, **WO1 (RSM) Lynch** of 1 Bn Irish Gds. Everyone was eagerly waiting for him to report in on the net. The only advantage **Sig McKinstry** had was that he had never met **RSM Lynch**. Eventually the call came across the airwaves: 'Hullo O this is 5. Have now married with my user'.

'Ø(Minus say again over). Congratulations and may all your little ones be Sergeant Majors too—out'.

This sad occasion was watched by a large crowd of people who had gathered to line the streets of Windsor. **Sgt Matthews** told us that a tourist had asked permission to take a photograph of his 'highly polished' boots, and he gladly obliged. However rumour control has it that the real reason for the photograph is that in the rush to liquid polish three pairs of boots he had in advertently put in two left boots!

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.

239 Sig Sqn
Colchester

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj George Carmichael**
2IC	**Maj Sylvia Pratt**
OC Tech Tp	**Lt Graham Atkinson**
SQMS	**SSgt Alec Sampson**
Station Chief Stenigot	**SSgt Ivor Williams**

We have passed a fairly uneventful year since last appearing in *The Wire*: as a fixed Signal Squadron dedicated to looking after the telephones, fax, teleprinters and other electronics in Eastern District.

We were pleased to welcome **Col David Hunt OBE** to the Squadron during his introductory tour of 2 Sig Bde units when he was appointed Controller AFTS, 2 Sig Bde in September 1988 and also the Comd 2 Sig Bde **Brig J. O. C. Alexander** when he visited Colchester based units in August.

Among the personality changes recently experienced are a new OC and TOT. In May **Maj Trevor Hendren** left us to join 30 Sig Regt as 2IC. We trust that his two able assistants, Bruno and Sherry (black labradors), are enjoying the change of scene and are still using their energetic tails to thrash unsuspecting callers. A month later we lost **Maj George Turner BEM** to 641 Sig Tp HQ 2 ATAF. For four years **Maj Turner** was the leading light of A Tp 240 Sig Sqn and steered EDist through the minefield of Fastnet conversion and provided the nucleus around which 239 Sig Sqn was formed in 1987. Both **Majs Hendren** and **Turner** were seen off in proper style with barbecues in the yard, when the sun shone and the smell of singed burgers and bangers wafted towards HQ EDist. We subsequently welcomed a new OC, **Maj George Carmichael** and a new TOT, **Lt Graham Atkinson**.

The Colchester Half Marathon on 18 June was billed as a Fun Run but with temperatures in the high 70s few thought it was fun. The Squadron entered a team of seven, **Cpls Laurence Middleton, Marc Ewart, Darren Cole, Simon Pell, Sue Cotterell, LCpl Tim Pellett** and **Pte Kate Gifford**. The running pack, which included many army teams as well as local Colchester clubs and business teams, was started by the Mayoress and cheered on their way by a sizeable crowd. The route took runners through the town and to the outskirts and back to the start by the Garrison Swimming Pool. Anyone who thinks that Essex is flat should take a stroll around Colchester; there are enough gradients to make a half marathon seem longer! Our team finished the course in a respectable time and received medals from the organisers. The team did not run for nothing. Sponsorship brought in £70 for the British Heart Foundation and a cheque was duly presented.

Summer sun is thirst provoking and **Cpl Marc Ewart** took advantage of the Squadron's thirst and inaugurated 'Cheap Can Inc'—cans of drink available at higher than cost price but lower than retail. The profit goes towards Squadron Funds. The empty cans proved an embarrassment and not very 'green' so now all empty cans are collected and will be disposed of by a charity, who will benefit from the collection as the cans go for recycling. Imagine, tomorrow's baked beans in today's coke can!

North Lincolnshire is to most of us a remote and mysterious place but on top of a hill near Louth is the NATO Forward Scatter Station, Stenigot. This isolated unit never sleeps and is manned by a Troop of the Corps led by **SSgt Ivor Williams**. They too have had their ins and outs; **Staff Williams** took over as OIC in February when **SSgt Andy Dipple** left for 7 Sig Regt on promotion to WO2. We have recently lost **Cpls Ian Hamilton** and **'Pom' Pomeroy** to 8 Sig Regt. In May cheers could be heard all over Lincs when **WPte Alison** (Mouse) **McKinlay** joined them as their desperately needed driver. Welcome also to **Sgt Harvey** and **Cpl Maller** who recently joined the happy band.

Our Runners *(Left to Right):* Darren Cole, Tim Pellett, Sue Cotterell, Marc Ewart, Simon Pell and Laurence Middleton, presenting a cheque to Mr Prynne, a representative of the British Heart Foundation
(Absent): Kate Gifford

244 Sig Sqn (AS)
RAF, Brize Norton

ALPHA TROOP

The weeks leading up to Ex Armada Exchange saw a dramatic change in Alpha Tp.

Lt Adrian Clewlon took over as Troop Commander from **Lt 'Airborne' Inglis** who has gone to obtain a few more CSEs at Shrivenham. Other departures from the Troop include **Cpl 'Trout' Salmon** and **Sig Stu Loveley** (now LCpl) posted to Northern Ireland. **Sig 'Rocky' McDermott** to 238 (London) Sig Sqn and **Sig Sid Walton** to civvy street. To replace this merry band the Troop welcomes **LCpls Harry Dimelow** and **'Si the Storeman' Jenner** with **LCpls Penketh** and **Johnson**. From training the Troop welcomed **Sig 'Dizzy' Deary, Brennan** and **'Foxy' Chick** (the latter two arriving just in time to be issued with their webbing and catch the C130 to Italy). Waiting on our return was **Sig Clayton**. With the Troop's new face-lift we deployed on Ex Armada Exchange armed to the teeth with suntan lotion and insect repellant. **Sig 'Foxy' Chick** worked his way around the AMF(L) in search of snake repellant. The Americans came to his rescue (after hours of searching) and gave him a box marked 'Snake Repellant'. Imagine his disappointment when he opened it only to find a coiled rope.

Being a CPX there was a chance of a bit of R & R. **LCpls Longstaff, 'Tug' Wilson** and **Sig 'Wiz' Wiseman** managed a 10 hour train journey to Rome. Among the many prestigious places zapped by 244 Sig Sqn, the Colosseum and Vatican have now joined the list. Another place of interest was Florence, visited as a result of **Cpl** 'Turtleneck' **Whiting** leading his group to the wrong station in Venice! **LCpl 'Si' Jenner** had a good first exercise with the Troop taking his detachment to a beach and not leaving until Endex. The rear detail party witnessed one of the biggest thunderstorms ever known in Italy.

In closing we would like to offer our congratulations to **Sig Smart** on his recent engagement and say 'Hello' to **Cpl Mick Brown** now on detachment in Namibia.

MT/LAD

During the last few months this small department has been very busy, having taken part in all the Squadron's exercises both at home and abroad, the highlight being the Squadron Summer Camp at Weymouth. This was split into three parts; Part 1 enabling **LCpls Tam Pirrie** and **Paddy Maybin** to practise their recovery drills whilst on the military round robin phase, Part 2 had **Sgt Chris Geelan** showing his newly learned Boat Handling skills and **Sig Geordie Rees** (yes, he is still here) showing **Cpl Alex Semple** how to climb a mountain. Part 3 was a 450 mile convoy drive from Weymouth to Brize Norton via Harwich, providing practice for the Squadron in convoy procedure and for the cooks and MT in rolling replens. **Cpl Bob Chatfield** and **LCpl Jason Kielty** were kept busy with roadside repairs and recovery.

During the month of September nearly all the Squadron's 110 Landrovers have undergone major servicing on 'Op Terry', causing a slight headache for the LAD, **Sgt Kev Marsden**.

Finally we congratulate **LCpl Paddy Maybin** on passing his RSDCC and wish **LCpl Ian Pollock** and **Stephanie** all the best on his promotion and posting to 28 Sig Regt.

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Peter Neale**
2IC	**Capt Jim Richardson**
QM	**Capt Bill White MBE**
OC Main Tp	**Lt Alan Hill**
OC Sp Tp	**Lt Kim Evans**
YofS	**WO2 Pete Barron**
FofS	**WO2 John Hoyland**
SSM	**WO2 Gordon Shelley**
SQMS	**SSgt John Parish**
Chief Clk	**SSgt Paul Duffy**

The Squadron has just finished a turbulent six month period interspersed with deployments in Denmark, Corsica and Italy. Preparation is now well underway for Ex Hardfall, the annual arctic training exercise in Norway. But first is Battle Camp and a nice autumn jaunt to sunny Tregantle. The Squadron recently hosted Royal Signals Manning and Record office to a two day visit that was deemed a resounding success by all taking part.

EXERCISE WYE VENTURE 89

Ex Wye Venture was the Squadron's commitment to provide communications over a stretch of the River Wye. During the period 25-29 May a nationwide selection of boys clubs, completed a 100 mile canoe test. During the four days the canoeists had to encounter such hazards as dangerous rapids, numerous attacks by swans, with the same traits as **Sig Jock Wyllie** (ie slick, white and a bit mad). They also had to put up with **LCpl Schofield** who against all the odds completed one day's canoeing.

Having arrived a day early 5 miles from Ross-on-Wye we found our location was in a field situated behind the New Harp Inn (what planning).

The next day, after setting up, **SSgt Wilson** introduced us to American Football. The Staff Sergeant seemed only to abide by his own rules, crushing the other side. Special thanks must go to the owner of the field, who'd had cows in there the week before.

The following day's canoeing went quite well with no major incident except that **Sig Steve Hart** made breakfast.

LCpl Andy Hickling and **Sig Ned Kelly** ran the corner shop superbly and enjoyed driving around in the BV 206. So much so in fact that **LCpl Hickling** is now doing his HGV 1 for his resettlement. The event was sponsored by Britvic and we were entitled to as much Quencher as we could drink. We also received free sun hats which we wore under duress all week. A good week and we are looking forward to next year.

Sig Sid Gawthorpe, Elaine, Lucy and Robbo Robinson

254 Sig Sqn (UNFICYP)
BFPO 567

FETE—CABLE DRUM RACE

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the RPC and the 40th Anniversary of 9 Sig Regt, a Fete was held at Ay Nick. As part of the entertainment 9 Sig Regt Line Tp organised a line race using the very latest line equipment (MK 4 Drum Barrows). After a long and intensive training programme (on the way there in the mini-bus) 254's Lineys arrived at Ay Nick to survey the opposition—262, 259 and 9 Sig Regts Lineys combined. In heat one 254 Sqn drew with 9 Sig Regt and in a very fast time beat them to the finishing post only to be met by **SSgt Graham Tilley** and his Top Secret penalty system. 262 Sig Sqn hammered 259 Sig Sqn so the final was between 262 Sig Sqn and 9 Sig Regt. As planned 9 Sig Regt won even though their line did not work. Well done 9 Sig Regt. The 254 Sig Sqn team was: **Sgts Jennings, Norrie, Cpls Forbes-Wilson** and **Jones**.

TECH AND LINE

There has been quite a large turnover in the Troop. We say hello to **Sgt Paul Jennings**, his wife **Jan** and daughters **Stephanie** and **Haley** who have joined us from 21 Sig Regt. **Cpl B. J. Forbes-Wilson** from Airfield Tp 259 Sig Sqn. **Sig Terry Hall**—Epi Tp 259 Sig Sqn and Canadian Lineys **Cpl Ken Jones** and **Pte Brad Walsh**. We bid a sad farewell to **Sgt** (now SSgt) **Stan Holden** and his wife **Audrey. Pte Brian Fullerton** and Crazy **Dave Adams** (are now safely back in Canada—hopefully). **LCpl Mick Drury** back to 262 Sig Sqn.

In the Line Section farewell to **Sgt Roy Jarvis** and **Cpl Al Giles** back to the sunny climes of Dorset, and welcome to **Sgt Adrian Broadbank**, his wife **Jackie**, daughter **Sara** and son **Stephen**, and **Cpls Ray Dunn** and **Tim Pickersgill**.

SUPPORT REGT MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

The Team:

Capt Giles	
SSgt (SQMS) Alexander	
MCpl Trefry	**Royal Canadian Signals**
Cpl Jones	**Royal Canadian Signals**
Sig McCarthy	

The team selection for this year's Military Skills competition started early this year, five weeks before the event! Some 15 men began the training, and after injuries and the pace being too hot for others, they eventually ended up with the 'A' team.

MCpl Dan Trefry treading on Sig Mac McCarthy and Cpl Ken Jones, while being 'encouraged' by Capt Richard Giles at the Irish Bench

The first event was the 10km run, carrying CEFO equipment weighing 15kg, complete with weapons. The HQ team was home first with an incredible time of 52 mins with the Squadron finishing in third place with a time of 56 mins.

This event was followed 10 mins later by the shooting competition, an event we were favourites to win, but the team met with the kiss of death, as they plummeted to last position due to over confidence and bad luck!

The grenade throwing saw an excellent performance by **MCpl Trefry** who achieved the best score of the day. He was ably supported by **Sig 'Mac' McCarthy**, and the Squadron finished second in the event.

The team's poor results in our favourite event, the shooting, put paid to any hopes of our winning the competition very early on. However, its enthusiasm, effort and team spirit saw it go from the bottom to third place overall. Well done and better luck next time!

The team would also like to congratulate **Capt Giles** on being selected to represent Support Regt in the forthcoming UNFICYP Competition. Happy sailing Sir!

SSgt Alexander followed this by gaining HPS of 50 points on the Greek National Guard and Turkish Forces equipment recognition. He was supported by good individual results, which resulted in yet another second placing for the Squadron.

The climax of the competition was the assault course which starts off during the hottest part of the day, 1400 hrs. Having carried out a lot of practice, and perhaps with some 'encouragement' from **Capt Giles** the Signals team blasted everyone with what seem to be an unbeatable time of 5 mins 48 sec. This looked like a certain first position. Workshops was the final team to run and managed to dash the team hopes by pipping them into yet another second place by 2 secs. Unlucky lads!

UNFICYP SUPPORT REGT CO'S SHIELD—SAM

The competition took place at the 200m range Nicosia Airport and included all the minor units in the Support Regt.

254 Sig Sqn produced an excellent shoot in the SA 80 team match but were just pipped at the post by Workshops by a meagre six points. This did not stop the OC **Maj Jerry Peck** winning the best SA 80 individual medal, and the team coming in second overall. All was not lost as the falling plate match was still to come. The 254 lads rapidly dispatched all the opposition including the 'Nut Stanglers' (Workshops) to romp home in the final in just 44 secs.

The medal haul at the end of the day was: Best Individual SA 80. SA 80 team match runners-up, and falling plate winners.

Lt Col Smedley presenting the Squadron Team with their medals: Maj Jerry Peck, MCpl Dan Trefry, Sgt Alf Norrie and Sig 'Dan' Burdus

DANCON MARCH

The volunteers: **SSgt Bennett, Sgt Jennings, Cpl Norris, MCpl Trefry, Cpl Jones, LCpl Bingham, Sig Burdus, Galloway** and **McCarthy**.

The Dancon March is a bi-annual event run by the Danish Contingent in the Troodos mountains. For those of us who have completed one it is an experience you never forget. Two consecutive days; 24kms each day carrying 10kgs of weight and uphill! Competitors are not allowed to run the course, they either force march or gently stroll through the countryside. However there is a time limit of seven hours (some people need it).

Our first day started with a drive to the start line at 0500 hrs. We were set of by the Commander of Sector One. 'Lets stop talking and start walking', and then we were off.

The terrain is extremely unfriendly and in some areas you have to scramble uphill. The March is very well organised and every 5km medical facilities and watering holes make a welcome break.

The first day finished with the whole team still intact apart from the main enemy, blisters! Day two's route was even rougher than day one, sore feet and the extreme heat made for slower times.

Day one saw **MCpl Trefry** home first in a time of 3 hrs 28 mins, with **Cpl Jones** also Royal Canadian Signals completing day two in 3 hrs 58 mins. All agreed it was an exhausting way to spend the weekend.

COMMCEN TROOP

Commcen Tps Ten Pin Bowling Championship were held on 27 September. With medals to be won for first, second and third places, we were in for an eventful afternoon.

The contest consisted of three games each, final results being determined by taking an average score of the three results. Throughout the afternoon there were some good scores being made, numerous strikes especially by **Yeoman 'Nick' Hammett** and **Cpl Trev Acres** (Squadron players of course). There were the odd one or two who experienced bowling for the first time, with a special mention to **Cpl George McGuire** who showed plenty of promise for the future. As the afternoon came to a close, final positions were: first place **Cpl Trev Acres**, in second **Yeoman 'Nick' Hammett** and **LCpl Rick Wood** in third.

Then followed medal presentations. Well done to all winners, better luck next time to all losers. Special thanks to **Cpl Ginge Purves** for organising the event.

FAREWELLS

We would like to say farewell to the following members of the Troop whose roulement tour with us has ended: **Cpls Tim Hopkins, Mick Ginty, George McGuire, Chris Hanrahan, Alan Ward** and also **Dave Owen** leaving some broken hearts behind. **Sig 'Chris' Jones** is rejoining us for his second tour.

NEW ARRIVALS

We would like to say welcome to Commcen Tp to the following personnel: **Cpl Trev Acres** of ten pin bowling fame, **Sig Neil Pollitt, John Dennison, John Tracey** and **Dan Burdus**. We hope they have an enjoyable and successful six months in Cyprus.

VISIT BY SOINC

Tuesday 19 September was a notable day. The SOinC **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook** visited the Squadron. He was met at the UN Flight Detachment by the OC **Maj Jerry Peck** and immediately taken on a flight along the Buffer Zone. **Maj Gen Cook** then visited Squadron Headquarters where he was welcomed by the 2IC **Capt Richard Giles, WO1 (YofS) Nick Hammett, WO2 (SSM) Bill Henderson** and **WO2 (FofS) Giles Whiteford**. A briefing on the role of the Squadron followed.

A tour of the Squadron commenced at 1030 hrs with a visit to Tech and Line Tp, then on to the Commcen and finally to Radio Tp. He was then taken on a tour of the Buffer Zone which runs through the old part of Nicosia City, and currently part of the Canadian Sector. The day ended in the 'Wire Inn' where the SOinC had lunch with all the members of the Squadron and their families.

Maj Gen Cook being briefed by Capt Martin Twoney (Royal Canadian Regt), in the Buffer Zone. On the right Capt Maurice Audet (Canadian Signal Officer), Maj Jerry Peck and Lt Col Dick Thwaites

259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

Airfield Tp July 1989

Back row: LCpl Dickerson, Cpl Kelly, Sig Ingleson, Cecil, Hamilton, Cpl Wise, Sig Maylett and LCpl Mattson
Centre row: Sig Johnfinn, Lawlor, LCpl Goodhand, Sig Lougher, Rigby, Hamilton, Cpl Leyland and Sig Wringe
Front row: Sgts Bradford, Pinsent, SSgt Fitzpatrick, Lt T. R. Craven, Sgts John, Nicholas and Atkinson
Absent: Cpls Forbes-Wilson, Cauldwell, Stenhouse, LCpl Roberts and Sig Rapson

AIRFIELD TROOP

OC	**Lt T. R. Craven**
FofS	**WO2 Terry Waites**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Nick Philips**
Sgt UG	**Sgt Ken John**
Systems	**Sgt Tim Nicholas**
SNCO Techs	**Sgt Tony Pinsent**
	Sgt Dave Bradford

EXERCISE RUNWAY DELIGHT 2

July saw another Squadron exercise in the rugged foothills of the Troodos mountains. Organised by the Troop it produced an excellent key point exercise based on the defence of a communication site. After five days in very hot sandy conditions all the students learnt a lot about themselves and found it a worthwhile exercise.

NEW ARRIVALS

We welcome the following: **WO2 (FofS) Terry Waites** and **Catherine, SSgt Nick Philips, Cpl Hodgson, LCpl Dave Jenkins, Sig Gascoigne, Trev Johnfinn, Billy Share, Terry Wringe, Mrs Sharon Rapson, Miss Alexandria Nicholas, Miss Charlotte Campbell, Miss Lisa Bradford** and **Cpl Pete Kelly**.

DEPARTURES

We wish the following a happy new tour on posting: **SSgt Kevin Fitzpatrick** and his wife **Debbie** who survived five gozome meals. **Cpl Ernie Wise** and his wife **Lisa**, on leaving the army.

CABLE DRUM RACE

On the 30th Anniversary of the formation of 9 Sig Regt, an all Island Cable Drum race was organised. The 259 Sig Sqn team consisted of **Cpl Jock** 'I'll get that joint next time!' **Stenhouse, Sig Taff** 'whose idea was this?' **Lougher, LCpl Jack Mattson** and **Lt Tim Craven**. Unfortunately we didn't win—maybe next year.

CABLE PIT CLUB FAMILIES DAY

Airfield Tp held a Families Day in their Club in July. Many events were organised, including shooting, cherry-picker drive, four ton truck driver training and atlas crane competition. Everyone had a great day. The photographs show all Airfield Tp wives who attended.

Families Day

A break from the ranges

Range Day
Mrs Julie Atkinson, Mrs Liza Wise, Mrs Rhone Stenhouse and Mrs Linda Mattson

Ranges
Mrs Doreen Craven and Mrs Maria Nicholas

262 Sig Sqn
BFPO 58

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Nick Naylor**
AO	**Lt Jane Heywood**
OC Maint	**WO1 (FofS) Peter Martin**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Dave Thomas**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Bill Jackson**
SQMS	**SSgt Dave Edgecombe**
C Clerk	**Sgt Trevor Glover**

HELLOS, GOODBYES AND CONGRATULATIONS

The continual flow of personalities in and out of the Squadron would seem as busy as ever. Maint Tp now have a new Troop OC and a big welcome to **WO1 (FofS) Peter** and **Anne Martin, Sgt Frank** and **Nida Grant, Cpl Paul** and **Dawn Wicks, Cpl Andy** and **Tina Munford, Cpl Alan** and **Collette Hughes, LCpl 'Lucky'** and **Michelle Luckhurst, LCpl Mark Cheney, Sig Vinny** and **Maureen Hewitt** and to **Pte Tanya Smallridge**.

Goodbye and good luck to **Cpls Mitch Ashley, Martin** and **Maureen Abraham** and **LCpl Mick Preston**.

Congratulations to **Cpl Phil Leach** on his recent marriage to **Julie**, and to **LCpl Rod Helps** on his well deserved promotion.

THE TICKLE AWARD 1989

The Tickle Award in Cyprus is awarded each year to unit for their all round contribution towards both British Forces Cyprus and the local community. This year 262 Sig Sqn shared the prize with the 2 Bn Coldstream Guards the major units section. Particular praise was given for 262's charity fund raising efforts in which nearly £5,000 has been donated to UK and Cypriot charities. Although a small Squadron, members of 262 have represented the Army in athletics, hockey, badminton, football, tennis, golf, cricket, swimming and water polo. These achievements and the general efforts to improve both the efficiency and morale of the Squadron's soldiers, civilians and families led to official recognition by HQ British Forces Cyprus of the Tickle Award.

The photograph shows Capt N. J. H. Naylor and Lt Col C. R. L. Lomer receiving the Tickle Award from Maj Gen J. P. W. Friedberger

WRAC TENNIS

In the last issue of *The Wire* it was reported that the AO, **Lt Jane Heywood** was working on an ingenious plan to escape from her office once more. Well it worked and with four other WRAC members the Cyprus Tennis Team set off for the WRAC Centre at Guildford. This was the first time ever that a Cyprus team had played at Guildford and the standard of tennis was high.

Eight teams participated in the final, with each team consisting of two double partnerships who played against their respective pairing, one or two, in all the other teams. In total seven matches were played by each pair and after the first day both the Cyprus pairs remained unbeaten having lost only one set.

The second day saw one change in team composition, thus allowing all five members of the team to play in the competition. The day's

(Left to right): Cpls Jackie Dickens, Aitch Harrison and Wendy Leigh
In Front: Cpl Teresa McBridge and Lt Jane Heywood

competition provided some exciting tennis and the lead was narrowed as the 225/233 Sig Sqn team from Northern Ireland won some close matches. The competition reached the finals, both Cyprus (ESBA) and Northern Ireland had lost only three sets to one, the championship depended on the result between the number two pairs. The Cyprus pair **Cpls Jackie Dickens** and **Wendy Leigh** won the match two sets to love securing the WRAC Inter-Unit Tennis Championship for Cyprus for the first time ever.

The return journey to Cyprus was fraught with difficulties and the five team members finally returned to Cyprus from three different airports, on five separate flights and **Cpl Jackie Dickens'** luggage on a sixth separate flight!

EXERCISE GREEK EXPLORER

Ex Greek Explorer was an adventurous training exercise which took place in North West Greece in September. The party consisted of four members of the Squadron—**Lt Jane Heywood, Sig Andy Jones, Steve Simpson** and **Pte Katy Rogan**. The aim of the expedition was to traverse the major peaks, including Mt Smolikas at 2,637m Greece's second highest mountain, in the North Pindhos mountain range.

The party was accompanied by six members of the Greek Special Forces—Yes we thought someone was joking too! Fortunately the Greeks spoke excellent English and were very helpful in providing all those useful little necessities in life maps, beer and more beer.

The terrain in the Ipros area of Greece is quite unlike 'tourist' Greece and the scenery very beautiful. Although **Sig 'Simmo' Simpson** was heard to remark on one occasion (just one?) that he'd 'rather see it on a postcard!' The party was camping throughout the expedition and the daily ritual of pitching and shifting tents could only be likened to a bad moment on 'The Generation Game'.

The 'natives' proved exceptionally friendly and **Pte Katy Rogan** the best fed member of the group after numerous lunches with the local shepherd and his family.

The expedition aims were achieved, although **Sig Andy Jones** is still trying to work out why, if all mountains are the same height on both sides, does it never seem so when actually walking.

The end of the expedition left a couple of days for R & R in Athens before returning to Cyprus. The 'Ray-Ban Boy's' **Sig Steve Simpson** and **Andy Jones** proving how much their map reading had improved when they walked two miles in the wrong direction trying to find the Acropolis. Meanwhile **Lt Jane Heywood** was off to see the Acropolis illuminated at night. Having not told anyone before disappearing she was nearly reported as missing to the Athens Police.

The Athens public transport system was an interesting experience and very overcrowded as we soon discovered. The cry of 'follow me' as **Lt Jane Heywood** leapt on to one trolley bus was greeted by the party waving goodbye from the bus stop as she disappeared down the road. Fortunately it wasn't a reflection on the organisation and leadership of the exercise but her ability to fight her way on to even the most crowded bus!

Re-united, the party arrived safely back in Cyprus looking forward to a rest and work the next day.

L to R: Pte Katy Rogan, Sig Andy Jones, Lt Jane Heywood and Sig Steve Simpson in the Vikos Gorge

SUMMER SPORTS
SWIMMING TEAM

Congratulations to all members of this year's swimming team who won the Cyprus Minor-Unit Swimming Championships at Dhekelia. Three members of the team; **Sgt Dave Porteous, Cpl Sally Oldridge** and **LCpl Steve Appleton** went on to represent the Army in the Inter-Services—well done!

Back row (left to right): Cpl Sally Oldridge, LCpl Fern White, Cpl Lynn Goodall and Pte Katie Rogan
Middle Row: (left to right): Sgts Mick Scott, Danny Still, LCpl Rod Helps, Sgts Chris Bough and Keith Talbot
Front row (left to right): LCpl Steve Appleton, Cpl Mick Garbett, Sgt Dave Porteous, LCpl Mick Preston, Sig Dean Whitworth and Cpl Andy Maynard

– News from Troops –

602 Sig Tp
Bicester

1989 has been a very busy year for the Troop; the demand on the Troop operational dets and ops/ex teams has been great. The highlight of this year's events was the visit of our Colonel-in-Chief, **Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal GCVO** to our Headquarters. Despite the busy programme the Troop still managed to carry out its annual military training camp and three adventure training exercises.

OPERATIONS/EXERCISE DEPLOYMENTS

This year's deployments for the ops/ex teams have included: Naples, Italy (twice); Oslo, Norway; Mons, Belgium; Falkland Islands; Cyprus and Hong Kong.

Next year's forecast of deployments shows as many locations, with Canada in addition.

TRAINING WING

Although the number of Tg and WRAC Data Operators on SC courses was down to nil at one point, the Training Wing staff under **Sgt Ian Carter** was kept busy putting the Troop operators through their annual SC requalification tests. All Spec Comms qualified operators in the Troop must undergo an annual SC requalifying test in order to receive Spec Comms pay.

OVERSEAS DETS

With a shortage of SC trained operators, the manning of the overseas dets has produced several headaches for the Tp SSgt, **Paul Chandler** and the Sergeant Det Comds. Cyprus still remains the favourite overseas Det, especially amongst married personnel who go for 18 months, accompanied by their families. However, judging by the number of new cars outside the Troop HQ and the houses being purchased locally the 'singles' are not being left out of the good dets and deployments.

ADVENTURE TRAINING

It is no coincidence that most of the adventure training carried out by the Troop is in the same locations as other exercise deployments. This year has seen three adventure training exercises:-

Cairngorms, Scotland. Skiing and mountain trekking.
Troodos, Cyprus. Mountain trekking.
Pembrokeshire, South Wales. Sub aqua, rock climbing and trekking.

The photos, on the back cover, highlight the adventure training conducted in 1988 and this year. It involved a degree of courage, initiative and had a strong operational flavour. Why not ask your Yeoman for details on how to volunteer?

'Insertion training'—Sig John Plant and LCpl Danny Heakin

A LITTLE PIECE OF CORPS HISTORY!

This photograph was taken in Kenya in 1962, four years after the Troop was 'born' Tp Comd (1962-64) Capt J. Cook (6R), former Tp Comd Maj D. W. S. Sutherland MM (5R) and Alan Micklethwaite (2R)

Former members of the Troop who are not members of 602 Sig Tp Association are invited to write to Secretary Dave Smedley at 5 Old Rectory Close, Powick, Worcester WR2 4QU or telephone: (0905) 831705

632 Sig Tp
RA Range Outer Hebrides

WELCOME TO THE OUTER HEBRIDES!

632 Sig Tp is based on Benbecula, part of Uist's island group in the Outer Hebrides. The role of the Troop is to provide fixed communication systems to allow the Royal Artillery Range Hebrides (RARH) to fire live missiles on the range. To understand role of the Troop it is necessary to understand the role of the Range. The RARH staff control the firing of many different missile systems including Ground to Air, Ground to Ground, Sea to Air, Sea to Sea, Air to Air and Air to Ground.

In common with all military ranges, safety is of paramount importance, especially when dealing with areas of more than 6,000 square miles. To this end there are numerous radars involved in tracking or surveillance. The data received from these radars has to be transmitted to a central computer suite in the Range Control Building (RCB) which collates all the data and produces consolidated pictures. Once the range controlling staff receive these pictures they may need to talk with either service or civilian sea going vessels or aircraft within the range safety area.

Other command and control communications exist between the launch areas and the RCB by means of which the launch of missiles and movement of personnel around the launch areas are controlled.

To accomplish these tasks the Troop maintains four separate microwave radio systems, two fibre optic cable systems, three digital telephone exchanges and all the subscribers cabling, an HF radio network for ship to shore communication and two commcens. In addition we look after seven miles of cable ductwork containing many hundred pair cables.

To achieve these little tasks we have a total work force of 15 men, a Warrant Officer 1 Foreman of Signals in charge of six technicians, six telemechs, an admin Staff Sergeant and a Lance Corporal stores accountant.

There is always at least one technician and one telemech on the remote island of St Kilda which is 50 miles further west out in the Atlantic. It is the furthest west post of the British Isles. The only transport to St Kilda is either LCL or helicopter once every two weeks (weather permitting).

On the social scene there is little or no night life outside the military community but there are numerous facilities in specialised areas, ie sea and loch fishing, shooting, canoeing, wind surfing and scuba diving.

If this style of life appeals to you the gnomes of Kentigern House are always looking for volunteers and would be very pleased to hear from you.

HAILS AND FAREWELLS

Since our last notes there has been some toing and froing. Warm welcomes have been extended to the following: **Sgts Tony McLean, Tom McKay, Steve Oliver, Tom McLauchlan, Sig Owen Morris** and **Jason Brooke**.

Sad farewells have been said to: **Cpl Frank Fletcher** (civvy street), **LCpl Kev Maidment** (633 Sig Tp), **Sgt Andy Burns** (FofS course, School of Signals), **Sgt Bill Rennie** (NCS Latina), **LCpl Taff Artigan** (39 Bde) and soon to be LCpl **Owen Morris** (259 Sig Sqn). All escape chits were checked and found correct.

CONGRATULATIONS

On 23 June we celebrated the wedding of **Sgt Grant Nicoll** to **Miss Sheila London**. The Troop all wish **Sheila** and **Grant** lots of luck and happiness for a long future together.

633 Sig Tp
BFPO 12

Greetings from the Caribbean which unfortunately, at the moment, is not proving to be as sunny as it usually is. The rainy season is finally upon us and experiencing 3in of rain in one hour is not an uncommon occurrence. As well as the usual large turnover of personnel the Troop has experienced a rather hectic two months; some of the key events will now be highlighted.

OPERATION LEEK

This took place at the end of August and involved a deployment of 1 Bn the Welsh Gds to the northern border of Belize with Mexico. The idea behind the operation was to investigate rumours of bands of armed men, most likely associated with drugs, who were crossing the Mexican border illegally. It took shape with a number of covert and overt phases with Troops deployed liberally along the border. 633 Sig Tp was tasked to support the operation by providing a Force Tac HQ on a one off basis. Radio Section, under the auspices of **Sgt Zac Wright**, was to take part in the operation and the Tp Comd, **Lt Neil Stevens**, was given overall responsibility for the deployment and initial set up of the HQ. It was a night deployment during which **LCpl Paul Cross** managed to successfully bog in the four ton admin vehicle. He denies the rumour that it was to get a couple of hours sleep. Meanwhile the rest of the vehicles arrived on location to find an absolute quagmire due to recent heavy rains. **Cpl Pete Poulson, LCpl 'Dusty' Miller, Sig Pete Emson** and **Neil Beattie** spent the next four hours struggling through the mud and rain to be told by the Chief of Staff that they were being moved to another location.

ICL DEPLOYMENT/WIGS VISIT

Whilst Op Leek and the Royal visit were progressing more or less to everybody's satisfaction the Troop had also deployed the Initial Contact Link to Miami. To those unfortunate enough not to have served with 633 the ICL consists of an ICOM 653 HF Transceiver station which is deployed in the event of a Hurricane as part of a disaster relief plan. **Sgt Lenny Fairclough** and **Sig Ian Stringer** were the lucky recipients of a civvy flight to Miami where they managed to set up a sloping Vee on the beach in front of a lot of interested American tourists. When approached about what they were up to **Sig Ian Stringer** was able to convince them that it was a 'need to know' situation which suitably impressed all those round. Whilst in Miami the West Indies Guard Ship, HMS *Alacrity*, picked up our two intrepid signallers for the seven day trip back to Belize. On the voyage they were both made extremely welcome and thoroughly entertained. Once WIGS arrived in Belize, on 4 September, **Cpl Paul Cleavin** and **Sig Taff Lloyd** boarded the ship to provide comms to APC. Whilst HMS *Alacrity* was anchored off Belize **Cpl Billy Smart** organised a Troop trip aboard the ship and again we were all admirably hosted.

Meanwhile back in APC **Cpl Sam Sowerby** had his hands full with the PRE of the Troop's MT equipment. A great deal of effort was put in to preparing the vehicles for inspection two days after returning from exercise and this is a static comms Troop!

HURRICANE HUGO

Again the Troop was given warning of the deployment of the ICL. The difference was that this time it was for real and the order to move was received only eight hours ahead. After various people were aroused from sleep at 0300 hrs a team of four. **Sgt Zac Wright, LCpls 'Dusty' Miller, Paul Cross** and **Sig Vince Newton** were finally collected together and kitted out to fly to Montserrat in the Leeward Islands. Hurricane Hugo had devasted this small island leaving only 20% of buildings standing and no power or communications intact. The rest of the relief force comprised mainly Royal Engineers together with a couple of PSA chaps. The word is that they have been working flat out to restore some semblance of order and normality to the island with the help of HMS *Alacrity* and they are not expected to return for a couple of weeks. During the packing of the Hercules prior to the departure of the relief force it wasn't noticed that the only compo menu that was packed was menu A, chicken in brown sauce! Needless to say this is not everybody's favourite at the moment.

BATUS
BFPO 14

COMSEC GOES AIRBORNE

Communications Security plays an important part in Battle Group Training at BATUS. The COMSEC Team monitor all the BG nets, reporting to the Commander on the standard of voice procedure and advising the control staff.

Balancing the need for security and brevity with the tactical picture is a question often raised by other Arms.

To that end the Team went airborne to monitor the Tactical and EW picture. **Capt Andy White, Sig Andy Cartlidge** and **Lance Malin** enjoyed the aerial view of the Battle Group in action, while **Cpl Jon Henry** evaluated the results of Airborne Jamming!

Capt Andy White 14 Sig Regt

Sig Andy Cartlidge 206 Sig Sqn (left) and (right) Sig Lance Malin 202 Sig Sqn enjoying their role as the airborne COMSEC team

RSSST (Fwd)
BFPO 107

After a very enjoyable and relatively quiet summer period RSSST (Fwd) is back into the swing of autumn exercises. Data Section has successfully completed production of Version 10 of the Ptarmigan Database; **SSgt (YofS) Alan Herbert** was plunged straight into the deep end on arrival in the unit straight from his YofS Course, but seems to have emerged relatively unscathed. The manning of the Wavell Office seems set for a stable period, since **Sgt Pete Hilton**'s first escape bid has been temporarily thwarted!

WO1 (ASM) Paul Usher leaves the Ptarmigan office shortly, bound for UK, allowing **SSgt Jim Fairclough** the opportunity to step into his shoes and try some box-packing.

Capt Julia Abbott departs for Verden in November. However the team forges bravely ahead, supporting all major exercises and running trials and investigations. **SSgt (FofS) John Andrews** produces the RSSST Bulletin every two months, keeping units informed about technical matters, and who knows . . . with the RSSST (Fwd) military training days looming up at the beginning of November, we may even get **Sgt Max Steele** out to do a BFT . . .!

Tayforth Universities Officer Training Corps

SUMMER SIGNALS
From: 2Lt J. M. L. Watling

PERSONALITIES

OC Signal Troop	**2Lt J. M. L. Watling**
Signals PSI	**WO2 D Chrystal**
Signals JUO	**WJUO S. Summersgill**

So farewell to Tayforth! Yes, this Sassenach from Bristol, after four years of University life in supposedly one of the more civilised parts of Scotland has finally hung up his sporran and gone to Birmingham to begin a new life as a Computer Programmer. Before he leaves a quick resumé of the signalling activities from this unit over the past few months.

The amount of UOTC activity decreased as summer approached and students began to come to terms with the fact that they really ought to do some work before their degree exams. However the Wednesday afternoon training continued unabated. Memories of trying to give lessons on artillery target indication on top of the Dundee Law (the highest hill for miles around) during a force nine gale or being told that the half-wave dipole one had spent the last half-hour erecting was right in the flight path for Dundee airport will not go away in a hurry.

Yet the two main events of the summer were the UOTC Signals competition and this year's summer camp. The Signals competition is held every year at Blandford Forum and appears to attract most UOTCs. The intrepid team of four males and two females from our OTC manfully braved the nine hour mini-bus trip from Dundee with enthusiasm. Already keyed up on Voice Procedure and radios the time driving south was spent revising their vehicle recognition, so that come the end of the journey, nine times out of ten, most of the team could look at a picture of a large metal thing with tracks and a long cylinder at one end and confidently say it was a tank. For **WOCdt Jackie Eaton** the excitement was all so much that she had to calm her nerves spending most of the time sleeping (her second favourite hobby) and could only be revived when food (her first favourite hobby) was wafted in front of her.

Come the competition itself this hardy crew tackled everything from finding hidden weapons caches to running an Electronic Warfare Intercept station. **OCdt Rachel Graham**'s 'driving', surpassing its usual standard, allowed the team to steam past its opponents in the trailer race, although her ability to light fires during the combat survival stand would not exactly class her as a pyromaniac. Similarly **OCdt Ewen Nicol**'s aided attempt to construct a raised hammock met with mixed success. Outwardly it looked impressive. Then the human guinea-pig **OCdt Andy Merrick** tried it out. Result: hammock gave way in the middle and Andy was left doubled up inside it trying to claim to the judges that he normally slept that way. Come the First Aid stand the two females of the team showed great initiative in inventing two new anaesthetics. Method One: if the patient screams in agony drop the First Aid box on his head. Method Two: if he still continues to scream, stab him with safety pins until he stops. In the final race, despite **OCdt Adrian Yacomeni**'s attempts to drag most of the team bodily over the course and remove any obstacle such as a mere 4 ton truck from his path in the process, the combined brains of six highly intelligent students were flummoxed when it came to the intricacies of how to erect a nine-by-nine tent.

Altogether the competition was very worthwhile, not because we won, because we didn't, but because it was a very enjoyable experience. And as a result of the dinner on the Saturday evening, the journey home on the Sunday was a much slower process than the journey there. Many thanks to all units involved in running the competition.

And so we come to the second event of the summer, namely this year's summer camp held in sun-ridden Inverness. This year ulike previous years saw the incorporation into field exercises (normally done at company level) of a small battalion Tac HQ responsible not only for the dissemination of orders and Intelligence but also for ensuring good communications were maintained between all units in the exercise. In theory all this would entail would be to go out to a nice location, well away from all the fighting and let the Officer Cadets carry on the war elsewhere while the small band of TAC HQ signallers comprising Sigs PSI **WO2 Dave** 'Why did you bring that Malt Loaf with you if you're not going to let me eat it all'' **Chrystal**, Myself (the RSO), **OCdt Dave** 'The Machete' **Cathro, WOCdt Helen** 'It must have been something I ate' **Pitt** and for a while **OCdt Mike** 'What am I doing here when I don't know a thing about radios?' **Doyle** just monitored the action. In practice this was not far from the truth bar the odd major crisis such as tempermental VRC 353s, BATCO messages which looked as though the person had just encoded the whole of the Koran, or having to hermetically seal the Tac station against the Scottish insect life. A few memories linger: midges, stopping **OCdt Dave Cathro** chopping down the whole plantation in his quest for poles for the cam-nets, more midges, being promoted from RSO to OC Egg-Banjo cooking, even more midges, watermanship training where the object was to make the Loch look drier than yourself, a few more midges and finally having a grandstand view of the Company 'fire-fight' (literally) after the specially imported Royal Engineers 'special effects' team set the heather alight on the final attack.

In conclusion here is a piece of advice to offer the officer unfortunate enough to be RSO next year: *Always ensure you have a good 12 volt supply for the portable television.* Maintaining good communications may be important but one's main priority as RSO is not to miss 'Neighbours' when one is out on exercise.

The Black Watch provide a keen eyed observation post scanning the horizon for Officer Cadets, on summer camp

The Signals Team in Action
They were good at this, a perfect example of the blind leading the blind at Ex Lightning Strike at Blandford

Signals competition at Blandford—Ex Lightning Strike
WOCdts Rachael Graham and Jackie Eaton give rest and reassurance to a casualty who probably doesn't find it as amusing as they do

The 1989 Signals Team at Competition in Blandford — Ex Lightning Strike
Back Row (left to right): OCdts Adrian Yakomeni, Andy Merrick and Dave Burrows
Front Row (left to right): OCdt Ewan Nicoll, WOCdts Rachael Graham and Jackie Eaton

Association News

CALLING ALL BRANCHES

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.

CAMBRIDGE BRANCH

The August meeting was the last for our treasurer **Maj Danny Kay** who retired as PSAO with 54 Sig Sqn (V) in October.

Danny who has been with 54 Sqn since 1983 and helped to start the Cambridge Branch in 1985 is hoping to move back to Wales.

The Chairman, **Col Derek Latchford** thanked **Danny** for all his hard work over the past few years and said that he would be sorely missed.

He then made a presentation from the Branch members of a Waterford Crystal gentleman's clock and wished **Danny** and **Kathleen** on our behalf, all the very best for the future.

Danny thanked the Chairman and members of the Branch and said he was sad to be leaving. He presented the Branch with a very nice print of Royal Signals on ceremonial duty at Buckingham Palace.

Maj Danny Kay making the presentation to Col Derek Latchford on behalf of the Branch

DERBY BRANCH

Four of our committee members attended Crowborough Annual Camp as guests of 46 Sig Sqn.

We were invited to the Regimental Dinner which was excellent as was the entertainment which followed. The following evening we had an enjoyable time, as guests at the Squadron Party.

Dot's Marauders went into action 'Tactics' and all finished up dead, but we did learn how to serve acorns as a vegetable!

With WO2 Hanlan, *(left to right):* are 'Dot's Marauders' Retd Capt Williams (Treasurer), Ex Sgt Allman (Vice Chairman), WO2 Dot Williamson (Chairman and Entertainments Secretary) and Cpl Joy Elliott.

We returned home with recharged inner batteries, also full of liquid and solid refreshments, many thanks to 46 and all who looked after our welfare. Our younger members are still making news, **Pte Parr** announced her engagement to **Richard Cullen** of the Royal Engineers, **Cpl S. Mitchell** has become engaged to **Royal Marine Cully**. The OC **Maj Etherton** proposed and was accepted by **Capt Stenning**.

With regret we announce the death on 16 August of **Ex Sgt George Hitchcock**. Our sympathy goes to his wife **Gerda**.

We attended the Military Funeral, held at Somercotes of **SSgt K. A. Froggett**, it is impossible to express the sorrow we felt for his wife and young family.

GUERNSEY BRANCH

The Branch was represented in the Battle of Britain Commemoration Parade by **John Rudkin**. This year, unfortunately, the programme of events due to inclement weather, the week's programme of events had to be severely cartailed.

Twenty nine members and guests attended a Branch dinner at the Cobo Bay Hotel on 19 September.

The evening started with a minute's silent, a tribute by members to **SSgt Kevin Froggett**, recently killed in Northern Ireland.

Guest speaker for the evening was **Tim Earl**, a local news reporter and ornithologist. **Tim** was the first speaker at the inaugural dinner of the Branch, 10 years ago. This time his talk was entitled, 'Birds I have known,' and his address, full of witty and informative anecdotes, was accompanied by slides colleced in his travels to the Falklands, the United States and parts of Africa.

SHEFFIELD BRANCH

Having missed the September issue, I must, however late, say what an enjoyable weekend the Catterick Reunion was this year. The presentation to **Dave Greenbrook** at the AGM was a moving experience, he is a very good friend of this Branch and we hope to continue that friendship after his retirement.

We had a successful outing to Chester on Saturday 23 September, the weather was ideal, a good day culminating in an excellent buffet at the Wheatsheaf Hotel in Bakewell.

Four members of the Branch were invited to attend 35 Sig Regs' annual camp at Crowborough. **Frank Stockdale, Ted Cardwell, Bert Laycock** and **Alan McHale** attended, the latter two are ex-Sergeants of the Regiment. From what I hear the Regiment did them all proud including **Capt Headle** and former Captain QM of the Regiment invited by the Officers.

Although only October, arrangements are well in hand for our Christmas social on 15 December, which should be a very enjoyable evening.

Sadly, we have lost one of our staunch lady supporters after a long and painful illness bravely borne, **Mrs Carol Lindley**. Our deepest sympathy goes to her family.

We are welcoming several new members each month, most a few years younger than us old-timers which boosts morale a bit.

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 other advertisements should be forwarded to our advertising managers, Service Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR (Telephone 0252 515891) who will advise charges.

A ROYAL VISIT 1943

Brig J. C. Clinch CBE has sent these photographs which were taken on the occasion of the late Princess Royal's visit to the Gds Armd Div Sigs on 15 October 1943. There are many familiar faces here but can anyone identify the smart soldiers meeting the Princess Royal?

Visit of HRH The Princess Royal to Guards Armoured Divisional Signals—15 October 1943

Back row (left to right): 2Lts R. H. Mabey, G. D. A. Walford, Lts (EME) R. W. Parsons, S. R. Brown, W. A. Sykes, J. C. Clinch, D. A. Pinnell, (TMO) C. Carver, J. F. Donaldson, D. G. Thompson, A. M. Schroeter, J. D. Augus, 2Lt D. H. Baynham GM and D. O. Fairlie

Centre row (left to right): Rev S. E. Moore, Lt I. F. C. Anstruther, Capts G. W. Phillips, I. W. K. Smith, Majs W. J. W. Low, J. Linnes (Coldm Gds), Capts T. R. Deighton, C. E. Page, F. Bramley, R. A. Sykes, J. H. Cooper, Ltd D. G. Morrison and (QM) W. G. McIntosh

Front row (left to right): Maj J. D. T. Brett, Capt The Hon A. D. Tryon (Gren Gds), Maj the Viscount Errignton (Gren Gds), Brig F. A. Drayson CBE MC, Miss Kenyon Slaney, Maj Gen Allan Adair DSO MC, HRH The Princess Royal, The Commanding Officer, Lt Col H. N. Crawford MBE, Mrs W. M. Ponsonby, Brig C. Knowles OBE, Mrs H. N. Crawford, Majs R. Postill and R. B. D. Steele. (An obituary notice for Lt Carver is published on page 410, September issue)

In picture: Maj (later Maj Gen) C. E. Page and Lt Col (later Brig) Henry Crawford

On Exercise

1746 TO 1947—THE INDIAN ARMY AND EX-SERVICES REUNION

A party of British Indian ex-Servicemen who travelled from Britain, to take part in an international ceremony of Remembrance and Reconciliation, on the 45th Anniversary of the Battle of Cassino, have been given a tremendous reception in Italy.

Wherever they went during the week of ceremonies, the men of the Old Indian Army were warmly greeted. In a Grand Parade of Veterans through Cassino, their old Comrades-in-Arms from the British Commonwealth, Polish and American Divisions, and their former enemies from the German Parachute Brigade, broke ranks to join the Italian crowds in applauding the Indian fighters.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KARNTEN ULRICHSBERG RUFT

by In-Pensioner (WO2) D. Young BEM

Thirty-six members of the 8th Army Veteran's Association left England on 25 September to attend the 30th Anniversary of the Karntem Ulrichsberg Ruft, an international rally, a sort of peace rally I would say, that is held at the beginning of October every year. Parties from Italy, Spain, Norway, Finland, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Yugoslavia, Holland and for the first time England, all were old soldiers. Altogether there were at least 6,000 at this ceremony.

We left Luton and Manchester on 25 September for Ljubivana in Yugoslavia and then had a one and a half hour coach ride to our hotel in the mountains of north Yugoslavia. It is a skiing and walking holiday resort, beautiful air and scenery and we spent the first four days there using the ski lifts to go up and down the mountains.

Early on the Saturday morning we set off for Klagenfurt, Austria. We had to negotiate the Karawenka mountain range which separates the two countries. I was in the Scarlet of the Royal Hospital having received permission to wear it for this occasion, the remainder were in berets and wearing their decorations.

We were met at our hotel in Klagenfurt by **Mr Derek Filder** and **Edgar Wayman MBE MC** two expatriates living in Austria whose help had been invaluable in organising this tour. At 1000 hrs we went to a reception given by the Mayor of Klagenfurt who was very interested in meeting four of our members who were there during and after the war. There was an exchange of gifts. We presented an 8th Army plaque and a letter from our patron **Lord Kitchener**. Afterwards we had a very good lunch and a walk-about to meet the locals. We were taken to the British War Cemetery at Klagenfurt, an Austrian Army padre and two very efficient buglers were put at our disposal and we had a very moving service. We had our 8th Army standard and the Union flag and I was asked to step forward and read the exhortation. The cemetery, as always, was in immaculate condition, and about 40 of the English community were present, and the gardener and his wife were congratulated by all of us.

After the service we were entertained at the British Residents' club, to tea, sandwiches and beer and at 1700 hrs we had to attend a reception by the Governor of Karntien Provence and again gifts were exchanged and refreshments provided. The Governor insisted on seeing each one of us, **Derek** was for ever telling everyone who and what I was.

We returned to our hotel for a wash and brush up and then attended the evening ball at the Concert House. All nationalities were present and we were entertained by various bands and choirs. All nationalities mingled, British and German veterans were holding hands and rendering 'Lily Marlene' at the tops of their voices; a good time was had by all.

On Sunday we left our hotel to climb the 11,000ft Ulrichsberg mountain where the annual ceremony is held. The coach struggled to within a quarter of a mile of the summit and we had to walk the rest up a steep winding path. On the summit are the ruins of an old church reputed to be 1,200 years old, where a giant iron cross has been erected. The inside walls of the ruins are covered in plaques of all the nations which take part. Behind the church is an ampitheatre holding about 1,500 people.

The various standards were lined up behind the altar and the 8th Army Standard and our Union flag and myself were placed exactly behind and a few feet above the altar behind us was a mass of people who were attending this ceremony.

The service was taken by a Roman Catholic Bishop. Mass and Holy Communion were celebrated interspersed with hymns from a male

voice choir and a girls choir and various bands. Everything was conducted in German.

Afterwards a representative from each country had to make a speech, we were represented by **Edgar Wayman** who spoke in English for our benefit, although he speaks fluent German. Every speaker mentioned how pleased they were to see a British contingent there especially as they were the 8th Army veterans and we were given the impression at all times that the Austrians were pro-British.

After the service a representative from every nation present planted a tree as a symbol of peace between us. The ceremony had lasted two and a half hours. We were glad to get back to our coach but it was one huge party down there with free beer, coffee and sandwiches for everyone. Then we returned to our hotel collected our bags and returned to our Yugoslav hotel for Sunday evening before returning home on 2 October.

Altogether a very satisfactory and unique holiday. Throughout the entire ceremony we were constantly being photographed by the press and television and anyone who had a camera, and we were repeatedly shown on Austrian TV on that Sunday evening.

AIRBORNE SIGNALS REUNION 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF 'BATTLE OF ARNHEM'

This year's 'advance party' to the annual reunion, held at Kesteven College, Caythorpe, made a sad journey to Nottingham on their way for the funeral of **Joe Crofts** who died suddenly a week before the reunion. Old comrades **Harry Howlett, Dickie Appleton, Bill Creswick, Frank Young** accompanied by **Rene Howlett** and **Iris Young** represented the OCA at the service on Friday morning.

Joe, together with his wife **Flo**, was to have made their first Pilgrimage to Arnhem on 12 September but alas, it was not to be.

Returning to Kesteven College the advance party found a few others had already arrived and the 'Stables' were filling up rapidly. This was on Friday! and the reunion was not due to start until the afternoon of Saturday.

After a lovely breakfast, hastily prepared by the Principal and his staff, everyone headed for the airfield at Prince William of Gloucester Barracks at Grantham for the 'drop' by members of the 5 AB Bde Sig Sqn at 1130 hrs.

About 60 members, wives and friends had amassed by this time and there was a lot of reminiscing whilst waiting for the first 'stick' to drop. At 1145 hrs, although still gusting high winds, the first run was made and three chaps landed on the A52—luckily the traffic had almost stopped to watch the 'drop' and the only casualty was one fractured ankle only. A tribute to their training and discipline and of course their own skill.

After the 'drop' many members were invited to the homes of old friends—one particular couple in fact 'hosted' 10 people and fed and watered them well before sending them off back to Caythorpe. Thank you all.

Amid rumours that the meal was to be held in the old cook-house the members found that **Dick Appleton** and **Bill Creswick** had done a good job with the billetting and no one was sleeping 'rough'. They had also fixed up floodlights at the village war memorial. Well done lads—you are booked for next year!

Eventually around 110 people sat down to a lively meal prepared by 'Top Table'. They had come from all corners of the earth—Tenerife-Grantham! Kent-Devon-Nottingham-Manchester etc etc.

Edna, Angie, Rene and **Iris** went diving into chaps pockets to get them to buy raffle tickets and the response was great. £125.10 towards

our funds. **Gerry Perry**, bless him for organising this reunion for us all, brought us all up to date with OCA matters. Sadly four members have died in the last few months and a moment's silence was held for them.

Hocker Spivey gave a very touching toast to 'Absent Friends'—**Lewis Golden** paid tribute to the hard work put in by some to enable us to meet each year and to the serving Corps members. **Des Wiggins** thanked the organisers on behalf of E Section, the strongest section 'On Parade'.

In the bar and the local hostelries the lamps were swinging until the early hours of Sunday.

At 0945 hrs everyone assembled at the village High Street to await the arrival of **Maj Gen Deane Drummond**. The parade formed up with the serving detachment leading followed by several Standards then the Old Comrades. The General took the salute at the Red Lion and once again the High Street echoed to the sound of marching feet, albeit a much slower pace than in the earlier years. During the service the names of the fallen were read by **Frank Young** and Reveille and Last Post played by a Ghurka bugler. The General read the lesson and the **Rev Hugh Middleton** conducted a moving service. The veterans then mingled with the villagers and talked over old times.

The only 'Golden Oldie' in the village is **Jess Farnsworth** who looks fitter than some of the veterans. **Josie** and **Brian Pell** of the younger generation take a keen interest and hopefully will keep up the bond between Caythorpe and Airborne Signals in future years. A few of the lads visited **Hilda Hides** who, alas, is not well enough to attend functions these days. We all wish her well.

Then it was time for a buffet lunch, again supplied by Top Table, and yet more veterans and wives appeared. We were honoured by the presence of **George** and **Sheila Hill** representatives of the Dutch 'Lest we Forget' organisation.

The village hall was packed—**Bill Sheffield** had laid out the tables and chairs but very soon it was standing room only.

Capt John Aspinall, aided by the ever vigilant RSM, opened up shop and did a brisk trade before deciding that it was time for a cuppa.

All good things come to an end and soon the reunion began to break up with several people going round to **Brig Paul Crook**'s retreat for a game of croquet and refreshments kindly supplied by **Mrs Crook**.

Then we all said goodbye for yet another year and wended our way home, very weary after a most enjoyable weekend.

Thanks to **Gerry Perry** from us all—to **Lewis** and **Jaqueline Golden** for making the long journey to be with us for such a short while—**Maj Gen Deane-Drummond**, great to see you Sir—and to everyone who made our weekend possible, not forgetting the staff at the College without whom nothing would be possible. Hope to see you all in September 1990.

NORMANDY—45 YEARS ON

by E. E. Bayley

Ask anyone in Great Britain what is significant about the date Sunday 3 September 1939, and I imagine most, if not all, would tell you it was the day World War Two started. Similarly 6 June 1944 is remembered by us all as D-Day. A day on which a crusade was launched to liberate Europe and with it bring to an end the conflict that had inflicted great sufferings to peoples in many parts of the world.

To mark the 45th anniversary of the day of liberation, on 6 June 1989 members of the D-Day and Normandy Fellowship, based in Portsmouth, decided that a window dedicated to all those who served in the Sea, Land and Air Forces in this great operation to liberate Normandy should be placed in Bayeux Cathedral, the first large town to be so liberated. On 3 June 1984 to mark the 40th anniversary of the Normandy landings, **Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother** was invited to unveil a D-Day memorial window in Portsmouth Cathedral. Members of the fellowship suggested that a window similar to the one in Portsmouth Cathedral, should be placed in Bayeux Cathedral paid for by voluntary subscription. The Bayeux authorities were delighted and generous support was given by the city. **The Queen Mother** came to Bayeux to carry out the unveiling, much to the delight of the local community, who turned out in their hundreds to see her, in spite of the adverse weather conditions on 6 June 1989. Forty-five years after soldiers of the 1 Bn, The South Lancashire Regt led the D-Day assault on Sword Beach in Normandy, 50 of their successors in the 1 Bn, The Queens Lancashire Regt from Paderborn and members of the French Army lined the route.

At a separate reception Her Majesty warmly greeted members of the D-Day and Normandy fellowship, with something to say to each one as she shook hands.

I disembarked at Ouistream along with **Mr Bill Spittal**, ex 9 Inf Bde Sig Section on the afternoon of the 5th, having travelled from Portsmouth. Members of the Free French Normandy Section welcomed us. **Mr Jean Ave** took **Mr Spittal** home to Port en Bassian. I was to be the guest of **Mr Charles Saint** of Le Molay Littry, and also of **Mr Marius Fenerolles** daughter of **Madame Thounoude** in Coleville-Montgomery for the night 6th/7th. Both **Mr Fenerolles** and **Mr Saint** accompanied me to the ceremonies in Bayeux and later to the ceremonies at Luc Sur Mer, Lion Sur Mer and later that evening to attend the 3rd Divisional Memorial at La Breche, Hermanville. They returned to La Molay Littry for the Free French ceremony in the village the same evening. After the laying of wreaths at the La Breche memorial, by the CRE 3 Armd Div and members of the Normandy Veterans Association, the veterans marched to the Commonwealth War Graves cemetery where a short service of remembrance was held followed by the laying of flowers by the local children on the graves. The Mayor of Hermanville entertained everyone to a Vin D'Honneur in a new hall which has been built as a community centre.

Wednesday 7 June turned out to be very wet, cold and windy. Staying at **Madame Thounoude's** besides myself was an ex officer of the Suffolk Regt and his wife. Fort Hillman was mentioned in a widely praised book 'Decision in Normandy'. There was no doubt 'Hillman' was the most formidable obstacle in the 3rd Divisional area and possibly also in the whole of the 2nd Army sector. This strongpoint lay in a field adjacent to the Ferme Beauvais. Last year whilst I was staying at the farm, I had mentioned the strongpoint to the farmer, **Bernard Hulin** and he took me to the next field where we prodded the soil and located the site which was covered in soil and growing crops. The owner of the field **Madame Suzanne Lenauld** had decided to transfer the ownership of this plot of land to the Suffolk Regt who acknowledged with gratitude for her inspiration and generosity which made possible her wish that a tribute to our soldiers should be erected and that future generations should not forget the battles that took place and the price of liberty. The Suffolk Regt, 8 Inf Bde had been given the task of capturing this very heavily fortified Headquarters strongpoint consisting of 12 concreted defensive positions linked by tunnels and deep trenches, steel copulas with machine guns and surrounded by two thick wire fences which enclosed minefields. The position was eventually overrun by the Battalion after a hard day's fighting supported by heavy artillery fire and tank support from the 13/18 Hussars and Staffordshire Yeomanry. The ceremony being held that day was to unveil two plaques to commerate those who fell 45 years ago and it took place on part of Hillman of which the Suffolk Regt is the proud owner.

Mr Spittal ex 8th Inf Bde Sig Section stood alongside me as representatives of the 3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club. The unveiling of the plaques by **Madame Lenauld** and **Lady Goodwin** was preceded by a fanfare by Trumpeters of 1 Bn The Royal Anglian Regt.

As the strongpoint Hillman was very near to Divisional Headquarters which lay in a field opposite the Chateau Colville-Sur-Orne, as it was then known, I was able to investigate the strongpoint on the evening of 8 June 1944. The place made ideal safe sleeping quarters and we took advantage of this as an alternative to sleeping in or under vehicles and trenches. We found it rather lacking in ventilation, but this was overcome when it was discovered that the air within the strongpoint could be changed manually by the turning of a handle.

As I was due to sail on the night of the 7th for Portsmouth, I had the opportunity of locating the Divisional Club in Luc-Sur-Mer and remembered that it had a skeleton of a whale against one of the walls in the garden. **Madame Laurence Hulin** drove me to the place after she had made enquiries as to where it was and to my surprise the skeleton was still there. What was the Divisional Club is now the Town Hall but sadly there is no plaque to say that it was used as such during the battle for Normandy.

Fort Hillman after the unveiling

REUNION CEYLON HIGH SPEED W/T COY

From: Mr Harry Moore
A reunion took place on Friday 15 September at the Belmont Hotel in Leicester. Altogether 63 people, including wives, attended; a grand informal evening, with buffet dinner, and dancing from 1900 hrs until 0100 hrs.

The evening was such a success that everyone insisted we have another next year. To that end I have already provisionally booked a date, 26 October (Friday), at the Belmont Hotel.

If there are any more ex colleagues from Hora Hena or Ekala still out there, please get in touch and I will gladly send all the information. Please write to me at 1 Blue Granite Park, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire LE12 7AG.

58 SECTION AIR FORMATION SIGNALS

Richard Waterhouse would like to hear from his mates in 58 Section, Air Formation Sigs. Please write to him at 13 St Luke's Close, Norton Bridge, Stone ST15 0PD.

650 SIGNAL TROOP

Mr D. French of 20 Whoberley Avenue, Coventry, Warwicks CV5 8EP, would like to hear from anyone who served in 650 Sig Tp, Bahrain, 1962-1966, with a view to holding a Reunion at a future date.

4TH INDIAN DIVISIONAL SIGNALS

Mr A. F. Tillman (ex Sgt) would like to get in touch with former comrades who served in 4th Indian Div Sig during the war. Please write to him at 76 Colyers Lane, Erith, Kent DA8 3NZ.

AN OLD SOLDIER'S LAMENT—OR THE CURSE OF THE COCK-EYED CAP BADGE

A Sergeant-Major barked at me so many years ago
'Stand erect man, be upright you sloppy so and so.
To be a soldier you must learn that smartness is the key
and if you want promotion boy, you'll have to look like me'.
And so I took a long hard look at this paragon before me
whilst he lectured me on posture, dress and uniformity
And there and then I made a vow I'd gain myself promotion
by being smart and bright and now, I'm stuck with a devotion
to all things straight and neat and spry and soldierly precision,
Now all sorts of things offend my eye 'n' I've got to put the question—**Why do the Royal Signals wear their cap-badge all cock-eyed?**
When in their beret Jimmy slopes to the right or left-hand side.
In my day all those years ago 'twas deemed a shocking sight
to see a cap-badge other than, straight and upright
One inch above the left eye was the rule for its' location.
This doesn't seem to matter now—there's so much variation.
Will someone tell me why this is, or confirm my sad suspicion
that modern soldiers—vis-a-vis—don't vie for such precision.
(In matters appertaining to such things as I have written.)
I know if I'd my time again I'd try to put this right.
An upright Jimmy, worn with pride—a Signalman's delight
Is what I would insist upon as in my days gone by
So come on Signals do your stuff—And ease this troubled eye.

CATTERICK—1938

This photograph taken in Catterick 1938 is of 96 Squad and was sent to us by **Mr L. S. Palmer** of 77 Cambridge Road, West Wimbledon, London SW20 0PU who can be seen centre, rear.

EX 19 AIR INFORMATION SIGNALS

Ex **Sgt T. H. McHugh** would like to get in touch with ex members of 19 Air Formation Sigs and asks them to contact his son, **SSgt (YofS) T. McHugh**, 2 Sqn, 21 Sig Regt, BFPO 42, in particular those who appear in the photograph below.

Cpl Frank Stalgis (Mauree), Maurice Martim (Ina) and Sig Denis? Cpls Lynsay Woodford (Isobel), Roy Norris (May), Dixon Reg (Erika), Bill Goss (Joyce), LCpl McHugh Terry (Edna) and Cpl George Errington

This photograph taken at Alexandria in 1946 shows **Sig Bill Clayton** (from Yorkshire) and **Sig Eccleston** (from Liverpool) with **Bert Henderson** (9th-2nd Battalions, The York and Lancaster Regt) who served with R Signals in Alexandria and Port Suez 1946-49. **Bert** would very much like to get in touch with his pals from those days. Please write to him at: 282 Eastgarth, Westerhope, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE5 4HE.

— Sport —

SAILING

FASTNET YACHT RACE 1989

In January 1989 Radio Gp, School of Signals was tasked by the then DPR(A) **Brig** (now Maj Gen) **S. Cowan CBE** with providing communications for *The Guardian* newspaper for the 1989 Fastnet Yacht Race. *The Guardian* was entering a Sigma 36 crewed entirely by staff from the newspaper and wanted to send daily reports back to the paper for publication.

Initially it was planned to use an HF data link, but *The Guardian*'s journalists didn't fancy trying to type at a computer terminal whilst the yacht pitched and rolled, so a voice link was decided upon. So that the link could be used at any time of the day, and to avoid the need for a radio at *The Guardian*'s offices, the Royal Air Force Strike Command Integrated Communications System (STCICS) was used. This provides a 24 hour phone patch service for HF users, and meant that *The Guardian* crew could talk direct to their copy desk in London, the usual recipient of correspondents' stories.

The yacht, *The Guardian Extra*, was launched in May 1989 by **The Rt Hon Edward Heath MP. Capt Jim Body** attended on behalf of Radio Gp and carried out an initial assessment of the communications fit. With only 36ft of hull to play with the space for an antenna was not great, and space 'down below' for the radio was also at a premium. The installation was a PRC-320 mounted to a stern bulkhead, with a long wire antenna running beneath the cockpit and then up an insulated backstay from the back of the yacht to the top of the mast. A 12v DCCU was also installed to provide battery recharging facilities.

The radio equipment was installed in the yacht during June and July by **Capt David Burden**. In August (during Cowes Week) *The Guardian Extra*'s crew was trained in the delights of operating a PRC-320 and in using the STCICS system. The yacht's crew, led by Defence Correspondent **David Fairhall**, soon mastered the system, and successfully talked back to their offices in London.

The Fastnet Race started on Saturday 5 August. For the next few days the yacht was within VHF range of the coast so copy was filed using VHF phone patches. Once the yacht entered the Irish Sea it was a different story. To quote **Michael White** (Political Editor and radio operator): 'If sailing has been easier, communications in the open sea have been harder and the crew owes this report to the staff of 81 Sig Unit, RAF Kinloss.' Indeed the operators of 81 SU proved extremely patient in their task of translating all the cryptic voice procedure into plain English.

The Guardian Extra finished the race on 11 August, 36 hours behind the leading Admiral's Cup boats, but still well ahead of some 100 other boats. They had successfully filed reports on a daily basis, enabling the paper to run *Guardian Extra*'s reports every day, something that would not have been possible without the assistance of the RAF and Royal Signals which was duly acknowledged.

The yacht *Guardian Extra* under sail in Southampton Water

SWIMMING AND WATER POLO

The annual fixture against the Royal Air Force Support Command Signals was held at RAF Cranwell on Friday 16 June.

Despite clashes of dates with other swimming competitions the Corps was able to field its strongest team for many years in both swimming and water polo competitions, proving to be much too strong for the Royal Air Force. Results were as follows:-

110 YDS BUTTERFLY

1st	**Sig Hall**	(8 Sig Regt)	1 min 14.2 secs
3rd	**AT Searle**	(AA Coll Harrogate)	1 min 23.5 secs

110 YDS BREASTSTROKE

1st	**LCpl Ledger**	(School of Signals)	1 min 17.8 secs
2nd	**AT Williams**	(AA Coll Harrogate)	1 min 19.6 secs
3rd	**Sgt Roberts**	(225 Sig Sqn)	1 min 28.2 secs

110 YDS FREESTYLE

1st	**2Lt Bennett**	(School of Signals)	1 min 01.4 secs
2nd	**Cpl Bradley**	(8 Sig Regt)	1 min 03.7 secs
3rd	**LCpl Ord**	(14 Sig Regt)	1 min 04.9 secs

110 YDS BACKSTROKE

1st	**AT Robins**	(AA Coll Harrogate)	1 min 19.9 secs
2nd	**Cpl Beardmore**	(16 Sig Regt)	1 min 20.6 secs
3rd	**SSgt Roberts**	(16 Sig Regt)	1 min 25.2 secs

4 × 36⅓ YDS INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY

2nd	**AT Christie**	(AA Coll Harrogate)	1 min 40.9 secs
3rd	**Sig Paul**	(244 Sig Sqn)	1 min 45.1 secs
4th	**Cpl McNulty**	(8 Sig Regt)	1 min 49.7 secs

4 × 76⅔ YDS BREASTSTROKE RELAY

1st	**LCpl Ledger**	(School of Signals)	3 mins 32.8 secs
	AT Christie	(AA Coll Harrogate)	
	AT Williams	(AA Coll Harrogate)	
	SSgt Cox	(School of Signals)	
2nd	**Sgt Ness**	(School of Signals)	3 mins 42.3 secs
	Mr Butler	(8 Sig Regt)	
	SSgt Griffiths	(16 Sig Regt)	
	Cpl Bradley	(8 Sig Regt)	
3rd	**Cpl Jenkins**	(8 Sig Regt)	3 mins 47.4 secs
	Sgt Roberts	(225 Sig Sqn)	
	Cpl Crinnion	(8 Sig Regt)	
	Sig Paul	(244 Sig Sqn)	

4 × 76⅔ YDS MEDLEY RELAY

1st	**AT Robins**	(AA Coll Harrogate)	3 mins 06.8 secs
	AT Williams	(AA Coll Harrogate)	
	AT Searle	(AA Coll Harrogate)	
	AT Christie	(AA Coll Harrogate)	
2nd	**Cpl Beardmore**	(16 Sig Regt)	3 mins 19.7 secs
	LCpl Ledger	(School of Signals)	
	Sig Hall	(8 Sig Regt)	
	LCpl Ord	(14 Sig Regt)	
3rd	**Capt Wallace**	(AA Coll Harrogate)	3 mins 20.5 secs
	Sig Paul	(244 Sig Sqn)	
	2Lt Bennet	(School of Signals)	
	SSgt Roberts	(16 Sig Regt)	

4 × 76⅔ YDS FREESTYLE RELAY

1st	**Sgt Ness**	(School of Signals)	2 mins 43.8 secs
	Cpl Bradley	(8 Sig Regt)	
	WO2 Courtney	(34 Sig Regt (V))	
	Sig Hall	(8 Sig Regt)	

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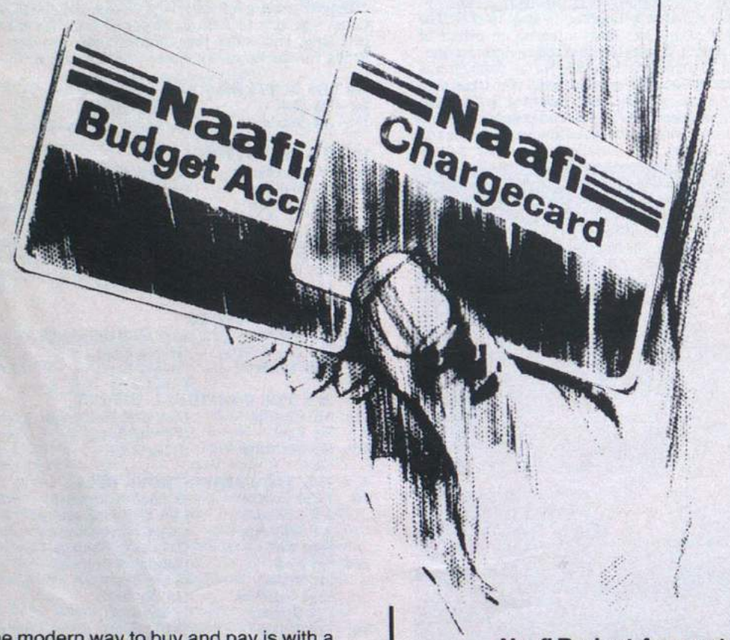

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2nd	**SSgt Griffiths**	(16 Sig Regt)	2 mins 44.2 secs
	SSgt Rutter	(8 Sig Regt)	
	2Lt Bennet	(School of Signals)	
	LCpl Ord	(14 Sig Regt)	
3rd	**WO1 Hogben**	(School of Signals)	2 mins 51.5 secs
	Cpl McNulty	(8 Sig Regt)	
	AT Searle	(AA Coll Harrogate)	
	AT Robins	(AA Coll Harrogate)	

Final points total: R Signals 40
RAF 24

THE WATER POLO SQUAD WAS:
SSgts Roberts (Capt), **Griffiths, WO1 Hogben, SSgt Rutter, Sgt Roberts, LCpls Ledger, Ord, SSgt Cox, Cpls Bradley, Jenkins, Sig Hall, Paul** and **AT Williams**.

Final Score

R Signals	14	Scorers	**SSgt Roberts**	10
RAF	5		**LCpl Ledger**	2
			Sgt Roberts	1
			Cpl Jenkins	1

SUMMARY
It is possible that next year Royal Signals could compete with other Corps at both swimming and water polo.

Unit swimming officers and individuals are asked to look at the timings listed and if they can be bettered please contact the Corps Secretary, **Capt J. R. Wallace**, AA Coll, Harrogate (York Mil 4309).

WINDSURFING

PRESENTATION TO WO1 S. J. BAILES
'During the 1989 UK/BAOR Windsurfing Championships at Browndown Camp a small presentation was made to **WO1 S. J. Bailes** in recognition of his services to Corps Windsurfing over the past few years. The presentation consisted of a small Windsurfer statuette mounted on an appropriately inscribed polished plinth. **Lt Col J. S. Doody**, Rear Commodore Windsurfing RSYC in making the presentation on behalf of many windsurfers in the Corps thanked **WO1 Bailes** for his contribution to both training and active participation in this up and coming sport in the Army. **WO1 Bailes** is shortly to leave the Army after 22 year's service and hopes to continue playing an active role in Windsurfing in his continuing military career in the Australian Army'.

WO1 J. S. Bailes writes: 'May I take this opportunity to offer sincere thanks to the many windsurfers concerned and those who could not attend but whom I have had the pleasure of getting to know and of course sailing with.

The sport within the Corps increases in popularity each season and that is due to the organisational efforts of **Lt Col Doody, Capt Dave Gilchrist** and **Capt Phil Daisy**. May I offer them a thank you on behalf of all the Corps sailors. Thanks once again and good sailing'.

Sadly the official end to the windsurfing season draws nigh but on a cheerful note it is pleasing to report an excellent year all-round for the Corps. Since the last issue there has been much to write about, so here goes:-

CORPS CHAMPIONSHIPS 31 AUGUST TO 2 SEPTEMBER
This, the Corps-wide event took place at Browndown Camp, Lee-On-Solent with varying wind conditions over the three days. A record 41 competitors sailed in the individual event and seven unit teams competed for the 'Whiff' trophy.

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP
Over the two days it was possible to run seven races for the individuals all of which had to be sailed in only light winds occasionally achieving a marginal force 3. Nevertheless some keen competition was to be seen particularly in the lightweight event where only two and three quarter points separated the first three places. The individual results were:-

Overall Corps Champion	— **Maj Fletcher**	—	202 Sig Sqn
Heavyweight Champion	— **Maj Fletcher**	—	202 Sig Sqn
Runner-up	— **SSgt Smith**	—	22 Sig Regt
Novice	— **Sig Smith**	—	1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (215)
Lightweight Champion	— **Cpl English**	—	16 Sig Regt
Runner-up	— **Sgt Carey**	—	13 Sig Regt
Novice	— **LCpl Smith**	—	227 Sig Sqn
Best Lady	— **Mrs Fletcher**		
Best Veteran	— **Capt White**	—	249 Sig Sqn
Best Guest	— **Master S. Pettifer**		

INTER UNIT CHAMPIONSHIP
The first of four races was sailed at the close of the second days sailing with again only light winds. This had had to be programmed as the official start to the 'Whitbread Round The World Yacht Race' had 'inadvertently' been scheduled for the following day on the same stretch of water as our team event! Happily on the day the wind rose to the occasion and varied force 3-5 providing some really enjoyable and testing competitive sailing. This despite the armada of large and small craft that thronged the Solent for the other event! The outcome was a fairly conclusive and deserved win for 202 Sig Sqn but the contest for second and third places was a real 'nailbiter' with the result announced after a recount. The results with total team points awarded for the teams that sailed in all four races were:-

1st	202 Sig Sqn	52 pts
2nd	8 Sig Regt A	87 pts
3rd	249 Sig Sqn A	90 pts
4th	1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (215)	129 pts
5th	227 Sig Sqn	143 pts
6th	8 Sig Regt B	
7th	249 Sig Sqn B	

A first-class barbecue was held on the Friday evening which despite the early autumn chill provided an excellent opportunity to say farewell and thank you to **WO1 Steve Bailes** who is leaving the Corps shortly after 22 years service. A sad occasion as **Steve** will be sorely missed by the Corps windsurfing fraternity. A presentation was made by the Rear Commodore. **Lt Col Doody**, on behalf of all Corps Windsurfers. This occasion is reported in the In Tray section.

The culmination of three days hard but exciting racing, where many windsurfers sailed in all 12 races, was the prize-giving when the RSYC Admiral, **Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE** kindly presented the trophies and prizes.

UK INTER-CORPS
This friendly league provided a further two contests for the Corps which were sailed as follows:-

v RAMC
The windsurfers joined the dinghy sailors at Parkstone YC on 26 September and sailed both events concurrently with 10 minutes separating the start of each class.

Light airs plagued the event but there was sufficient wind to sail two races. Happily the Corps ran out overall winners with a total of 49¾ points to the medics 60¾. Places and points for Corps individual windsurfers were: third **Sgt Doug Maher** 5¾ points, fourth **Maj Brian Pettifer** 7 points, equal fifth **Capt Bill White** and **Sgt Adrian Winterbottom** 11 points and **Sgt Dave Maw** 15 points.

v REME
This was a return event after a defeat early in the season at Theale where very light winds were the order of the day. On this occasion, 11 October at Netley, winds force 1-3 were an improvement—but not a lot!

Nevertheless the previous defeat was avenged but only after the outcome of the fourth race was known. After three races the points total was 82½ to 81¾ in favour of REME. The final result was Royal Signals 105½ to REME 113½. Places and points for Corps individuals were: equal second **Cpl Sammy Anderson** and **Sgt Adrian Winterbottom** each 13¾ pts, sixth **Maj Brian Pettifer** 22 pts, seventh **Sgt Phil Pett** 24 pts and equal eighth **Sgt Dave Maw** 32 pts.

This success against the REME was a fitting close to an excellent season. Hopefully this success and the momentum gained will be continued next season when the official UK league will commence.

Corps Windsurfers are encouraged to support their OICs and help to nurture what is now undoubtedly a sporting success story both in UK and BAOR.

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Any telephone enquiries to Blandford Military (0258 452581) Ext 2248.

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Ladies Marcasite brooch, Corps badge	18.70	21.50
New Lapel badge—New Association style (Association members only)	2.00	2.00
Mug, white china with Corps badge in blue	1.50	1.75
Pendants, white with gold Corps badge	3.25	3.75
New Presentation pennant, embroidered Corps badge with gold trimming	21.75	25.00
Postcard Set	1.60	1.80
Statuette, Royal Signals Officer in full dress	41.75	48.00
New Statuette, Royal Signals Soldier with SA 80 Rifle	41.75	48.00
Silver Plated Teaspoons with Corps Crest	1.90	2.20
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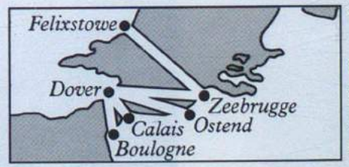
With P&O European Ferries' new discount fares for Forces, most period returns are actually cheaper than last year. What's more, children under 14 now travel FREE. You can get a 60 hour return for the price of a single. And there are now discounts for passengers *and* vehicles on every sailing throughout the year.



You'll find the full discount story in our special Forces Brochure from your Travel Agent or from P&O European Ferries, Graf Adolf Strasse 41, 4000 Düsseldorf 1.

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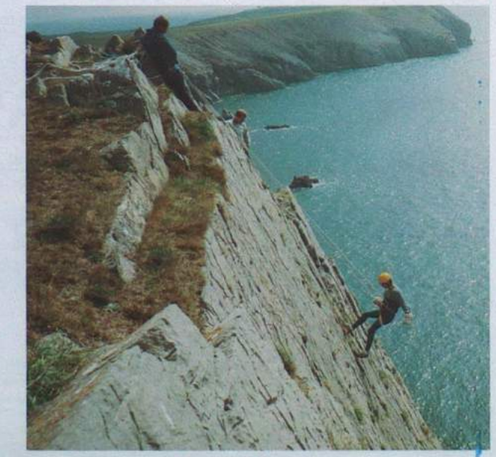

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