THE wire

The Royal Signals Magazine

February 1991

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.

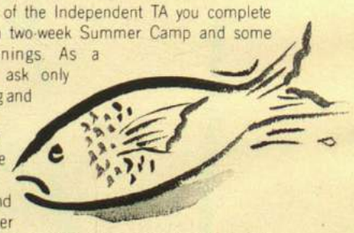
There are three options open to you.

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

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The Wire

All correspondence and matter for publication in **The Wire** should be addressed to **The Editor, The Wire**, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD.
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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

NORTHERN IRELAND AWARDS

We warmly congratulate those named below, whose awards and mentions were announced during November 1990, for service in Northern Ireland.

MBE
Major I. M. G. Strong

BEM
Staff Sergeant I. Drinkall

MID
Major R. J. J. Ellis
Warrant Officer Class II N. E. Baugh

NEW YEAR HONOURS

We warmly congratulate those who received awards in the New Year Honours Lists.

CBE
Colonel J. V. Fielding

OBE
Lieutenant Colonel R. J. Evans

MBE
Lieutenant Colonel J. H. Richardson
Captain R. W. Lockwood

BEM
Staff Sergeant C. Aslett
Staff Sergeant N. W. J. Barnard
Staff Sergeant M. Eaton
Staff Sergeant A. P. Salter
Staff Sergeant Satish Rajpall Sharma
Staff Sergeant G. W. Smith
Staff Sergeant L. A. Wookey
Staff Sergeant Krishna Gurung
The Queen's Gurkha Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant B. M. Resown (Volunteer)
Corporal R. D. Inglesant

QUEEN'S COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

The Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct was awarded to the late ex **Corporal Robbie Carroll** who tragically lost his life in the Piper Alpha oil platform disaster in July 1988, aged 34 years. We send our best wishes to his widow **Jeanette** (ex Corporal WRAC) and daughter **Ashleigh**.

COMMANDER IN CHIEF'S COMMENDATION SIGNALMAN STEWART ANTHONY NESS

The Commander in Chief United Kingdom Land Forces commends **Signalman Stewart Anthony Ness** serving with 8 Signal Regiment for his actions following a traffic accident on the A1077 on 30 June 1990.

HONORARY APPOINTMENTS

Major General S. Cowan CBE is appointed Colonel Commandant Army Legal Corps with effect from 1 January 1991.

OUR COVER PICTURES
Front: HQ 7 Armd Bde in the Saudi desert. Back: A 30 Sig Regt satellite terminal at Al Jubail.
Pictures by Colonel R. D. K. Thompson

THE NEW MUSEUM PROJECT—A PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE MASTER OF SIGNALS

1990 was a busy year of fund raising for The New Museum Project and the members of the Executive Appeal Committee led and chaired by the previous Master of Signals, **Maj Gen John Badcock**, have all worked long and hard in their efforts to ensure that as many serving and retired members of the Corps as possible have been contacted personally and asked to contribute to the New Museum Appeal. If anyone reading this has escaped that net but is willing to contribute, would they please write direct to the New Museum Project Team, Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Blandford, Dorset DT11 8RH.

The retired Corps was the first to be approached and the response was most generous. The Royal Signals Association decided early in 1990 that it would delay its major fund raising effort to 1991 when a worldwide Corps Draw will be held.

The serving Corps has also contributed well despite events in The Gulf and widespread manning problems.

All in all, the response to the in-house Royal Signals appeal has been very encouraging and if we can sustain and enhance it through 1991, we will be well on our way to achieving the internal target.

The serious miscalculation, and one that until rectified will hold up the start of the actual building of the New Museum as planned, has been the response of the defence electronics industry. With hindsight this is not surprising in view of the momentous events in Europe which resulted in the Secretary of State for Defence's Options for Change statement in July. Whatever the eventual outcome affecting the shape and size of the Army and the Corps and the consequent equipment needs, it will take some time for the industry to adjust to the new outlook. As this became apparent, the Appeal Committee broadened its approach to cover a much wider business appeal and this will take time to develop. It is all being tackled with enthusiasm, and experienced fund raisers' advice is that we should press on with the fund raising with the conviction that one day, it will take off and targets will be achieved. So press on we will!

Meanwhile, we all await the outcome of the examination of the future size and shape of the Army and the Corps with all that that will imply in terms of the deployment of Royal Signals worldwide.

There is no doubt that we need a New Museum and we are determined to have one wherever it may be. Throughout 1991, everyone is urged to join in and continue the fund raising with enthusiasm so that, when the way ahead for Royal Signals is clear, we are able to get on with the task of building the New Museum.

As this issue of *The Wire* goes to press, the Appeal Fund stands at £300,000. This represents dominantly in-house contributions but there is a steady flow from all sources. Why not help make that steady flow a stream?

THE WIRE FROM THE EDITOR

For some time the increasing costs of producing and distributing *The Wire* have been causing concern and so the Chairman of the Association and the editorial staff have been considering ways in which costs can be reduced whilst maintaining a high standard for the Corps' magazine.

A critical review of the size, content, production costs, frequency of publication and selling price has led the Chairman to the following conclusion:-

The price of *The Wire* to subscribers has been held for some time. It has been decided that there will be no increase in the selling price of *The Wire* before the end of 1991 but a number of cost-saving measures have been put in hand. These measures will not result in a reduction of quality of *The Wire*. It seems, however, that it will not be possible to avoid a price rise in 1992'.

The most effective way to reduce production and distribution costs is to reduce the number of pages in each issue. In recent years the number of pages per issue has rarely been less than 104. We have also introduced a colour cover and on occasions an outside back cover in colour. These are expensive but do much to improve the presentation of the magazine and attract readers. It is not without significance that, almost without exception, other Corps and Regimental magazines do the same; so we intend to continue with the colour on the cover.

Readers may not have noticed that the December 1990 issue was thinner than normal; it consisted of 80 pages and was a good compromise between content and size. We intend to keep *The Wire* down to this size, or thereabouts, in future. This will have advantages in that it will reduce production and distribution (postage) costs. The cost of postage is an increasingly sizeable element in total costs.

In pursuing this policy much will depend on our correspondents in units and branches of the Association making sure that there is the minimum of repetition and that contributions are sensibly assembled. Any decisions on the omission of parts of contributions are greatly helped if contributors tell the Editors what can be omitted if we are short of space. The length of contributions will obviously vary between issues and between units or branches. Whilst we have no wish to restrict contributions or 'ration' space it might help were we to indicate how much copy can be accepted. We estimate that five to six A4 sheets typed in double spacing fill a printed page of *The Wire*. We therefore suggest that Regiments restrict their input to a maximum of ten or eleven A4 sheets typed in double spacing with a few good photographs. Squadrons should aim at about five sheets plus a few good photographs and Troops slightly less. Should you have a good story you may prefer to send more pictures than copy. We can get between six and eight photos on a page.

This advice is not intended to prevent really interesting articles being included, it is a matter of common sense and adopting a measure of compromise. The continuing success of *The Wire*, as your magazine, depends on all of us but principally on our unit and branch correspondents, so please try to maintain the quality of contributions and let the Editors know what your priorities are so that we can make sensible decisions when we are pressed for space.

Finally, please remember that the Editor and the Assistant Editor are here to help you; so do not hesitate to seek advice should you feel that we can help (Tel: London District Ext: 8246 or 071-414 8246).

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Many subscribers have still not amended their Bankers Order from £4.20 to £6. Unless an extra £1.80 is sent to Accounts in RHQ they will receive only four issues in 1991.

— From our "In" Tray —

ROYAL SIGNALS MEMORIAL CATTERICK

Since the Royal Signals Memorial was dedicated in Catterick last year, much work has been done on landscaping, the planting of shrubs and floodlighting. All that now remains is for us to commemorate the campaigns in which members of the Corps have fallen.

This we intend to do by recording the campaigns on bronze plates affixed to the walls surrounding the memorial. In the centre of each wall will be a slightly larger plate giving details of where the Books of Remembrance are held and may be seen by visitors.

Research at the Army Medal Office has revealed the following campaigns in which The Corps has been involved since 1920 and suffered casualties and this is what it is intended to reproduce on the plates around the walls:

North West Persia	1920
Waziristan	1921-1924
North West Frontier	1935-1939
Palestine	1936-1939
The Second World War	1939-1945
South East Asia	1945-1948
Palestine	1945-1948
Malaya	1948-1960
Korea	1950-1955
Kenya	1952-1956
Cyprus	1955-1959
Arabian Peninsula	1957-1960
Borneo	1962-1966
South Arabia	1964-1967
Cyprus	1964-1965
Northern Ireland	1969-
Dhofar	1969-1976
South Atlantic	1982
Namibia	1989

Clearly we shall consider a slightly larger plate for The Second World War if only as a mark of respect to the very large numbers who gave their lives during this period in our history. Members will understand, we are sure, the difficulties of listing every campaign during the period 1939-1945 and even then, for instance, those who perished at sea would be overlooked. It is for these reasons that we have gone for only one plate 'The Second World War'.

Members who feel strongly that a particular operation etc, has been left off the list (for example, Malay Peninsula 1964-65 where no causualties are recorded or Suez 1956) are asked to write and make their representations to the Assistant Regimental Secretary at RHQ *by the end of February 1991*. If we are to have the plates manufactured in time for the Reunion in Catterick this year, we must go to contract by the middle of March.

1 ARMOURED DIVISION HQ & SIGNAL REGIMENT RETAIN CHAMPIONSHIP

Despite losing over half of the Regimental Cross Country team to the Gulf, five remaining runners went to UK for the Army Cross Country Relays in an attempt to hold on to the title of Major Unit Champions. The relays took place at Rushmoor Arena, Aldershot and consisted of four legs around a hilly but fast, two and a half mile course. Weeks of hard training paid off; In the Major Units race, **Sig Kev Conlon** finished the first leg in second place against some tough opposition. **Lt Guy Owen**, running second, went past the PWO to put the Regiment into the lead. Spirited running by **SSgts Jim Brebner** and **Bill Bailey** then made sure of victory, and the team won the Championship for the third successive year. The team reserve, **Sgt Barney Patel**, deserves a mention for giving valuable support both in training and during the race.

Regimental Cross Country Team: *(left to right):* Sig Kev Conlon, Sgts Jim Brebner, Bill Bailey and Lt Guy Owen

BEB SARDINIA

The momentous occasion for the photograph was the hand-over of the Admin Sgt, **Owen Evans**. After four months **Owen** had eaten the island out of ice-cream and needed to be posted to a closer source of manufacture ie not so sunny Germany. The new Admin Sgt is **Ron Brent**, welcome aboard **Ron**. The photograph also records the hand-over of 14 Sig Regt crew to 22 Sig Regt crew. Thanks for your work lads.

Back row (left to right): Cfn Brian Carter, Sig Dave Miller and Cpl Ray Russell
Middle row (left to right): LCpl Andy Bage, Cpl Paul Farr, Sig Nobby Stiles and LCpl Ginger Leany
Front row (left to right): Sig Craig Carr, Lt Andy Addison, 'Decci Dog', Sgts Owen Evans and Ron Brent

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS GAMES CLUB FOR SUMMER SEASON 1990

From **Brig M. W. H. Roberts OBE**

I am delighted to report on a fine summer for Corps sport with good team results and some excellent individual performances. 21 Sig Regt produced an outstanding effort to win the Army Team Athletics Championship, beating 50 Msl Regt RA on a blisteringly hot day at Aldershot on 20 July 1990. The team also took first, second and third in the Army Decathlon Championship. At the first ever Inter Corps Tug of War Championships, the Corps Team became champions at three out of four weights. 16 Sig Regt won the Army Slalom Canoe Championships and currently the Corps provides four of the six paddlers in the Army Slalom Canoe Team. The Corps Golf A Team won the prestigious Ordnance Corps Cup at the Army Officers Golf Society meeting and the Tennis Team won the winter indoor inter Corps league but unfortunately lost in a play off to the RAMC/ RADC in the main summer league. The Army Apprentice College are the Army Junior Champions at swimming and water polo. At the Regular Army Skill at Arms Meeting at Bisley, QG Signals won every match in the series B (ironsight) championships for the third year running to become again convincing winners of the non Infantry Major Unit Championship.

Although no longer a member of the Corps, **WO2 Akabusi's** outstanding performances at the European Championships in winning two gold medals and beating David Hemery's 20 year old record in the 400m hurdles must head the list of individual results for this summer. **SSgt Killen** of 21 Sig Regt has regularly represented Northern Ireland at 110m hurdles and decathlon and **Cpl Callender** (2 Div) has represented England and Great Britain in the 100m sprint relay throughout the athletics season. In canoeing, **Capt Bunce** of 28 Sig Regt retained the Army Slalom Canoe Championship and **Capt Jackson** of the School of Signals, while continuing as the British Olympic Team Manager, remains very active in the marathon K2 winning the Army Championships and finishing second in the Inter Services. **WO2 C. Carveth** of HQ Trg Gp R Signals, Captain of the Army Golf Team for a second year, itself a great honour, finished runner up in the AGA Championships. Both **Capts G. Mason** and **W. Miles** played tennis regularly for the Army and **Capt W. Miles** was selected for the Combined Services. **Cpl Mosely** of 8 Sig Regt has retained the Yorkshire and North of England 500cc Enduro Championships while leading the Corps Sport Motor Cycling Team. In Service Shooting, QG Signals again dominated the Series B (ironsight) Championships at Bisley with **Sgt Navindra Gurung** and Lt (QGO) **Krishnabahadur Gurung** finishing first and second in the individual rifle championship. At the National Rifle Championships immediately following, **Lt** (QGO) **Krishnabahadur Gurung** finished runner up in the Inter Service rifle match losing by only two points (one bullet) to the winner who shot with an SA80 with optic sights; a remarkable achievement.

CANOEING

The Army Slalom Championships were held at Honenlinburg, in BAOR 16-17 June 1990. The team event was won by 16 Sig Regt who easily defeated the main challenger 27 Fd Regt RA. The Corps continues to dominate Army Slalom and four of the top six paddlers were from the Corps.

In the individual event **Capt Bunce** convincingly beat the current BAOR champion, **Cpl Dobson** by over nine seconds. **SSgt (FofS) Dobson** finished fourth and **LCpl** (now Cpl) **Broders** sixth.

The Corps provided 5 of the 12 kayak paddlers for the Army team at the Inter Service Slalom Championships held at Nottingham 11-12 September 1990. **Capt Bunce** managed to retain the individual K1 title. **Cpl Dobson** paddled very well to take fourth place. **Lt Hinsley** of 7 Sig Regt was paddling at this level for the first time and finished 10th and 4th scoring canoeist for the Army.

In the team races the Army A Team of **Bunce, Atkinson** and **Dobson** produced two excellent runs to win overall but lower down the order the experience of the RAF showed and once again beat the Army. **Capt Bunce** and **Cpl Dobson** were selected to represent the Combined Services at the Llangollen International Slalom in October 1990.

22 Sig Regt finished third at the Army Sprint Championships held at Monmouth on 21 July 1990. In the junior event AA Coll Harrogate were third in sprint and also the marathon. Individually, the top Corps paddler was again **Capt Jackson** who was fourth in the K1 1,000m and fifth in the K1 500m.

In the marathon, the Senior A K2 class was won by **Capt Jackson**, partnered by **LCpl Gallagher** from the Royal Engineers. The 22 Sig Regt crew of **SSgt Trivett** and **LCpl Bond** were third in the Senior B class. In the K1 event, **LCpl Lloyd** from the School of Signals was third in Senior B.

The Inter Service Marathon was held on 7 September and **Capt Jackson** and **LCpl Gallagher** finished second in K2, beaten by a very strong RAF pair.

The Corps continues to dominate Army canoeing. **Capt Jackson** remains very active in sprint and marathon despite also being the British Olympic Team Manager. In slalom **Capt Bunce** has won all major events for the second year and Royal Signals provides the majority of the Army slalom team. Three Corps canoeists are currently competing at Combined Services level.

CRICKET

This is reported on page 73.

GLIDING

Steady progress continues to be made in recruiting new pilots to the sport and it is particularly encouraging that many are quite young. Continuity however continues to be a problem as many students do not progress through the natural barriers of flying solo or achieving a sufficiently high standard of cross country flying to progress to competition standard.

This year's major effort has been directed towards introducing gliding to as many soldiers as possible. Royal Signals Gliding Introductory Days have been held in England, Wales and Cyprus using conventional gliders and motor gliders. It is hoped to include BAOR and Scotland next year and for these introductory days to be annual events. A Royal Signals gliding course is planned for November 1990 at the Army Gliding Club based at RAF Upavon.

Maj Harkins, Lt Cooper and **WO2 Coker** attended the Army Team Training Week and were selected to represent the Army. **Lt Cooper** was unable to fly owing to service commitments but **WO2 Coker** flew in a two seater glider in the Inter Service Championships and gained a tremendous amount of experience. **Maj Harkins** represented the Army in the National Open Championships.

GOLF

The AGA Championships took place on the Royal Porthcawl links in South Wales from 7-11 May 1990. The first three days saw the Individual Stroke Championships and again **WO2 Chris Carveth** excelled playing some excellent golf to reach the final where he was beaten by **Cfn Smart REME** by 3 and 2.

In the team competitions the Corps A Team reached the final of the Royal Irish Rangers Bowl, defeating the B Team 18—0 in the semi finals. Unfortunately, despite winning three of the four matches, the Corps A Team lost to REME 8—5.

The AOGS Championships took place this year at Royal St George's and Cinque Ports Golf Clubs from 18-22 May. The first competition is the General's Cup and our sole representative, **Maj Gen Alan Yeoman** played some fine golf to reach the final where he was beaten by **Gen Peter Benson**. The Corps entered three Teams in the main competitions; one in the Ordnance Cup and two in the Egypt Cup. The 'B' Team played very well reaching the final of the Egypt Cup where it lost to a strong RADC Team 9—6, again winning three of the four matches. The Corps A Team excelled in beating the RCT A Team 16—9 to win the Ordnance Cup.

The Corps Spring Meeting played at The Tracy Park Golf Club during April was well attended with 80 players from all over the UK competing for the trophies. **Sig Gaz McGrain** distinguished himself by winning the Individual Scratch Trophy, the Junior Soldiers Tankard and the Singles Challenge Cup. **Capt Graham Norton** won the Regular Officers Trophy and the team event was taken by the School of Signals.

The Autumn Meeting held during September at Catterick Garrison Golf Club and was also very well attended with some 90 players taking part. **WO2 Chris Carveth** took the individual Scratch Prize, **Mr Newall** the Div 1 36 hole medal competition, **Mr O'Mahoney** the individual Stableford and 11 Sig Regt the team prize. Both meetings were well supported and continue to provide Corps Golfers with challenging competitions.

Inter Corps Matches
Summary of Results

Played	Won	Halved	Lost
10	5	2	3

11 Sig Regt was runner up to 3 UDR in the Army Inter Unit Challenge Cup. The team of **WO2 Chris Carveth, Maj Brian Young, Cpl Pat Vella** and **Lt Col Allen Browne** were narrowly beaten in a close fought final.

SHOOTING

This was reported in the December 1990 issue.

SPORTS MOTORCYCLING

The team had another good year with **Cpl Mosely** retaining his Yorkshire North of England Enduro Championships. The championship attracted a very large entry.

Cpl Mosley was selected for the Army team to take part in the international six day enduro to be held in Sweden. Unfortunately he was unable to attend because of injury.

Summary of results up to September 1990:

Events entered	No of Riders	Awards Gold	Silver	Bronze
13	26	11	5	3

SWIMMING AND WATER POLO

The 12 months since the last report has seen more activity than in recent years when only the annual fixture versus RAF Signals had taken place.

In November 1989 the Corps took part in a Quadrangular Water Polo Tournament hosted by REME at Arborfield and involving RE, REME, APTC and the Corps. Although the Corps did not win any games much was learned and the event was judged to be a great success; so much so that it will be staged again this year on 15 November 1990 and has been expanded to include RM. Additionally we have been invited to compete as a guest team in the REM Swimming Championships on 13/14 November also at Arborfield. This is seen as a forerunner to a proposed full Inter-Corps Swimming fixture to complement the Water Polo competition. This can only be good for Corps Swimming and in the wider aspect, for the Army Team.

The lapsed fixture versus Welbeck College was resurrected this year and a team formed entirely from the AA College Harrogate successfully overcame a strong Welbeck squad.

In the fixture versus RAF Signals, the RAF won the swimming by the narrowest of margins whilst the Corps won the Water Polo.

At unit level the School of Signals gained the highest placing by a Corps Unit for many years by gaining third place in the Army Unit Team Championships Major Units whilst 210 Sig Sqn reached the finals of the Minor Unit Team Championships. They are to be congratulated on their achievements.

At Junior level the AA College Harrogate team had an excellent year becoming Army Junior Champions at swimming and water polo.

CORPS CAROL SERVICE 1990

The third annual Corps Carol Service was held in the Corps Church of St Stephen with St John, Westminster on Tuesday evening 18 December 1990. This family occasion is now firmly established in the Corps calendar.

An ad hoc Choir was again formed consisting of 32 singers (3 trebles, 6 sopranos, 8 altos, 8 tenors and 7 basses) under the direction of the organist **Lt Col John Chambers**.

The Service started with a confident and melodic singing by **Robert Thomas** of the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City' before the Choir progressed into church. Choir items included a traditional Bohemian carol 'The Angels and the Shepherds', 'In the Bleak Mid-Winter' by Harold Darke with soprano solo by **Capt Annabelle Hyde** and tenor solo by **Col Bill Backhouse**, and 'Born in a Stable So Bare' by John Rutter. The haunting melody of 'The Shepherds' Farewell' from 'L'Enfance du Christ' by Hector Berlioz was sung. The Choir is to be congratulated on its fine performance which made the evening so enjoyable for so many members of the Corps, their families and their friends.

Traditional lessons were read by **SSgt (YofS) Sinclair** 31 Sig Regt(V), **Capt Grace Harrison** MOD (ASD3a), **Maj Philip Penfold** 36 Sig Regt(V), **Lt Col Duncan Jones** 71 Sig Regt(V), the **SOinC(A)** and the **Master of Signals**. After the final carol, 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing' and the outgoing voluntary, 'Songs of Praise' by Herbert Chappel, everyone repaired to Napier Hall for sherry and mince pies, and to agree to meet up again next year!

To avoid missing the next Carol Service make a note now in your diary: **1800 hours Tuesday 17 December 1991**

— Movements —

OFFICERS

DECEMBER 1990

Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col C. P. Conlon	School of Signals
Lt Col G. N. Donaldson	HS 11 Sig Regt (JSDC)
Lt Col J. A. Grierson	School of Infantry
Maj K. P. Barrett	Project Wavell Mil Team
Maj T. Bushell	238 Sig Sqn
Maj A. Duncan	HQ 2 Sig Bde
Maj P. H. Eaton	MOD (ACDS(OR) Land Systems)
Maj I. R. Fielder	225 Sig Sqn
Maj R. Fortune	30 Sig Regt
Maj S. D. Galpin	31 Sig Regt (V)
Maj T. J. Gigg	MOD (DOAE(AE))
Maj R. P. Gravestock	HQ NE Dist R&L Staff
Maj D. A. Hargreaves	MOD (Aus Prog)
Maj R. T. Hoole	HQ DSF
Maj G. A. James	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj J. S. H. Johnson	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj A. E. Kendall	MOD (ACDS(OR) Land Systems)
Maj P. King	MOD (CGS)
Maj M. Lithgow	RARDE (PE) (AE)
Maj I. W. MacKenzie	MOD (DSS (A))
Maj E. A. Newnham	7 Sig Regt
Maj P. A. Osment	MOD (CGS)
Maj L. J. Plumb	14 Sig Regt
Maj F. T. J. Riley	Britcon UNFICYP
Maj A. P. R. Roberts	30 Sig Regt
Maj D. J. Robertson	Def ADP Trg Cen
Maj J. A. Terrington	MOD (DIS(EW))
Maj M. F. Tucker	MOD (ACDS(OR) Land Systems)
Maj P. G. Walker	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj T. J. P. Watts	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj D. J. Whitby	MOD (CGS)
Maj C. J. Whittaker	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt A. P. Bristow	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt P. M. Castle	att 30 Sig Regt
Capt G. F. Chaloner	att 30 Sig Regt
Capt R. P. Giles	RMAS
Capt F. N. Grant	11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Capt D. A. Gruncell	HS 11 Sig Regt (JDSC)
Capt J. K. McKee	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Capt G. R. Norton	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt T. J. Peacocke	School of Signals
Capt D. S. Raleigh	7 Sig Regt
Capt M. Ramshaw	School of Signals
Capt M. G. Shaw	AA Coll Harrogate
Capt S. J. Vickery	Welbeck College
Capt I. P. F. Vingoe	30 Sig Regt
Capt T. C. Wadey	School of Signals
Capt B. F. Williams	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt R. P. Wilson	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

JANUARY 1991

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col C. Arthur	HQ BAOR (Comms)
Lt Col P. R. Dick-Peter	SHAPE Staff (BAE)
Lt Col L. G. French	UKCICC
Lt Col E. M. Powell	HQ BF Cyprus
Lt Col P. A. Spooner	HQ AFCENT (Staff)
Lt Col A. C. Stutchbury	School of Signals
Lt Col R. C. A. Thwaites	31 Sig Regt (V)
Maj H. J. Bardell	DSS (A)
Maj R. D. Barfoot	RSRE (PE) (AE)
Maj N. J. Bateson	School of Signals
Maj B. A. Coram	RARDE (PE) (AE)
Maj N. J. Corbin	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj J. P. M. Coulthard	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj R. C. T. Cuthbert	9 Sig Regt
Maj M. W. Edwards	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj D. S. Ewing	US Signal School
Maj I. Foxley	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj I. W. Griffiths	21 Sig Regt
Maj P. J. Grogan	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj H. A. R. Hancock	14 Sig Regt
Maj R. P. Harrison	MOD CMSU
Maj J. P. Hudson	15 Sig Regt
Maj D. M. Mills	SHAPE Staff (BAE)
Maj N. T. Moore	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj J. T. Nichols	HQ 2 Sig Bde
Maj P. J. Oldfield	249 Sig Sqn

Maj J. G. Peck	.. ..	HQ 1 (RR) Corps
Maj L. A. Relph	.. ..	DSS (A)
Maj A. W. Ross	.. ..	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Maj B. J. Scott-Morton	.. .. ..	7 Sig Regt
Maj M. J. Sinton	.. ..	ACDS (CIS)
Maj M. A. Stevenson	.. .. ..	DSS (A)
Maj N. A. Swainson	.. .. ..	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj P. R. Towers	.. ..	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj J. O. S. Vannan	.. .. ..	School of Signals
Maj J. P. Wilson	.. ..	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj K. G. Wilson	.. ..	HQ AFCENT (ASG/CRSG)
Capt I. J. Bradshaw	.. .. ..	HQ Brig Nepal
Capt A. G. Brand	.. ..	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt T. C. Cooper	.. ..	School of Signals
Capt G. N. Downey	.. ..	HQ 12 Sig Bde
Capt P. R. M. Evans	.. .. ..	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt W. G. House	.. ..	34 Sig Regt (V)
Capt S. N. Jackson	.. .. ..	School of Signals
Capt S. A. Leigh	.. ..	School of Signals
Capt T. W. Pender-Johns	.. .. ..	School of Signals
Capt D. W. Powell	.. ..	School of Signals
Capt W. Ritchie	.. ..	HQ 4 Sig Gp
Capt J. Rowley	.. ..	School of Signals
Capt F. C. Running	.. ..	School of Signals
Capt B. Smith	.. ..	AA Coll Harrogate
Capt D. J. Vardy	.. ..	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt A. M. Waite	.. ..	HQ BR Forces Belize
Capt M. P. Wise	.. ..	QG Signals
Lt P. C. Baker	.. ..	AA Coll Harrogate
Lt R. D. Meinertzhagen	.. .. ..	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt F. J. Say	.. ..	22 Sig Regt

WOs and SNCOs

DECEMBER 1990

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (YofS) J. H. Williamson	.. .. COD Donnington
AWO1 S. L. McKechnie	.. .. 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO2 M. A. Ara	.. .. .. 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
WO2 (YofS) D. A. Prince	.. .. BDS Washington
WO2 M. F. Gaffney	.. .. Scarborough STC
AWO2 P. J. Rixon	.. .. .. 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
AWO2 P. G. Stevenson	.. .. 28 Sig Regt
SSgt P. F. Flintham	.. .. .. HQ 2 Sig Bde
SSgt J. E. Miller	.. .. .. 9 Sig Regt
SSgt C. T. Ross	.. .. .. 13 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) G. E. Stratton	.. .. HQ 4 Sig Gp
SSgt K. D. Talbot	.. .. .. HQ 2 Sig Bde
ASSgt J. R. Cambridge	.. .. .. 7 Sig Regt
ASSgt S. E. Davison	.. .. .. 244 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. N. Braid	.. .. School of Signals
Sgt B. D. Challice	.. .. .. 21 Sig Regt
Sgt P. J. Green	.. .. 11 Sig Regt
Sgt S. M. Griffiths	.. .. .. 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt J. Howell-Walmsley	.. .. 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt C. H. Jacobs	.. .. .. 3 Queens
Sgt W. J. MacRae	.. .. .. 40 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt B. H. A. McClements	.. .. 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt P. J. Morton	.. .. .. 21 Sig Regt
Sgt S. P. Oliver	.. .. R Signals MRO
Sgt J. Park	.. .. UKDSU AFCENT
Sgt H. J. Ripley	.. .. HQ 2 Sig Bde
Sgt G. S. Roberts	.. .. JSSU
Sgt F. P. Skene	.. .. British Contingent UNFICYP
Sgt A. Stratton	.. .. Battle Gp Tac Trainer

ROYAL SIGNALS STABLE BELTS

New 3in Regulation Pattern with Straps
Any Amount Made Up as Required

Export 3in Web with Strengthening ..... £7.71 plus post
Export 3in Web without Strengthening ..... £6.50 plus post

UK inc VAT 3in Web with Strengthening ..... £8.87 plus post
UK inc VAT 3in Web without Strengthening £7.48 plus post

T. FROST (Saddlers)
SOUTH PARADE, BAWTRY
DONCASTER, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Sgt B. Smith	.. ..	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt I. Waller	.. ..	16 Sig Regt
Sgt D. J. Williams	.. .. ..	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. Williams	.. ..	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
ASgt M. S. Bell	.. ..	7 Sig Regt
ASgt V. E. McNaught	.. .. ..	11 Sig Regt

JANUARY 1991

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 C. R. Ager	.. .. .. 8 Sig Regt
WO1 D. Green	.. .. .. AA Coll Harrogate
WO1 (YofS) M. D. McCarthy	.. 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO1 F. S. Payet	.. .. .. 8 Sig Regt
AWO1 (YofS) S. J. Baldwin	.. 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
AWO1 C. A. Clark-Derby	.. 34 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 (YofS) C. A. E. Copestake	.. 238 Sig Sqn
WO2 P. D. Knox	.. .. .. 22 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) T. A. McHugh	.. .. HAC
WO2 (YofS) G. M. Robinson	.. .. 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO2 R. W. Taylor	.. .. .. 1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
WO2 (FofS) W. D. Taylor	.. .. SANGCOM
WO2 (FofS) P. Wilson	.. .. FSS Mossy Hill
WO2 (YofS) S. P. Wood	.. .. 9 Sig Regt
AWO2 (FofS) S. Kassim	.. .. 1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
AWO2 (YofS) B. C. Pritchard	.. 14 Sig Regt
AWO2 M. L. Swallow	.. .. 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt A. Bird	.. .. .. 633 Sig Tp
SSgt (YofS) T. L. Burbidge	.. .. 39 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt K. J. Daniel	.. .. .. 243 Sig Sqn
SSgt G. R. Dawson	.. .. .. FSS Mormond Hill
SSgt F. Evans	.. .. .. 7 Sig Regt
SSgt W. M. Garn	.. .. .. 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt S. J. Holden	.. .. .. 632 Sig Tp
SSgt P. J. Knight	.. .. .. School of Signals
SSgt K. G. McKenzie	.. .. .. ACIO Preston
SSgt B. J. Palmer	.. .. .. 71 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt I. Philemon	.. .. .. 7 Sig Regt
SSgt K. V. P. Sandy	.. .. .. ACIO Luton
SSgt B. A. Smallman	.. .. .. 21 Sig Regt
SSgt M. R. Tait	.. .. .. 71 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (FofS) M. W. Thomas	.. .. SANGCOM
SSgt (YofS) B. Williams	.. .. 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt
ASSgt P. A. Fluck	.. .. .. 28 Sig Regt
ASSgt M. J. Philo	.. .. .. 7 Sig Regt
ASSgt M. A. Schofield	.. .. 602 Sig Tp
Sgt D. Adams	.. .. .. ACIO Coventry
Sgt A. J. Anderson	.. .. .. 633 Sig Tp
Sgt M. R. Bahado	.. .. .. 16 Sig Regt
Sgt V. D. Bates	.. .. .. 13 Sig Regt
Sgt L. V. Bath	.. .. .. 21 Sig Regt
Sgt C. N. Bell	.. .. .. School of Signals
Sgt R. Breheney	.. .. .. 16 Sig Regt
Sgt A. T. Broadbank	.. .. .. School of Signals
Sgt J. D. Bryant	.. .. .. HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
Sgt M. Campbell	.. .. .. School of Signals
Sgt A. Chapman	.. .. .. Comms & Sy Gp
Sgt R. Churm	.. .. .. 242 Sig Sqn
Sgt I. R. Clarke	.. .. .. Comms & Sy Gp
Sgt R. J. Cousins	.. .. .. 662 Sig Tp
Sgt R. Cowburn	.. .. .. 21 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Cunningham	.. .. .. 633 Sig Tp
Sgt R. Dale	.. .. School of Signals
Sgt F. M. Darlow	.. .. .. 251 Sig Sqn
Sgt I. R. Druce	.. .. .. ACIO Newcastle
Sgt A. Edwards	.. .. .. 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt D. W. Evans	.. .. .. Pontrilas Army Training Area
Sgt M. A. Farmer	.. .. .. 15 Sig Regt
Sgt C. P. Gill	.. .. .. School of Signals
Sgt C. J. Hobbs	.. .. .. 13 Sig Regt
Sgt P. S. Hodson	.. .. .. School of Signals
Sgt J. Holgan	.. .. .. School of Signals
Sgt J. C. J. Hughes	.. .. .. 1 Coldstream Guards
Sgt D. G. Jones	.. .. .. 36 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt M. I. B. Keith	.. .. .. 242 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. Kavanagh	.. .. .. 13 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Kindness	.. .. .. 1 RRF
Sgt N. S. Kirby	.. .. .. School of Signals
Sgt J. K. P. Logan	.. .. .. 16 Sig Regt
Sgt M. G. M. McDonald	.. .. 8 Sig Regt
Sgt S. P. McIntyre	.. .. .. 7 Sig Regt
Sgt I. W. Moore	.. .. .. 16 Sig Regt
Sgt D. W. Morgan	.. .. .. 11 Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Murphy	.. .. .. School of Signals
Sgt P. H. Newman	.. .. .. School of Signals
Sgt S. Parnell	.. .. .. 633 Sig Tp
Sgt S. J. Prowse	.. .. .. 30 Sig Regt
Sgt P. M. Redmond	.. .. .. School of Signals
Sgt G. A. J. Renshaw	.. .. School of Signals
Sgt A. Rogers	.. .. .. 7 Sig Regt
Sgt N. Ruddiman	.. .. .. 28 Sig Regt
Sgt J. P. Rutland	.. .. .. 14 Sig Regt
Sgt T. D. Scoins	.. .. .. 16 Sig Regt
Sgt A. Scott	.. .. .. School of Signals
Sgt I. Scrivin	.. .. .. 8 Sig Regt
Sgt M. T. Sheppard	.. .. School of Signals
Sgt M. C. Sideras	.. .. .. School of Signals
Sgt S. D. Slaney	.. .. .. 32 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt A. M. Smith	.. .. .. 1 Kings
Sgt D. J. Tomkins	.. .. .. 8 Sig Regt
Sgt C. Van Den Kerkhof	.. .. 242 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. R. Walton	.. .. .. 662 Sig Tp
Sgt C. L. Ward	.. .. .. 16 Sig Regt
Sgt S. J. Weldon	.. .. .. 39 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. B. M. Wood	.. .. .. 9 Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Worley	.. .. .. REME Tech Svcs
Sgt T. M. Wynn	.. .. .. School of Signals
Sgt G. H. Young	.. .. .. 16 Sig Regt
ASgt S. T. Archer	.. .. .. 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
ASgt P. P. Gorman	.. .. .. 15 Sig Regt
ASgt B. Hogg	.. .. .. MOD
ASgt S. Wright	.. .. .. 28 Sig Regt

NOTICES

CORPS DATES

Please make a note in your diary of the following events for 1991.

Tuesday 14 May—Corps Officers Dinner at the London Press Centre.

Sunday 19 May—Blandford RSA reunion.

Saturday 15 June—Corps Officers Luncheon, Blandford.

Friday 28 June—Freedom of Richmond Parade.

Saturday/Sunday 29/30 June—Catterick RSA reunion.

Sunday 30 June—Corps Officers luncheon—Catterick.

Thursday 28 November—London RSI Lecture, International Press Centre.

Tuesday 17 December—Corps Carol Service in London affiliated Church.

Further details will be published nearer the dates.

CORPS DINNER 1991—CORRECTION

The notice and application form for the 1991 Corps Dinner (14 May 1991) sent out in the Winter 1990 Journal, incorrectly stated that 'a pay bar will be open from 1745 hrs: The bar will now open at 1900 hrs and the cost of the dinner (£18 per head) includes pre dinner drinks. A pay bar will be open after dinner.

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 9 July 1991.

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.

RHQ TELEPHONE NUMBERS

From 2 January 1991 the direct dialling-in telephone numbers within RHQ were changed. The correct numbers are:-

	London Dist	DDI-STD
Regimental Colonel	8333	071-414-8333
SO2 (Recruiting)	8444	071-414-8444
Regimental Secretary	8240	071-414-8240
Asst Regtl Secretary	8241	071-414-8241
Main Office RHQ	8242	071-414-8242
Fax—RHQ	8243	071-414-8243
Welfare Office	8244	071-414-8244
Welfare Office (Direct Line)	—	071-630-0801
Association Office	8245	071-414-8245
Editor's Office	8246	071-414-8246
Accountant	8239	071-414-8239
Accounts Office	8247/8	071-414-8247/8

NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

244 SIGNAL SQUADRON (AIR SUPPORT) (RED HAND GANG) REUNION

A 'Red Hand Gang' Reunion, which will be the Squadron's 50th Anniversary will take place on Saturday 8 June 1991 at RAF Brize Norton. This reunion is being planned to enable all ex-members and currently serving members of the Squadron of all ranks to mix together at the reunion.

Anyone wishing to attend is requested to contact **WO2 (SSM) Humble** in writing at RAF Brize Norton OX8 3LX at the earliest opportunity. Or by telephone (0993) 842551, ext 6105.

RESETTLING IN GERMANY

Maj (Retd) Keith Rothwell has compiled a comprehensive guide for those intending to settle in Germany on completion of their service.

Anyone wishing to obtain a copy should write to him at: Am Deich 16, Barsselermoor, D-W2914 Barssel, Federal Republic of Germany enclosing a cheque for DM 10 (£3.50) or six International Reply coupons to cover costs and postage.

EDITOR

The editor of *The Wire* is due to retire from the post in March of 1991. He is also responsible for editing the Journal of the Royal Signals Institution.

The appointment is established as a part-time RO3 post and the pay is supplemented from Corps funds. The candidate would be a retired, or about to retire, officer of the Corps living within a 40 mile radius of London. Further details may be obtained from the Regimental Secretary, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Tel: London District 8241 or STD 071 414 8241.

SITUATIONS VACANT

MOD CIVILIAN VACANCIES

Applications are invited from ex-military personnel and their families wishing to join the MOD civilian staff. Vacancies continually arise in Central London and Outer London for Patrolmen, Storekeepers, Communications and Electrical Technicians, Drivers, Clerical and other posts.

Interested parties should contact: **Steve Morgans** or **Peter Ashton** on 081-854 2242 Ext: 3574.

VACANCY FOR NON REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF (NRPS) PERMANENT STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (PSAO)—EASTBOURNE

There will be a vacancy for the post of PSAO with 56 Sig Sqn (V) at the TA Centre, Seaside, Eastbourne in June 1991.

The appointment is in the rank of Captain (TA) with an annual Salary of £15,906 rising by six annual increments to £18,487 (these scales as at 1 January 1991).

Terms and conditions of service are given in TA Regs 1978 Chapter 6 Part 3. Applicants should be under 57 years of age and it should be noted that the retiring age is 60.

Applicants should have a thorough knowledge of Service Funds Accounting and experience of G1 and G4 matters.

Applications, including a CV and details of two referees should be sent to: Officer Commanding, 56 Signal Squadron (V), TA Centre, Seaside, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN22 7NL.

NON-REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (TA)

A vacancy for a Permanent Staff Administrative Officer (PSAO) will occur in 44 (Cinque Ports) Sig Sqn, 36 (Eastern) Sig Regt (V) based at Gillingham, Kent in July 1991.

Terms and Conditions of Service are given in TA Regulations 1978 Chapter 6 Part 3. The upper age limit for appointment is 56 and a retiring age of 60.

The post carries the rank of Captain (TA) with an annual salary of £15,906 rising by six annual increments to £18,487.

Applicants should have served in the Regular Army and have experience of G1 and G4 duties. A sound knowledge of Service Fund Accounting is desirable.

Short listed applicants will be required to appear before a Selection Board, at a date to be notified.

Applications including curriculum vitae and details of two referees should be sent to: Adjutant, 36 (Eastern) Sig Regt (V), Selsdon Road, Wanstead, London E11 2QF.

Closing date for applications is 28 February 1991.

OLD WELBEXIAN ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS DINNER

The next next President's Dinner will be held at Welbeck College on Saturday 18 May 1991.

The dress will be Mess Kit for serving officers and Black Tie for retired officers. The cost will be approximately £12. Limited accommodation is available on request.

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 Ext 30.

Applications should arrive at least two weeks prior to the Dinner.

LETTERS

From: Arthur Godfrey
Dear Sir,

Football in the Gulf

As a wartime (1940-46) member of the Corps, I was delighted to read in a letter from my son now working in Bahrain:-

'The football match on Saturday was against the Royal Signals Squadrons and we narrowly beat them 2—1 with a last-minute goal. They were very friendly and sporting lads and we took them back to the British Club for a few drinks afterwards. Tonight we play the Army Medics so you can see there's no shortage of opposition at the moment!'

The letter was dated 27 November.

Yours faithfully
Arthur Godfrey

10 Bonser Road
Twickenham
Middlesex
TW1 4RG

From: Brig T. G. H. Jackson OBE
Dear Sir,

Many rugby enthusiasts in the Corps will know that this year is the Centenary of the Barbarians RFC and they played both England and Wales. Also as part of the celebrations a Dinner was held for some 500 members and their guests covering rugby the world over.

Among those attending were at least seven ex-members of the Corps: **Hadyn Tanner, Russell Robins** (Wales), **John Williams, John Roberts** (England), **Bob Gemmill** and myself (Scotland) and **Tony Marshall** (East Midlands and President Bedford RFC).

All rugby players will guess a wonderful time was had by all.

Should any further information be required about the Barbarians I would be happy to provide it.

Yours faithfully,
Graeme Jackson

16 Gayhurst House
Newport Pagnell
Bucks MK16 8LG

RADIO OFFICER
THE NATURAL CHOICE

If you are coming to the end of your time in the Services and are scheduled for discharge in the next 12 months the natural choice for a second career is GCHQ.

Build on the Radio Operator experience you already have by undergoing specialist training with GCHQ which will prepare you for wide ranging duties encompassing the complete radiocommunications spectrum – DC to light.

To qualify you need:–

a. a minimum of 2 years recent relevant radio operating experience and preferably be capable of reading morse at 20 wpm.

or

Without experience you need to hold one of the following:–

b. BTEC National Diploma (or HNC/HND) in a Telecommunications, Electronics Engineering or similar discipline (City and Guilds 777 (Advanced level) or other qualification incorporating morse skills would be advantageous but not essential).

c. MRGC or equivalent Radio Operating Certificate.

Preferred Age Range 18-45 years.

Following comprehensive training GCHQ offers:

• Good Career Prospects • Competitive Salaries • Varied Work (opportunities for moves within UK and Overseas) • Generous Leave Allowances • Job Security • Non-Contributory Pension Scheme – and much more!

SALARIES (Reviewed Annually)

After a residential training course of between 29 and 52 weeks – depending on background experience – the Radio Officer Pay Scale ranges from £13,756 to £19,998 over 5 years with prospects for further promotion. (Salaries include an allowance for shift and weekend work).

APPLICANTS MUST BE BRITISH NATIONALS

For further information and application form contact:–
Recruitment Office, Room A/1108, GCHQ, Priors Road, CHELTENHAM, Glos GL52 5AJ or telephone (0242) 232912 or 232913.

GCHQ

FOR SALE

HISTORY OF 53RD (WELSH) DIVISION 1939-1945

The history of the 53rd (Welsh) Division in the Second World War by **Brig C. N. Barclay** was published in hardback in 1956 by William Clowes and Sons.

It is concerned primarily with the Second World War (1939-1945). It also covers the periods 1918-1939 and 1945-55.

Copies are available from HQ Wales (G1/G4), The Barracks, Brecon, Powys LD3 7EA at a price of £12, which includes packing and UK/BFPO postage. Cheques, with orders, should be made payable to The GOC's Fund, HQ Wales.

MESS KIT

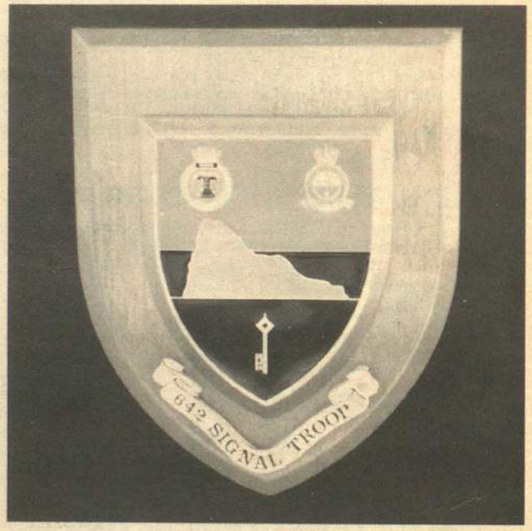
Officers Mess Kit jacket and waistcoat, complete with Captain's badges of rank. Approximate size to fit 6ft tall and chest 38in. Available to view London or Tidworth.

Any reasonable offer considered.

Telephone: **Nigel Pullman** 071-873 3524 (office) or 071-792 3410 (home).

642 SIGNAL TROOP—HERALDIC PLAQUE

Twenty seven years after the formation of the Troop we have for sale a Troop Heraldic Plaque. The cost is £10 including post and packing. Please make cheques payable to FHQ Central Bank. The address for order is: OC 642 Sig Tp, BFPO 52.



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 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, 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.

REPORTS FROM THE GULF

(These notes were prepared prior to the outbreak of hostilities.)

FROM 1 ARMD DIV HQ & SIG REGT

2 SQUADRON

Regular followers of the 2 Sqn story will know that having sent a third of the Squadron on Op Granby to reinforce 207 Sig Sqn we had little to do but guard the camp and tidy up after others had left. Then came Op Granby 1.5 . .

After many rumours and a short period where a select few knew what was happening it was confirmed that Div Main HQ (that's us!) was after all required to deploy. By a strange coincidence the OC and SSM seemed to have made a plan and most of our soldiers had had all the required injections, filled in forms and been allocated tasks. Just as well as there followed seven hectic days of working on vehicles and spraying yellow paint on everything that moved.

Congratulations go to **SQMS Tom Patterson** who accepted 30 additional AFVs and 16 replacement B vehicles most of which arrived in the middle of the night. His helper **Sgt Colin Milne** won the star prize which was a Mediterranean Cruise on board a ferry. Welcome to **SSgt Martin George** and most of his troop from 7 Sig Regt. They have now reformed as Rover Tp and provide almost all the detachment commanders on its 14 AFV rebros and LOs.

FROM OUR TEAM IN THE GULF!

There are several hundred Corps soldiers currently deployed in the Gulf forward areas under the command of **Lt Col John Kirby** (until recently the CO of 1 Armd Div Sig Regt). We are now fully integrated into a team, which is organised into two distinct elements; the Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and the Forward Maintenance Area (FMA) Sig Sqn. All ranks are in good spirits and ready for any task that may be required of us.

FORCE SIGNAL STAFF

The Force Signal Staff is the comd element for the contingent and Comms Branch of the HQ FMA. At the helm is Comd Comms **Lt Col Kirby**, ably supported by the SO2 Comms **Maj Gareth Smith** and the Adjt/SO3 Comms **Capt Bob Sharp**. The branch is located in a portacabin in the port area, with air conditioning, and has been named the 'White House' by the HQ FMA Staff. **WO1 (FofS) Dave Gorse**, the E Man, believes the cabin is called the White House because of the high level decisions made within!

SSgt (FofS) Richardson, LCpl Tommo Thompson, Sig 'Naca' **McNay** and **Cpl Dave Harries**, don't mind that heat as long as the mail still comes in and they keep getting their water money. **WO1 (YofS) Mick Boxall** and **Capt Tony Lomax** continue to build items of furniture from left over packing boxes. All in all, life is good and we have all settled well into the Gulf and send best wishes to all our loved ones.

The OSC crew, Capt Martin Girard, Maj Scott Ewing, Sgt 'Nasher' Dennis, WO2 (SSM) Ron Bragg and Capt 'so it is' Somerville

SAS M/C 613 ATTACHED TO 1 US MARINE DIV FWD

The detachment deployed into the desert on 31 October to join the 1st Division US Marine Corps. Just eight of us provide an interface for the marines to access Ptarmigan. Work-wise everything is going smoothly. The Radio Relay guys are located about 1km from us, that's **Cpl Willy Rushton** and **LCpl Sid Coles**. Often when we go up to them with luxury items such as mail, it's hard to find them amongst the marines due to the trading of most military items. The rest of us are learning how to be international volleyball stars.

Sig 'Taff' Elston is always getting questioned by the marine 'Sgt of the Guard', due to the back firing of his generator sounding just like the American M-16 rifle. That just leaves **Sig Walker** and **(LCpl Simon Meadowcroft)** looking in a mirror all day, wondering whether anyone will recognise us when we get back because of the US Marine Style haircut we were given last week by the 'Gunny/Sgt' (bascially bald). The main problem out here is boredom, as it is for so many troops in Saudi. Some detachments are lucky enough to have videos, but as we are so remote our evening's entertainment is the odd game of cards with the marines.

HQ FMA

Sig Steve Brown is a Tele Op (P and A) currently working in HQ FMA. He has his own special message for his friends in 28 (BR) Sig Regt: 'Hi Fellas. I'm fine and the weather's hot. No doubt I'll see you all out here at some stage!

FMA SIG SQN
SHQ TROOP

The peaceful happy go lucky life of the SHQ Tp was shattered when the Squadron was earmarked for deployment to the Gulf. Amid the planning carried out until the small hours of the morning by the OSC crew could be heard the off repeated message from SQMS **SSgt Lew Brice** 'It'll be issued in theatre'.

A comprehensive and demanding military training programme revolved around the need for the vehicles to be first lined, PRE'd and serviced all under the auspices of **WO2 (FofS) Willy Dott** and his team 'The Empire'. After they left Bremerhaven en route to the Gulf it was time to prepare themselves for the flight to the Gulf. **WO2 (SSM) Ron Bragg** displayed his time and distance appreciation by telling us 'We'll see you in less than a day, it's only about 36 hours away!'

The Troop welcomes **Capt Dave Somerville** back from 21 Sig Regt and a fellow OSC veteran **SSgt (YofS) Mick Purves** back from OSC 134.

The Saddam Bunker! Cpl Yorkie Whatley, Sig Renny Rennison, Cpl Wobbly Owen, Sig Paddy Moore and Sharpy Sharp

EAGLE TROOP

Lt Phil Wheeler and **SSgt Charlie Dubique** have the dubious honour of being the first Ptarmigan Troop to deploy to the Gulf. TN 041 found itself on a journey that would take it to Fallingbostel, Hamburg, Cyprus and Saudi Arabia.

The Troop retired to bed after their exhausting flight, prior to a gentle acclimatisation period. The flight was met by Sqn Comd **Maj Scott Ewing** and two Arab guides 'Mohammed and Achmed', in reality **WO2 (FofS) Willy Dott** and **SSgt (YofS) Mick Purves**. Congratulations to **Sig** 'Findus' **Greatbatch** on the birth of his daughter; we wish both mother and baby well.

HAWK TROOP

Early September found the Troop relaxing in Bavaria on an adventure training week with **Sgt Neil Ardern**. The call to arms from Verden came! Within days the Troop was heavily involved in vehicle PREs, servicing, GPMG, LAW 66, desert navigation etc.

Sig 'Bazza' **Peak** gets a mention as being possibly the youngest serviceman on Op Granby—celebrating his 18th birthday just prior to the flight.

LCpl Steve Bowman has earned himself the nickname of the Human Mole, his sangar has taken on the appearance of an underground Hilton Hotel. **LCpl** 'Yorkie' **Whatley** is teaching **Sig Paddy Moore** German—he can now count to three.

The Troop said goodbye to **Sgt Mark May** posted to Kent! Also fond farewell to **LCpl Geordie Musham** to civilian life. Welcome **2Lt Adam Parsons** and all new members posted in.

GOLF TROOP

Amid the organised chaos in Verden prior to deployment there was a little time for extra mural activities but some time was put to good use by **Cpl Andy Kennedy** and **Sig Tony Flood**. They both rushed off to Denmark and married **Ulrika** and **Dietke** respectively. We wish them the best of luck and a long and happy future. The Troop is collocated with the US Marine Corps in Saudi and a special mention to **Sgt** 'Gunny' **Hymas** for convincing the USMC that the Royal Corps of Signals gets VIP treatment.

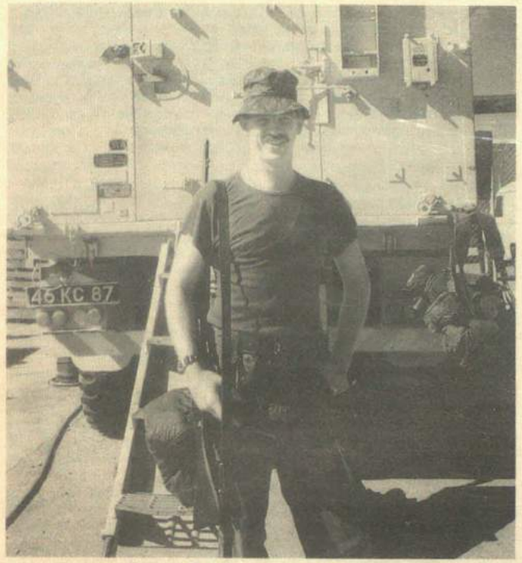
Sig Smudge Smith and **Taff Llewellyn** have been busy building sangars to USMC specifications. **Sig** 'Dino' **Aslett** has managed to find a fellow cockney in the USMC who supports Millwall FC.

WO2 Willy Dott, Cpl Junior Graham, LCpl Jacko Jackson and LCpl Rocket Haslam

Cpl Dave Harries

Sig Sean Sweeney

Cpl John Evans



Cpl Gary Mountain

Sig Scott Westworth and his central

Home, Sweet Home

FROM 207 (7 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

OC	**Maj Mike Dyer**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Wally Drain**
Sqn 2IC	**Capt Rab Mulholland**
Ops Offr	**Capt Dave Hudson**

These notes are being written in the middle of a sand storm, all of the frantic preparation carried out in Soltau is just a dim and distant memory.

The 'Desert Rats' have returned to their natural habitat (or so the Press says). Spirits are high and we have surprised ourselves how quickly we have got used to operating in the desert. The enormous challenge of moving an Armoured Brigade out to the Gulf has gone amazingly well and the soldiers' and equipment, have adapted with relative ease.

To find out how we are surviving and whether 40 degrees centigrade is our idea of our natural habitat, read on for a complete account of life in the desert, by the soldiers of 207 Sig Sqn.

The Sqn HQ is split between Comms Ops, the 2IC's Recce Landrover and **Sgt Hopkins'** four ton Unit Admin Office at Ech. In Comms Ops at Main is the Ops Officer **Capt Hudson, WO2 Willy Riding** along with **Sgt Bas Tollington, LCpls Brad Bardford** and **Earpes Wyatt**.

ALPHA TROOP

Tp Comd	**2Lt Mountford**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt 'This is misery' Hawkins**

Picture the scene; I **(Cpl Nicholson)** was sitting at home in Osnabruck watching the news, chuckling away to myself about 7 Bde going to Saudi, when the phone range. 'You are going to Saudi' the cheeful voice said. 'But I'm 12 Bde' I groaned. I packed and set off for Soltau. After the usual 'who are you?' and 'where are you from?', we were allocated to troops and detachments. There followed an intense period of activity on the 436's, with particular attention being given to seals, filters, hatches, and the door. **Sig 'Taff' Jones** got more glue on himself than he did on the seals! Ten days later the vehicles left Bournemouth Barracks for Bremerhaven led by **2Lt** 'Monty' **Mountford** and **SSgt Hawkins**. The SAS/MC with **Cpls** 'Lofty' **Lofthouse** and **Brannan** proudly flew the Union Flag.

Three weeks of intense training followed, then it was time to say farewell and last goodbyes, board the bus for Hamburg and Saudi. On arrival in Saudi we were billeted in a large warehouse picturesquely named 'Shed 4' on the dockside an A1 Jubail along with what appeared to be most of the rest of the British Army. After 36 hours rest we were taken on a 'short' jog. It was more like a CFT to Baghdad. **LCpl** 'Dr S..' **Slade** went round at such a speed, that he proved to be 'a couple of bottles short of a ten pack'.

Eventually the ships arrived, and **LCpl** 'Od's' **O'Dell** attempted to get into every film crew's report.

We are now in the desert and it is not too bad as deserts go. Apart from the hot days, freezing nights and the creepy crawlies that bite, sting and try to eat you while you sleep, it's OK.

BRAVO TROOP

Tp OC	**Lt Walton**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt 'Admin' Coles**

On arrival here in Saudi we were given the task of providing the Bde Fwd HQ. Some would say an easy task, especially those at Main HQ! However, life out here in the desert hasn't all been plain sailing for **Lt Walton** and his merry men.

Many valuable lessons have been learnt in the three weeks since deploying to the desert. We soon found that the scorpions enjoy surprising you first thing in the morning by hiding in your boots! We soon got our own back by handing them over to **Sgt Mackenzie** for his own warped entertainment.

Most of the Troop has settled down into the routine out here, even **Cpl Murphy** and **LCpl Bruce**, the Techs, no longer go white at the thought of coming face to face with a killer armoured Dung Beetle.

The Troop welcomes the crew of the HF RATT det, **LCpls Thomas, Cooper** and **Sig Hunter** who are attached to Fwd HQ from C Troop via 7 Sig Regt. After that brief insight into life at 'not too far' Forward HQ it's back to the daily routine of sweating, sweating more, sweating and fly swatting.

CHARLIE TROOP

Tp OC	**Lt Stew' McConnel**
Wire Chief	**SSgt Geoff Woodcock**
Radio Chief	**SSgt Steve Clements**

Charlie Tp is a mixed bag of Line, HF RATT and Clansman CNR with personnel and equipment spread throughout the Brigade area.

The calming voice of **LCpl Keith Parsons** is heard explaining to **Sig Dave Bartlett** that this place is really a big beach in Tenerife. The reason he must get up before first light is not to 'stand to' but to beat the Germans to the deck chairs.

The line Palace is a hive of activity under the direction of **Cpls Mark Sala, Dave Stewart** and **Bob Bruce**. After experimenting with long line lays of up to 15kms we have concluded that each lineman must watch out for any 'Tanky' who enjoys tearing cable and crushing cable drums. Much of the line needs to be laid by hand as rovers cannot cross some of the areas of soft sand. Line shack has now indented for three Camels, Line Laying, but at present, there is no joy from the QM.

DELTA TROOP

Tp OC — **Lt Dave Robson**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt Dixon**

Yes it's true not even the threat of hostilities stops us from getting our *Wire* notes in on time. It has given us something to talk about, as the conversation on what tomorrow's weather will be like doesn't last for long.

The Troop consists of armoured RRBs, armoured and soft skinned LOs, Battle Group rear link dets and RRB recce and resup. All the vehicles are now deployed on warm up training and are working extremely hard.

One of the first problems was a duel between **Cpl Cox** and a camel spider over possession of a can of 'Benz'. Needless to say the Camel spider won conclusively despite the encouragement offered by **LCpls Robinson, James RPC** and **Sig Bronniman** from the Top of the Panzer.

Cpl Yarborough, fresh from his desert navigation course, was sent on a 25km route across open desert to his new location. Despite **LCpl McGiveron's** driving, the failing light and maps which are in effect just a yellow sheet of paper with a grid pattern, he managed to get within a couple of kms of the grid. No mean feat.

Despite the problems, everyone in the Troop get on well together having been formed from men and vehicles from across the Division. Our best wishes go to all our families and friends, and now that we have made it to the beach, does anyone know when the tide comes in?

SUPPORT TROOP (ECHELON)

QM — **Capt Mick Ledwards**
RQMS — **WO2 (RQMS) Nat Coles**

Immediately after 7 Bde was 'stood to' to go to the Gulf a much enchanced Support Tp was formed.

The men for the job came from all elements of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and quickly warmed to the task. The now infamous cry to cover kit shortages 'in theatre' was born and oft used by **Sgt Steve Bungay**, always with a knowing smile. Two weeks of solid work saw the vehicles on to the ships for the long voyage to Al Jubail. The Troop continued to outload the vast quantity of new stores by using the now invaluable ISO containers, and found time to take part in the Squadron training programme.

The hard work of **LCpls** 'Wacky' **Dack, Paul Grundy**, 'Woody' **Greenwood**, 'Barty' **Bartlett, Sig** 'Shaggy' **Bridges** and 'Botty' **Botwright**, the 'workers', has made the QM a happy man.

The Troop is now 'in theatre' and the kit is arriving.

That's it for now from the Desert Rats of the '90s. All our best wishes to our families and friends back in Europe and to all those who sent us people and equipment in Germany.

FROM 14 SIG REGT DETS

With everyone having arrived safely by 17 October the US Marine Corps whisked us away to the US Marine Corps accommodation.

At Hajj 5 (High 5 Camp) the accommodation consists of numerous single story blocks. Each block has 16 four man rooms, plushly furnished with four bunk beds, a table and chairs and an air conditioning unit. By comparison the remainder of the forces out here are in tented camps.

Sand blowing during the early morning to be replaced by the heat of the midday sun whilst, in the background, Challenger tanks spoil the peace and quiet. The nightly excursions by camels scavenging for food adding the finishing touches to a truly Arabian day.

The daily life of those in 'Check slipper' city', **WO2 Geoff Carter, Cpl Steve Walton** and **Sig Andy Blunn**, remains a mystery.

The crews remaining at Camp 5 have now assumed their respective roles. The radio ops are radio-op-ing, the radio telegraphists are radio-telegraphing and the various others are concentrating on their various tasks. They are 'Smooth' **Henderson, Martin, Hicks** and the 'real' workers **Cpls Pav Burke, Spence Ord, Pat Duffy, Frank Flaherty, 'Jolyen' Walker** and **LCpl Dave Groves**.

We participated in a parade with the USMC to celebrate their 215th birthday at which we presented them with a 'Jimmy'. We all had a slice of birthday cake and a can of 'near beer', that is alcohol free—everyone should lose weight our here.

The late afternoons and early evenings are passed by playing various American sports. We have been successfully whupped at baseball, basketball, volleyball and American Football, but we at least enjoyed losing. It is almost like a low budget American Movie with men playing volleyball in just shorts and training shoes, wearing dog tags—with the sun slowly sinking in the background.

FROM 21 SIG REGT
SH FORCE SIGNAL SQUADRON ME

Sqn Comd **Maj Andy Hickling**, Tp Comd **Capt Jeremy Tod**, Tp Comd **Capt Duncan Warne** (when, or is it if, he completes JDSC), SSM **WO2 Joe Fairbairn**, YofS **Kev Townsend**, FofS **WO2 Stevie Wilks**, Tp SSgt **WO2 Ray Patrickson** and SQMS **SSgt Sandy Dos Martyres**.

TN 040

OC **2Lt Jonathan Dakin**, RR SSgt **SSgt Phil Atkinson** and Tech SSgt **SSgt Billy McLean**.

The departure of 4 Sqn and TN 040 from Wildenrath on a cold and windy day in early November saw the culmination of four weeks feverish activity for the entire Regiment. Vehicles and equipment were prepared, serviced, painted, re-painted, checked and cross checked then finally loaded on to a ship at Bremerhaven. **WO2 Willy Ireland** and his Training Wing then took over for a three weeks intensive course designed to prepare individuals and Sub-Units to fight and communicate in a hot, hostile environment.

After cream buns and tea with the CO and RSM, **WO2 (SSM) Joe Fairbairn** marched the lads away to the air terminal. Prior to departure the composite Squadron was lined up for Comd 4 Sig Gp, **Col P. E. A. Chaddock**; the CGS talked to the Troops before they boarded their Tristar. The departure was filmed by SSVC and appeared on 'Scene Here' the following evening. Friends of **Cpl Ogga Hodgson** will be pleased to know he is now a TV personality.

First reports from the Gulf indicate that the Squadron has settled into its new environment with the 'style' people have come to expect from **Maj Andy Hickling**. He was recently invited to the US Marine Corps HQ during the visit of President Bush. During the visit the Sqn Comd glimpsed **Kate Adie** amongst the Press Corps and seized the opportunity to introduce himself. A lively discussion followed.

The Sqn Comd now claims that he is the man who gave **Kate Adie** a scoop!

The CO, Lt Col H. H. Ham with the CGS as he talks to Sgts Martin, Pollard and Young immediately prior to their departure from Wildenrath

The following is the latest report from the desert: 'After almost three weeks on the ground we have now settled into a daily routine of eating, sleeping and shift changes. Our communications are holding up well thanks to the concerted efforts of the Yeoman **WO2 (YofS) Kev Townsend** and the Foreman **WO2 (FofS) Stevie Wilks** who in tandem with the operators are working miracles'—or so they tell us!

The Sqn Comd **Maj Andy Hickling** keeps us on our toes and it will come as no surprise to anyone that he has devised a picturesque BFT route of hard packed sand interspersed with the odd mountain of camel droppings.

The MT and resupply section under the eagle eye of **Sgt Paul Wareham** ensures that the POL and transport needs of the force are met.

SSgt Sandy Dos Martyres our SQMS and his sidekick **LCpl Billy Hume** are busy scrounging from all and sundry. They have even managed to obtain some stores from our QMs Department back in Wildenrath!

Our defensive sangars and locations have been constructed under the experienced eye of **Sgt Andy** 'Gunner' **Young** who with the aid of **Sgts Jim Hamill, Tom Pollard, Cpls** 'Grease' **Naylor,** 'Thomas' **Tomlinson, LCpls 'Scouse' Hartley, Woody Woodland** and **Sig Kev Bauser** and even **LCpl Taff Jones** with a cast of thousands have ensured that if attacked we will at least have a safe place to hide in.

Capt Jeremy Tod and **WO2** 'Mr P' **Ray Patrickson** with their dry sense of humour and satirical wit keep everyone enthralled during briefings.

Cpl 'Ogga' Hodgson has started a weekly news sheet with many features including 'Dear Ogga' an agony aunt style column. So all our wives and girlfriends can rest assured that any problems that may arise are in her capable hands.

We are at present compiling a video for our families back home which will include personal messages and provide an insight into our living and working conditions here in the Gulf.

The SSM **WO2 Joe Fairbairn** controls the everyday running of base camp, and a treat—an evening shopping trip to Dhahran, a large town two hours away by road. He says he is on a diet and has lost two stone in weight but we believe that it is due to the absence of a golf course and he has never before worked so hard in his life. I shall end by explaining that morale is very high and will be higher still when we are aboard that big silver bird winging its way back to 'Wilders'.

Sgt Jeff Martin and Cpl Grease Naylor caught in the morning rush hour!

FROM 30 SIG REGT
RHQ GULF

The HQ Detachment has now expanded to around 70 people, some of the more permanent additions include: **SSgt Paul Horton, Sgt 'Halfa' Inch, SSgt (FofS) Wookey, WO1 (YofS) Tyreman** and **Sgt 'Strasse' Street** and last but certainly not least **Lt Cdr John Burch**. He's joined the Ops Team and we're now becoming familiar with telling the time in Bells (and Tinkles) and such phrases as Ship Ahoy, Crows Nests, and 'for you I'd scrub the Stokers bathroom!

Recently RHQ has moved offices and is now located in a two storey villa aptly named 'Blandford House'. In fact over the same period 30 Sig Regt personnel have moved accommodation. Our new compound has 12 villas and is called Alola 4. It is a great improvement on Compound 166 which was becoming far too cramped with the 70 of us. What with the two moves and an ever increasing workload for the Clerks, Techs and Ops Team, we have all been kept extremely busy. A number of members of RHQ have been able to get out and see various dets and can now visualise some of the problems on the ground. We have also had a visit from **General de la Billiere**.

A few unforgettable highlights:

Rumour control also has it that the Traffic Officer **(Capt Percy Beynon)** was playing around with a Bidet (Beeday), he turned it on and suddenly found himself taking a shower in a 3ft high fountain.

The TOT **(Capt Stan Grimmitt**—Peter Pan—he looks so young) has become a real yuppie and has invested in an 'OK Ya' CD Walkman and has moved from Bran Buds to Muesli with chopped banana!

Finally: We've said goodbye to two members of the RHQ management team, **YofS Mick Hawley** and **Sgt John Reeves** who have escaped back to the Regiment. We've handed them their white feathers but would like to say thanks to their efforts and hope that they enjoy their leave.

We stepped onto the C-130 at the airstrip and after an uneventful three hour flight we landed, talk about out of the frying pan and into the fire, we had left our last location thinking things couldn't possibly get worse . . . wrong!

An hour's drive took us to our new location where we moved the 502 SATCOM and associated Commcen into a broom cupboard where we found **Sgt Farrar's** 501 det; once the equipment was installed there wasn't even room for the tele ops to swing their handbags. As the sun rose the boss, **Maj Andy Allman** decided that we needed more room so he ordered a portacabin for the Commcen, he was promised that it would arrive in less than a week.

The 521 HF arrived the next day and found no fields to erect their Clark 73 masts; after a lot of scratching his head **Cpl Phil Anderson** hitched his antennas from the gigantic lamp posts. Feeling quite pleased with himself for saving hours of work, he parked the transmit and receive cabs, sited the 19 KVA generators **(Sgt 'Doc' Docherty's** nightmares) and recce'd the cable run to the Commcen. This, it was decided, was a job for the linies—**Cpl Paul Brickell** did a spiffing job but didn't realise that in a port you get rather large cranes; lo and behold the 10 pair length became two rather shorter 10 pairs. After repairs, the linies took off never to be seen again.

By the end of the first week the detachment was fairly well established and bets placed as to the day of arrival of the portacabin. Boss **Allman** phoned the contractors and was assured it would arrive the following day and proceeded to bet a crate of stims (coke) with **YofS Norman Bain**.

Following day—no portacabin—loss of first crate.

By this time we had had enough of the tent city and moved out to join the US Marine Corps, who sheltered, fed and watered us, and let us watch their movies.

After the disappointment of losing his first crate the boss was determined not to be beaten. He phoned the contractors and was again promised delivery the following day. Things were now beginning to warm up in the Commcen, they were averaging about 250 outgoing messages and 250 coming in. A bigger shift and larger working area were desperately needed. Where was the portacabin?

Following day—no portacabin—loss of second crate.

We then lost the 501 and its merry crew, they had joined the 'Rats'. The Brigade was now large enough to deploy into the field and so off they went with us all waving them goodbye, they will 'really' be missed. The Boss was just about to dig into his pockets yet again for another crate of stims, when lo and behold the portacabin arrived. It was unceremoniously dumped outside the HQ, everybody was shocked to find it just a shell, the Techs led by **Sgts Bob Buckingham** and **John** 'Letters' **Linck** and the mad EDs had a mammoth task ahead of them.

After a long night the new Commcen was ready to be furnished, the only trouble was the operators led by **Cpl Jim Clancy** were too comfy in their nest and didn't want to move but one of their circuits was dragged out from under their noses and they had to follow the cables into their new home. The only trouble was they now had too much room and had to get more company from another location to fill the spaces. There was just enough room left over for **Cpl Sean Jackson** and his sidekick **Cpl Billy Butler** to move in, and so stands the Commcen; one large happy family.

The Techs have now moved into the old Commcen only to have to fight for space with the Boss, his left hand man **Capt Steve Turnbull** and the Yeoman **Norman Bain** and last of all a newcomer to our merry crew, **WO2 (SSM) Knight. Cpl Les Dawson** secured one bench and has given up fighting for another.

FROM 244 SIG SQN
SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC — **Maj A. J. Hutt**
2IC — **Capt P. W. Glibbery**

SSM **WO2 G. A. Humble**, RQMS **WO2 C. B. Charlton**, YofS **WO2 K. F. Pywell**, FofS **WO2 S. K. Whitwood**, Chief Clerk **SSgt G. Smith**, A Tp Comd **Lt A. J. Clewlow**, B Tp Comd **Sgt P. A. Ellis**, D Tp Comd **SSgt C. Gopsill**.

With time continually against us the evening of 12 August was a long night. A camp which at night is invariably dormant was working feverishly. The vehicle was in and out of the Spray Bay in 30 minutes looking an unfamiliar brown. NBC equipment appeared in sackfuls, new and up to date which alone filled one bergen. Wills were signed and Insurances taken out. Finally, by 0600 hrs the vehicle and crew were fully equipped for insertion into the Gulf. All locations were kept under wraps but everyone assumed the border was inevitable. The detachment departed for Lyneham and we flew to Cyprus around 0100 hrs. A one hour stop at Akrotiri saw us finally en-route for the Gulf.

As new weapons were signed out due to personal weapons being sent to Workshops after Battle Camp **Cpl Webb** carried out a butt check suddenly realising his butt No 13 did not look too good!

The Hercules landed at Seeb Airport in Oman at 2100 hrs and mixed emotions were by now bubbling. As the doors opened the heat hit us and this was at 2100 hrs! We walked down the ramp straining our eyes for any signs of activity only to find an airport bus awaiting our arrival. Within 30 minutes we were travelling down the highway towards the Intercontinental Hotel in a Toyota Landcruiser. For seven days Smoked Salmon and Halibut were consumed before the detachment was moved to the Sheraton Hotel for commuting feasibility. **Cpl Noonan** and **Sig Fullerton** were seen crying and screaming as they were dragged from their hotel room to be deported to Cyprus for further deployment. The Sheraton Hotel resembled the Intercontinental in many ways—although the pool service was a lot quicker!

As our presence in Oman was to be kept low key, civilian clothing was worn at all times apart from working hours. Sports Jackets and Flannels were obviously not packed so shopping was next! A pair of slacks (60s style) and a T-Shirt set you back £3 which seems a fair deal considering the starting price was £20.

The atmosphere in Oman was very relaxed, normal life went on without any indication of possible conflict. The Omani people were pleasant although Eastern culture was occasionally hard to come to terms with!

The Ops/Commcen site was deployed near Seeb and each shift would commute for morning and evening shifts respectively. After several weeks the detachment was settled in (albeit in the Sheraton). Our shift cycle incorporated days off, subsequently many enjoyable hours were spent in the 'Bundu' with our landcruiser.

Sgt Kenny Barker rang from Thumrait around tea-time enquiring how our accommodation and rationing were going, as he was digging into an orthodox compo cheese and spam, our evening meal consisted of a bottle of Chablis, Smoked Salmon followed by Lobster with Brandy and a Monte Cristo to finish it off. Sorry Kenny.

Several members of the detachment have since returned to Brize Norton and some other members of the unit have been deployed.

Cpl Webb

Cpl Webb and LCpl Foulger

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REPORT FROM ULSTER

15 Sig Regt
BFPO 801

RHQ PERSONALITIES
CO — **Lt Col G. M. S. Shipley**
2IC — **Maj R. A. Wannell**
Adjt **Capt F. P. Roberts**, RSM **WO1 (RSM) B. C. Howe**, Chief Clerk **WO2 (ORQMS) P. Duffy**.

We said farewell to the 2IC, **Maj R. A. Wannell**, who leaves us for 37 Sig Regt (V). Farewell also to his wife, **Jill**, with special thanks for her unfailing efforts.

COMMUNICATIONS
WHO'S WHO
Comd Comms/CO (15 Sig Regt) — **Lt Col G. M. S. Shipley**
SO2 Comms (Systems) — **Maj C. W. Payne**
SO2 Comms (CIS) **Maj K. K. W. Parsons**, SO2 Comms (COMSEC) **Capt A. C. Doane**, SO3 Comms (Systems) **Capt A. J. Wood**, SO2 (Comms) **Maj N. J. Yeoell**, Chief Clerk **SSgt P. J. Callary**.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES
A warm welcome to **Capt Wood** and **Cpl McBride**. Farewell to **Maj Les Plumb, Penny** and family off to 14 Sig Regt (let's hope he takes the rabbit with him. The officers' quarters lawns have never been the same since the family pet escaped). Farewell also to **Cpl Bob Bayliss** off to Cyprus.

The branch has had a mini re-shuffle, resulting in **Maj Chris Payne** moving across the corridor to fill the slot of SO2 Comms (Systems). **Capt Wood** picked up the SO2 Comms (Radio) mantle, the post now re-titled SO3 Comms (Systems).

The workers. The Chief Clerk, **SSgt Pete Callary**, has not been the same since the end of the motor cycle racing season, he now spends his time watching files fly around the office instead. **Cpl Mac McBride** looks after the Comd Comms pool, unfortunately the wrong sort of pool as he prefers the sort with fish in! Glamour in the office is provided by **LCpl Abbie Hilton**, whose dad used to be a Foreman in the Corps and is now working at 4 Sig Gp in Rheindahlen (Hi Dad!).

The Branch also boasts an APTI, **LCpl Josie Wells**. When not working in our new Hi-Tech Ops Room up to his eyes in Rigbids, Visbids or Billybids, you could spot him running the twice weekly Squadron PT sessions. When in the gymnasium, he will tell you to start running around the outside! The only escape is to volunteer for Branch duty keys.

COMMS OPS
PERSONALITIES
Ops Offr — **Maj Bob Holt**
Asst Ops Offr — **WO1 (YofS) Bill Tosh**
'A' Shift Supervisor **Sgt Nigel Dixon**, 'A' Shift 2IC **Cpl Jeffrey Buxton**, 'B' Shift Supervisor **Sgt Danny Thornton**, 'B' Shift 2IC **Cpl Jon Heaton**, 'C' Shift Supervisor **Sgt Mark Brunning**, 'C' Shift 2IC **Cpl Taff Bowen**.

We are also ably assisted by three Tele Tech (Sys) who spend a month at a time with us.

Comms Ops role is the co-ordination of communications throughout the Province, which most of the time we achieve. During the recent months we have chugged along merrily and managed to keep everyone reasonably happy.

COMINGS AND GOINGS
We welcome new arrivals **Sgt Danny Thornton** from the School of Signals and **Cpl Jeffrey Buxton** from Cyprus.

We say goodbye and thanks to **WO1 (YofS) Bill Tosh** who leaves us soon for 16 Sig Regt, **Sgt Jim Lynch** who disappeared underground recently to surface working for JCUNI. **Cpl Jeff Hope** who is now at 30 Sig Regt and **Cpl Jon Heaton** who finally leaves the Province after five years for 602 Sig Tp.

225 SIG SQN
SHQ
Farewell is bid to **Maj H. J. Bardell** as he hands over to his successor **Maj I. Fielder**. The Sqn Comd goes to a more tranquil life in the Directorate. **Maj Fielder** arrives fresh from the Staff College Camberley and we welcome both him and his wife.

233 SIG SQN
SHQ PERSONALITIES
Sqn Comd — **Maj Ian Seraph**
2IC — **Capt Pete Stephenson**
SSM WO2 Jeff Williams, Sqn Clk **LCpl Billy Berkery**.

TECH TROOP
FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES
There has been a considerable movement of personnel within Tech Tp, postings, 'retirements' and temporary detachments to the RMP's. We have said farewell to **Pete** and **Sheree McCormick** who are off to the Aussie Army, we wish them luck in their new life. We also said goodbye to **SSgt Steve Gillham, Sgts Pete Bagnall, Neil Parkinson, Bill Owen, Cpls Kirby, Sutton, Connolly** and **Steen** who have all gone to Civ Div, best of luck in your new careers. **SSgt Dave Smith** and **Cpl Charlie Longmuir** who somehow slipped through the net and got a posting to Hong Kong. We also wish **Cpl Daz Evans** all the best on his T1 course at Catterick.

Welcomes to **SSgt Pete Warhurst, Sgts Crinnion, Millar, John Ramsdale, Ronnie Nixon, Bob Lawrence, Marty Bain, Debbie Riglar, Cpls Geere, Gordon, Tuck, Epps, Paul, Low, Todd, LCpls Fawcett, Ronald, Edmondson** and **Luckman**.

RIGGING SECTION
Well, life with the Riggers (commonly known as the 'Glory Boys' within the confines of the Commcen) is still very hectic, with plenty of chances to earn our pay. The techs have actually been seen working on Brinton installations, which is always a firm favourite with us!

We would like to welcome **LCpl** 'Greenman' **Luckman**, his wife **Gaby** and son **Ben** and hope they have a good tour.

RIGGER STATEMENT OF THE MONTH
Sig (now LCpl) **Scragg** 'That's low for a shooting star, Touche'.
LCpl 'Touche' **Jefferies** 'That's because it was a mortar Scraggy'.

Finally congratulations to **Cpl Boucher** on his promotion to section head, and also to **SSgt Warhurst** who takes control over installations and 'five minute' jobs.

RADIO SECTION
The Radio Section is still managing to keep a 'business as usual' approach to life amidst rumours of, moving garages (who's in charge anyway?), changing Troops or disbanding the section.

We have been joined by **LCpl** 'Eddy' Edmondson (a renowned frog expert) and **Cpl Bob** and **Sue Low. Cpl** 'Rickey' **Gorman** has left for brighter climates of Catterick and his T1 (good luck for your wedding), and we wish all the best to **LCpl 'Griff' Griffiths** who recently married **Mandy**.

The spate of marriages is said to be due to the threat of bunk beds being used in the block (they will get another 300 in that way). Will we have any singlies left by April.

FAREWELLS, WELCOMES AND CONGRATULATIONS
We would like to welcome **Alex** and **Karen Regan** to A Shift, **Helen Polson, Rod Hood** and **Ian Curtis** to C Shift.

Goodbye and good luck to **Julie Granger** and **Joe Devitt** who are both off to civvy street. 'Radar' **Noott** who is posted to 1 BR Corps and his wife **Gill** and newly born son **Kyle, Heather McNair** who is posted to Hong Kong and **Allen** and **Karen Chester** who are both posted to Blandford.

Congratulations to **Mrs Kate Bayliss** (formally Colebrook) on her marriage to **Rob**; they are both posted to Cyprus.

Congratulations on promotion to **LCpl Annette Waggot** and **Sgt Tony Bunce**.

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 809

EXERCISE RYANS DAUGHTER 3

We arrived at Whernside Manor, the Corps adventure training centre in Cumbria, on Sunday 4 November after a tiring journey from Stranraer. The routine for the week was given to us by **Sgt Bob Cook**. The team was looking forward to the activities, however, the 0630 hrs start did not go down too well on the Monday. Off for some abseiling with **Sgt Bob Cook**. After taking us through a few safety measures **Sig Lee Barlow** of Rigging Section was happily volunteered as the man to show us how it's done. Once over the side of the viaduct he didn't

Rfn John Frackleton, LCpl Frank Cullen and Sig Mark Webber—discovering that maybe NI is not that bad after all

really give the lads that much confidence, but eventually the instructor got him down. Once the rope had been tested there didn't seem to be any problem for anyone else on the first abseil. The front abseil did cause a few problems for **LCpl Dave Kerr** (RPC) and **Rfn Frackleton** (RGJ). A slight push from the confidence-giving instructor overcame this however.

Tuesday we set off for some climbing. The weather was not looking too good and we were taken to a man made climb in the village. **Sig** 'Spiderman' **Dan Burdus** was easily the star of the show with **Sig Mark Webber** not much behind him.

On the Wednesday with woolly hats and breeches, yes you've guessed it we were off hillwalking. We were assured by the instructor it would be a nice easy stroll, it was for most but a well deserved rest was given to us whilst waiting for **Cpl 'Lippy' Lipton** (RMP) and **Sig 'Panda' Campbell**, who were bringing up each others rears.

The fourth and last day brought the dreaded pot holing/caving expedition. **Sgt John Farnell** I/C party was apparently claustrophobic, nobody believed him so he could not get out of it! We gave him a miners lamp and got him inside. The first obstacle was a water hole 10ft deep, easily overcome by the instructor. Everyone got wet, at least up to the knees, until **Sgt 'Mark' Browning** (RMP) decided to test its depth. Unfortunately the instructor was right, it was 10ft deep. The other main obstacle, the cheesepress gave **LCpl 'Frank' Cullen** a few problems, but a second attempt proved successful.

An enjoyable week for all thanks to the instructors, **Sgt Doughy Stephenson** and **Cpl Mick North**.

COMMS TROOP

Recent months have seen many comings and goings. Welcome to **Cpls Cryer, Mick Luckes** (Hong Kong's loss is our gain), and **LCpl Jason Smithurst** and **Sig Jason Malcolm**. And farewell to **Cpl 'Shadey' Ruddock** and **LCpl Nick Feasey**.

The shifts continue to keep life rolling along. The odd high points include ordering perfumes off **Cpl Neil Duncan** and **Sgt Chris Hobday** from their regular trips to BAOR—all done, of course, from a sense of duty-free, and welcoming back **LCpl Jon Collins** from the shortest ever RSDCC—who else would write off a car to get out of something?

Meanwhile, in the Commcen life has looked up since the return of **LCpl Dani Richmond**. All of a sudden inspections have stopped. Even the Syscon lads have got out their half inch paint brush and 10 gallon tin of magnolia paint. They're even thinking of producing a new board or two.

TM SECTION

Up at TM things remain as busy as ever. If we're not doing handover/takeovers with RTM inspections then we're re-arranging the furniture or painting. Well, most are busy, all except **Cpl** 'Bamber' **Gascoyne** who managed to find the odd moment for a bit of work between leave, adventure-training and diving. Rumours that his civvy clothing allowance will be stopped are hopefully true. **Sgt** 'Pay' **Bryson** please note.

Meanwhile, a few hellos and goodbyes. Welcome to **Cpl Ian Glover** and family, **LCpl Al Townsend** and **Yvonne** and **Cpl Gary Besant** and **LCpl Mark Werner**. And it's goodbye to **LCpl Taff Duncan**, LCpl Chris Braund and his wife **Gaynor**. Best wishes in civvy street. Farewell to **LCpl** 'Taff' **Swithenbank** and **Sue** and the kids—it will be a quiet place without him, his bench, his saw etc. Still, he left the dog behind! Finally, goodbye to **Sgt Chris Braid** and **Karen**, off to Blandford. The stores will never be the same again.

Many thanks from everyone to **Cpls** 'Hymie' **Crosby** and **Martin Farmer** for an excellent Christmas Party. 'Only £8 a ticket?'. So good, we're thinking of letting them organise the next one, and the next, and . . .

NORWAY 1990
by LCpl S. J. Vernon RCT

Four of us, **Lt Gregory** (as he was then), 'Bamber' **Gascoyne** and **Bryan Smith** and I were all packed and ready to go. It was the beginning of what turned out to be one hell of a long journey which was eventually going to end at the British Mountain Training Centre near Kristiansand, Norway. What could have been just over an hour's flight from the UK, turned out to be a three and a half day trip. This was caused by a series of unforeseen circumstances which included a bomb scare at the airport, an unscheduled stop overnight in Hanover, a broken down ferry and rough sea conditions. Nevertheless the arrival at the BMTC with its surrounding scenery, together with a hot sun and clear blue skies made the scenery seem worthwhile. A few briefs, kit issues and a bit of rucksack packing later, we found ourselves on an overnight train equipped with some supermarket food, a good supply of beer and heading towards the Hardanger range of mountains.

A couple of train changes later we travelled on a small train which took us on an amazing scenic journey from the snow laced mountains to the beautiful town of Flam which was at the end of a fjord. It was here that I made a brave decision to be the first to put on the very out-of-fashion breeches, much to the amusement of the others, but I didn't care, if I was going to walk mountains, I was going to look like a mountain walker. Then we were off and for the next four hours it was all up hill. The first to notice how steep it was, was **Bryan**, or at least **Bryan**'s legs but not without the will for trying. Once we reached more than half way up, we would hear him shouting at his legs, telling them to 'get a move on'. A set of worn out legs and a roll of film later we reached the top, but it wasn't downhill from here. Ahead of us lay an infinite range of mountains most of which were snow covered. There was no expert map readers amongst us **Mr Gregory**, said the hour long, knee deep swamp was unavoidable. The swamp was dirtier than **Bamber**'s shower water, so we all had a clean up in a river at the other side.

At the end of the day we set up the tents, made a gorgeous meal of the 24 hour ration pack (honest). **Mr Gregory** and **'Bamber'** shared one tent and **Bryan** got the other one although I somehow managed to find a bit of space at the bottom of the tent that **Bryan**'s frame hadn't used up and squeezed in there.

The next day was a full day's hike, bypassing lakes, snow hill climbs using ropes and lots of encouragement for **Bryan** who wasn't as confident as the rest of us when it came to climbing or rivercrossing. Fatigue, a drop in the temperature and rain clouds looming above slowed the conversation but **Bryan** cheered us all up by doing his obviously well rehearsed falling in the river trick. We did lots more walking the next day and were all relieved to see the few dots in the distance which was the small town of Upsete. We all agreed on a train ride of Voss, a more tourist orientated town with more in the way of needed amentities on offer than Upsete had, ie a youth hostel and few bars. A hot shower and proper food were almost forgotten luxuries. We stayed in Voss at the hostel for two days during which we did some sightseeing with the aid of a cable car. **Bamber** and I did a great Hawiai Five O impression in canoes on the lake, then swam in it afterwards, its probably warmer in the Arctic. We travelled by coach from Voss to Eidfyord where we swopped one of the bottles of whisky we had brought with us for a night in a campsite. It was here we hired some pushbikes and tore along the edge of the fjord. We did a tourist trip around a fascinating power station, built 700m inside a mountain. Not satisfied with seeing inside the mountain, I decided I wanted to see the farm that was at the top of the mountain. It took a bit of persuasion to get **Capt Gregory** (promoted that day) and **Bamber** to go up but **Bryan** decided he liked the view at sea level and stayed there.

The view of the fjord made the climb more than worthwhile. The next day we travelled to another town called Kinsarvick where we got a cabin with four beds. From here we walked up a stretch of river that had several large waterfalls. This brought us to the end of another day.

We travelled by coach further down the fjord until we reached the mining inland port of Odda. The industrialisation of the town made it less of a scenic area than the previous towns but it was the closest we could get to the Folgefan glacier. We set off early the next morning and walked to the foot of the glacier. It was here the weather hit us and prevented us from going on the glacier. So we settled for a sauna and a swim in the local baths. The last day in Odda was spent walking around the shops eating food and drinking coffee. I sent my 25th postcard from there, there is probably why I was skint before the others.

We travelled back to Kristiansand by coach which was a long tedious journey made worse, by the one tone singing of a Norwegian whose attempt to sing songs in English without knowing the language had us all at our wits end. **Bryan** earned himself the name of Stretch Smith on this coach firmly convincing himself that half of my seat was his too, I got stuck into a book about the Bega Valley and **Capt Gregory** and **Bamber** were finishing plans on how to make the singing Norwegian disappear without anyone noticing. The last night we spent in Norway was in the comfort of the youth hostel.

Norway for me was a very worthwhile experience, the country is full of beauty, the people are friendly and the beer expensive. Recipe for a good time, lots of money, bags of enthusiasm, a good bunch to go with and lots of film to remember it. That's what we had and it was great.

(Left to right): Cpl 'Bamber' Gascoyne, LCpl Stu Vernon RCT, Capt Simon Gregory and Cpl Bryan Smith

LCpl Stu Vernon modelling the 'Scott of the Antarctic' look

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 807

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj D. McDowall**
2IC	**Capt I. G. Standen**

AO **Maj J. L. Godfrey** 15/19 H, OC Comms Tp **Lt M. McGinty**, RSM **WO1 (RSM) P. Whitehouse**, YofS **WO2 (YofS) P. Forryan**, FofS **WO2 (FofS) J. Abernethy**, CC **SSgt (ORSQMS) M. Cole.**

Brig J. W. Parker's farewell visit to Rover Group

SHQ
THE VIEW FROM THE SHARP END
by Cpl Marty Briody

The Squadron held a BFT Marathon recently with two of the Troop members involved **WO1 (RSM) Pete Whitehouse** and his arch opponent (on the sporting side only) **Cpl Marty Briody**, both acquitting themselves very well. The next day was the SHQ Christmas Party and it was in great pain that they hobbled to the event. The party was a great success, even Santa Claus managed to make a swift appearance, and **SSgt (ORSQMS) Mick Cole** managed to sit on his knee! **LCpl Danny Cockram** was much in evidence co-ordinating the Rock'n'Roll music.

Now we come to the Chief Clerk's disaster weekend. He thought he was going to the Comms & Sy Gp UK Sergeants' Mess Christmas Draw, but he was snowed up in Loughborough.

We have a few hellos and goodbyes. We say hello to **Sgt Brian McClements** from Cyprus who takes over from **Sgt Vic Bates** who is off to join the RSDCC team at 13 Sig Regt. We also say hello to **Sig Rob Townsend** who joins us from the factory, he replaces **Sig Richard Rix**. It is with some sadness that we say goodbye to the man who has kept our pay in order, **Sgt John Masters** on his way to 2 R Anglian in Celle. Have a nice time with the grunts. Until next time 'bye bye' from the sharp end.

MT/LAD
PERSONALITIES

MTWO	**WO2 Stan Duncan RCT**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Mick Kemp RCT**
LAD Sgt	**Sgt George Campbell REME**

HELLOS/GOODBYES

The Troop has been subject to change on a large scale with losses and gains in both sections. To the following we wish a fond farewell and send our best wishes: **WO2 Pete Mulvihill**, wife **Sue** and family, **Sgt Rick Shepperd** on promotion and posting to 26 Sqn RCT, and **LCpl Kev Panman** to civvy street.

A warm welcome is offered to 'the new boss' **WO2 Stan Duncan**, to **Sgt Mick Kemp** and family, to **Cpl Dave Ellitson** and family, to **LCpl** 'Higgy' **Hignett** and to **LCpl** 'Sharky' **Williams**.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go to **LCpl** 'Sharky' **Williams** and his fiancée **Mel** on their engagement, and to **LCpl Pete Cook** on his promotion.

Through all this change the MT has still been able to carry on and has clocked up more mileage than any other unit in NI. Battle Camp also caught some of us and six members were sent on each phase. The

RCT element were hoping to be posted on return to Londonderry having failed all BFTs, CFTs etc. Unfortunately remedial PT was all they got when they got back!

QM TROOP

The close of the year coincided with the end of an era for QM Dept. As **WO2** (RQMS) **Bob Taylor** left after what, he has been constantly reminding one and all, was a slightly extended tour. News of **Bob's** departure has spread throughout the Brigade, and queues have already started to form outside the stores in the vain hope that the arrival of **WO2 (RQMS) Mick Ara** may result in a clothing exchange without first passing through the Spanish Inquisition! On a somewhat more serious note the Troop wish **Bob** and **Pauline** all the best in Tidworth and welcome **Mick** and **Thérèse** to Londonderry. Also on the postings front the Troop has lost two of its stalwarts in the shape of **Cpl Don Cunningham** and **LCpl Taff Cox** who have managed to wangle postings to sunny Belize. **Don's** bribe must have been particularly big as he has wangled a promotion too.

After the shock of all the departures and the bigger shock of finding out that for the most part they would not be replaced, the Troop soldiers on.

EAGLES RUFC
NI MINOR UNITS CUP

After receiving a bye in the first round we were drawn against 39 Inf Bde Sig Sqn in the quarter-finals. In a very hard fought game the Eagles took the lead in the first half through a **Bob Taylor** try, but to 39 Bde's credit they fought back and by mid-way through the second half they had taken the lead. Then came the turning point of the game, a quick move down the backs and the ball was in the hands of **Jim** 'Offiah' **Abernethy** and his little legs were flying as he ran to the corner for a score. A further try by **Taff** 'JC' **Jones** and a penalty by the same player gave the Eagles an eventual winning score of 15—12 and a place in the semi-final.

Our semi-final opponents were 33 Engr Regt, holders of the cup, and favourites again this year. By half-time 33 Engrs had taken a 10—0 lead and the Eagles found themselves unlucky not to be on the scoreboard, but as the second half started the Eagles applied early pressure and were rewarded by an excellent individual try by **Andy** 'Flaky' **Forbes** which was converted by **Taff** 'JC' **Jones**. A penalty by the same player reduced the deficit, but then problems started with four 'Eaglets' receiving injuries. This was the downfall of the team and the Engineers proved too strong eventually running out 25—9

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The Squadron Rugby Team

The Rugby Team in action

victors. Good Luck to 33 Engineers in the final, and the rest of the team wish **Bob** 'Taff' **Booth** a speedy recovery in hospital from injuries.

Since this defeat the team has bounced back with victories over 655 Sqn AAC and in the local 'Londonderry' Derby against 1 R HAMPS. We are now concentrating on the Mercury Cup Sevens.

COMMS TROOP
From Cpl Allen and Sig Preston

Commcen Londonderry is looking forward to the Christmas/New Year break more than most. With the greatly increased TAOR taken on by 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn the work load has virtually doubled and the workforce has stayed the same.

We say hello to **Sig Ady Crabtree** and **Andy Horkins** who we managed to scrape from Lisburn, we also say hello to the forthcoming members **Cpl Thomson** (School of Signals), **WPte Smith** and **WLCpl Sainsbury**.

We say farewell to **WPte Tracy Kerry** and **Sig 'Taff' Chapman**, who are both racing towards Civ Div. We also say farewell to **Cpl** (NCO IC Commcen, ZDS) **Allen** and his wife.

LINE/RIGGING SECTION

'All quiet on the Western Front' 8 Inf Bde and Sig Sqn Line/Rigging Section still manages to cope with the tide of work, though not helped by the departure of **Cpls 'Max' Maxwell** to 9 Sig Regt and **'Billy' McKelvie** to 28 Sig Regt. Though we do welcome **Sig** 'Yak' **Sutton** from 259 Sig Sqn a very worthy stop-gap. A recent event in our social calendar was the Troop Christmas Party which went down very well.

SYSCON

Here we are again in Syscon (The happiest Jifcon in the Province). We would like to welcome MovCon into the darkest depths of Syscon! We also welcome **Cpl Bob Booth** from 19 Bde, although he has spent most of his tour so far bedded down in hospital, due to some little misfortune that happened to him whilst playing rugby, or so his story goes. We have said our farewells to **Cpl Sean Dewar**, who has departed for sunny Brize or is that the Gulf?

Congratulations to **Sgt Tony Scoins** who has just had his tour extended by two months (isn't he the lucky one?) especially as his furniture went last week.

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn BFPO 801

PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd **Maj S. C. Johns**
2IC **Capt S. D. Hodges**

AO **Capt P. J. Anthony** QGM Queens, OC Comms Tp **Capt M. J. Fensom**, RSM **WO1 (RSM) J. W. MacKay**, FofS **WO2 (FofS) R. P. Moren**, FofS (Des) **WO2 (FofS) P. Thomas-Peter**, YofS **WO2 (YofS) B. D. Colvin**, RQMS **WO2 (RQMS) R. A. Rack**, MTWO **WO2 (TCWO) I. James BEM**, Chief Clerk **SSgt (ORSQMS) I. J. Foster**.

ORDERLY ROOM

With the departure of **SSgt Clyde Atherley**, to 16 Sig Regt, in June, we saw the arrival of **SSgt Charlie Foster** from 4 Sig Gp in Rheindahlen. No change here—another sporting gladiator who is a keen rugby player and cross-country runner—the same as the Sqn Comd would you believe!

It was a busy time for the leave and movements Clerk, **LCpl Russ Denny**, with bids for Christmas leave. This is probably why he is now resting in MPH and leaving it all to **Cpl Rab Rennie** to deal with.

The two stalwart civilians, **Miss Annette Campbell** and **Mrs Carol Stevenson** continue to prop up the Unit's administration and clerical support; when the Chief Clerk is away on sport, **LCpl Denny** is in hospital and **Cpl Rennie** is chatting up the Movements Cell clerks!

COMMS TROOP

The Troop has had a busy few months with the recent TAOR changes and rationalisation of Cougar equipment.

The Troop Commander (newly promoted!) **Capt Matt Fensom**, has a new toy—a video camera. It seems that no one is safe from the gaze of the lens—watch out, 'Fensom's about'!

It would appear that the last few weeks have taken their toll on the Troop's fitness. Comms 'Light Duty Chit'•Troop is probably a more accurate description. There have been numerous injuries . . . as we go to print **Sig 'Stotty' Stott** is laid up following an operation. **LCpl Geordie Hall** is on sick leave and **LCpl 'Braz' Brazier** has just gone under the knife. Get well soon lads.

ARRIVALS

As ever there has been a big change around in Troop personalities. We welcome the arrival of **Cpl Steve Russell** and **Tracey, Cpl Matt Laird** and **Lorraine, LCpls Taff Jones, Shaun Curry, Mark Tweats, Mick Feasey, Rab Brooks, Sig Pete Asplen** and last but not least **Sig Stevie Stoker** who joins Radio Section. He soon found his feet and is already a stalwart member of the football team. Well, they need all the help they can get.

FAREWELLS

With so many new arrivals we've naturally had to say farewell to a number of the Troop. **LCpls 'Geordie' Mordue, Phil Hewish, Steve Trenholme RPC, LCpls 'Gadget' Smith, Eddie Reynolds, 'Marty' Montgomery** and **Sig 'Scotter' Burns**. We also say farewell to **Sgt John Rutland** and family who had to make hasty arrangements after a last minute change in posting. (Something to do with the golf . . . or was it the Gulf?) Anyway we wish them all the best and thanks for your efforts here.

CONGRATULATIONS

Yes, at long last we've had a few promotions. Our congratulations go to **LCpls 'Woody' Woodworth, 'Gadget' Smith, 'Marty' Montgomery** and **Eddie Reynolds** who all recently came off the LCpl-Cpl promotion board. Two of our Pioneers also were promoted recently to LCpl. Well done to **LCpls** 'Delbert' **Rees** and **Martin Maloney**. Lastly a final congratulation to **Sig** 'Scooter' **Burns** on passing his Bl.... and then failing his Bi-annual keyboard skills three weeks later. It's a funny old world.

TM TROOP

Recently the dreaded letters PRE, were being bandied about the workshops. Led by **Sig Mick Murphy** the Troop began the monotonous task of ensuring all the radio sites, masts and equipments were up to the high standards required. After a hectic fortnight the job was complete, successfully I hasten to add. As if this wasn't enough. The Troop also saw extensive involvement in the recent boundary changes.

Cpl 'Shuggy' Hughes should be congratulated on his bid for the 'Province Disco Dancing Championship' held in the Squadron Club one Friday evening. **Cpl Hughes** broke (literally) new ground in his attempt for the title. He's just out of plaster and has been confined to the swivel chair for weeks! Well it did mean he could revise for his T1 entrance exam . . . and miss the Troop Comd's runs.

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

The Troop saw some new additions to the merry band last month. A big welcome to our new 'FOZ', **WO2 (FofS) Thomas-Peter, LCpl** 'Spirey' **Campbell** (yet another tele mech) and his wife **Julie** and not least of all, **Sig Steve Ainslie** who joins the Riggers Section.

The Troop would also like to welcome and congratulate **Mrs Jacqueline Graham** on joining her husband **Cpl Phil Graham** in the Province. 'About time too', said **Cpl Graham**. Alas we have had to bid farewell to **LCpl Andy Dutton** and **Shirley**. We wish them both the best of luck for the future and congratulate **LCpl Dutton** on being selected for promotion.

EXERCISE SILVER CHALICE III

Ex Silver Chalice III was two and a half day military training exercises designed to teach and test members of the Squadron in skills particular to their role here.

The lads were split into teams of four and started the exercise with instruction in driving techniques, arrest and restraint and map reading from vehicles. They then travelled down to the training area to receive some pistol coaching. Everyone then was looking forward to a few beers in the NAAFI and a good kip before starting the next morning, but it was straight out with the ponchos and into night OPs—and yes, it rained.

LCpl Russ Denny looks on in eager anticipation as SSgt Ray Spencer checks his score

The next morning the OPs were brought in and after a hearty breakfast there was a round robin of weapons stands and first aid. The most interesting was the CQBR. There was more instruction during the afternoon on vehicle and personal recognition followed by a night of excitement. The teams were tasked to drive to various locations and on the way encountered an incident and react accordingly.

The next morning it was off with the civvies and back into greens for APV drills, and top cover sentry duties. This brought to an end a really successful exercise. Everyone was soon back in Lisburn for a well earned rest having really enjoyed themselves (or so the RSM said!).

LS & GC PRESENTATION

On 5 November 1990 LS & GC medals were presented by Comd 39 Inf Bde, **Brig M. D. Jackson MBE** to **WO2 (FofS) Russ Moren** and **SSgt Ray Spencer**. The presentations took place in 39 Inf Bde Sergeants' Mess and was followed by the 'traditional' curry and celebrations. Congratulations to both of them on completing 15 years of undetected crime!

SSgt Ray Spencer and WO2 (FofS) Russ Moren with Brig M. D. Jackson

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

NEW COMMANDANT

The College welcomes its new Commandant, **Col Backhouse**, his wife **Keri**, and family. **Col Backhouse** has had a varied and interesting career to date, having seen service in Germany, Cyprus and Northern Ireland. The College wishes the Commandant a warm welcome and every success in his new appointment.

PENNEY SQUADRON
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

On Sunday 11 November 1990 33 members of Penney Sqn took part in the Remembrance Day parade in Harrogate. With **Lt Bowers** leading and **AT Cpl Berry** as left guide the Squadron contingent stepped off at the command of the RSM **(WO1 R. Ritchie** Scots Guards). **AT Cpl Thompson** played the Last Post and Reveille.

EXERCISE HAPPY STROLL

A group of eight members of Penney Sqn went to the Cumbrian mountains late afternoon on Friday 26 October for a four day walking expedition in the Langdale area. The party was led by **Sgts Norman Finnegan** and **Paul Matthews**, consisting of Apprentice Tradesman Sgt **Crispin Driver-Williams** and Apprentice Tradesmen **Barry Keen, Alex Duffton, Martin Hall, Ian Owen** and **Gary Robertson**. The journey started with a stop off at **Sgt Norman** (Trigger) **Finnegan's** house where he threw his windsurfer into the back of the bus—just in case! This made the journey a little too cosy for comfort, but we all survived, stopping at the chippy before climbing to the camp area, Stickle Tarn.

Daily routine started with reveille, Trigger's cooker making more noise than seven No 1 burners! The remainder of the time was spent practising navigation skills with advice from **Sgt Paul Matthews**. The views were brilliant and, as ever, **AT Sgt Crispin Driver-Williams** (or was it David Bailey?) was on hand to take photos of everything every five paces. The final day was called an environmental day. Being forced to withdraw from the mountains by the bad weather the merry mountaineers sought refuge in Keswick where all returned their bodies to normal with fresh food and hot water before once again throwing in the unused windsurfer and sleeping all the way back to Harrogate.

PENNEY RECRUIT TROOP—90B
SCENES FROM EL

Capt Giles Henschel, ably assited by **WO2 (QMSI) Rafferty** and his merry band of instructors, commands External Leadership Tp. Reputedly the most popular element of both the Apprentice and Junior Leader courses, external leadership is an essential part of the training package provided at the College. Only seen in the College on the odd occasion, usually when no duties are on offer, members of EL Tp courageously brave the elements throughout the year.

Navigation: Capt Giles Henschel *(left)* gives AT Ritchie *(right)* some advice on the route plan from the summit of Pike 'o Bliscoe

SCOTT SQUADRON

To start without saying a few hi's and byes would be a break with tradition—so thank you **Sgt Mez Merrill** for dropping in just in time from Aldershot, and welcome to **Brenda** and young **Carl**. Here's to a happy tour.

CONKER COMPETITION

With well over half the current Squadron PS having served in 2 Sqn of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, it was not surprising that the great Verden tradition—the Conker Competition should arrive in Harrogate. On a chilly autumn morning the Squadron formed up, nuts drawn, to slug it out to find the Champion Conker Slinger of 1990. After a hard fought contest any many sore knuckles, the eventual winner was Recruit Thompson who having won through to the final with a 50 yard sprint and an excellent example of 'Stampsies', saw off his opponent in a mere five hits.

The latest addition to Penny Sqn, intake 90B

COLLEGE BOXING

Congratulations to Scott Sqn for providing the majority of the finalists in the College Boxing Competition. The Squadron team managed to provide five winners from the 10 bouts.

PS v SENIOR TERM GAMES NIGHT

During a cleanout of the Squadron Silver Cabinet a dusty old trophy of uncertain origin was discovered. 'What's this for then?'—No idea.

So was the PS v Senior Term games night born. Organised by **Sgt Danny O'Brien**—it was bound to contain a few surprises, and so it did. Games which took longer to explain than to play were followed by—the final event—the boat race. As the teams lined up expecting a free pint the cover lifted to reveal . . . an onion, a lemon, some weetabix, a plate of beans, two pints of beer and an egg and milk surprise. The surprise being it contained only eggs and milk.

After the final event the result stood at—a draw—not surprisingly. After a nail biting tie-break with **WO2 (SSM) Pete Jackson** and **AT SSM 'Andy' Anderson** trying not to sink an empty beer glass in a bucket of water the PS emerged the winners. Shortly after the prize giving **Sgt Jim Harris** finally finished his onion!

POST SCRIPT

Congratulations to all for retaining the 'Champion Squadron' title for Spring Term 91.

MARTIAL ARTS

The martial arts club continues to thrive in the College. Despite the loss of many club members after recent major graduations, the vacant places have been filled several times over by the recruits from the new intakes. Sensei **Steve Barnett** has built the club up from its early karate days to what should now be called a Budo club, since a wide variety of martial arts such as Aikido and Juijitsu as well as Karate are offered.

Recently graduated martial arts club members with Sensei Steve Barnett *(right)*

BRADLEY SQUADRON

Since September, 90B recruits have arrived and have been taken through their Basic Training by **Lt Jon** 'Harry Spoons' **Fraser** and **Lt Kevin Bowers**, ably supported by **Sgts Phil Harris** and **Sam 'Toastie' Shaw**. The recruits won the Rugby and Drill Competitions, and finished second in the overall Recruit Competition.

This term saw Quadrant Tp, of Royal Tournament Fame, complete its course and depart from trade training at 8 Sig Regt. The Troop was seen off in Dobson style with a graduation party in York.

The Squadron has said goodbye to the following: **WO2 (CSM) Medelock Morcom** Scots Guards returning to his Battalion: **Sgt Keith** 'Dobbo' **Dobson** on retirement to civvy street; and our Squadron Clerk, **Mrs Helen Old**. Our best wishes and luck go to all of them and their families.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

A Service of Confirmation was conducted by the Bishop of Grantham, **The Rt Rev William Ind** at the College on 14 October 1990 at which a number of apprentices and permanent staff members were confirmed. The Bishop was also able to see his son, **AT Ind**, an apprentice at the College.

The Bishop of Grantham the Rt Rev William Ind with Apprentices and members of the staff on the occasion of their confirmation at St Albans Church

RAWSON SQUADRON
RECRUIT TROOP INTAKE 90C

OC	**Lt A. P. Scott**
Tp Sgts	**SSgt P. T. Waugh**
	Sgt S. Easter

A RECRUIT'S FIRST WEEKS
by Rct Payne

They say that Army life is full of new experiences, getting up in the morning was our first, followed closely by scoffing every meal in less than five Army minutes (10 civvy seconds!) but, hey, who's complaining when you see the food.

In the few weeks that we've been here our names have been changed to 'Hey you, you little thing you'. In fact, we've started to sign letters Rank, Number and Name.

Room and block cleaning is also new to us. In the Royal Signals Recruitment Pamphlet it says nothing about dashing around with a duster, decontaminating corners paved with dust. I'll be glad when the maids return after a prolonged strike!

Kit preparation is another new experience. When I first saw the ironing board I slipped on my bermuda shorts and dashed downstairs to the area map and looked for the beach. But alas, no beach, just a locker full of creased kit, an iron and two cans of starch.

Drill, the basis of teamwork and self confidence! After an hour on the parade ground being screamed at by our Troop Sergeant my self confidence was shattered and the team ready to repay one another for having their heels trodden on endlessly.

This is what Recruit Training entails. Ignore your Army Careers Information Office staff. But do join the Army, it's great honest!

ORIENTEERING

Orienteering continues to thrive in the College and to produce successful results. In the recent Corps Championships held in the Dalby Forest area North of Pickering the Permanent Staff team finished third in the Minor Units Section with **WO2 Palfreyman** claiming the runners-up spot in the M21 category.

The best results were achieved by the apprentices. **AT Boston** led the way with a fine performance on Day one to win the Junior Individual trophy. On Day two he was joined by **ATs Baird** and **Avery** to retain the Junior Team trophy already held by the College.

90B RECRUIT TROOPS SPORT COMPETITION

The 90B Recruit Troops Sport Competition was a keenly contested affair which included a total of six events: rugby, swimming, hockey, football, volleyball and cross country. The honours were fairly evenly divided amongst the four Squadrons, but Rawson Sqn emerged overall winners.

RUGBY

The College's fortunes at Rugby this season have been mixed. On the Permanent Staff side there has been total success. Under the superb leadership of **SSgt Collins** victories over King's Division Depot (18—0) and Comms and Sy Gp from Loughborough (26—0) have taken the College through to the quarter finals of the Army Minor Units Competition. Corps honours have gone to **Lts Bowers** and **Scott, SSgt Collins** and **Sgts Atkins** and **Tredwell. Sgt Atkins** deserves a special mention for his performance for the full Yorkshire side which defeated Lancashire 12—6 in the ADT County Championships.

On the Junior front the season started well with a resounding 40—0 victory over JIB Ouston. However, stiffer opposition was encountered against local Grammar School teams from Harrogate and Ripon, where the College was narrowly beaten on both occasions. On a brighter note **AT Sgt Lockyer, JL Cpl Davies** and **AT Janvier** have all been selected for the Army Under 19/Colts side; whilst **ATRSM Parr** has progressed to the Army Under 21 side.

Spot the ball competition: 90B recruits from Penny and Scott Sqns in the line during the Recruit Rugby Competition

The encounter of the heavies: AT Janvier and JL Cpl Davies face up to the scrum down against Ripon Grammar School

INTER SQUADRON DRILL COMPETITION

On a foggy November Saturday morning the Squadrons marched into the mist to compete for the Inter Squadron Senior and Junior Drill cups. The overall winners were Scott Sqn in the Senior Competition and Rawson Sqn in the Junior Section. **ATSgt Driver-Williams** and **ATSSM Anderson** won the trophies for the Best Squad Commanders of the Junior and Senior events respectively.

DINGHY SAILING

The College again entered the NEDist Dighy Regatta, this year held at Ripon Sailing Club. Team and individual trophies were hotly contested over the two days of competition. The College finished runners-up in the Inter-Unit team event, as did **Majs Hunt** and **Heritage** in the Novice individual event (despite leading after day one).

EXERCISE EBOR ALPINE

During the mid-winter Term break members of EL Tp ventured towards the German/Austrian Alps around Obersdorf. The aim of the exercise was to update Troop teaching methods in mountaineering and climbing as well as gain valuable experiences in new mountain regions.

Sgt Parker had climbed many of the areas visited before—but always on a top rope. Other members of the expedition team were **WO2 (QMSI) Rafferty, Sgts Allamby** and **Hayes**, and **Cpl Mitchell**.

On the climbing side much invaluable experience together with some embarrassing leader falls was gained in areas such as Burgberg, Tiefenbach, Fuchskarspitze and Sundenwand. It had been planned to do some grade 3 Alpine routes in the Gruntin area, but someone missed the bottom of the climb. The temporary mishap in map reading skills was quickly remedied with some trekking along the Hinterlanger Klettersteig, a long knife-edge ridge route starting at the Nebelhorn, as well as some mountaineering in the Hochvogel area.

As a result of the exercise the EL instructors have returned to the College even better trained to teach the Apprentices and Junior Leaders.

The Ex Ebor Alpine team at the summit of the Hochvogel with Austria in the background

School of Signals Blandford Camp Dorset

OP ABOGADO

During a recent Op Abogado, the Commander School of Signals, **Brig R. F. Baly** and his COS, **Lt Col E. M. Powell** hosted the USSR inspection team. Having a couple of hours free from the original programme, the Commander decided to take them to Blandford for a short visit. As the photograph shows, the team was suitably entertained by the RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Dave Hogben**.

The USSR Inspection Team testing WO1 (RSM) Dave Hogben on the use of the pace stick
Afternote: 'Marks lost for looking down'

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 19.

LS & GC PRESENTATION

On Thursday 25 October the Minister to the Armed Forces, **Mr Archie Hamilton**, visited Blandford Camp and presented LS & GC Medals to **SSgt Pat Gibney, Sgt Tony Heaton** and **Cpl Karl Britton** in the Blandford Garrison Sergeants' Mess.

SSgt Pat Gibney, Sgt Tony Heaton, Cpl Karl Britton and their families with the Minister of the Armd Forces, Mr Archie Hamilton MP after the LS & GC presentation

24 HOUR MARATHON FOOTBALL MATCH FOR 'CHILDREN IN NEED'

Sitting around the table at tea one evening in November **Sgt Terry Gigg** asked **Sgt Paul Youd** if they should do anything for Children in Need. After much discussion, **Paul** came up with the idea of a 24 hour four-a-side football match in the gym. At 1500 hrs on 22 November the Mayoress of Blandford, dressed for the occasion in a 'Children in Need' T-shirt, got the event underway. The games began at an incredibly quick pace but started to slow down after an hour or so. As darkness came the score was 32—19 when the first injury occurred. **Cpl Phil Cooper** was seen to trip clumsily and kissed the floor at about 30 mph, he was fined for bleeding without permission!

The pace of the game slowed considerably as fatigue started to take effect, **LCpl Craig Auld** was put into a sleeping bag as he nearly passed out on the pitch. **Sgt Paul Youd** responded well to the intense barracking from certain parts of the crowd, the Gazza-like forward, eventually won the crowd over with a breathtaking display of skills that would have graced any stage in the world (guess who's writing this).

No 19 Royal Signals Troop Commanders Course 22 October 1990-21 February 1991
Back row (left to right): 2Lts P. J. Abram (Philip), D. A. Craft (Dave), N. M. Deacon (Nick), M. S. Dooley (Michael), D. J. Duggan (David), C. A. Ford (Chris), S. T. Gillespie (Stewart), S. C. Goodwin (Sue) and Capt P. M. Kelly (Paul)
Front row (left to right): 2Lts J. A. Kennedy (Jason), K. J. Pope (Kate), P. E. J. Rennie (Paul), D. S. Robertson (Donnie), A. Sharman (Andria), 2Lt R. G. Strawbridge (Bobby), C. R. Sutherland (Craig), L. Tomkins (Louise) and Lt E. G. Wise (Liz)

Very tired Sgts Paul Youd and Terry Gigg receive an autographed football from Brig Baly, the Garrison Commander, at the end of the marathon

At first light the game had reached pedestrian speed, **LCpl Eddie Yates** finally getting into the pace of the match. After breakfast the crowd swelled again and new players arrived to bolster the chaps' morale. **Sgt Chris McQuade** made a good career move by blasting the ball into the RSM's face.

Midday—21 hours into the match, things are looking good when another first occurred, **Sgt George Murray** scored a goal—his first of the season at any level;

At 1500 hrs the game ended, as it had started, with the score level at 334—334 but it was decided that extra time would not be needed and the possibility of a replay next year will be looked at.

Other teams and personnel who took part were 30 Sig Regt who put in a few guys under **Cpl Scouse Horobin**, the WRAC contingent with **WCpl Jamie Jamieson** and **LCpl Sue Stackwood** were superb sports. The children of **WO2 Dennis Rutter, WO2 (YofS) Norman Wareing, Sgts Tommy Steele** and **Scotty Stevens** from FofS 59, Ptarmigan Section of Sys Ex Tp which provided the backbone of the players through the night. **Amber Cooney** from the Sergeants' Mess, **Sgt Gary Ledger. LCpl 'Taff' Owen** the Regimental Centre Back who is out of the game on crutches for a month after a swinging tackle from one of Rutters Nutters (his children). **Capt Cusack RM** and **CSgt Phil Wallom RM** for their support during the night.

Brig Baly the Garrison Commander attended the closing ceremony and congratulated all on 24 hours of very hard work, a good attitude by all those involved and a total of almost £2,000 raised, of which £400 was donated to Isle of Wight ASBAH, a local spina bifida charity.

2 SQUADRON (TRIALS)
PERSONALITIES

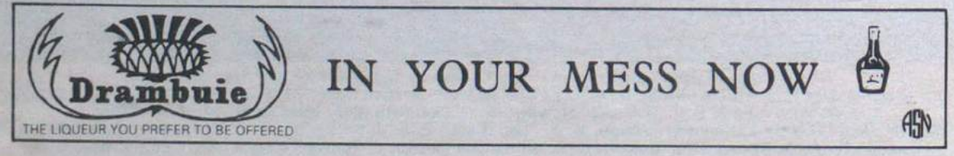
OC	**Maj Bob Holmes**
SO3(W) Eqpt	**Capt Lyndon Campbell-Black**

SO3(W)/Tp Comd **Capt Gary Mason**, TOT **Capt Alan Eames** (detached to Trials Div), SSM/SQMS **SSgt Dave Carr**, Sqn FofS **AWO1 Chris Fielding**, Tp FofS **SSgt Phil Cutforth**, Sqn YofS **SSgt Steve Bertram**, Trials Div YofS **WO2 Alan Oakman**, Tp SSgt Dev Tp **SSgt Bob Ingham**, Tp SSgt Trials Tp **Sgt Chris Rose**.

TRIALS

One of the Squadron's more interesting trials took place in mid-July. The first in a series conducted by the Squadron, its aim was to determine whether the SEM 80/90 radios fitted in the Leopard Z tank is interoperable with Clansman VRC 353. OC 2 Sqn (Trials), **Maj Bob Holmes**, was Trial Officer, aided by **SSgt** (YofS) **Dave Potterton**, on loan from Traffic and Security Group, Instructional Wing, due to the urgency of this short notice task. The remainder of the team were **Sgt Bob Ness**, technician, **LCpls Phil Spence, Rob Enderby, Sgt Harvey** and **Sig Smudge Smith**. The team left Blandford shortly after 1400 hrs on 17 July and arrived six hours later at Castlemartin RAC Ranges near Tenby, South Wales. To the astonishment of at least some of the team they were accommodated in and fed from the Officers' Mess, as most of the rest of the camp had been taken over by the German Army. After checks on the equipment the team retired for the night, making an early start the next day and working solidly through until 2000 hrs, carrying out technical checks and range trials. The team then set off for Blandford, during which journey **LCpl Phil Spence** is believed to have made history by being the first man ever to remain sleeping after a DMU had failen on his head. Arriving at Blandford at 0400 hrs on 19 July the vehicles were garaged and the team headed home for some well earned rest. The trial was a success, but was not without its difficulties, created by the need to set it up at short notice and, to subject the equipment (some of it sensitive test kit) to a long road journey.

Brig R. F. Baly, Miss Judith Ironside, Mr and Mrs Ironside at the presentation to Miss Ironside of the CinC's Commendation for long and devoted service in the Headquarter Mess



UK Sp Unit
SHAPE
BFPO 26

THE VISIT OF THE SOinC MAJOR GENERAL R. F. L. COOK

The SOinC paid a two day visit to the Corps in SHAPE. He attended a buffet lunch with the Officers, Warrant Officers and SNCOs, an LS & GC presentation, a Royal Signals Association dinner dance and an all ranks buffet lunch and so was able to talk to everyone.

(Left to right): WO1 (RSM) Greig, WO2 (FofS) Dempsey and his wife Wilma with daughter Carolanne, SOinC, Sgt Tepielow and Mrs Tepielow and daughter Corrinne and Lt Col Brewis

LIVE OAK TRIATHLON

The annual Live Oak Triathlon which took place recently was once again won by a UK team. The events included a Shooting Competition with the 9mm pistol, a 4km run and a 300km swim.

The day was well attended and good weather and slick administration further contributed to the enjoyment and success of the event.

Some notable performances were witnessed and the effort and commitment displayed by all competitors was commendable. Everyone who competed can be proud of their achievements. The prizes were presented by **Maj Gen Fawcus**, COS Live Oak (10th overall in the competition), and **Mrs Fawcus**.

Results were as follows:

INDIVIDUAL PLACINGS (MEN)

Winner	**WO2 (YofS) Grove**	UKA	RSGS
2nd Place	**LCpl Sissons**	UKA	Live Oak
3rd Place	**WO1 (YofS) Brown**	UKA	Live Oak
4th Place	**Col Wilson**	US A	Live Oak
Ladies Champion	**SCH Dieulesaint**	FR A	Live Oak
Best Shot	**A. D. J. Gazoni**	FR A	Live Oak
Best Runner	**Cpl Fellows**	UK AF	Engr Branch IHSC
Best Swimmer	**S. U. Pertler**	GE A	Live Oak
Winning Team	UK1		
	WO1 (YofS) Brown	UK A	Live Oak
	Sgt Leaning	UK A	Live Oak
	LCpl Hunt	UK A	Live Oak
	LCpl Sissons	UK A	Live Oak

Individual Winner. WO2 (YofS) Groves being presented with the Trophy by Mrs Fawcus

VISIT OF COMMANDER COMMUNICATIONS BAOR, MAJOR GENERAL JOC ALEXANDER OBE

The visit of Comd Comms to SHAPE was a hectic affair with the Commander visiting the many different Departments employing Corps personnel. The visit provided the opportunity for a Corps photo, after which we all retired for a buffet lunch, a few drinks followed by a briefing by Comd Comms on 'Options for Change'.

Comd Comms at SHAPE

News from Regiments

Reports from 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and 207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn are included in Reports from the Gulf on page 9.

201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 30

The past few months have been a period of great contrast for the Squadron. A lull in the exercise season brought with it the usual routine of vehicle maintenance, inspections and in-barracks training. This was followed by the frantic activity that surrounded the preparations for deploying 7 Armd Bde to the Gulf and the ensuing period of taking stock of what we had left. Now the Squadron is again busy preparing to go to the Gulf as an integral part of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

We would like to welcome **WO2 (YofS) George Greig** and **Sue**.

It is with regret that we say farewell to **WO2 (YofS) Boxall** and **Sue, Cpl 'Kaffa' Townsend** and **Rhoda** and to **Cpl Micky Brett**; best wishes to you all.

VISIT OF MAJ GEN J. O. C. ALEXANDER OBE

On Friday 12 October Commander Communications BAOR paid a flying visit to the Squadron. During his visit he toured the Squadron lines and spoke with many members of the Squadron.

VISIT OF BRIG M. G. TAYLOR MBE

On Monday 5 November Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps visited the Squadron. After a curry lunch in the Squadron club and some of **Maj Andy Forster**'s 'finest' table wine, the Brigadier visited all parts of the Squadron. During discussion he confirmed that we would be providing communications for Ex Summer Sales 91 but the Sqn Comd had a 'cunning plan'—son of Granby.

CONGRATULATIONS

We wish to congratulate **WO2 (SSM) Rod Whateley** who was licensed as a Lay Reader on Sunday 4 November. At a special confirmation service in St George's Church Hohne, the Bishop to the Forces, The Rt Rev **David Smith**, licensed the SSM as a lay reader in the Church of England. This was the culmination of five years of exacting studies in theology and is recognised as a degree level qualification.

OP GRANBY

When 207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn deployed to the Gulf much of the Squadron went to reinforce them. Just as we managed to reorganise and return to some semblance of normal work we were warned for Op Granby 1.5. To a man the Squadron has been working exceptionally hard to prepare for deployment and even the driving snow has not put them off. See you in the Gulf.

Visit of Comd Comms BAOR. Whatever they are saying he doesn't seem to believe it!

LCpl Paul Coates and Sig Nigel Shiff at Al Jubayl port

MOVING?

Have you told RHQ? Your *Wire* will be sent to your old address unless you tell us of a change.

212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 36

SHQ TROOP

We say hello to **Capt 'Nick' Romans, WO2 (SSM) Trevor Smith** and family. We hope you have an enjoyable tour in Osnabruck.

Goodbye's are due to **Capt Mike Shaw** and his wife **Bryony** who are off to Harrogate, and also **WO2 (SSM) Mick Gaffney** and his wife **Carol** who are off to STC Scarborough. Good luck to you all.

Congratulations to **Pte 'Taff' Mason** and **Tracy** on the birth of their daughter **Kimberly** and also to **Sgt 'Taff' Chappel** on his recent marriage of **Corrine**.

COMMS TROOP
TROOP PERSONALITIES

OC	**Lt Rob Meinertzhagen**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Kev Jones**

Tp Sgt **Sgt Geordie Rigg**, Tp Cpl **Cpl Paul Norris**.

Post Op Granby the troops have now combined so Oscar and Papa Tps have ceased to exist. Now that we have one large Troop, **Sgt 'Geordie' Rigg** has been moved from the Training Wing and joined us as Troop Sergeant. Contrary to popular belief he has now become **Staff 'Kev' Jone**'s personal assistant!

SQUADRON SMOKER

The Squadron annual review took place on Wednesday 14 November and proved to be an entertaining evening. First off were MT who took great delight in ripping into the PT sessions in particular various seniors, the SSM, FOS, SQMS and **SSgt Jones** all came in for the treatment. The MT Section are going to have some interesting PT sessions in the future if **Staff Jones** has anything to do with it.

Next on were Comms Tp with **Sig 'Edge' Edgley** and **Sig 'Geordie' Hepplenhite** taking off **SSgt Kev Jones** and **Sgt 'Geordie' Rigg** doing a surprise block inspection.

The final act was provided by TM Tp and was a dig at the outgoing SSM **WO2 'Mick' Gaffin** as Parade Inspector. **LCpl Barker** carried out an excellent impression and managed to jail most of his 'Parade'. Very true to life!

Overall, the evening was enjoyed by all, and the hard work that had gone into the acts certainly showed. Hopefully this will now be a regular event in the Squadron Social Calendar, much to the regret of some of the seniors.

CROSS COUNTRY

Each year we enter a team in the Osnabruck Garrison Cross Country League. Although our numbers have been severely depleted this year through Op Granby our regular runners **Lt 'Rob' Meinertzhagen, WO 'Bob' Pemberton, LCpl 'John' Fairly** and others made a team.

It performed well regularly in the Minor Units Competition. Although a formidable task we hope to close this gap before the season is out.

FOOTBALL VISIT TO BERLIN
by Sgt G. Rigg

Squeals of delight rang throughout the Squadron in November. Could it really be true? A swan to Berlin?

Yes it was true, we had drawn 43 Sqn RE in the BAOR minor units football and it was actually going to take place even over Op Granby.

The make-shift team huddled into the minibus one gloomy morning and made its way through the steady stream of traffic up to Berlin on Germany's first day of unification.

We were hosted impeccably by 1 RWF and after a short warm up moved up to the Brigade HQ to a floodlit pitch to play an enthralling match which was subsequently won by the Squadron 8—4 with a hat-trick by **Sig Kev Baber**, the remainder being scored by **Cpl Douglas, LCpl Kenny Mount, Sgt 'Geordie' Rigg** and **Pte 'Shep' Shephard**. A mention must be made of our stand-in goalkeeper of the day who normally is a rugby player **LCpl Jason Werner** (now in Northern Ireland) who conceded the goals, but got better as the game progressed and acquitted himself very well. (It's amazing that they allow him to play rugby.)

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2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
York

INTER SQUADRON SWIMMING
by WO2 (FofS) Steve Cadywould

Welcome to the Squadron, Foreman, by the way you are running the Squadron Swimming Team in four weeks time. After a couple of hastily arranged training sessions the team was eventually selected and turned up at the Edmund Wilson Pool in York for the competition on Wednesday 3 October.

210 Sig Sqn started the day as hot favourities after their recent success in reaching the finals of the Army Minor Units Swimming Championshis. However, a good swim by **Sig Gary Lovell** to win the first event (50m freestyle) opened our account and lengthened the odds on 210 Sig Sqn. The team went from strength to strength, with an almost clean sweep, filling the Squadron Trophy Cabinet with silver.

The overall results were as follows:

50m Freestyle	
Winner	**Sig Gary Lovell**
50m Backstroke	
Winner	**LCpl Carl Corrigan**
100m Freestyle	
Winner	**WO2 (FoS) Steve Cadywould**
4 × 50m Medley Relay	
Winners	1 Sqn: **LCpl Pete Doherty** **Sig 'Dixie' Dixon Dawson** **Sig Gary Lovell**
4 × 50m Freestyle Relay	
Winners	1 Sqn: **Sgt Jim Vincent** **LCpl 'Geordie' Crawford** **Sgt Paul Evans** **WO2 (FofS) Steve Cadywould**
Chain of Command Relay	
Winners	1 Sqn: **Sig Gary Lovell** **Sgt Jim Vincent** **WO2 (FofS) Steve Cadywould**
Best Swimmer 1990	**WO2 (FofS) Steve Cadywould**
Inter Squadron Swimming — 1 Sqn Champions 1990	

This was a very pleasing result, giving the Squadron a three and a half point cushion over our nearest rivals, 2 Sqn, in the CO's Cup Competition. Hopefully we can build from here, so look out the rest in the forthcoming Inter Squadron Basketball!

1 SQUADRON

Alpha Tp . . . The Players

Sqn Comd	**Lt Damian Hampton-Chubb**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Steve Greaves**

Tech SSgt **SSgt Martin Waclawek**, Sys Op Sgt **Sgt Paul Caygill**, and a cast of thousands.

So what has happened since the last copy of *The Wire* landed on the office desk? Well inevitably we have lost a few people. **Sgt Derek** 'squeeky clean' **Adams** has left to recruit in Coventry. **Sig Dougie Fraser** (now LCpl) and **Gaz Lovell** have departed for Germany where apparently their job will be to turn the lights out when everybody else has left. **Sig Tony Welsh** has left the service to become a policeman and **Cpl Neil Stewart** who thought he was posted to Germany found out that it was just a staging post for the Desert! If you get a copy of *The Wire* in Saudi (you surely will 'cause it gets everywhere else') the boys send their regards as you are now the Alpha Tp 'Man in the Gulf'!

There have been many arrivals in the Troop and rather than producing a nominal roll we shall just say welcome to you all.

OP GRANBY
Our part in its Downfall (Apologies to Spike Milligan)

'Well not everyone is going to the Desert but at least some of you are going to get warm'. These were the words uttered by a man at the MOD on a briefing for environmental testing of Ptarmigan before the British Army deployed to the Gulf.

So Alpha Tp deployed to the South to do 'environmental' testing of the kit. It could not have come at a better time. The Troop Commander had just planned an exercise . . .! Nobody knew of a barracks within easy distance of the testing centre and with that whisper **SSgt Adrian 'NRSA' Jenkins** was in there offering his full support. Fresh from his recent victory on SLMC **SSgt Stu Piddock** also volunteered. The team quickly took shape. It was decided to use tropical combats for the trial. Now imagine trying to get 30+ sets of tropical combats from the RQMS for an exercise in UK!

As with any venture out of barracks there were many stories that came out of our trip to the commuter belt most of which are not repeatable. But our roving reporters **LCpl Mark 'Reuters' Hobson** and **Sig Sean 'Tabloid' Filer** managed to bring us some news.

'The effect of the heat was more easily seen on the operators than the kit as was obvious from the behaviour of a number of the team. It was rumoured that **Cpl Andy 'Camel' O'Rourke** developed a hump on his back, obviously the result of the intense heat. **LCpl Steve Burrell** suffered days of heat jaunts in his central, much to the amusement of the team in the switch but got his revenge when the operators (**LCpl Mark Hobson** and **Sig Tony Smith**) had to work in the switch without the air conditioning . . . put in at 55°C and leave for one hour!

In a bizzare experiment to lose some weight **SSgt Dave 'Coco' Smart, Sig Sean Filer** and **Tony Welsh** modelled the new personal sauna suit (Noddy Suits) and ran around the chamber. It worked and all are now several stones lighter though I cannot see it catching on.

Two visits have been made to report on the effectiveness of the kit. From all reports there is no doubt that Royals Signals has made a useful contribution in this respect.

Members of 30 Sig Regt and 2 Inf Div Sig Regt who took part in Ptarmigan Heat Trials at RSRE. Capt Ken Clark was the Trials Officer—he is the one with his hand in his pocket

15 BRIGADE SIGNAL TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC Tp	**Capt Dave Hix**
2IC Tp	**2Lt Tim Wood**

YofS **SSgt Terry Burbidge**, Tp SSgt **SSgt Andy Snaith.**

Congratulations to **Cpl** 'Tommo' **Thompson** on his promotion and immediate move to Middle Wallop for his pilot's course, also **LCpls Laurie Askin** and **Andy Mardoch** on their promotion. Farewells to **SSgt Terry Burbidge** on his posting to London, **Sig Rich Wilson** to 16 Sig Regt and **Sig Larry Grayson** who is leaving us for civvy street.

EXERCISE MERLIN WANDER

The Troop left for the bright lights of London at 0200 hrs 25 October to complete an initiative exercise. After arriving at Chelsea Barracks the teams of five set off with their obscure list of tasks. At the end of day one it became clear that some members of the Troop had the gift of the gab, not only getting a ride in a Rolls Royce, but persuading the driver to pick them up and ferry them from task to task. Some of the more unusual problems included cucumber sandwiches at the Ritz, posing with models from The Sun newspaper, visits to Radio 1 and Capital Radio, the Telecom Tower, Scotland Yard and an appearance on a TV debate, to mention a few.

Thanks go out to **LCpl** 'Swampy' **Oliver** and his trusty sidekick **Cpl** 'Hosepipe' **Graham** for organising the exercise, which was an overwhelming success which we hope to repeat next year. And also thanks to everyone who helped out especially 238 Sig Sqn for the accommodation.

EXERCISE MARTIAL MERLIN

Once again the Troop entered a team in the Brigade patrols exercise, as well as supporting the Brigade Headquarters. As always, with Catterick training area you couldn't see your hand in front of your face. The competing team arrived late on the Friday night in thick fog and after a short 'kip' in the back of the Bedford we set off on a very long day of various stands dotted around the area. Most of the feats of cunning and initiative passed with a great deal of success and even joviality, and after a brief respite we split into pairs for the night navigation. Despite our advantage in knowing the training area we still didn't have time to collect all the checkpoints, this ultimately turned out to be our downfall. To cap a wonderful weekend we did a quick 4 mile run and gratefully washed up and waited for the results. After a bit of stalling, the results were released and we were sadly disappointed to come a close second to the QOY. Even so we were convinced we had given our all and we went home for a bath and some sleep. Thanks to the QM(T) Dept and 2 Sqn for the loan of the gore-tex jackets!

2 SQUADRON
AIRMOBILITY UPDATE

Picture the scene. It is first light and the heavy morning mist rolls down the valley. The landrovers and trailers wait on the landing point, the rigging strops covered with dew. There is an eerie silence. The men stand around in small groups, smoking and trying to keep warm. No-one talks. There is an air of apprehension as the months of training are about to be put to the test. The silence is broken by the gentle sound of rotor blades in the distance. Cigarettes are extinguished and nervous glances exchanged.

The tension is broken by the Sqn Comd as he removes the training video. 'Right gentlemen. That is the way it should be done. When we practise waiting for helicopters we must concentrate on looking the part—mean, moody and magnificent. Always smoke your roll-ups down to the last half inch, even if you don't normally smoke at all. **Jock McInally**, don't crack any jokes. We must get the image right. The piercing stare of the professional soldier. The strong silent type, you know the sort of thing. Right gentlemen, down to the sports pitches for a quick, posing before knock-off.' This is about the closest we have come to training with a helicopter, or a British one at any rate.

The Headquarters hosted a study period on the multi-national Airmobile Division. This involved a substantial commitment from the Squadron in demonstrating what facilities are available at the Main CP (they are no longer called HQs), the Fly Forward CP and each of the Rear Link Dets. It also gave us a chance to carry out some helicopter training with the Jolly Green Giant provided by the Germans. The lads from Falcon Tp did a very good job in converting a dozen or so box bodies and 18 tonnes of hessian into an all-singing, all-dancing headquarters. 'No Sir, the laundry is that way, just past the cocktail lounge.' Rumour has it that when the PVRs come through they are all going to work for Billy Smart's Circus.

Meanwhile Eagle Tp has been extremely busy converting GS rovers into all-communicating, never-flying radio dets.

The 2 Sqn Chapter of the Imphal Barracks Hells Angels was officially started by **Capt Ray Duffy**, having finally passed his motorcycle test. He and the Adjutant, **Capt Peter Holliday** are looking for new members.

The Squadron basketball team, the Imphal Globe Trotters, staged a glorious performance in the CO's cup by beating all challengers. The Squadron did not fare so well in the football competitions, snatching defeat from the jaws of victory.

'OK Woody. Left hand down'. Sig Howell 'guides' LCpl Wood into the Jolly Green Giant

Seen here are SSgt Stu Piddock attempting covering fire on the gun, with SSgt Andy Snaith doing an impression of a 2IC. OC 1 Sqn Maj 'El Tel' Canham wonders how the 2IC, Maj 'Wagi' Richards, manages to get into a photograph even though he is taking it. (Check the shadow!) The Gun Team from the DS had to assist the SNCO team, consisting of Sgts Paul Evans, Steve Gilbert, Les Colquhoun, Geoff Moore and H. Glean, on the live section attack range at Warcop training area due to the small size of the section. As can be seen the weather was not typical of Warcop and the sun shone all day

Capt Phil Castle, who leaves the Regiment for the Gulf, receives a card and leaving present from Mr Mike Blackburn of Rowntree Mackintosh. 'Anyone for a Yorkie?'

4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

RHQ
PERSONALITIES

SC	**WO1 (SC) J. Boyd**
ORS	**Sgt R. A. Pritchard**

Disc **Cpl J. Sharples**, Movs **WCpl V. I. Jones**, Docs **Cpl M. D. Garfield, LCpl R. P. Hanley, Sig R. D. Chapman, S. K. Hall, LCpl G. Gibb,** P20 **WPte D. L. Graham**, Manning **WPte L. L. Harvie,** Filing/Registry **WPtes K. L. Brookes, K. Manzie.**

The Regimental Open Day was a great success and over DM 240 was raised by the Orderly Room for charity.

The Open Day itself with the Orderly Room's 'Beat the Goalie Stand' was outstanding with **WO1 (SC) John Boyd** in goal unbeatable (even with the handicap of wearing a gorilla suit).

ARRIVALS

Cpl Vanessa Jones from Mill Hill replaced **Cpl Jill Portis** after four months in the Regiment. **WPtes Kirsty Brookes** and **Debbie Graham** have joined us from the factory. We also say hello to **LCpl Gary Gibb** who has decided to retrade and learn to do an honest day's work, and **WPte Manzie** posted in from Civ Div and stuck on the exciting job of Registry. Welcome!

CONGRATULATIONS

To **LCpls Hanley** and **Hayes** on selection for promotion.

COMMCEN

Big changes in the Black Hole. We welcome **SSgt Bannister** to take over the helm. **SSgt Bob Sleeman** moves into the Div Wavell Manager's chair, ably assisted by **Sgt Chris Willcock**. On the SCAN side of life **LCpl 'M' Barrass** has been selected for promotion to Corporal. On the sports front we let 'M' represent us at everything. We have put in a good stint dealing with the Op Granby flow of traffic, headed by **WCpl Tina Brudenall** who, in her spare time, runs the Corporals' Mess.

RUGBY TOUR

By great good fortune the pre-season tour, as if by magic, coincided with the Manx Grand Prix. As everyone is aware, the riding of motorbikes is a purely male domain and so rumours concerning the renaming of the tour 'Grounds For Divorce 90' are completely unfounded.

The tour party consisted of fifteen players—12 forwards, two backs and a wee Jock footballer who, true to form only managed to survive one match! It is true to say that on leaving the camp gates on 29th the majority of the team were destined to play out of position. When it returned 10 days later this had indeed been the case, but absolutely no new talent had been found. The tour was a great success: four matches were played, two lost and two won. Considering that over half the team were playing in different positions it performed well on the field. When the decision had to be made to accept the invitation to return next year, the answer was an immediate and resounding affirmative.

Match results:-

4 ADSR	V	Western Vikings	21:10
	V	Peel RUFC	48:24
	V	Douglas RUFC	10:30
	V	Vagabonds	0:16

Congratulations to **Cpl Glen Bedford** on receiving the dubious honour of being top scorer, **LCpl** 'Chad' **Challiner** for at least attempting to kick everything and **Sig** 'Bish' **Bishop** for being the only member of the team not to score at all.

REGIMENTAL SWIMMING TEAM

The Regimental swimming team displayed great promise, until Berlin. Having qualified for the BAOR Championships by coming second in the Divisional event, it was hoped that we would better last year's fourth place. Unfortunately it was not to be. Injury and commitments depleted the team, disastrously as it turned out. Even with **Cpls Mark Shrives** and **'Gronia' Evans** producing excellent performances and **LCpl Paul Ross** qualifying for the Army Championships as an individual, the Team failed to repeat the success of the previous year. However, there was some inspired swimming from **LCpls George Breydin, 'Eddie' Waring, George Donaldson** and **'Vincent' Saunders.**

Congratulations to **Sgt Mark Shrives** on his promotion and the very best of luck in 7 Sig Regt and well done to **LCpl Ross** who came first in the Army Championships in the 50m backstroke. Olympics next stop, or is it the Gulf?

ROYAL SIGNALS GOLF AUTUMN MEETING

The Corps Golf Autumn Meeting was held at the Sennelager Golf Club. There was quite a bit of 'chundering' going on amongst the competitors about closure of holes and winter greens etc, but all in all the 'Fighting Fourth Division' fared well in the prizes—**Cpl Andy Harriott** winning the two day Stableford Competition and **Cpl Hamish Hermiston** picking up a third place in the second days Stableford Competition. So, after three rounds of golf, and many handicap reductions, the scene was set for the final competition—the Regimental Greensome. This involves members of the same Regiment playing in pairs, as a team, for the cup. **Harriott** and **Hermiston** wanted to win this as they had been beaten by one shot a couple of years ago by 21 Sig Regt. The boys did the 'biz', beating 28 Sig Regt on a countback. (Another trophy to clean when Regimental Orderly Corporal).

Finally, congratulations to the Regimental Golf Team for their efforts in the BAOR inter-unit finals, losing narrowly (by one hole) in the final of the Plate Competition. Team members: **WO2 (QMSI) D. Delaney**, APTC: **SSgt J. Curley** 16/5 Lancers; **Cpls A. Harriott** and **H. Hermiston.**

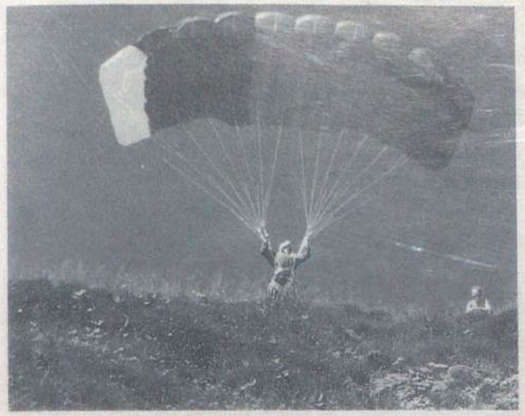
Cpls Hermiston and Harriott with the trophy

ARMED FORCES GERMANY PARAGLIDING COMPETITION
by Sgt Simon Tatman

The first Armed Forces Germany Paragliding Competition took place 15-18 October 1990 in Bavaria. Pilots from both the RAF and Army in Germany took part. I was the only competitor from the Corps.

The competition was split into three phases. The first was accuracy, where the pilot was required to take off from a 1,400m mountain and fly down to the landing site, attempting to land on, or as close as possible to, a landing target.

The second phase was a duration flight, whereby the pilots were required to launch from the same mountain and stay aloft for as long as possible. This phase also incorporated an accuracy target. Much to my pleasure I actually won this phase of the competition.



Ready for take off!

The third phase was a set course to be negotiated, again accompanied by an accuracy landing.

The competition was sponsored by Imperial Tobacco International and prizes were presented by **Mr Arnold Kanavak** from Regal to the winners of each category together with quantities of Regal cigarettes!

Paragliding is an up and coming official sport within the services.

EXERCISE WHITE HOPE

Exercise participants: Chief Instructor—**Sgt McCann**; Instructors—**Sgts Geoff Clarke, Latimer, LCpl Robertson** and **Sig Williams**; Students—**Capt Jon Dakin, Sgt Gaz Collins, Cpls Eddie Hedley, Fred Basset, LCpl Rob Read, Sig Shinky Slinger, Andy Clarke, Ptes Bob Lister** and Chef—**Rob Reid.**

Having assembled our happy group from several Herford based units at 1000 hrs on 1 November, we set off under **Sgt Bill McCann** for 10 days of mental and physical torment. The Fab Four set off from Hammersmith Barracks—**Capt Jon Dakin, Sgt Gaz Collins, LCpl Rob Read** and **Pte Rob Lister**. Following an amazing demonstration of local knowledge and 'short cuts' we arrived after 10 hours of driving, in the charming village of Neustift. The first demo the following day was how to steal a ski lift seat belonging to the person ahead of you. This was performed flawlessly by **LCpl Rob Read.**

Each day the students were put under the spotlight and took it in turn to teach various aspects or techniques of alpine skiing, ranging from the basic snowplough glide and brake to compression turns. This required a high degree of self control from various members of the group, who would rather have bashed bumps or had a powder frenzy than suffer the intricacies of the snowplough turn. Even so the high standard of instruction meant that everyone had an enjoyable time and learnt an enormous amount about ski instruction. At the end of each day there was always time for a free ski.

To complete the course the student had to demonstrate each ski manoeuvre taught previously on the course and was marked by three instructors separately. During this stage **Cpl Fred Basset** kept the instructors on their toes by using his random turning technique—15 stones of Ozzie moving in random directions at 25 mph does require your fullest attention.

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj Rick Barfoot**
2IC	**Capt Jerry Bradshaw**

SSM **WO2 (SSM) Alf Ramsey.**

The Squadron has had its fair share of commitments over the past two months, which has seen Ex Op Granby 1 and 1.5, Ex Sharp Ledge and the CO's Exercise come and eventually go. Accident-prone **2Lt Louise Tomkins**, from the School of Signals, attempted on three separate occasions to put herself out of action by falling off a bridge, in a car crash and by splitting her head open on Exercise, in vain attempts to avoid the Troop Commander's Course!

SHQ

FofS	**WO2 Smiley Edmonds** (RA Sigs)
YofS	**SSgt Phil Jones**

SQMS **SSgt Jim Pickles**, Tp SSgt **SSgt Jim McLachlan**, Clerk **Sig Jim Gray.**

DEPARTURES

Firstly, **Maj Rick** and **Cathryn Barfoot** who return to dear ol' blighty to join RSRE at Malvern. **Capt Jerry** and **Penny Bradshaw** (the newly weds) are about to leave us for a stint in Nepal. We wish them the very best for the future.

Also from SHQ **LCpl Sweeney** who has left for civvy street and **Sig Ian Hayward** who has gone to 3 Inf Bde.

ARRIVALS

A warm welcome to **SSgt Jim McLachlan** who joins SHQ as Tp SSgt and **Cpl Gaz Davey** as Tp Cpl.

PANTHER TROOP

OC Tp	**Lt Andy Williams**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Kenny Sykes**

Tp Sgt **Sgt Mick Watkins.**

Welcome to the Troop for **LCpls Andy Beel, Taff Howard** and newly promoted **LCpl Jason Tinnion** from 5 AB Bde and **Sig Jason Cade** from 1 Inf Bde.

Farewell to **Sig Ritchie Yeates, Tony Hinton, Will Wilday, Faz Farrow, Charlie Brown** and **Skippy Hinchliffe.**

Congratulations to **LCpls Tinnion, Dewar** and **Wilday** on their recent promotions.

CHEETAH TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC Tp	**Lt Mark Adams**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Nigel Varley**

Tp Sgt **Sgt Dougie Piper.**

Farewells to **SSgt Kev Jenkins** who goes to 33 Sig Regt (V) and hello to **SSgt Nigel Varley.** Hello to **LCpl Mick Newman** from Lippstadt and **Sig Darren Bird** who joins the team from training.

KIWI TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC Tp	**Lt James Giscombe**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Doug McDonald**

Tp Sgt **Sgt Kev Falconer.**

Farewell and bon voyage to **Lt Clive Cook** who leaves for Sardinia. Also to **LCpls** 'Smudge' **Smith** and **Skell Skerritt** who are both off to Krefeld. Au Revoir to **Cpl Pete Blagg** who goes across the road and down the hill to 2 Sqn.

Welcome to **Lt James Giscombe** who joins the Troop from 2 Sqn.

24 HOUR SPORTS FOR CHARITY
1 SQUADRON QUEST FOR A TEST FOR CANCER

At 1230 hrs on Thursday 1 November 1990 the three five man teams started the 24 hour sports for charity. The first two teams to play were Kiwi Tp: **WO2 Alf Ramsey, SSgt Mac MacDonald, LCpls Jed Halliday, Gaz Shilton** and **Sig Hobbo Hobson,** versus Cheetah Tp: **Lt Mark Adams, Cpl Eddie Leek, Sgt Dougie Piper, Sig Kenny Everett** and **Vic Fraser**, which started off at a very fast pace with both teams giving their all, then Cheetah Tp got a 30 minute rest and Kiwi Tp played Panther Tp: **Lt Andy Williams, Cpl Fish Fisher, Sig Lenny Hendry, Smudge Smith** and **Mark Yuill.** At the end of another 30 minutes Kiwi Tp took a rest during which they discovered that maybe the next 23 hours should be played at a slower pace. The three sports played were soccer, basketball and volleyball rotating every two hours to a different sport. At 0100 hrs on 2 November the teams gave a new meaning to basketball played at the walk.

It was agreed by everyone that **Sig Hobbo Hobson** had won the 'Golden Blanket' award and that **SSgt Mac McDonald** was in the worst state when trying to get up to play in the next game. By the three teams' efforts, the Squadron raised 1,000 DM for a very worthwhile charity called 'Quest for a Test for Cancer'. The teams would like to thank everyone for their help. Special thanks to **SSgt Henry Griffiths** and the chefs for providing an excellent service. Thanks also go to **Cpl Bob Dewison** who provided the medical cover and joined in the sports.

On a personal note, anyone wishing to find out further details of 'Quest' please write to: **Mrs Jean Pitt,** Quest for a Test for Cancer, Woodbury, Harlow Road, Roydon, Essex CM19 5HF.

2 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Mike Holman**
2IC	**Capt Dave Smith**

OC A1 **Lt Tony Picknell,** OC A2 **Capt Jon Williams** OC A3 **Lt Paul King,** SSM **WO2 Chris Calow**, SQMS **SSgt Mike Baron,** YofS **SSgt Steve Holt,** Trg Sgt **Sgt Steve Townsend.**

SHQ TROOP

The troop survived Ex Quadrant Command with a fair degree of success. The SQMS used the night surveillance equipment to great effect in the wildlife neighbourhood watch role. **LCpl 'Red' Fielding** proved that he could sell sand in the desert by running a stall during Battle Camp.

ARRIVALS AND FAREWELLS

We bid farewell to: **Cpl** 'Wally' **Walters** and family on posting to 16 Sig Regt, **Sig** 'Potty' **Porter** and family on posting to 207 Sig Sqn, and **LCpl Andy Cameron** on posting to 2 Inf Div. **Cpl Tim Miles** on his entry into civvy street. Good luck for the future from us all: and welcome to: **Cpl** 'Hutch' **Hutchinson** and **Sig** 'West' **Eastman** from HQ Sqn. **Sig Harmer** from 22 Sig Regt.

A1 TROOP

Tp OC	**Lt A. Picknell**
Tp SSgt	**Sgt Catchpole**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Martin.**

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Sgt Steve Townsend, Cpl Stan Staniford** and **LCpl George Breydin**, who have qualified for the BAOR Triathlon Championships.

We say farewell to **LCpls McArdle** and **Jim Parsons** who are both going to be airborne warriors, **LCpl** 'Tel' **Briggs** good luck at 2 Div, **LCpl 'Geordie' Pearson** on his way to 7 Sig Regt and to **LCpl 'Red' Fielding**, who after leaving the Troop two years ago has got a farewell gift out of us at last. We say hello to **Cpl 'Chippy' Wood** and his wife, **Gabriele**. Also hello to **Sig Davies, Birchall, Parry, Ryan** and **Roberts**. Welcome to Herford. Lastly welcome to **'H' Moorby** posted from 1 Sqn.

A2 TROOP

We welcome **Capt Williams** and his wife **Tracey**, and **SSgt Tony Doherty** and his wife **Sue. Cpl Blagg** and **Sig Elliot** from 1 Sqn. Last but not least **Sig Steve Wells** from 8 Sig Regt.

Thanks go to the outgoing Troop OC **Capt Jon Dakin** for running the Troop's maximum activities week (Ex Tranquil Quadrant), after a majority of the Troop missed the Squadron's Summer Camp. The week started with a thunderstorm at the local watersports centre. **Cpl Paul McGarry**, the organiser of this phase, was reliably informed that the Force 6 gale would not affect waterskiing and that our talented windsurfers would enjoy the good weather! Unfortunately the horizontal rain was not to everyone's taste, especially our attached Australian colleague **Cpl 'Fred' Bassett**. Our intrepid windsurfing Troop Sergeant was not deterred. **Sgt Gaz Collins** spend an hour spinning around in small circles following the instructions of some very talented armchair windsurfers from the bank, namely **Cpl** 'Ibbo' **Ibbotson** and **Sgt George Coffin**. No matter, we all enjoyed the barbecue in the soaking, windswept 12 × 12 tent—sincere thanks from all the 'scoffers' to **Karen McGarry**.

Against fearsome odds **Capt Jon Dakin** managed to get a small canoeing expedition to the river Lippe. Two reluctant canoeists from the Troop namely **Sig Neil Faulkner** and **'Plug' Rayner** were taken by surprise at their launch; a sealed entry from the car park through a hedge, into a narrow fast-following river 2m below. Despite landing safely only one managed to stay upright for longer than 10 seconds!

Thursday was the highlight of the week with an outing which included a visit to Cologne Cathedral.

We say farewell to **Capt Jon Dakin** and his wife **Sarah** off to 211 Sig Sqn, bon voyage!; **Cpl Paul McGarry** on the move to 7 Sig Regt and to **LCpl Neil Wellings** to 16 Sig Regt.

A3 TROOP

Farewell to **Lt James Giscombe** off to 1 Sqn, **Sig Ricky Barton** who went to the School of Signals after three weeks in the Troop, **Sig 'Geordie' Grassick** who emigrates to BATUS for six months, and **Sig Scourfield** to 1 'Gulf' Div. Fond farewell to **SSgt Kev Nicholls** and wife **Trish** who have looked after the Troop for all these years.

Hello to **Lt Paul King** from 28 Sig Regt banned from smoking in the office! **Sig 'Tilly' Tillotson** who has joined us from six months in the jungle with 633 Sig Tp, and who brought his own tribe with him, and **Sig Honeywood, Robins** and **Brass** from the factory. Also we welcome **Sgt Gaz Collins** and wife **Maz** from A2.

A special mention for **Sig Willy Scourfield** who received a most welcome return to the Troop after six months in BATUS greeted by **SSgt Nicholl's**, 'Your posting to Berlin has been cancelled, how do you fancy a 1 Div Sig Sqn one instead?'

The Troop is in new garages, so the parkas and gloves have finally been put away.

Congratulations to **Sig Challiner** on his promotion to LCpl.

EXERCISE QUADRIGA GALLOP 2/90

Despite the constraints of Op Granby, we were able to get the Panzers out of the gates for Ex Quadriga Gallop. Originally planned to take place in September, the cancelling of Ex Quarter Final allowed the area allocated to it to be used by the Regiment.

A cold October morning saw the Squadron 'smoking' out of camp with Main and Forward HQs bound for the Minden gap, with A3's rebros destined for higher climbs. The question on all our minds was 'will we return?'

The highlight for Main (A1) was the kidnapping and ransoming of the RSM's combat helmet by **Sig Stu Kelly** thus enabling the RSM, **WO1 Don Pawlow**, to get his combat kit dirty, the price being a meticulously planned panzer journey. Mentioned in dispatches from Main are: **Cpl Mark Hayward** for illegal parking; **Sig Shaun Essington** for his Olympic diving attempt from the roof of a panzer; **Sig Andy Ryan** for impromptu town demolition; and **LCpl Howard** for testing the strength of armour with his head.

Down at Forward, things were progressing speedily under the watchful eye of **Capt Jon Williams**, with help from 'ADAC' recovery in the form of REME, **LCpl Wellings**. On the final night **Lt Paul King** assumed command, he quickly demonstrated the art of setting off with a packet of panzers. In addition user trials for the Mk 6 Helmet do not, apparently, include being run over by AFV 439s. **Lt King**'s helmet is now a prime candidate for Shrove Tuesday . . .

The boys from A3 Tp had an equally exciting week. They would like to congratulate **Cpl Andy Harriot** for showing the lads the better side of his wagon. Also 'well-done' to **Sgt Gaz Collins** for doing such a good job on Rebro resupply.

3 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Capt B. F. Williams**
OC N Tp	**2Lt M. J. Hanby**

OC TM Tp **WO1 (FofS) Poland**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) Somerville**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) Woodger**, FofS **SSgt (FofS) Minton.**

N TROOP ARRIVALS

The Troop would like to welcome **2Lt Mark Hanby** from 16 Sig Regt and **SSgt Kev Nicholls** from 2 Sqn. Also welcome to **Sig Phil Dicken** from Catterick, **Sig Phil Graham, LCpl Kec Briggs** and **Sig** 'Chappy' **Chapman** all from HQ Sqn and last but by no means least **LCpl Pete Lgden** from 1 Sqn.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **LCpl Ash Williams** on his recent promotion, and to **LCpls Woody Allen, Mark Hurren** and **Andy Turner** on their selection for promotion.

EXERCISE QUADRIGA GALLOP II

The exercise got off to a good start with the move into the first location only marred by a small error by the 'pathfinders', **Sgts Dave Mason** and **Dave Shuttleworth**. Being the first exercise for a long time the cobwebs needed brushing off and we moved in and out of location again and again and again. Our first evening meal found the Squadron MT's true vocation in life as they became mojo's for the exercise.

TM TROOP

Regiment (FofS)	**WO1 M. Poland**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt 'Geordie' Merrie**

The Troop warmly welcomes the new Regtl Foreman **WO1 (FofS) Mick Poland** and his wife **Monica**. He has made a big impression on all the Troop but how could he fail to do so when he is 6ft 6in in height? Fond farewells to **LCpl Rutter** on his trip to the sun, sand and action and to **Cpl Paul Coxford** on a six month tour in Cyprus.

200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 41

EXERCISE QUADRIGA GALLOP I
by Sig Gilchrist

My second week in Germany and I am on my first exercise already. The aim of Ex Quadriga Gallop was to teach new arrivals in the Squadron the layout and the role of the Squadron. The first half of the exercise was slow moving, but this was not to be the pace throughout the exercise as I was soon to find out with frequent moves at day and night. The climax was a fast pack up in NBC dress State 3, an interesting experience.

During the exercise I was taught by my detachment commander, **LCpl Ashford** and the technician crew member **Sgt McGirr**. We all had an interesting and demanding time setting up the SHF equipment as far away as possible from the SAS/MC! I was quite relieved to see the end of the exercise—or so I thought—until we arrived in camp. So many things to do in such a short space of time but all in all I now feel part of the Squadron.

JNCO'S DINNER NIGHT

On 28 September, the JNCO's had their first dinner night. The guests were the Sqn Comd **Maj Mills, Mrs Mills** and **WO2 (SSM) Bolt.**

EXERCISE ANMER QUADRANT—PYRENEES

On a rainy September morning, 10 fit, eager, young(ish) men stood ready to challenge the elements by walking in the Pyrenees. The party consisted of **Lt Appleby, Cpls Pete O'Brien, Si Jarnell, LCpls Taff Lewis, Iain Sharpe, Alex Bradley, Darren Melia** and **Sig Mike Cassar, Warren Dockerty** and **Bri Owen.** The starting point was the Principality of Andora where the first camp was set up. The first day's walking was a real shock, we were led to a near vertical slope. The next two weeks saw us climbing up hills (Col de Port, Col d'Uscala) bigger hills (Pas de Escallier) and even mountains (Pic de Tristania). Most of us thought that they were all mountains but **Lt Appleby** assured us that they were only hills. Everyone knows that the Pyrenees is a range of hills!

The enjoyment of high altitude walking was enhanced by **Sig Warren Dockerty**'s unusual map reading skills. By the end of two weeks walking everyone was ready for a couple of days on the Med except **Pete O'Brien** who still didn't know the words of Wild Rover and **Taff Lewis** who couldn't manage a whole Grail. Everyone enjoyed the expedition.

'Climb every mountain'

QUADRIGA GALLOP II

The exercise was the second work up exercise for the new arrivals in the Squadron and a chance to change detachment commanders prior to the CPX season next year.

Alt Ops was commanded by the first timer **LCpl Sorbie.**

Comms Ops and crew carrying out light maintenance during a halt parade

ROYAL SIGNALS 70TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

On 27 October, due to the cancellation of Ex Quarter Final, the Squadron celebrated the Corps 70th Birthday. After a lot of hard work by members of the Squadron, led by **SSgt Steve Cleary**, the MT garages were turned into a Ritz ballroom. A good time was had by all.

WHAT A RIDE!

An eavesdropped conversation heard **Mrs Anne Mills** the Sqn Comd's wife discussing the possibility of her having a ride on **LCpl Ben Casey**'s new Harley Davidson 1100cc.

LCpl Casey and Mrs Anne Mills

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211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 29

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES
OC **Maj K. J. Hadfield**
2IC **Capt J. W. Dakin**
OC A Tp **Capt I. G. Lawrence**, OC B Tp **Lt J. C. Gillespie**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) R. T. Fairfield**, YofS **WO2 (YofS) C. K. Luckham**, FofS **SSgt (SQMS) M. Wood**, CC **Sgt S. M. Hayes**, MT **Sgt K. Baxter**, URS **Sgt K. Bullen**, ORC **LCpl S. A. Upsall.**

PARAGLIDING BASIC COURSE

The course was organised by Greenfields Paragliding Club and was based at The Royal Tank Regiment Adventurous Training Hut in Bavaria. The privilege of attending the course fell to **Capt Ian Lawrence** and **2Lt Chris Ford**. The training was designed to bring the novice up to the F1 standard. This adventurous training qualification is now recognised by the Army.

The course commenced with the theory of paragliding which unfortunately included 1,001 ways of killing yourself. Training was progressive, beginning with ground training on a flat field so that the basic principles of inflating (and more importantly stopping) the chute could be learnt. We then moved onto a hill and, after successfully completing each run, moved steadily upwards. Eventually there was sufficient lift to become airborne.

Soon a sufficient number of 'hops' had been undertaken to allow the group to jump from the 100m point. The flight lasted for about 30 seconds over a distance on the ground of about 500m. Whilst in the air we were able to iron out any steering problems and overcome the magnetic pull of the streams, barns and an electric fence! The week concluded with a flight off the Breitenburg, 1,800m high and with only a small landing area below. Take off and landing have, since man first flew, always been fraught with danger, and so it proved for **Capt Ian Lawrence**. A rolling stone may gather no moss but it certainly picks up a few bruises along the way. Luckily **Capt Lawrence** didn't trip over his feet the second time round and had an enjoyable and successful flight.

Everyone agreed it has been a worthwhile and well run course, and a useful introduction to a sport that is rapidly gaining popularity.

FOOTBALL

The Squadron has, so far, kept it's unbeaten record with a resounding victory (in the Army Challenge Minor Cup) over 20 Electronic Workshops.

It took us some time to settle into the game, even conceding an early goal, but with the relentless pressure of a keen, well organised midfield, it wasn't long before 211 equalised and then took the lead. The team never looked in any danger after that, with **LCpl Bob Downing** holding up a strong defence and **SSgt (FofS) Barclay** creating space up front for **Sig Grimes**. The team went on to a 7—1 victory.

ORIENTEERING

The Squadron has settled into its RP shift duties after the initial flurry of Op Granby departures. **SSgt 'Barney' Barnard** has prised a band of orienteering devotees away from the Squadron and has entered a team each week (usually a different one) into the BAOR Competitions. Clad in their 'silk pyjamas', bramble bashers and adorned with sticky tape and safety pins (a fashion peculiar to no other activity) they traverse the hill (contouring in orienteering terminology) in search of the lesser striped red and white marker, an elusive creature with a sharp and piercing pin-like appendage. The scene is reminiscent of an athletic train-spotters convention or ornithologists convention. Once spotted the red and white marker is soon surrounded by frantic observers. But the rare marker does not hold their attention long and soon the group 'contours' away for the next mark on its card.

The crucial event in this season's hunt was the Royal Signals Orienteering Championships in Rheindahlen. Last year saw a third place in the Minor Units event.

SQUADRON BAR

A donation of DM 3300 from the former 211 Sig Sqn Corporals' Mess towards the renovation of the Squadron bar has enabled an amazing transformation to take place. The revamped pub in 'Old English' style—to be named 'The Halberd' was opened on 9 November. Many hours of work brought this about and the Squadron wishes to thank **Sgt Kev Bullen, Cpl 'Smudge' Smith** and **LCpl Jim Sqain** who were the driving force behind the project. Old beams used to create the period effect were obtained from the most unlikely places.

7 Sig Regt
BFPO 15

THE FIGHTING THIRD SQUADRON PERSONALITIES
OC **Maj Wayne Wilson**
2IC **Capt Glen Harwood**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Mac McCluskey**, YofS **WO2 (YofS) 'Bamber' Gascoigne**, FofS **SSgt (FofS) Nev Smikle.**

COMINGS AND GOINGS

The Squadron extends a warm welcome to the following 'new boys': **WO2 (SSM) Mac McCluskey** and his wife **Sue, WO2 (YofS)** 'Bamber' **Gascoigne** and his wife **Isabella** and **Sgt Mark Shrives** and his wife **Corrine**.

We say farewell to **WO2 (SSM)** 'Dave the Rave' **Whiting** and his wife **Anne, Sgt** 'Sammy' **Cook** and his wife **Kathy** (congratulations on his promotion to SSgt), and **SSgt (SQMS) Paul Eyre** and his wife **Sandra**. Good luck to you all in your new units.

Congratulations from all the Squadron go to the Sqn Comd, **Maj Wayne Wilson** and his wife **Peta** on the birth of their daughter **Kate.**

A1 TROOP PERSONALITIES
Tp SSgt **SSgt Martin George**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Bryan Alexander**

We bade farewell to **Cpl 'Dicky' Bird** posted to 210 Sig Sqn, **LCpl Jimmy Gooch** to civvy street, **Sig 'Taff' Barron** to the School of Signals, and **Sig Rob Close** to 244 Sig Sqn.

Welcome to **LCpl Simon Manley-Hudson** and his wife **Petra, Sig 'Mac' MacDonald** and his wife **Nicola, Sig Steve Harris** and **Mick Parry**.

Congratulations to **Sig Sammy Lee** and **Manuella** for not postponing it again and finally tying the knot.

Cpl 'Scouse' Thomas, Sig 'Taff' Barron and **'Lou' Plested** three handedly won the best section award at Battle Camp, whilst **Cpls Mark Brown** and **Triv Trivett** commanded the best platoon thanks to their combat survival training by **SSgt** 'Chin' **George**.

Between HGV, track and light vehicle conversion courses, the Troop has managed to transform the garages into a near comfortable working environment thanks to two large space heaters procured from the QM's department.

A2 TROOP PERSONALITIES
OC **2Lt Darren Watts**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Jeff Frazer**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Geordie Shave.**

The Troop bade farewell to **Sgt Denis Morgan** (from Tongeren en route to civvy street); **Cpl 'Chippy' Wood**, who has returned to JOC Radio JCUFI; **Sig Justin Hender** to JCUNI; **Cpl Andy Moffat** and his wife **Gill** to 2 Div Fwd, Lippstadt; and **Sig Andy Stephenson** to JCUFI.

A warm welcome is extended to **Sig John Massey** and **Dave Evans**, both from 1 Sqn, **LCpl Geordie Pearson** and his wife **Gillian, LCpl Andy Green** and his wife **Janet, Sig Payne** and **Dave Perry** from training; **Sig 'Robo' Roberts** from 30 Sig Regt and **Sig** 'Jack' **Warner** who has returned from JCUFI.

Congratulations to **LCpls Craig Bruce, Keith Parsons** and **Mark Wilson** on being selected for promotion to Corporal.

INTER TROOP FOOTBALL

A2 recently hammered A1 4—2 at football, although **Sig Joe Bedford** managed to give the SSM a black eye when he volunteered his services to A2. But, in the end, skill prevailed.

The Squadron also recently played 1 Sqn, 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt at football and beat them 9—0. Will there be a rematch we ask ourselves?

5 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES
OC **Maj Steve Marshall MBE**
2IC **Capt Tim Cooper**
OC CLT **Capt Matthew Tresidder**, OC Comms Tp **Capt Graham Deans**, SSM **WO2 John Riley**, FofS **WO2 Gig Plumb**, YofS **WO2 Mick Dawson.**

CORPS LIGHTING TROOP
by Capt Matthew Tresidder RE

'The grenade arced through the open window followed rapidly by the first assaulting pair. With a burst of fire, the room was cleared and the rest of the section moved in.' So began the first training day in preparation for Ex Trojan Warrior which took place at Sennelager in order to learn the techniques of fighting in a built up area.

7 Sig Regt was to provide an enemy for 10 (V) Bn The Parachute Regt on an overseas exercise, Trojan Warrior. This was to take place at the German Infantry School, Hammelburg in the Bayern area near the village of Bonnland. The Regiment's input to the exercise was masterminded by our resident engineer, **Capt Matthew Tresidder** and his boys from The Corps Lighting Troop. Bonnland was requisitioned by the Wehrmacht in 1936 to be used for training in FIBUA techniques. The village is recognised as the best in the western world and is complete with church, factories and warehouses.

A party of 35 men, drawn from CLT, A5 Tp and MAN Tp left 5 Sqn on Wednesday 25 July and arrived at Hammelburg that evening. Thursday morning saw the force being put through it's final paces in preparation for the days ahead.

At 0200 hrs the following morning, the rumble and squeal of tracked vehicles heralded the arrival of the remainder of the enemy force. This consisted of a platoon of US infantry in Bradley armoured fighting vehicles. They displayed an interesting and exciting array of weaponry and 'chow' equipment and we quickly got acquainted with our allies from across the pond. 10 Para's enemy was ready and waiting.

Later that morning, the first wave of paras hurled themselves from perfectly serviceable aircraft. In order to inject a little enthusiasm, the Bradleys trundled across the DZ and herded the bewildered territorials into the Squadron's waiting ambush. What a welcome to Germany! The next few days witnessed sporadic skirmishes between ourselves and the company of Paras, whilst they waited for reinforcements. Firefights broke out around the village and the surrounding hills as we sent out a series of patrols.

The reinforcements arrived by parachute in the form of two companies on Saturday morning and preparations were made for the final attack. H Hour came at 1600 hrs with the Paras launching their offensive. Over the period of the next four hours we slowly drew back, fighting for every inch of ground. The section strongpoints proved extremely problematic to the Paras and they were deemed to have lost a good 25% of their available manpower during this phase.

The final push by 10 Para began at 2230 hrs. We continued to withdraw and settled into a platoon strongpoint in the south of the village. A three phase company attack by the Paras on the local gasthaus lasted 30 minutes. Somebody had omitted to tell them that the gasthaus was empty having been vacated by our boys some 20 minutes before.

The last stand in the warehouse was quite glorious with many of our boys 'dying' in a heroic manner. **Cpl Dave Boyd** and **Sig Bobby Pollit** were the last alive and are deserving of a posthumous award. Endex came on Sunday at 0400 hrs following an epic 12 hour battle.

A5 TROOP

The last few months have been tremendously busy and we have seen the departure of a number of troop members to places afar. **Capt David Whimpenny** left us at the end of August to report to HQ 12 Armd Bde. PB11 obviously hasn't ever received a letter from him—fancy asking him to do a staff job! Anyway, no doubt he will thoroughly relish the challenge in 1 Div. His place was taken by **Capt Graham Deans**, arriving from 9 Sig Regt and then promptly disappearing on the annual Regimental Rugby Tour of Wales—Yep, he's one of them—and rapidly becoming known as the Scarlet Pimpernel. The Troop also welcomed **2Lt Shaun Kay**. He only stayed with us for two months before taking over as Troop Commander of our Squadron poor relations—MAN Tp. Finally, **Sgt John Hitchens** has opted for the pressures of life in the Falklands.

Throughout the month of August, we were given the opportunity to show off to a number of visitors. The visits by a group of youngsters from Bedfordshire County Council and some Welbexians proved eventful. All had the opportunity of driving our armoured vehicles across country and seemed to enjoy the event. 'It's not as good at handling as a Sierra 4×4' said one portly youngster from Bedfordshire as he climbed out of the panzer. He was quite obviously more accustomed to making off with the odd flash car as a pastime.

The beginning of September saw us off to Battle Camp. The exercise took the form of an escape and evasion and proved how the average squaddie is still well versed in throwing the rule book out of the window and improvising. The locals were particularly friendly and the line—'I'm a poor helpless soldier being mercilessly pursued by a bunch of maniacs and I need some help . . .' served most of us well during our time on the run. With Battle Camp out of the way, we returned to sunny Herford and the preparation in support of Op Granby. In the event, **SSgt Steve Clements** took 25 soldiers from the

Squadron with him as part of this Regiment's commitment to the operation.
Finally, all members of the Troop wish to congratulate **Mark** and **Maggie Porter** on the birth of **Laura Jade**.

MAN TROOP

Earlier in the year **Lt Kevin Francis** handed over to **2Lt Robbie King** who, having then handed over to **2Lt Shaun Kay**, left for the delights of a degree course at Cambridge. At about the same time, information heralding the arrival of a whole new concept for 5 Sqn: women soldiers! OK, we are well aware of the fact that we are now no longer known as 'MAN Tp'. It would seem that smart Alecs outside the fold are calling us 'WOMAN Tp'.

Anyway, the first to arrive was **Pte Angie Parker** who was immediately supplied with a set of coveralls and sent out into the wide world of the vehicle park. Another glorious day in the Corps' history. **Pte Parker** was soon to be followed by **Ptes Julie Baird, Tracy Backhouse, Mickey Marshall** (no relation to the OC) and **Roslyn Holmes**. As a matter of interest, we believe that we can claim another 'first' in 1 (BR) Corps since **Pte Holmes'** husband—**Sig Steve Holmes**—is also a member of the Troop.

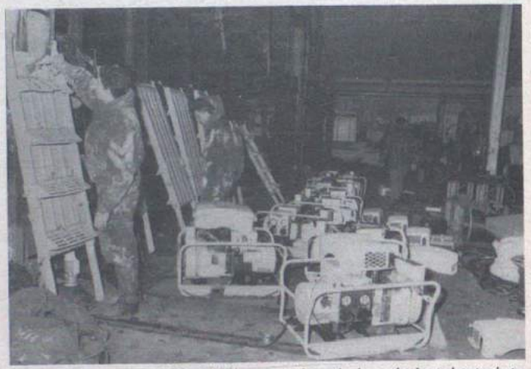
By mid-September, we were up to our eyes in the preparation for Op Granby and we all wish the boys who finally went all the best while they are in Saudi. **Capt Graham Deans** has now replaced **2Lt Shaun Kay** as our Troop Commander. **2Lt Kay** is now in 4 Sqn. Never mind, Sir, we're all sure that you will eventually recover! By the way, we don't keep sacking people here in the Squadron—just our attempts to keep up with an ever reducing Regiment in support of the latest 'push'.

OP GRANBY

The Regiment has been hectic the past month in its preparation to send over 450 men to the Gulf. The majority of those involved are in 1 Sqn, bolstered up in numbers by the other Squadrons. The Squadron has worked in shifts, 24 hours a day, in order to get all the vehicles prepared. On completion of the spraying programme, the vehicles lined up on the Regimental square to depart for the port. Strategically placed outside the Commanding Officers windows was to be found a Landrover with a windsurfer on top, reputed to belong to **WO2 (SSM) Walker**. The Board was promptly arrested by the RSM and taken away to be locked up in jail.

The Squadron Commander, **Maj Tim Watts**, is now putting the Squadron through an intense period of training, before they depart at the end of December for sunnier climes.

One Squadron lined up and ready to go



LCpl Ferguson and LCpl Villiers putting their artistic talents into practice

PLAYING RETREAT

The Corps Band gave a superb display at the playing the Retreat ceremony, held at Maresfield Barracks in October. In the dramatic lighting set by the Corps Lighting Troop, the Band played a variety of traditional music. The occasion was an opportunity to host a number of representatives from the Herford and Bad Salzuflen Stadts, including the Burgermeister, **Dr G. Klippstein**, and his deputy, **Herr Manz**.

REGIMENTAL WEDDING

The Corps Band also provided music at the wedding of **Capt Mathew Tresidder** to **Capt Sally Howe**, who is presently serving at BMH Rinteln. The service was conducted in the Garrison Church by the **Rev David Peachell**, and the couple were trumpeted out of the church under a Guard of Honour formed by six officers of the Regiment.

The Corps Band Playing The Retreat

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

EXERCISE VIGNETTE COULOIR
by Cpls Booth and Sear

Some have said courses at Catterick are a slow lingering death by viewfoil so **Cpl Rob Sear** and I decided to do something about this. We volunteered for Ex Vignette Couloir; an adventure training exercise organised by **Lt Col Charles Kemp**, Comdt Signal Wing, RSA Larkhill. The exercise aim was to walk the famous Haute Route, a high level ski route from Chamonix to Saas Fee.

After a long drive across to France by **Capt Ian Dudding** (IC Support and Logistics), we set out on the route. Day one saw us leave Le Tour at 0600 aiming to get to Refuge du Tour, a long day's walk away. By 1300 hrs it was apparent to **Sgt Taff Bayliss**, the day's map reader, that we could not make it across the col at the top of the glacier, so we beat a long and slow retreat back to Le Tour.

Day two we made it to the Argentiere hut, via the Argentiere glacier, led by **Cpl Rob Sear**. Next day we aimed to get to Refuge du Tour but unfortunately **Capt John Ginder** RA decided the route was too dangerous, so we headed back to Argentiere.

Days five and six saw us finally reach Refuge du Tour from the Champex side.

We finished the last day by walking up to the Vignette hut only to find it full of Swiss Army personnel on exercise. Once again we had to beat a slow retreat down the mountain.

The exercise too soon came to its end. Unfortunately, we did not complete the Haute Route but shared much friendship and camaraderie and learnt much about the Alpine Pennine area.

Nearing the end of day 1—a quick break outside the Albert Premier Hut

SLATEHEADS—(A Slate Climbing Course in North Wales)
by Cpl Wayne 'Airtime' Willson

The other climbers were: **Cpls Rob Sear** and **Josh Mainka**.

The Adjutant **Capt Simon Lowe**, a keen slate climber (slatehead), organised a weekend climbing in the slate quarries of Llanberis, North Wales. As we travelled along the motorway, we wondered what climbing some 'E' grade (extremely severe) routes on the smooth brittle rock would be like. Saturday morning saw us meeting the guides, **Ed Stone** (who had climbed a new route the previous week) and **Del** (a female competition climber).

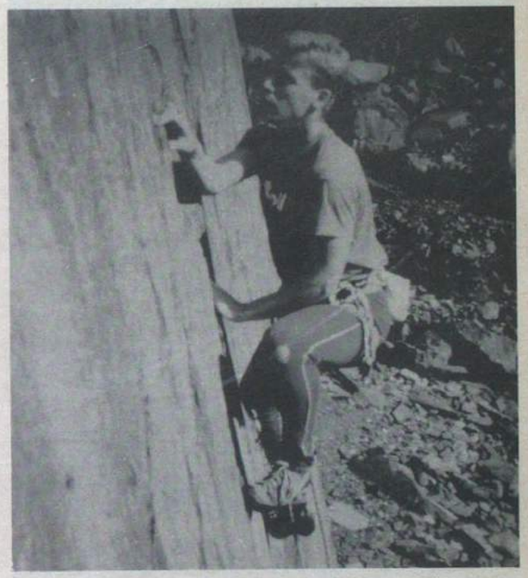
We started in an area called 'Serengeti', on the seamstress slab. I decided to lead Seamstress (HVS, 5a) (hard, very severe) an excellent crackline with 'bombproof' protection. Next **Ed** led two 'chop routes', the Stick Up (E2, 5b) and Unsexual (E3, 5b) which were interesting but required a long neck and cool head to lead because of joke 'pro'. Meanwhile **Josh**, a virtual novice, was being winched up some of the climbs. Now it was time for something hard so **Ed** climbed Slippery People (E2 5c), explaining the intricate sequence of moves required for its two cruxes. Could we remember them? **Rob** went first and did remember, then I went but had forgotten parts, so I struggled to the top. We were now quite tired so we went for lunch at the local cafe.

The day finished in Vivian Quarry. **Ed** 'flashed' Mental Lentals followed by the Monster Kitten (E1, 5c), an awkward slanting crack. The last climb was Ladder Resist (E1, 5c). Things looked ominous when **Ed** had to exert himself for the first time. **Rob** tried briefly but soon called it a day. The crux involved using two small edges as hand holds, one poor foot hold. The other foot hold was small and sloping. On the third attempt my foot stayed on the sloping hold and I continued to the top. **Josh** returned telling of how he had been conned into seconding an E1 but it could not be found in any guidebook! By this time all three of us were shattered, chalk bags empty and finger tips shreaded by the razor sharp edges.

The night was spent in The Heights in Llanberis where all the climbers hang out. **Rob** and I were looking forward to leading a few climbs and **Josh** to leading his first climb. Unfortunately the next morning it rained heavily so it was decided to tour the quarries using old ladders. It was an interesting tour of the disused mine buildings. An abseil down the vertical walls of 'The Lost World' showed where it got its name from. So ended a very enjoyable weekend which is recommended to any keen climber. We all look forward to a further visit.

Glossary of Terms Used by Slateheads

Bombproof	A good runner, or wearing a helmet when a five ton boulder is about to land on your head.
Airtime	Time spent in the air as the result of a fall—200 hours for a pilot's licence.
Chop Route	A climb, which to fall off is to crater and die.
Crater	To hit the ground, eg, terminal crater—to hit the ground and die.
Flash	Something you can get arrested for, unless you climb fast.
Joke 'Pro'	If you fall off, your gear rips out and you die laughing.



Cpl Wayne Willson leading on 'Seamstress'

GORDONS CUP 1990

The Gordons Cup was finally upon us and after what seemed like a year of getting up at 0600 in the morning, it has to be said that TTS were confident.

TTS A were to be the first of the TTS teams off but third starter overall, so we had to set the standards.

The inspection was by the RSM and a guest WO and seemed to go quite smoothly—just a little hiccup in the drill.

After the inspection it was the assault course. Everybody's adrenalin was flowing and with a full brief we set off over the assault course—nice and steady—only a few penalties, one being **Sgt Power** forgetting to use the rope to cross the water!

Next the Military Skills test and then the run on to the training area. The first leg we took easy to save ourselves for the end. In the middle of the run was the task of carrying 20 jerry cans of water 20m or so. Once completed it was off to the ranges.

Five shots later and a lot of heavy breathing, we were on our way back. All we had to do was negotiate a command task. Then it was triumphantly on to the finish and a well earned beer.

The winning A team was: **SSgt 'Taff' Williams, Sgts 'Andy' Slack, 'Woodie' Power, 'Gaz' Tinsley 'Thomo' Thomson, 'Mo' Lyons, 'Steve' Davis and 'Taff' Meaden.**

Teams from most departments in the Regiment participated. The experience and long term training of the cadre teams from the TTS paid off, in spite of a strong team from 1 Squadron.

Everyone must be congratulated on their efforts, not least the young trainees from 2 and 3 Squadrons. They made up for their limited knowledge and the minimal preparation with determination and enthusiasm. Well done.

Crossing the 'shark-infested river?'

PAPA TROOP

TP OC	**Lt Boyd**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt D. Henry**
Tp Cpl	**Cpl T. C. Allen**

The Troop has now expanded to 165 budding potential technicians, this has somewhat reduced the time spent on guard. Computer software, designed and operated by **Sgt Dave Henry** ('I am approachable') enables administration of the Troop to run quite smoothly, or so it seems.

On the sporting side the cross country season is well under way with members forming quite a successful Squadron cross country team. Defeat was a bitter pill to swallow for other Squadrons in the Regiment as 1 Squadron stormed into the finish to claim an undisputed victory. The inter-unit race, which took place over the tank tracks on Feldom was a different story. The general standard of runner was very high, however, notable efforts by **LCpl Kilgallon** and **Sig Sanderson**, to name a couple, enabled the team to achieve second place; well done lads.

Members also formed part of the Gordon's Cup teams put forward by the Squadron. Months of training and an excellent support team produced second, third and tenth places. That elusive Gordon's Cup is still not in our trophy cabinet!

In November 18 members of the Troop went to 11 Sig Regt for their JNCO's cadre, a two week course in delightful depot, in which the students took part in the BFT, Drill, Communications Skills (or lack of them), the BFT again, CFT, Command tasks and a three day exercise. I am sure most enjoyed the course and it did also provide a break in the monotony of classroom work in TTS.

Although he has been with us for some time now we would like to welcome **Lt Boyd** who joined us from 2 Sqn, a wise move. Also welcome to **Cpl Trev Allen** who replaces **Cpl Bruce Lee**, who leaves us on completion of his education, good luck for the future.

TANGO TROOP

Here we are coming to the close of yet another exciting and busy year at the windswept, bleak and dismal place known as Catterick. There has been the usual turn around of students. Alas the intakes seem to be getting fewer and farther between. Which of course means more guards for us lesser mortals. Don't let that put your future T1 Upgraders off. **SSM 'Butch' Cassidy** has come to the rescue. After a long and tedious battle, he has managed to reduce the number of Tango Troop personnel doing Regimental Duties.

SPORTS

Again the Troop has maintained its' high standard of achievements, winning all inter Troop sporting competitions.

CROSS COUNTRY

The inter-Squadron Cross Country teams took both the first and second prizes. With Tango Tp picking up the first individual prize, won by **Cpl Dave (O/U) Chapman**. Hurrah!

BASKETBALL

Again the Squadron had two teams entered with the A team winning, and the B team coming third. **Cpl** 'Chod' **Matless** showed everyone else, even the Americans how the game should be played.

INTER-SQUADRON FOOTBALL

The Squadron won the football after a thrilling match against 3 Squadron in the final. The team well managed by **Cpl** (now Sgt) **Wayne Ratcliffe** and captained by 'Fergie' **Ferguson**, were 3—1 drawn at half-time. The team showed true 1 Sqn fighting spirit and came back to win 4—3 after extra time.

Despite the doom and gloom of North Yorkshire, morale is still high. Good luck to all new born, and up and coming T1 technicians. Good luck too to all the Corps in the Gulf from Tango Tp, 8 Sig Regt.

WO2 Tony Palmer discussing the 3 kVa generator with the SOinC. The SOinC, Maj Gen Cook visited the Regiment on 1 November

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

FAREWELL TO THE MASTER OF SIGNALS

The Regiment was delighted to play host to the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL** at the Pass Off Parade for No 4 Troop on Friday 2 November. It was our opportunity to say farewell to the Master prior to his retirement.

This Parade was unusual in that back-up Troops were provided by No 253 Royal Signals Detachment Commanders' Course and our Junior Leaders from Iron and Kohima Tp's. The Master addressed the Parade prior to presenting **Sgt Gary Elliston**, Team Sergeant of the White Helmets, with his BEM awarded to him in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 1990.

The Master looked somewhat taken aback when he was about to leave the parade square and a Dingo Scout Car, (courtesy of **Lt Col Penn**, Army Transport Museum, Beverley) rumbled on to 'Gods Acre' escorted by outriders from the White Helmets. Somewhat precariously perched atop the Scout Car, he left the parade along a route lined by members of the Detachment Commanders' Course.

Whilst on his way to the NAAFI to meet the parents, relations and friends of the 4 Troop recruits, the Master planted a commemorative tree, salix chrysocoma (or weeping willow to the rest of us) and went on to unveil a sign naming 'Badcock Way': the footpath that joins Le Cateau Gymnasium to Helles Barracks.

After the prize-giving and speeches the Master presented **Cpl John Wardley** with the LS & GC medal.

The day ended with lunch in the Officers' Mess. All ranks of 11 Sig Regt send their best wishes to the Master and wish him well for the future.

Maj Gen J. M. W. Babcock and Sgt G. Elliston BEM

Cpl Wardley, Maj Gen J. M. W. Babcock with Sarah Rachel Wardley and daughters Frith and Charlotte

Cpl Patterson receiving his 'A' Grade award on the RSDCC from the Commanding Officer Lt Col J. Blake

Photos by Sgt Laffey

1 SQUADRON
CONTINUATION TRAINING TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Sgt Charlie 'Golf' **McKenna**
Cpls John 'Which hill next' **Wardley, Alex** 'Stumpy' **Craig, Alan** 'Foggy' **Dewhurst.**

The Troop continues its established involvement in community work and adventure training (coast to coast walk).

For 'Children in Need' fund raising the Troop paraded in fancy dress and proceeded to relieve members of the garrison of their money. Various activities took place from a 24 hour 'Ski-in' to **Cpl Wardley** having his moustache removed by our WRVS Lady!

CT Tp

3 SQUADRON
IRON TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC **Lt Pete Cubbin**
Sgt **Sgt J. T. Caldwell,** Cpl **Cpls R. Wallace, P. K. B. Brown.**

The second term has been a 'death by classroom work' event relieved only by an exciting week spent in Dent; the boys enjoyed every minute despite the rain which persisted throughout the week.

Meanwhile on the sporting scene, congratulations to all members who represented the Squadron at various sports, in particular **JLdr Vic James** for being selected to be Captain of Rugby and **JLdrs Huntingdon** and **Newton** for achieving good placings in the Cross Country Relay Championships.

KOHIMA TROOP

As part of the Junior Leaders Course at Catterick, Kohima Tp is giving support to Mayfield School in Darlington. **Mrs Dela Smith** is the Principal and has around 60 handicapped pupils in her care. The Troop is raising money for this school which will help train a team to compete in a disabled athletics competition. In the meantime groups of pupils are visiting the Regiment and taking part in a variety of activities.

(continued on page 42)

One piece of equipment our engineers don't need

SOME ENGINEERS IN THE TELECOMMS INDUSTRY HAVE TO WORK UNDER A FRUSTRATING HANDICAP.

THEY'RE GIVEN A NARROW, RESTRICTIVE RANGE OF DUTIES THAT LIMITS THEIR INVOLVEMENT AND STIFLES THEIR INITIATIVE.

AT MERCURY WE TAKE A BROADER VIEW. AS A QUALITY EMPLOYER, WE ONLY WANT QUALITY ENGINEERS, OFFERING THEM MORE FLEXIBILITY, MORE SCOPE, MORE RESPONSIBILITY AND BETTER PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT.

IN SHORT, WE REMOVE THE BLINKERS.

IN RETURN WE EXPECT MORE COMMITMENT, MORE INITIATIVE AND MORE PROFESSIONALISM. THE COMPANY HAS AN EXCITING, FAST-MOVING ATMOSPHERE, CREATING A FLOW OF NEW CAREER OPPORTUNITIES. OUR CENTRAL REGION IS GROWING RAPIDLY AND STAFFING LEVELS HAVE RISEN TO THE POINT WHERE WE'RE NOW A MAJOR EMPLOYER. AND AT MERCURY YOU'LL FIND SOME OF THE LATEST, MOST ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY ANYWHERE IN EUROPE - INCLUDING AN ALL-DIGITAL NETWORK BASED ON MODERN FIBRE OPTIC COMMUNICATIONS.

switch maintenance engineers

TO ASSIST IN THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF DIGITAL TRUNK AND LOCAL TELEPHONE EXCHANGES OF THE SYSTEM X AND DMS 250 TYPES.

transmission planning engineers

TO SUPPORT THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF OUR RAPIDLY EXPANDING TRANSMISSION NETWORK, RANGING FROM CABLE SYSTEMS TO DIGITAL MICROWAVE AND D.C. POWER SYSTEMS TO TELEMETRY.

customer/ network installation engineers

TO ASSIST IN THE INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF THE FULL SPECTRUM OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT ON BOTH CUSTOMER AND NETWORK SITES. SOME EXPERIENCE OF MICROWAVE COMMUNICATIONS, FIBRE OPTICS OR MULTIPLEXERS WOULD BE PREFERRED.

field maintenance engineers

TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY MAINTENANCE ON BOTH CUSTOMER AND NETWORK SITES, ON EQUIPMENT RANGING FROM FIBRE OPTIC LINE SYSTEMS TO DIGITAL MICROWAVE LINKS AND MULTIPLEXERS, TO SIGNALLING INTERFACES.

customer planning engineers

TO HELP CONVERT OUR CUSTOMERS' SERVICE REQUIREMENTS INTO TECHNICAL DESIGNS FOR BOTH DATA AND SPEECH COMMUNICATIONS. A HIGH LEVEL OF COMMERCIAL AWARENESS AND INTERPERSONAL SKILLS ARE REQUIRED, TOGETHER WITH AN APPRECIATION OF END-USER EQUIPMENT AND BUILDING WIRING PRACTICE.

CANDIDATES FOR THESE POSITIONS SHOULD BE HIGH CALIBRE ENGINEERS QUALIFIED TO HNC, HTEC OR EQUIVALENT WITH SEVERAL YEARS EXPERIENCE IN THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS OR RELATED INDUSTRIES. HOWEVER, NUMEROUS JUNIOR POSITIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR CANDIDATES WITH SUFFICIENT INITIATIVE AND SELF-MOTIVATION EXTENSIVE TECHNICAL TRAINING FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE BOTH AT OUR IN-HOUSE TRAINING SCHOOLS AND WITH MANUFACTURERS.

ALL VACANCIES ARE OPEN TO SUITABLY QUALIFIED APPLICANTS REGARDLESS OF SEX, RACE OR AGE.

POSITIONS ARE BASED IN OUR MODERN OPERATIONAL CENTRES AT BIRMINGHAM, LEICESTER, MANCHESTER AND LEEDS. FULLY QUALIFIED ENGINEERS WILL RECEIVE SALARIES OF UP TO £18,000 PER ANNUM. JUNIOR POSITIONS OFFER SALARIES OF UP TO £14,000. WE ALSO OFFER EXCELLENT BENEFITS PACKAGES INCLUDING PENSION, LIFE ASSURANCE, BUPA AND COMPANY VEHICLES WHERE APPROPRIATE.

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LESLEY SMITH, RECRUITMENT OFFICER, MERCURY COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED, 3RD FLOOR, MERCURY HOUSE, 61-71 CORNWALL STREET, BIRMINGHAM B3 2EE.

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1990 CORPS ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Regiment took part in the Corps Orienteering Championships at Scarborough on 3-4 November. An inexperienced team consisting of **WO1 Lawrence, SSgt Westrop, Cpl Compton, Sgt Hamilton, Capts Pandya, Windsor-Brown, SSgt Cottington** and **Maj Smith** nevertheless came seventh overall with **SSgt Cottington** becoming the Royal Signals Orienteering Champion.

Corps Orienteering Champion 1990/91
SSgt G. A. C. Cottington on his way to winning the Corps Championship at Scarborough November 1990

EXERCISE HIGH PEAK
ON TOP OF THE WORLD
EXPEDITION TO KENYA/TANZANIA

After the highly successful training trip to central Norway in June, 10 members of the Squadron left Heathrow Airport for Nairobi via Egypt Air and Cairo. A service aircraft was unavailable and the expedition had to use civil flights and without generous sponsorship we would not have been able to go ahead. The plan was to spend two weeks acclimatising at about 5,000m on Mt Kenya and then to move on to Tanzania to attempt Kilimanjaro, at 5,896m the highest mountain in Africa.

One day was spent in Nairobi buying final supplies before the party set off for Mt Kenya. The route chosen was the Naro Moru trail coming in from the west of the mountain and, after a five hour ride aboard a 4 tonner through Eucalyptus and Bamboo forests, the party still hadn't seen any Koalas or Pandas!

The first phase was a climb up the Vertical Bog into the Teleki Valley at 4,300m. The going was very hard due both to the conditions underfoot and the altitude and the whole trip took two days. The bleak Teleki Valley, home for the next 10 days, consisted of very sparse grasslands leading up to the rocky slopes of Mt Kenya itself. The mountain is an extinct volcano and although we aimed to climb up two of the highest of three peaks that make up the massif, a severe Kenyan winter had left the routes iced up and too dangerous for the party to attempt. The next few days were spent doing arduous walking and rock climbing at altitude.

Cpl George Rahman and **LCpl Paddy Maybin** were badly affected by altitude and had to return to a lower level. The rest of the party spent one day circumnavigating the massif including a very long scramble up to the top of Arthur's Seat with its' impressive views over Kenya. **Capt Paul Glibbery, Sgt John Howell-Warmsley** and **Cpls Egg Irwin** and **Rocky Bentley** managed an early ascent up Point Lenana at 4,985m, the third highest peak reached by a scramble along the massif ridgeline. **Capt Jim Wood** and **2Lt Ashley Hayden** went in search of Two Tarns but could only find one because of the heavy fog! **Sig Wiz Wiseman** was left behind to fend off marauding Hyraxes (a rodent like creature related to the elephant), the rest reached the top of Point Lenana in perfect weather a day later.

The return trip, in the 4-tonner, was made even more exciting by heavy rains making the track very slippery and the vehicle ended up across the track on the odd occasion. At this point it was decided to split the expedition so that those who experienced little difficulty on Mt Kenya could go on to Kilimanjaro and the others would return to ensure at least one peak was climbed. There had been three cases of potentially fatal cerebral oedema in the preceding month so we could not risk this happening to our party.

Cpl George Rahman and **LCpl Paddy Maybin** went back to Mt Kenya under **Capt Jim Wood** taking the longer and more scenic Chogoria trail from the east. The climb was taken slowly and none experienced any problem with altitude. On the way down, through the vertical bog again, reports reached the party of a lion in the campsite at the bottom but thankfully it had gone by the time we reached there!

The other half of the party set off for Tanzania and the expedition's ultimate aim—Kilimanjaro. After braving atrocious road conditions and an expensive border crossing, the party arrived three days later. The route was up the Umbwe Trail finishing by climbing up the Heim Glacier. The glacier was first climbed in 1957 and was described as a grade two ice climb. However since then it has retreated and in doing so it has become a much more difficult climb at grade four and the 10 hour climb became a three day trip! **Cpl Rocky Bentley** and **Sig Wiz Wiseman** stayed at the last campsite whilst **Capt Paul Glibbery, Sgt John Howell-Warmsley** and **Cpl Egg Irwin** made the climb. It became steeper with each telling of the story but they finally reached the top exhausted but exhilarated.

Everyone climbed at least one peak and the last party climbed a very difficult route up the highest peak in Africa. All members have now got enough stories to last them for a year or two and are rightly proud of their achievements.

13 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

RHQ PERSONALITIES

CO	**Lt Col A. M. Wallace**
2IC	**Maj G. R. Elliot MBE**

Adjt **Capt J. S. Lugg**, AAdjt **Lt J. Collis**, RSM **WO1 (RSM) Dobson**, Trg YofS **WO1 (YofS) McMahon**, Chief Clerk **WO2 (ORQMS) Armitage.**

1 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj R. W. Mansfield MBE**
YofS	**SSgt P. Barrett**

1 SQUADRON
ALPHA AND CHARLIE TROOPS
OC A & C Tp **Lt Tony Clark.**

Alpha Troop
Tp WO **WO2 Brian Thompson**, Tp SSgt **SSgt Taff Clancey**, Tp SSgt **Sgts Frank Dalton** and **Shane Knight.**

Royal Signals Detachment Commanders Course 7/90

Charlie Troop
WO2 Tom Hannon, SSgt Jock Dengate, Sgts Joe Jordan and **Steve McInally.**

ALPHA TROOP'S BOWLING AFTERNOON

A strange time to hold a troop 'get together', but the afternoon it was; no drinking either at RAF Wilders!

WO2 Brian Thompson arrived a little early (one and a half hours early) to get in some serious practice before taking on the might of the singlies.

Yes, you have guessed, the pads took on the singlies. A couple of warm up and team selection rounds took place first. **Lt Tony Clark** and **Sgt Shane Knight** were in impressive form, having their own private battle.

Finally the pads select team took the form of **Lt Tony Clark, WO2 Brian Thompson, Sgt Shane Knight** and **LCpl Gaz Campbell**. The mighty singlies were **LCpls Johnny Briggs, Sly Ellaway, LCpl** 'Spider' **Webb** and **Sig** 'Gravy' **Browning.**

Unfortunately the pads were in good fettle and stormed into a commanding early lead which the singlies just could not overcome. Well, maybe next time singlies.

Oh! a special mention must go to **Sgt Frank Dalton** who managed after much practice, not only to keep the ball in his own lane, but managed one or two strikes!

CHARLIE TROOP'S SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS

Charlie Tp took on the might of 2 Sqn in the form of K Troop in the final of the softball championship which had been running for what seemed an eternity.

K Troop captained by **Jack Bundy** were firm favourites for the match, but C Troop skippered by **Sgt Joe Jordan** had other ideas.

With two of the regulars out, **WO2 Hannon** with ball injuries and **SSgt Jock Dengate** on a resettlement course, the team looked to their new pitcher **Lt Tony Clark** for inspiration. It came at the end of the first innings when the C Troop batsmen totally demoralised K Troop, from then on it was just a formality. **LCpl Rolly Evans** hit his first home run of the series while **LCpl Shep Shepard** 'stumped' (if that's the right team) numerous K Troop personalities at first base.

The troop paraded, took its trophy and then took on the more serious responsibility of celebrating.

WELCOMES, FAREWELLS AND CONGRATS

A few 'newish' arrivals are: **LCpls Gaz Campbell, John Chambers, Rich Coutts, Rich Fox** and **Neil Wakefield.**

A special mention and congratulations to **LCpl Aidie Bakes** and his wife **Samantha** on the arrival of their baby daughter.

Farewells to **Cpl Al McPhail, LCpls Campbell, Lee Bourne** and **Al Smith**, good luck in your new postings!

D TROOP

When a member of the Troop leaves on posting, it is normal to confiscate his beret, soak it in water, freeze it for several hours then return it to the owner. **WO2 Dyer** knew the form and he kept his beret well hidden. However, a member of the Troop spotted a beret on **WO2 Dyer**'s desk, assumed it was his, grabbed it, and nipped down to the cookhouse where it was baked in a pie. This Beret pie was then at the end of his last shift, duly presented to **WO2 'Spy' Dyer** who thoroughly enjoyed the prank in the knowledge that it was not his beret. The SSM **WO2 John Clark** had visited **WO2 Dyer** for a farewell chat that morning and had accidently left his beret behind—say no more!

The SSM almost had a mental breakdown, the lads are keeping a low profile.

COMMS TROOP

Tp Sgt **Sgt D. Piggott**, Shift Supvrs **Cpl R. Hallam, WSgt S. Connery, Sgts P McSorley** and **Sgt P. Garside.**

On the sporting scene, two of our girls, **LCpl Terry Lees** and **Pte Fiona Brotherton**, have been to the UK for the WRAC Swimming Championships and **Cpl Evans** with **LCpl Tracey Gooding** have represented the Regiment in the WRAC seven-a-side Hockey Competition.

A group consisting of **Sgts Dave Piggott, Phil McSorley, Cpl Lyn Brooking, LCpls Paula Batty, Adrian Batty, Ros Rennie, Ptes Sandra Rowley, Tracey Barton** and **LCpl** (now Mrs) **Jayne Meldrum** all took part in the Rheindahlen Marches and raised DM400 for Regimental Charities. Well Done.

Comms Tp at the Rheindahlen Marches
Back Row: WLCpl Batty, LCpl Batty, WLCpl Rennie, WPtes Rowley, Barton and Sgt Piggott
Kneeling Front: Sgt McSorley, WLCpls Meldrum and Brooking

ARRIVALS

Welcome to **Cpls Holdcroft, Hallam, LCpl Reggler, Ptes Thomas** and **Gunn.**

DEPARTURES

Farewell to **LCpls Vaughan, Meldrum** and **Cpl Evans.** Good luck!

3 SQUADRON

Following German unification and other momentous events in 1990 the Squadron looks forward to 1991 with much optimism.

VISITORS

The Squadron warmly welcomed all our visitors including our new Comd Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen J. O. C. Alexander OBE.**

SPORT
FOOTBALL

The season started well, with the Squadron team placed top of the Berlin Minor Units League. Having taken maximum points from our first four games and fielding our strongest team for some years we are confident of challenging our greatest rivals—the late Berlin HQ and Sig Regt. Notable performers this season are **Cpl Nobby Clark** and sweeper **Sgt Jock Fraser.**

HOCKEY

Our Hockey team remains firm favourites to win the Berlin Hockey League. We have performed well in pre-season friendlies and there seems little to bar us from a successful 1990/91 season. We welcome into our midst new players **Capt Ron Clay** and **LCpl Towny Townsend**.

ORIENTEERING

An excellent all round performance from the Squadron Orienteering team to date. Having now completed all league races it has reached an all time peak, winning, hands down, the Berlin Brigade Minor Units Team Trophy for the fourth year in succession. Thanks go to **SSgt Mick Smart** for his devotion and the team: **Maj Peter Williams, WO2 Dickie Pickup, SSgts Shane Overton, Paul Yeoman, Sgts Ewen Hall, Gary Bateman** and **Cpl Shane Wright.**

14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 23

PERSONALITIES
CO — **Lt Col J. M. Shaw MBE**
2IC — **Maj R. A. R. Hancock**
Adjt **Capt R. G. C. Sparshatt**, AAdjt **Capt F. A. Forster**, OC 1 Sqn **Maj S. J. Turpin**, OC 2 Sqn **Maj J. M. Gale**, OC 3 Sqn **Maj B. Hewitt**, OC HQ Sqn **Maj (QM) A. M. Boyle**, RSM **WO1 (RSM) J. C. Tepielow**.

QUARTERMASTER (TECHNICAL)
PERSONALITIES
QM — **Maj A. M. Boyle**
RQMS — **WO2 Pete Reynolds**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Mac MacKenzie**, Office Manager **Sgt Tony Knight**, Staff, Cpls Adi Lines **Phill Latimer, Elmo Elwood, LCpls John Dunning, Des Finney, Sig Darren Whittington, Mr Alex McMinn Mr Robin Gypps**.

EXERCISE BOYLES BUNION
The Department had two long weekends adventure training at Torfhaus in the Harz. A lovely spot which is central for most activities; climbing, potholing, pony trekking etc. Unfortunately we did none of these! Instead we windsurfed and participated in a long but most enjoyable trek.

The weather was superb and ideal for windsurfing on both occasions and **WO2 Pete Reynolds** insisted that everyone collided with each other before learning the true art of windsurfing! The QM was the best—at falling in that is! But the real star was **Sig Darren Whittington** who proved to have an aptitude for the sport.

After a day's surfing and walking it was good to come back to a good barbecue which everyone helped to prepare.

The Department enjoyed two very good weekends.

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES
We welcome **Sgt Tony Knight** and his wife **Janet** to the fold. He has just returned from a second tour in the Falklands. **Cpl Phil Latimer** and his wife **Sue** from Afcent and congratulations to them on the birth of their daughter **Charlotte**. Finally we welcome **Cpl Elma Elwood** from Northern Ireland. We wish them luck in their tour with us.

We say farewell to **Sig Darren Whittington** who is off to Belize before leaving the Army. We wish him well in his new career.

TM TROOP
PERSONALITIES
TOT — **Capt G. A. West**
FofS — **WO1 (FofS) P. Martin**
Tp SSgt **SSgt M. Holland**.

Ex Sweaty Palm, the Regimental Escape and Evasion exercise was held in September and TM Tp was represented by **Sgts George Lazenby, John Brockman, Cpl Harry Arundel** and **LCpl Mark Wilson**. All survived the intense hardship and deprivation and are now back in the fold.

On the adventure training front **Sgt Mark Yates** has been passing on his canoeing expertise to 1 Sqn, while **Sgts Bob King** and **Mark Yates** (again!) spent an enjoyable 10 days sailing in the Baltic.

The Troop welcomed **Capt Gavin West** from FI and **Katy, Sgt Paddy Paddison** and **Wendy** from 8 Sig Regt, and bade farewell to **Capt Paul Cross** and **Karen** who leave us for the joys of Rheindahlen, **Sgt George Pendrich** and **Brenda** to civilian life and **Cpl Charlie Brown** to a T1 course and **Tracey**. We wish them every success for the future.

TRAINING WING
PERSONALITIES
WOIC — **WO2 John Sherwood**
Trg SNCO — **SSgt Alan Jarwood**
Trg (YofS) **SSgt (YofS) Dave Thomas**, Trg Sgt **Sgt Steve Cooper**, Clerk **LCpl Mike Smith**, YTS **Nadine Webb**.

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES
We would like to extend a hearty welcome to **LCpl Mike Smith** who joined us from Ops and also our brand new YTS **Nadine Webb**, we wish them both well during their time with us.

We say farewell to **SSgt Alan Jarwood** and **YofS Dave Thomas. Alan** moves to 22 Sig Regt. **YofS Dave Thomas** goes to Civvy Street where hopefully he will make his fortune; good luck and thanks for all the hard work.

1 SQUADRON
SHQ PERSONALITIES
OC — **Maj Steve Turpin**
2IC — **Capt John Stuart**
SSM **WO2 Phil Abbott**, YofS **SSgt Monty Montgomery**, FofS **SSgt Chris Tyson**, SQMS **SSgt Grant Pocock**, Trg SNCO **SSgt Steve Barnes**.

EXERCISE MOUFLON DIAMOND
A weeks adventure training in Bavaria? It sounded like a good introduction to the Regiment.

Mountain biking consisted of slinging your bike over your shoulder and carrying it for a few hours up torturous hills led by **Lt 'Mad' Mutter**. Canoeing down glacial white water in October without wet suits was exhilarating!

The Klettersteig, an extremely sharp! ridge walk, was approached with much trepidation and even the cable car proved almost too much for **LCpl Hill**. Hill walking was positively relaxing after the rigours of crossing metal girders at 3,000m.

The fifth activity on offer was climbing/abseiling in the company of **Sgt** 'Spiderman' **Sloane** with **Cpl Dyson** as official photographer. A good week was had by all!

ROMEO TROOP
OC — **Capt Lance Mitchell**
2IC — **Lt Max Lothian**
Ops WO **WO2 Cas Hayes**, Trg SNCO **SSgt Eric Clee**, Tp Sgt **SSgt Den Morris**, MT NCO **Cpl John McKillop**, Stores NCO **Cpl Alan Evans**.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES
The Troop welcomes **Sgts John McConnon** and **Vass** and his wife **Ann**, hello also to **LCpls Al Griffiths** and **Tel Gardiner**—welcome to the real world where we work for a living! Welcome to **Sgt** 'monkey' **Morris** and his wife **Lynn**, and **Cpl Kev Jones** and his wife **Dee**, from other Troops in the Regiment. Goodbye and thanks to **Cpl Mick McManus**. Congratulations to **LCpl Simon Carter** and **Michaela** on the birth of their son **Geoffrey Ian**, and **Sgt Gareth Hicks** and **Louise** on the birth of their daughter **Bethan**.

VICTOR TROOP
Tp OC — **Lt Paul Bliss**
Tp 2IC — **WO2 George Dewar**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Paddy Shiels**.

There is never a dull moment here with the Troop participating in a variety of tasks since we last reported. In October the Troop Ex Autumn Victory gave us the chance to run through some aspects of military training, eg NBC, Weapon Handling, Map Reading, Range Work and Night Navigation to name but a few. We also partook in some leisure activities in the Harz Mountains, and a Troop 'shopping' trip to Magdeburg which proved to be a real eye-opener for all. The exercise ended on a high note with a visit to a local brewery, where we expressed our delight with the beer in the time honoured fashion.

The Squadron deployment Ex First Choice gave us all the chance to blow away the cobwebs and remind ourselves about operating in the field. It also gave our new members a chance to familiarise themselves with the workings of a Forward EW Troop. The Troop OC **Lt Paul Bliss** kept to tradition by winning the golden maggot award.

DETACHMENTS
We would like to wish **Cpl Rev Harding** (FI), **Cpl Pete Dowdell** (Belize), **Cpl Cliff Buckley** (MOD), **Cpl Steve Reed-Forrester** (NI) and **Sig Benny Hill** (UN) a happy and pleasant tour away from the fold.

HELLOS
Hello and welcome to our new members, **Cpl Wicksy Whittaker** and wife **Kay, LCpl Bod Boddison** and his wife **Kerry, LCpl Neil Merritt** and **Sig Carl Klein** hope you enjoy your tours.

GOODBYES
We bade farewell and good luck to, **Cpls Richardson, Tom Morris, LCpls Chinny Masters, John Badger, Glyn Cartmell, Sig Chalky White** and his wife **Sue** and **Sig Craig Fisher**.

CONGRATULATIONS
To all of those selected for promotion **Cpl Cliff Buckley, LCpls Keith Barber, John Berrey** and **Cpl** (now Sgt) Scouse **Edwards** now residing in SHQ.

WHISKY TROOP
OC — **Lt Nick Mutter**
2IC — **SSgt Tam Malley**
The highlight of the last couple of months for the Troop was Ex Mouflon Diamond. The exercise consisted of a combination of hill walking, canoeing, rock climbing and mountain biking. However despite all these vigorous and healthy activities time was found for a few beers and a good time.

Meanwhile the Troop has seen a number of changes. All members of the Troop congratulate **Mick Proud, Jez Clarke** and 'Cookie' **Cook** on their promotion to Corporal. We also extend our best wishes to **WO2 Jock Douglas** on his posting to Australia and **SSgts Davidson** and **Strefford** on their transfers to 3 Sqn and HQ Sqn. Also welcome to **LCpls Wood** and **Rainsley**.

Finally we will shortly be saying farewell to our intrepid OC **Lt Nick Mutter** who is leaving us after two years. It may be noted that on his farewell night out with the Troop a member of the local canine community struck a blow for Anglo-German relations by biting him! To our new OC **2Lt Clare Holdsworth** we extend a hearty welcome and hope she enjoys her stay.

X-RAY TROOP
OC — **Capt Paul Peel**
2IC — **WO2 Mick Martin**
Admin SNCO **SSgt Alan Balderstone**.

Over the last few months, X Troop has seen a turnover of personnel with those remaining wishing a fond farewell to the following: **SSgt Mick Strefford** (to 3 Sqn via W Troop), **Cpl Colwell** to Civ Div, **Cpl** 'Black Bob' **Wright, LCpls Ian Bailey, Nora Batty, Tom Moran**, all on posting and **Sig Johnston** to Yippee Troop.

New arrivals are **SSgt Allan Balderstone, LCpl Willumsen, Sig Frankie Vaughan, Bob Wilson** and 'Gibbo' **Gibbs**. Three members of the Troop are shortly to depart on detachments, **LCpls JJ Williams** and **Tommo Thomas** are going to teach the infantry a thing or two in Cyprus and **Cpl Yosty Yost** will be cooling himself off in the Falklands.

Congratulations to the following on promotion to Cpl: **Martin Duffy, Rick Brown** and R2 (alias **Cpl Williamson**).

YANKEE TROOP
OC — **2Lt Richard Spencer**
2IC — **SSgt Stich Woollard**
Admin SNCO **Sgt Dave Sloane**.

The last months have seen changes. Those leaving were **SSgt Tam Malley** defecting to W Troop, **Cpl** Jaws **Taylor** to 8 Sig Regt, **LCpl Ian Cawson** to 21 Sig Regt, **LCpl** Scooby **Phillips** to civvy street and **Sig Stu Cooper** to the REME. We would like to wish them all good luck.

To take their place the following have arrived **2Lts Jay Roughley** and **Penny Hadden** for a short attachment. Also **Cpl** Walrus **Hornby, LCpl Andy Phillips, Sig Stu Whale** and **Thompson**.

We have been quite busy with Ex Flagpole where the Vampires once again were the last asset in the field! Then on to Ex Sweaty Palm where **2Lt Jay Roughley** managed to confirm the old adage 'never trust an officer with a map'.

October saw the Troop on a day trip to Magdeburg. October was rounded off by Ex First Choice where the Vampires showed 2 Sqn what a real exercise was about. **2Lt Richard Spencer** won the Troop's Golden Blanket but wasn't even in contention for the 2 Sqn title. **SSgt Stich Woollard** and **Sgt Dave Sloane** now have a good idea what recce is about; it's all about bratties and chips!

21 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

HQ SQUADRON
QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT
PERSONALITIES
QM — **Maj Ken Davies-Stewart**
RQMS Gen — **WO2 Hugh Allison**
RQMS Tech **WO2 Pete Collinson**, SQMS Tech **Sgt Graham Kendall**, SQMS Bks **Sgt Neil White**, R&I Clk **Cpl Stu Taylor**, Clothing **LCpl Bert 'The Shirt' Cleary**, Misc Clk **Cpl Terry Smith (Bert's brother!)**, Sardinia **Sgt Jamie Alleyne**, Armoury **LCpl Phil Rose**, MFO Store **LCpl Jock Brown, Sig Keith Stainthorpe**, Gofer's **Sig Blondie Powell, Benny Bennett, Foxy Fox**, FAMTO **Sgt Graham Soellner (RAOC)**, URS Tech **Sgt Al Cooper (RAOC)**.

From all of us in the Department a fond farewell to **WO2 RQMS** (Tech) **Jim Graley** and his wife **Jean**, all the very best for the future. Also farewell to that master of diplomacy and speeches **WO2 RQMS** (Gen) **Mick Hill** and his wife **Louise**.

A warm welcome is extended to **WO2 RQMS** (Gen) **Hugh Allison** and wife **Helen** and **WO2 RQMS** (Tech) **Pete Collinson** and wife **Gill**.

One morning over a leisurely cup of coffee, the SQMS suggested that it would be a good idea to organise a charity event to raise some that it would be a good idea to organise an event to raise some money for the Corps Museum Fund. His enthusiasm was such that the QM agreed with him. Thus began the OGRI Rally Weekend.

The QM handing over a cheque to Col Whitemore for the Museum Fund. Maj Hewett, Sig Powell, Sgt Kendall and Sig Bennett

No problem, **Sgt Graham Kendall** assured everyone that everything was in hand. He programmed the event to take place during the very hot bank-holiday weekend in August.

All went well and the weekend was actually a resounding success and a very good time was had by everyone.

With the crisis in the Gulf we have been working around the clock for the past few weeks meeting Priority 1 demands and with freight wagons arriving at all hours of the day and night.

WO2 (RQMS) Hugh Allison has learned a new phrase, 'As I am still a learner RQ I don't know how to do that, but I know a man who does!'.

Sgt Neil White must have been in the know, he spent this period in Cyprus on leave.

Last but not least we bade fond farewell to **Cpl Craig Ballantyne** and wish him all the very best for the future.

1 SQUADRON
21 July, the day of the Squadron barbecue. An enjoyable day out full of fun and frolics under a clear blue sunny sky, it was also Ex Falling Leaf. So it came to pass on the Monday morning, that **Capt Len Harvey** full of confidence approached the CO to discuss the exercise.

The Wives Have a Go exercise was soon upon us. Bright and early and full of enthusiasm, the Daring Dozen, dressed to kill in hubby's combats, (tailored of course) arrived raring to go. The area was chosen with great care, and was eminently suitable. A disused fire station for the Node home, a firing range, a quarry and a wire fence surrounding the entire area to ensure that no one could get lost or escape.

The morning saw the deployment of the Trunk Node, and while one section cleared and secured the area the second section followed on with the node. In quick time, with only a little advice from the Detachment Commander, the ladies had the Node set-up, camouflaged and were communicating.

Over lunch, excellently prepared by **Pte Gary Campbell**, the conversation included the introduction of the new 'Tic Tac' language for reversing vehicles, **Karen Lang's** dexterity in climbing over vehicles and the disadvantage of inserting one's foot between the sledge hammer and the ground.

SSgt Brian Carlin briefing a pensive audience as to where he wants them to throw the grenades!

The afternoon saw a visit to the 30m range, where after some weapon training, the ladies produced a high standard of shooting. With the majority scoring in the high 80s and 90s (out of a possible 100) the eventual top scorer was **Erica Jones** with an excellent 100. The second section arriving five minutes late at the range was introduced to the joys of filling and stacking the sandbags, courtesy of **Cpl Kevin Curlett.**

The remainder of the first day was a demonstration of 'cooking with compo', the making of a basha (fortunately they did not have to sleep in them) and a Night Line set up by **SSgt Phil Atkinson.** This proved to be very popular to both spectators and participants, especially **Lorraine Nicholson** who at the half way stage decided to reverse direction, to have an extra go perhaps?

Day two started with an early morning 'Bang' as the Node came under attack. The girls reacted extremely swiftly arriving in their stand-to positions in under two minutes. Having repelled the attack it was time for breakfast and preparing for a busy day ahead. Activities featured this day were Grenade throwing (dummies of course) where **SSgts Billy McLean** and **Brian Carlin** performed an amusing double act, although we are still not sure how **SSgt Billy McLean,** on attempting to throw a thunder flash through the door (6ft sq) of a tin hut missed, from a range of 5ft.

2Lt John Dakin, SSgt Ken Kennedy and **Cpl Kevin Curlett** led two successful search and destroy missions. They were equally successful in persuading **Lyn** (I'm not wearing cam cream) **Harvey** to 'Blacken-up'.

Abseiling and mine clearing were also on the agenda along with some command tasks, all of which were successfully completed, albeit not quite the DS solution and with some interesting theories produced on why the Land Rover would not start. As the day drew to a close it was back to camp and the assault course which was viewed with mixed feelings but successfully completed by all . . .

This was not quite the end, **SSgt Billy McLean** took the ladies on a half mile jog to the Regimental bar for a barbecue; this as they say, is where they came in.

The 48 hours produced many amusing incidents and was enthusiastically enjoyed by all the wives taking part. The children enjoyed the unexpected pleasure of dinner with Dad in Macdonalds. As for Dad, well perhaps he prefers routine and to go on exercise himself.

2 SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Adam Ewell**
OC E Tp — **Capt Gary Hearn**
OC F Tp **Capt Mike Stapleton**, SSM **WO2 Dave Whiting**, YofS **SSgt Frank McCubbin**, FofS **SSgt Chris Sheppard**, SSgt E Tp **SSgt Steve Barrington**, SSgt F Tp **SSgt Terry Petherbridge**, Shq/Trg Sgt **SSgt Taff Thomas**, Mt Sgt **Sgt Paul Fleming**.

SHQ TROOP
DEPARTURES

WO2 (SSM) Bradbury, to a nice cushy LSL post at a Tanky Wksps in Wetter. **SSgt (YofS) McHugh,** on promotion to HAC, a 'posh' London based TA Unit. **Sgt Evans,** to the Regt Trg Wing. Good luck to them in their new posts and congratulations to the YofS on his promotion.

ARRIVALS

Welcome to **WO2 (SSM) Whiting** and his wife **Ann**, and **SSgt (YofS) McCubbin** and his wife **Cathy. YofS McCubbin** who has just arrived from 31 Sig Regt (V) ensured that part of his handover/takeover with **YofS McHugh** included the ceremonial, the handing over of the 'A to Z'.

2 SQUADRON
F TROOP

The following members of F Troop have been deployed to the Gulf Sgt **A.** (Gunny) **Young, Cpl** (Si) **Wallis, LCpl** (Sid) **Cadman, LCpl** (now Cpl, Del) **Kavanagh, Sig** (now LCpl, Richie) **Lees, Sig** (Willie) **Rushton** and **Sig** (Fugly) **Stevenson**. The time leading up to deployment was hectic. Our best wishes go to all the lads out there, (from the war dodgers).

Congratulations to **Cpl** (Max) **Wright** on his promotion to Sgt (on posting). The Troop would also like to say Bon-voyage to **LCpl Brian Alexander** (now Mister), and to **Cpl Robbo Robertson** (posted to 28 Sig Regt). Welcome to **LCpl** (Smudge) **Smith** from AFCENT, **Sig** (Flash) **Harwood** and **Sig** (Floppy) **MacVicar**, both straight out of the factory from 8 Sig Regt, not forgetting the members from 4 Sqn attached to us because of Op Granby (Grumpy) now on their way to join the rest of the sand castle builders.

3 SQUADRON
L TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC — **Capt Dave Wright**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt Terry Hague**

ROYAL VISIT

On Friday 23 November 1990 **Her Majesty the Queen** visited Royal Air Force Laarbruch, her first visit to an RAF Main Operating Base in Germany. As part of the visit **Her Majesty** visited a static display of Tornado aircraft and its associated engineering support. This included a stand by 'L' Troop, 3 Sqn, demonstrating the blowing and splicing techniques used with fibre optic cable. The stand was manned by **Cpl Paul Gorman, LCpl Steve Lewis** and **Sig Tony Lythgoe.**

Her Majesty The Queen meets LCpl Steve Lewis, Cpl Paul Gorman and Sig Tony Lythgoe

Sgt Rocky Hudson hands over a cheque for DM 1004.59 to Gp Capt Buckland Stn Comd RAF Laarbruch for Stn charities. Capt Dave Wright, Sig Percy Crowe and Sgt Colin Brown complete the line up

22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC — **Maj Phil Filby**
2IC — **Capt Mark Davis**
OC A Tp **2Lt Jason Gunning**, OC C Tp **2Lt Andy Talbot**, SSM **WO2 Brian Cullen**, FofS **WO2 Tony Amplett**, YofS **WO2 Keith Roach**, SQMS **SSgt Jim Clace**, Trg SNCO **Sgt Steve Knaggs**.

SHQ TROOP

We bade farewell to **Maj John McIntyre** who is now a member of the Lancashire Constabulary and welcomed **Maj Phil Filby** as our new leaders. At the same time we lost **Capt Callum Clark** who made a traumatic move over land and sea to 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, only to find himself replaced by the even more elusive **Capt Davis. WO2 'Scottie' Handibode** was dragged, kicking and screaming, to Oman and replaced by another eminent scotsman **WO2 Brian Cullen.** Our congratulations are warmly extended to **WO2 Keith** and **Debbie Roach** on the recent birth of their daughter.

ALPHA TROOP

Farewell to **Lt Pete Turner** who due to his attachment to the Regiment could only bring himself to move just down the road to 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and welcome his replacement **2Lt Jason Gunning**, who in the recent Troop reshuffle managed to drag half Charlie Tp along with him. On the farewell front we also say goodbye to **Cpls 'Geordie' Eastick, Mark Marsden, LCpl Mick Lee** and **SSgt Steve Carr** and wish them all the best for the future. We welcome in their places **Sgt 'Vince' Kimber, Cpl 'Geordie' Everest, LCpl Peter Finnigan, Sig Andy Cousins** and **'Jock' Reid**, and our most recent arrivals from 8 Sig Regt **Sig Chris McMullen** and **Colin Shorthouse**. We extend a double congratulations to **Cpl 'Gaz' Welsh** after a hectic weekend which brought him both fatherhood and promotion, and our congratulations also go to a recently promoted **Cpl Steve Gosnold**. Our only hope is that now we have the majority of the Squadron manpower we may actually win some inter-troop events.

CHARLIE TROOP

The ever rapid changeover of command has continued as we welcome **2Lt 'Brummie' Talbot** fresh from his Troop Commanders Course and **SSgt Clive Sear** from the now disbanded 4 Sqn. Our congratulations to **Sgt Pete Duffy** on his promotion and posting to 21 Sig Regt and we welcome **Sgt John Dill** as the new Line Sergeant. We also welcome **Sgt Keith Boxall** and his merry crew of drivers who have recently been evicted from Alpha Tp. Our linemen have rapidly depleted, having said goodbye to **LCpl Ernest Hignett** and **Sig 'Nobby' Styles**. Very few linemen would be believed if they marched up to OC and requested a UK posting to care for an ageing grandmother. **LCpl 'Jock' Conlan** however, being blessed with an honest face, managed just that. We also say farewell to **Cpl 'Toddy' Todd** who returned to his homeland to serve with 15 Sig Regt, and **Sgt 'Gus' Murray** whose burning desire for promotion was rewarded along with a hot move to 2 Sqn.

2 SQUADRON

It was in October that the Troop said 'au revoir' to eight of its members. They journeyed to 1 Armd Div en route to the sun and the sand. They are reported to be in good spirits and quote: 'At least the Gripper's not on my back here.' We wish them well and hope that soon the Gripper will have his revenge as they return to the Regiment!, and those who left the Troop and the Regiment as part of the Battlefield Casualty Replacements (BCR) in November, we wish them all well.

D TROOP

After the summer season and adventurous training it was back to work and exercises.

On return to camp, we found ourselves in the midst of Op Granby. Two weeks later, and minus a few vehicles, D Troop had been reorganised.

Ex Sharp Ledge was a resounding success for the Radio Relay operators and admin cell as they took on new links and 7 Sig Regt personnel for Op Granby '1.5' links.

Top tips from **Sig Jock McHugh**; don't leave your large pack in a black bin liner next to the washing up table. People tend to mistake it for the slop bin.

On the sports scene we played 5 HQ Coy 5 Ind Bn Coy at football winning 4—2. Goals by **LCpl Steve McGinnigle, Sig 'Hartley' Hare** and **Phil Heron** secured a close match. Socially, the Troop recently celebrated the promotions of **LCpls Alan O'Kell** and **'Hodgy' Hodgins.**

FOXTROT TROOP

Like other Troops, Foxtrot has lost many of its members to other Troops. This was mainly due to the loss of men and equipment to Op Granby 1, and also the loss of 4 Sqn. Echo Tp has now gone and, we welcome some of their ex-members, noticeably **SSgt Shirley. SSgt Skimming** has left and moved on to become training Staff Sergeant for the Squadron. The organisation seems bound to change again with recent events a major factor. On the promotion front, congratulations to **LCpl Wilkinson**, who has just received his first stripe, on posting to 1 Sqn. Congratulations to **Cpl Cross** who, after some very good work, finally received his second tape.

3 SQUADRON

The Squadron held a horse racing night in the sportsman bar. The very dubious 'horses' were provided by the three Troops, and could be bought outright or gambled on through 'Lennie's' Betting shop. It's still a mystery where **Sig Guest** and **LCpl Sparrow** acquired their racing silks. The party was a success, raising money for our Christmas party and selling lots of raffle tickets. The preparations for the next party are now well under way, with prizes for the draw rolling in thick and fast.

On Saturday 20 October, **2Lt Blower** entered **Sgt Preece** and **Cpl Bond,** two members of the Regimental canoeing team, in a local canoe race. At Lippstadt club, they looked for any references to the Regiment, but found themselves down as the English team! They had to compete against the Czechoslovakian team and several Germans from their national team. They didn't disgrace us, but they didn't get far past the elimination round!

The Squadron has completed its' second summer camp, called Ex Autumn Triangle. It consisted of mountain biking, hill walking, canoeing and the kletterstieg (a high level scramble/walk along a ridge). We used the 39 Heavy Regt hut in the Allgau which, although not conveniently placed, had lots of facilities including satellite television and a well stocked bar. Talking of bars, most of the members of the Squadron who attended the camp, also enjoyed the beer festival in Kempton! The camp was a resounding success, especially the mountain biking, which seems to be the latest craze in the Regiment.

Sig Jones 'Why did I bring this bike?'

Sgt Toft 'I know the feeling'

4 SQUADRON

Rumours of 'reorganisation' excited much speculation. The favourite option from HQ, 1, 2 and 3 Sqns, was that 4 (Jacques) Sqn would go. Why? Well, it would allow the others to have a chance of winning at least one of the Inter-Squadron competitions! Of course we know that this reason could not have been why 4 Sqn was, after all, dispersed between 1 and 3 Sqns on 31 October. No, it must have been because of Op Granby and the current manning situation. Surely nothing else can have influenced the decision?

The sad day was upon us and the CO, **Lt Col P. T. Innocent**, held a farewell parade to mark the occasion. 4 (Jacques) Sqn formed up outside RHQ. 'Sighting' cards for Squadron Officers were put out but to no avail; Sqn Comd **Maj Gareth Smith** was absent in the Gulf; 2IC **Capt Steve Ardagh-Walters** thought it was a range day; OC J Troop, Lt (now Capt) **Mick Pawlak** did an informal drive past in his 'staff car' (yes we did notice) on his way to cross country and so command and control was by A/SSM **SSgt Steve Stevenson** ably assisted by **Sig 'Sanchez' Crooks**.

In a heart rending, nay, tearful ceremony 'Sanchez', the youngest soldier on parade, handed the Squadron pennant to the CO for safe keeping until 4 (Jacques) Sqn may rise again from the ashes of 'Options for Change'.

Postscript: Before we were rent asunder—guess who won the Inter-Squadron cross country? *The Mighty 4*.

Sig 'Sanchez' Crooks hands the Pennant to Lt Col Innocent

CONCERT

During November, Lippstadt held a Herbstwoche weekend. This consisted of a huge fair, and various civil functions. The Regiment took part in a concert in the local Stadttheatre with the Corps Band and a local German Luftwaffe Band. The difference between the two was fascinating. Our band, dressed in scarlet, played Vienniese Waltzes, the German Band, in their darker, more sombre uniform, played more rythmical Bavarian music. It was also the first time that most of us had seen a band form three sides of a square to play a concert!

Lt Col Peter Innocent presents Frau Korin Sonder with a cheque for DM 6000, raised by the Royal Scots band during Lippstadt Herbstwoche week. The money will be used to provide facilities for mothers to stay with their children in the local child cancer ward. Also present was Obstlt Hein-Peter Albrecht Kommandeur VKK

30 Sig Regt
Blandford Camp

250 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON

Brig C. J. D. Bullock, Brigadier Brigade of Gurkhas visited the Squadron on 24 September.

LCpl Ratnabahadur Pun during Op Granby training explaining the alignment of VSC 501 satellite station's antenna disc to the Brigadier Brigade of Gurkhas, Brig C. J. D. Bullock

THE 41st ANNIVERSARY

On 23 September 1954, a formation parade was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to mark the birth of Gurkha Signal Regiment. On this special day Major General Brigade of Gurkhas, **Maj Gen L. E. C. M. Perowne CB, CBE** presented the Regimental cap badge (the Jimmy and crossed Kukris) and ended his speech with these words: 'By your badge, men shall know you, by your loyalty, by your behaviour and by your technical skill, they will judge you as men and measure your efficiency as soldiers.'

Since then, the General's words have become part of the traditional birthday speech in the Regiment.

250 Gurkha Sig Sqn celebrated the Regiment's 41st birthday in similar fashion in Blandford.

Maj N. D. Couch, OC 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn, cutting the birthday cake with 2IC Capt (GCO) Lilbahadur Gurung and SQGO Capt (QGO) Mohanbahadur Thapa

DASHERA

The Squadron had its first Dashera celebration in Blandford over the period 26-29 September 1990. Dashera was celebrated in the same manner as the rest of the Brigade of Gurkhas in Hong Kong (except for Mar). There were over 100 guests, of whom the most distinguished were the Colonel of the Regiment **Maj Gen S. Cowan CBE, Maj Gen R. Benbow CB** and **Lt Col H. M. Adams MBE**. In addition many former and present officers and men of Queen's Gurkha Signals and those from 30 Sig Regt attended. Everyone was warmly welcomed by the Senior Queen's Gurkha Officer, **Capt (QGO) Mohanbahadur Thapa**.

31 Sig Regt (V)
Hammersmith

The Regiment has had a busy autumn with a number of ceremonial duties including Lafone Day, the Regimental Remembrance Day, PLK Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday. The Regimental Carol concert was held on 12 December. **Capts George Devine** and **Jim Adam** kept us fit by organising Scottish country dancing for Burns Night.

On 5 December, **Col Mark Carnegie-Brown**, COS LonDist and **Lt Col Lee Tilson**, Comd Comms, visited RHQ for the ARU. Keen to impress, **Maj Linda Coe**, Ops Officer, had set up a local communication exercise between all the Regimental drill halls and by the time supper had finished the exercise was well under way.

One of the highlights of the evening was when the COS visited RHQ Tp and congratulated **Sgt 'Dinger' Bell** on being awarded his third stripe.

Col Mark Carnegie-Brown congratulates Sgt Bell on his promotion

COS London District Col Mark Carnegie-Brown talks to the newest member of the Officers' Mess, OCdt Jo Sullivan from the Regimental Pay Team

Pte Laura Phipps *(left)* and Pte Tanya Austwick fix a teleprinter

At the Duke of York's Open Day on Saturday 24 November, members from B Troop joined **Capt Sally Shepherd** and set up a very impressive recruiting display. The potential recruits arrived in groups and as **LCp! Sheldon** demonstrated the working sets in his Triffid, **Sig Armitage** was lecturing and answering questions with enormous confidence to much larger groups outside the vehicle. By the end of the day some 450 people had visited the display and **OCdt Ian Rogers**, decreed that he could not give another presentation on the role of the LAD as his voice was too hoarse!

LAD RECOVERY WEEKEND

A soaking wet weekend in October in Bordon proved to be one of the muddiest areas of SE England in which to spend a weekend. The task was to recover a variety of vehicles from the muddiest spots, complete a night navigation exercise—and all before **Sgt Ali Metabin** would serve supper.

Bordon was not an area in which to enjoy the peace and quiet of the countryside as **Ptes Anne Kiernan** and **Ruth Empson** of HQ Sqn tested their cross country driving skills when they test drove a Samson on loan from the Royal Yeomanry in Croydon. Meanwhile **Capt Fred Southey** and **Sgt 'Vince' John-Charles** were skidding through the mud on trials bikes, **Ptes Ed Gomes, Angela Wake** and **Carol Rose** were busy hauling a Chieftan up a steep slope (with the aid of the Foden) and **Sgts 'Windy' Wyndham** and **Dave Gunter** were busy marking what looked to be a tricky Landrover cross country course which left no room for error.

SPORT

Congratulations go to **FofS Lloyd Bowlby** for his excellent time completing the Harrow marathon and to the members of 47 Sqn who provided communications along the entire route of the marathon.

41 SIGNAL SQUADRON

On Saturday 24 November, the Squadron got well and truly wet and cold. Sqn Comd **Maj Andrew Cornish** had planned a Military Training Day with a range of activities from stretcher racing to skirmishing, at Pippingford Park. It rained from the start and got colder and colder as the day wore on. Lots of all-round defences and fire control orders ensured no one stayed dry. By the end of the day, **Pte Mandy Terrill** resembled an ice cube, even swaddled in NBC kit extra face veils and spare gloves.

LCpl Mick Sinclair showed his usual control during the movement session, diving headlong into a pile of mud and leaves as he took cover, setting a worthy example to his Section.

We thought Christmas had come early when the Cam and Concealment started, as **Sgt Kim Burt** appeared, all cammed up as an example, and looking like a Christmas tree.

The real Christmas tree went up on Saturday 15 December for the Squadron Christmas party.

A new Squadron star—**2Lt John Russell** Tp Comd RHQ Tp was discovered via the medium of Karyoke; and an old(er) Squadron star—**Maj John Robson**—was rediscovered doing it his way at the Christmas 'bash'. Talking of age **WO1 (SVWO) Steve Bland** will complete 30 years service in February 1991. No doubt there are others in the Corps who can claim longer pure voluntary service? No doubt they can also remember well the Commer radio trucks beside which a considerably younger **Sig Steve Bland** is posing in the picture.

WO1 Steve Bland

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V)
Glasgow

PIPE BANNER PRESENTATION

On 17 November The Lord Provost of Glasgow, **The Right Honourable Susan Baird** honoured the Regiment when she presented 52 (Lowland) Sig Sqn with a new Pipe Banner. Happily this event coincided with the visit of HMS *Renown* so we paraded with the Royal Navy, ACF and CCF Cadets affiliated to the Corps and the Regiment. **Cpl Harka Rai** and **LCpl Laxman Pun** of 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn also took part in the parade as representatives of our Sister Regiment, Queen's Gurkha Signals.

It was a memorable occasion and celebrated with old comrades, Trustees of the Regiment and many friends. The evening also formally marked our affiliation with HMS *Renown* with the CO **Lt Col Michael Anderson** presenting an inscribed Silver Jimmy to the Wardroom.

Michelle McMillan presenting a bouquet to the Lord Provost on her arrival at Jardine St TAC

MEDAL PRESENTATION

The Lord Provost of Glasgow presented the LS & GC Medal to **Sgt John Payne**, and TA Efficiency Medals to **SSgt Dave McGuire** and **Cpl Andy Gray. Cpl Gray** has been selected for an S Type Engagement and left for Germany in January. We all wish him well and look forward to his return.

The Lord Provost presents Cpl Andy Gray with his TA Efficiency Medal

SPOTLIGHT

This time we highlight HQ Sqn.

PERSONALITIES

OC **Maj Ann Sweeney**
2IC **Capt George Taylor**
QM **Capt Mick Besant**, Ops **Capt Ruth Watson**, OC LAD **Capt Willie Cunningham**, OC RRTT **Capt Jim Simms** MOs, **Capt Fiona Davison, Capt Susan Langridge**, MTWO **WO1 (MTWO) Ron Hamilton**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) Derek Morris**, Admin Asst **Mrs Karin Fulton**.

FAREWELL—WELCOME

We say farewell to two officers of longstanding in the Squadron, our Paymaster **Maj Tim Straton TD** RAPC and **Capt Davy Watt**—TOT. **Tim** served with us for over 28 years and will be a hard act to follow. If anyone needs a spare wheelchair . . . His prowess on the Putting Green will not be forgotten by the CO.

EXERCISE SCOTTISH BLUEBELL

This year, under our OC LAD **Capt Willie Cunningham**, the LAD has had an outstandingly successful year. We have obtained attachments to Belize and the Falklands and did very well on Ex Scottish Bluebell an annual REME Competition. The high morale of the team carried them through from the night exercise starting at midnight Friday through a number of technical and military tasks until 1700 hrs Saturday.

The team finished as this year's runners up out of 19 units and also won three individual plaques and cups for: Recovery/First Aid, Radio Procedures and EMERs/AESPs.

(Left to right): Capt Willie Cunningham, Cfn John Paul Wright, Martin McGinlay and LCpl Willie Gordon on Ex Scottish Bluebell

EXERCISE FOREST RAMBLE

This exercise has now turned into an annual event for members of HQ Sqn who think they can drive. Planned by **SSgt John Taylor** and marshalled by MT Tp it proves an eye opener to all those young Hot Shots who think that having a licence means that they can handle anything on four wheels in any conditions. The Recovery phase was as usual planned round a river crossing and as much thought went into staying dry as to recovering the vehicle. The night drive phase was carried out in the area of the Aedgarten Forest. Rumours that a driver was so high up the mountain that he had a conversation with the pilot of a passing plane were discounted due to lack of confirmation by his co-driver. However the weekend was pronounced a success as all returned wearily to the TAC. Thanks go to **SSgt John Taylor, LCpls Dick Christison, Paul Brown, Jim Devine, Ian Briggs** and **Sig Billy Carruthers**.

OFFICERS MESS

We welcome the following Officers and Officer Cadets into the Mess: **2Lts Jill Burgess, Katherine Crosbie, Alan Moore, Joe Meade, OCdts Lindsay Dunsmure, John McMachon** and **Michael Barlow**. Congratulations to **Lt Jackie** (where's the Port?) **Campbell** on her promotion.

We have held a number of functions over the past few months, most notably that of the Pipe Banner Presentation and the Dining Out of five members.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION—GLASGOW

For far too long we have been without a Glasgow Branch of the Association. Having canvassed amongst our many friends during the recent celebrations we plan to put this matter right. Anyone interested in joining—please let us know and write to CO, 32 Sig Regt (V), 21 Jardine Street, Glasgow G20 6JT.

34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

345 CLUB DINNER

The annual dinner of the 345 Club and 34(N) Sig Regt (V) was held on 3 November in the Royal Signals Mess, Catterick.

There was a large attendance this year to say farewell to **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE** who relinquishes the appointment as Honorary Colonel of the Regiment. We wish **Gen Birtwistle** good fortune as he becomes Master of Signals. The Regiment is proud to welcome **Brig D. H. Hodge DL** as its new Honorary Colonel and looks forward to a long and happy association.

Maj Gen Birtwistle with the Hon Colonel former Hon Cols and the CO and former COs of the Regiment
Standing: Lt Col H. Bonaker, Col A. W. Illingworth, CO, Lt Col C. I. Spencer, Col G. Mitchell and Lt Col M. J. Macklin
In Front: Brig C. C. Fairweather, Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle, Brig D. H. Hodge and Col R. M. Stewart

CHRISTMAS SCARBOROUGH

As the year comes to an end the Regiment spent its final Regimental Weekend training at Burniston Barracks, Scarborough. For many of the Regiment this weekend is one of the highlights of the year. In addition to normal military training it includes the traditional soldiers Christmas dinner and a Church Parade at a local church.

The training programme was put together by the Training Major, **Maj Tim Mountford** and his staff and it included various stands to test general knowledge, military skills, problem solving and fitness. The stands were prepared by the Permanent Staff Instructors (PSI's) and they were assisted by a number of TA personnel.

Those in the UK will remember that this was the weekend when the country was hit by gale force winds, driving rain and in many places heavy snow falls.

We had our share at Scarborough and on Saturday morning when instructors checked their stands prior to training they found devastation—some were unsafe and others unworkable, such was the ferocity of the weather. Last minute changes ensured that training took place.

While the Training Major held a conference the RSM **WO1 Colin Ager** gathered everyone together for a general knowledge quiz and detailed each Squadron to prepare a five minute 'skit' that was to be presented later at the Christmas Dinner.

Planning a programme at short notice proved an exercise in itself and the team came up with an excellent, if unorthodox, programme that lasted until lunchtime.

On Sunday morning the Regiment paraded and marched to church. This event, a highlight of the weekend, was somewhat disrupted this year, the band was unable to be with us and many spectators who usually come to watch were kept away due to the bad weather. Even the Padre **Rev Tyrone Hillary** was not able to reach us. The service was conducted by the **Rev Simon Fox.**

Prior to returning to their own TAC's the CO addressed the Regiment and the Junior Ranks presented the RSM with a farewell gift of a pewter tankard and hip flask. Hic!

FAREWELL/WELCOME

We bid farewell and good fortune to the Adjutant **Capt Brian Smith** and his family and the RSM **WO1 Colin Ager** and his family and welcome **Capt Bill House** and **WO1 Carl Clark-Darby** and wish them a enjoyable tour.

CONGRATULATIONS

Are extended to **LCpl Neil Williams** and his wife **Pam** on the birth of their daughter **Rachel**.

WRAC Officers Rebadge
Capt Karen Metcalfe receives her blue beret with 'Jimmy' from the CO, Lt Col Chris Spencer, Capt Ron Hails *(left)* , Maj Sarah Maude awaits her turn

WO2 (AQMS) Mick Pape set the young officers the task of vehicle recovery, at it are Lt Jeremy Gambles, Rosemary Timms, Clive Chisholm and Ian Hall

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

A MOVING EXPERIENCE

As the year was drawing to a close there was a suggestion that, after months of activity and external commitments, we decided to move into low gear and plan festive activities. Not a chance—the Training Major was not in festive mood and gave everyone a Kick-Start to test our Movement, Deployment and Defence skills in the most uninviting part of Nescliffe Training Area during the weekend 24/25 November.

It followed our unfortunate early exit from the tough and arduous Western District Patrol Competition held at Sennybridge the previous week. Regrettably the Regiment's valiant teams were forced to withdraw rather reluctantly after suffering many injuries in terrible weather conditions. They should all be aware that their efforts did not go unnoticed and they can be proud for persevering for so long.

Ex Golden Move was a master stroke as the weather during the weekend was also appalling which ensured everyone was exercising in the most difficult conditions and had to contend with at least four crash outs in the space of eight hours. This not only tested individual and collective endurance but new skills in rapid cooking quickly emerged, and de-camming, packing up and defence drills were turned into an art albeit abstract in most cases. In particular one troop officer, **2Lt Martin Pulwer**, was so anxious to get moving after a crash out he began removing vehicle steps in total darkness completely forgetting that the crews were still inside.

Special mention and thanks must be made at this stage to R Troop 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn (V) for providing a formidable enemy—we hope they were equally impressed by our rapid reaction to their exhaustive excursions and persistent attacks on a number of our locations. Endex came as a blessed relief; everyone was cold, hungry, tired and wet but surprisingly still in very high spirits. Needless to say the Trg Maj relented and Christmas Party Planning started in earnest.

COUNCIL HOUSE DINNER

On Saturday 1 December an Officers Mess Ladies Dinner Night was held in the magnificent surrounds of the Council House in Birmingham. The dinner also marked the departure of our present Honorary Colonel, **Col Mike Beatty** who was dined out in the traditional manner. Guests of Honour at the dinner were the new Master of Signals **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB MBE** and **Mrs Birtwistle** clearly enjoyed themselves. Other guests included the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Birmingham. During the evening **Capt John Dillon** celebrated his forthcoming promotion and appointment as OC HQ Sqn and **2Lt Martin Highfield** was awarded the Regimental Cup for his outstanding performance during the year. This hugely successful evening was superbly organised, as usual, by the PSAO 48 Sig Sqn (V), **Capt George Cairns**.

THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE SNOW BUSINESS

The training weekend 9/10 December which coincided with the worst blizzards in living memory, produced some rather dramatic rescue stories involving members of the Regiment who actually managed to reach their TA Centres through snow drifts, and found themselves in situations of high adventure and drama they never expected.

In an attempt to deliver an urgent instruction to their sister Squadron in Birmingham, **Maj Pat Bannigan** and his driver **Sgt Huey Phillips** were soon involved in a number of rescue attempts and recovered at least 12 cars and their occupants from dangerous snow drifts and helped them on their way. They also came across a trapped BBC television team who were most anxious to get to the NEC in Birmingham to televise the 'Clothes Show' and a childrens series. **Maj Bannigan** duly obliged. Both series were televised on time and the BBC has expressed its gratitude to 89 Sig Sqn in several of its programmes. Our shy heroes eventually got back to their Squadron in the early hours of Sunday morning tired, but exhilarated at having been able to help so many people. Meanwhile in Shrewsbury, one of the worst hit areas in the West Midlands, members of 95 Sig Sqn (V) were busy helping the local electricity board restore power and providing emergency communication for BT as a major breakdown of the system had occurred. Additional assistance in the form of water bowsers was also provided to a local old peoples home whose water supply had been disrupted. All in all a good weekend in which the Regiment played a major part in helping members of the local community in a number of hard hit areas. Unfortunately the weather took its toll on Regimental social events and the Sergeants' Mess Christmas Draw took place in January!

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations are extended to **Sgt Mick Jones** on his recent award of the LS & GC medal. It was presented to him by the Bde Comd **Brig Conrad Garton** during his visit to the Regiment. Congratulations to **SSgt Colin Blackwell, Sgts Robbo Robinson** and **Colin** 'Turtle' **Tunicliffe** on their award of the TA Efficiency Medal. Best wishes to **SSgt Val Murray** on her recent marriage to **WO1 (FofS) Colin Turner**.

Presentation of LS & GC Medal (Military) to Sgt Mick Jones pictured with Brig Conrad Garton and Lt Col Brian Foxon

EXERCISE MERLIN ROCK 90

In late Autumn five intrepid travellers set off from the Regiment en route for Ex Merlin Rock which was a 15 Inf Bde exercise held in Vogelsang, West Germany. The contingent was led by **Capt Suzy Reed**, the author of this article, and supporting cast included **Cpls Di Jessup** and **Linda Mayell, LCpl Mark Cummington** and **Sig David Watson**. After a fair amount of movement on and off the bus the team eventually took off from Leeds/Bradford airport and arrived at Dusseldorf along with about 3,000 other Troops—glad I didn't have to organise the travel arrangements for that little tour group.

Vogelsang proved surprisingly comfortable as most of us were expecting to be in the field for a fortnight—now we had hot and cold running water as well as some central heating. The exercise itself centred on Range work and Infantry skills (naturally) practised in the Vogelsang area. Our TA Signals contingent was quickly adopted by the Regular Signal Troop which supported 15 Bde led by **Capt David Hix** and **SSgt Andy Snaith** and we were made very welcome. Soon however, we were put to work and experienced at first hand what it was like to support an Infantry Brigade in the field—don't mention the admin duties, jif jobs or fatigues though!

The first week involved a fair amount of Range work and **Sig David Watson** was seen ferrying around large groups of visitors, while **LCpl Mark Cummington** was well used in the Commcen employing his slightly rusty Tele Op (Data) skills but his ex regular training soon came through. In the meantime **Cpls Mayell** and **Jessup** brought some life to the Brigade Command Net and the Safety Net; as members of

Ex Merlin Rock—Capt Suzy Reed *(right)* pictured with OCdt Natalie Griffiths

A Troop (HF) they were very much at home. As usual **Capt Suzy Reed** was seen scrounging another ride in a helicopter.

The second week was a little slower but we were not allowed to languish as the organisation of a sports day, Beating Retreat and Cocktail Party required a fair degree of support from—you guessed it—the Signal Troop. But an excellent barbecue on the final day compensated for all the hard work and that hill back up to camp didn't seem nearly so steep. Suffice to say that an enjoyable time was had by all and after some tortuous PT early in the morning preceded by intensive social activities the night before, some very tired but satisfied soldiers emerged from Leeds/Bradford airport after a demanding and exhausting fortnight.

VISIT OF SPARKBROOK BEAVER UNIT

On 21 October 48 Sig Sqn (V) played host to the local Beaver Unit (junior cubs) which consists of young boys of five and six years of age and who knows possibly potential future TA recruits. The aim of the weekend was for the Beavers to pass their annual proficiency test and to do this they were given the task of cleaning the Squadron's vehicles guided by members of the Squadron. It should be mentioned that our assistance to the Beaver Unit is in keeping with our continuing support of local community activities whilst maintaing a high public profile. The day went extremely well and the Beavers under the expert guidance and supervision of Bid Daddy Beaver **SSgt Roger Evans** and **Cpl Matt Evans** did a fantastic job and in fact they have been invited back to give some instruction to other Squadron members. The Beavers beavered away all day with great enthusiasm, really enjoying their work while behaving like little soldiers and in the process provided some good entertainment for the Troops. At the end of the day they were marched on parade by honorary Beaver **SSgt Denis Jevons** and ceremoniously presented their certificates by the SSM in front of the whole Squadron.

All hands to the pumps—Cpl Matt Evans showing the Beavers how to use steam spray

SPORTS DESK

Our Rugby Team continues to put up a brave fight against all opposing teams and the scores registered against us are rapidly decreasing—or so the team captain reports. The Regimental Orienteering Team headed by **Sgt Paul Fundak** and **SSgt Dave** 'Road Runner' **Arnot** continues its quest for glory and achieved a creditable place in the recent Corps Championships held at Scarborough.

36 Sig Regt (V)
Ilford

44 SQUADRON
EXERCISE BOUNTY HUNTER
PERSONALITIES

OC — **Maj R. A. Wilkinson**
2IC — **Capt G. Miles**

SSM **WO2 Barnett**, PSI **Sgt Childs**, Trg Offr **Capt R. M. Blair**, Recruit Offr **2Lt A. Brimer**, OC 747 Tp **Capt S. Barkley**, 2IC 747 Tp **2Lt G. Smith**, OC 748 Tp **2Lt J. Moult**, OC 816 Tp **2Lt C. M. Greenhow**.

The seniors of 44 Sqn fell out of their beds on Saturday morning opened their weary eyes and thought, 'There must be an easier way to earn £600?' Even before most of them had risen and were ready for early morning 0700 hrs parade, **SSgt Hall, Sgt Neat** and **2Lt Moult**, their range qualifications hot off the press, were zooming down to Lydd ranges to take over the 100m zeroing and the 300m ETR.

The concurrent activities were **Cpl Franklin** on first aid and **SSgt Froggatt** on NBC. Do they ever get a chance to pass all of their other bounty tests?

Lunchtime entertainment was provided by **Capt Barkley** and consisted of three minute lecturettes on many and 'interesting' topics such as, 'the weather' and 'your personal weapon'. The audience banter was splendidly provided by **Sgt Thornhill** and **Cpl Webb**, the Stadtler and Waldorf of 44 Squadron.

The evenings entertainment was a bar games night, organised by the PSI **Sgt Childs**. The intellectual pursuits on offer were such diverse games as shove halfpenny, darts, pool and dominoes. Teams from the RAOC and an Engineers team from Chattenden were all trounced by the winners, the 44 Sqn Girls team!

Early Sunday, far too early, the BFT arrived and after it had slapped you around the face and mashed your body to a pulp it went away again. The Sqn Comd **Maj Wilkinson** passed without any noticable nights sleep and 816 Troop took the first five places. They probably took them back to bed! Don't worry when more of 748 Tp turn up they'll do much better.

The rest of the day was taken up with the basic signalling skills and more first aid. **Sgt Kingstone** taught us BATCO, **SSgt Meddeman** taught electrical safety and **LCpl Hodgeson** taught us the lineman's skills (without much reference to sheep). All in all the weekend went well and was very well attended.

HORSELESS HORSE TRIALS
by Pte E. Austin, 748 Troop

After an exhausting time spent at Annual Camp, a team of seven from 44 (Cinque Ports) Sig Sqn (V) decided to keep up with the strenuous activities by taking part in a sponsored Horseless Horse Trials in Chiddingfold, Surrey in aid of Mencap. This involved tackling more than 20 fences over a four mile course usually jumped by horse and rider.

The Cinque Port Pirates duly arrived at the appointed meeting point—the pub! **2Lt Moult** failed to arrive—it was thought this was due to the fact that he knew where he was going and had a map but unfortunately British Rail had left **2Lt Moult** stranded somewhere in the Kent Countryside.

Horseless horse trials team in aid of Mencap

Following strict convoy procedure, the Cinque Port Pirates reached their destination, with only one error in their map reading, and duly signed in ready for the start.

Once the start gun had sounded, we were no longer in the lead but **Sig Davidson** decided to wave the TA flag and storm off into the distance to leave us eating his dust! With two team members carrying war wounds from camp and **Sgt Neat** attempting to break in new boots, the remaining team members had good excuses to take things

slowly. The first obstacle appeared after two miles and was cleared with no refusals or falls. The highlight of the day would have been a dip in the water jump but due to shortage of water, team members were unable to attempt a raft crossing or combat wash. The remaining jumps were no obstacle to trained soldiers and all crossed the finish line well within the allotted time, with no penalties, to receive the commemorative medal. A good time was had by all and over £400 was raised for the Mentally Handicapped.

Many thanks to all those who took part, namely, **Sgt D. Neat, Pte S. Howson, LCpl B. Shaw, Sig D. Davidson, M. Griffin**, myself and our photographic duo **Sgt P. Thornhill** and **Cpl P. Webb**—see you there next year!.

HQ SQUADRON (WANSTEAD)

Administration duties were forgotten on a recent training weekend as members of HQ Sqn took part in Ex Roaring Lion. With the help of 10 Para Training Team the Sqn was put through its paces on infantry skills and with temperatures in the high 80s a lot of hard work was put in.

The exercise has been planned from March when the new Sqn Commander, **Maj Ken Fickling**, took over. This exercise is part of the plan to introduce new blood into the Squadron and place a much greater emphasis on fitness for role.

For the first time HQ Sqn gains a communicating element, on its move to Ilford Centre, enabling us to offer potential recruits a wider and more challenging range of skills.

45 SQUADRON
DOUBLE AT MOUNTVOY

This year's Mountvoy Trophy was held on the training areas around Crowborough Camp on the Downs of Sussex in June. Teams were drawn from all the Regiment's Squadrons and its supporting units for this annual infantry skills test weekend. The Regiment adopted a new format this year and based the weekend loosely round the famous London District 'Courage Trophy' to which the Regiment sent two teams this year. Tests included an SMG shoot, raft building/river crossing, night patrolling, ambush drills, map reading, vehicle recognition, and organised by 45 Sqn—First Aid with **Lts 'Bee' Boss** and **Phil Dene** and **Pte Rose Prince**, and NBC with **Sgts 'BJ' Finister** and **Bill Gilhespy**.

Both TAC's entered somewhat scratch teams which left on Friday evening for Sussex and spent a rather rough night in the back of a 4 tonner. There were further surprises at the briefing when it turned out that the teams were expected to march between stands in full webbing with large packs, much repacking instantly ensued with all manner of cameras, four-packs and teddy bears hastily emptied from large packs.

The Squadron's two teams were first to attempt the first stand, Crowborough's assault course, where Warley did very well and Colchester not so well. The next stand saw the positions totally reversed as the teams were assessed on their reaction to a vehicle ambush. The two teams then proceeded to be in the top four for the rest of the stands, with the final placings only being decided at end of the final test, a morning long Orienteering exercise of considerable length.

The final placings put Warley first and Colchester second, both results very pleasing due to the quick organisation of the teams, Colchester's especially good as the team included many members who had not taken part in such an event before. The teams were: Warley: **2Lt Smith, SSgt O'Brien, LCpls Pickett, Barwick, LCpl** and **Sig Barnes, LCpls Wadwell, Drew, Pte Harrigan** and **LCpl Cutler**. Colchester: **2Lt McManus, LCpl Ewing, Cpl Clark, Sig Cook, Brown, Ovenden, Cpl Walker, Pte Hilton, Sig Griffiths** and **Pte Ransom**. Support Team: **Pte Prince, Sig Wells, Sgts Gilhespy, Finister, Lts Boss** and **Denne**.

752 TROOP'S ANNUAL CAMP

Camp this year was in stages, a week long communication exercise and a week's infantry and adventure type training. A detachment commanders course was also run over the two week period and the Troop lost **LCpl Phil Babester** to this course before we even left the TAC, he completed the course successfully.

The Troop left the TAC and deployed to Rushmoor Arena just as Farnborough Airshow started, while this made for interesting recognition problems as modern US and WP types turned over our site, it did make sleep and vehicle movements impossible.

After 36 hours we had the order to move down to Netheravon where our site was again right on the edge of the runway, so close as to forbid the use of camm-nets and berets. **SSgt Pete Stockwell** organised a flight in two of the AAC Lynxes for 1530 hrs, when we were given the order to move at 1510 hrs, this was a trifle frustrating as we had planned to over-fly Commcen I to check on their camouflage skills.

We moved from Netheravon to a training area deeper into Salisbury Plain to go into a defence exercise against a company of the 5th Battalion Royal Irish Rangers (V) and fared reasonably well, pleasantly surprising, due to our lack of manpower and BFA's.

After the warfare we moved up to Larkhill for the culmination of the Communicating exercise where our MUX truck was removed for trials and we finished the exercise with elements of 818 Troop from Bedford.

The Regiment decamped to Penhale in Cornwall for the second week where **SSgt Stockwell** and **Cpl John Nichols** passed a range management course, **LCpl Rob Freeman** vanished into the Squadron stores, **Sgt Bill Gilhespy** became DS on a radio trade training course and the rest of us enjoyed the adventure/infantry training phase.

Warley Team

Colchester Team

37 Sig Regt (V)
Bristol

ANNUAL CAMP 1990

This year, the Regiment deployed to the windy wilds of Ripon for its annual camp. It was an unusual camp in that the emphasis was on military training rather than signalling. It was also the first camp as Commanding Officer for **Lt Col Ian Thomson**.

During the first week's training **Maj John Reed**, arranged a training schedule for six platoons. It was organised in competition form with each day being assessed and a prize awarded for the best overall effort. This went to **Lt Stephen Smith** and his brave platoon—well deserved after an exhausting time dashing about the locality.

Whilst all the military manoeuvres were taking place **WO2 'Chick' Cheetham** with **SSgt Mick Stone** were carrying out trade training. The results were excellent with a well above average pass rate with two exceptional results from **Pte Kay Gregory** and **LCpl Sandra Sunderland**.

The opportunity to put the military training into practice arrived in the second week. An exercise was held in the Catterick area, organised by **Maj Richard Harris, Lts Steve Holder** and **Chris Thomson**. The six platoons formed two companies under **Capts Rosemary Tuhey** and **Glyn Nash**.

Within an imaginative scenario they were set a series of tasks. **Cpl Alistair McInnes** found himself determining how to recover a special bomb from a minefield. On the other other hand, **Sig Ian Brooks** was pursued by the media—in the form of **Maj Anne Baird** and **LCpl Timothy Mansell** representing 'Cable TV News!'. And talking of media, **Pte Julie Street** had to field some awkward questions from the ace of the tabloids—**Maj Mike Sterling** the daily rag's reporter 'Sid Sleeze' . . .

The Companies did not have it all their own way. During one attack **Sig Chris Hegarty** single handedly stormed the defences of A Coy HQ.

But, like any political by-election, everyone managed to win! At the final count, all objectives were achieved, **RSM John Bathe** rescued but, **Lt Chris Thomson** was shot for spying.

Last but not least, we say farewell to **Maj Matt Lott**—attending his last camp with the TA. By a remarkable quirk of coincidence it was to Ripon camp that recruit **Lott** arrived to join the army nearly 40 years ago! Neither has changed that much . . .

UNITED EUROPE: OUR PART IN ITS' CREATION!

Cpl Maxime Taylor summed it up for us—breathtaking! Ahead was one of the most awe inspiring hotels we had ever seen! Deep in the heart of Scotland—it was the perfect setting for a European Community Conference. And the four of us, there to staff the commcen, were about to take our part in history. . .

Unfortunately, our place in the pecking order was quickly established when we were shown the room in which we were to work. **Cpl Elizabeth** (Fitzy) **Fitzsimmons** reckoned it had just been vacated by the hotel cat on the grounds that it was too small! Originally a corridor, it measured 3ft × 12ft!

And that set the scene for our next disheartening discovery. Our 'cottage' accommodation turned out to be little more than a shed squatting forlornly in the middle of a field. As though that wasn't bad enough, our hutch measured 6ft × 9ft in which was squeezed a single bed and two bunks! While choking fumes from a geriatric gas heater obscured the pong of damp rising from a threadbare carpet . . . At that moment our thoughts on the European Community Conference would have found sympathy with Attila the Hun!

Using carefully measured diction, **Sgt Alice Davies** persuaded someone to take out threat of mutiny seriously. Whereupon we were finally allowed to seek accommodation at a very pleasant nearby hotel.

Thus, the serious work got under way. **Charlie Childs** from the equipment manufacturer did spend a few hours suggesting that his view of the technicalities deserved serious consideration.

With the conference in full flight. **Cpl Trina Zukowec** dutifully typed in an urgent nine page foreign document for transmission. The night pressed on. Finally, ready to send and, with the delegate breathing down our necks, **Trina** reached to transmit . . . and the system crashed! Speaking gently to the equipment she tried pleading, before graduating to more specific expletives! It refused to respond. With our resident tech **Mike Wright** absent, we were not to be outdone! **Alec** called a tech she knew and, over the phone, a nail file operation was carried out to repair the fault! Some of the left over bits were never replaced . . .

The only other crisis was next morning when the equipment failed after a cleaner pulled our mains plug for her hoover! Rosa Kleb we wondered?

By Saturday we were tired but satisfied at a job well done. And pleased to have seen such an event at close quarters. It was great to experience the TA and regulars working so well together. The tips we picked up will serve us well. All in all a very pleasant and worthwhile experience.

Left to Right: Charlie Childs, Sgt Alice Davies, Cpls Elizabeth Fitzsimmons, Maxime Taylor and Trina Zukowec

57 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj A. M. Flint**
PSAO	**Capt J. Radford**
2IC	**Capt R. K. Tuhey**

OC Nmc Tp **Capt D. M. Hughes**, OC Mould Tp **Capt J. Crackett**, OC Bde Tp **Capt G. F. Nash**, OC Nat Tp **Capt I. B. Strachan**, Tp Offrs **Lts S. A. Smith, P. H. Fowler-Smith** and **2Lt J. Loveys**, SSM **WO2 R. A. Lee**, PSIs **SSgts D. J. Ashley** and **S. Wilson**.

Since our last appearance in *The Wire* at least a quarter of the management team have managed to get themselves promoted. Congratulations to them—the remainder are enjoying the drinks and saving up for their own bribes!

CHARITY EVENTS

By providing a chain of mobile detachments for the command and control of the Audi Bike ride the Squadron assisted in raising £36,000 in aid of 'Action for the Crippled Child'.

ANNUAL CAMP

Camp had a military flavour this year. It was based on an Inter-Platoon Competition exercising and testing a wide variety of military skills in the stimulating fresh air and refreshing showers of Catterick training area. Congratulations to **Lt Stephen Smith, Sgt Geoff Eamer, LCpl Andy Chamberlain, Sig Nicholas Smith, Jason Goodman, Peter Casson** and **Raymond Hall** and **Pte Katy Addison-Scott** who carried off the hard fought for Platoon trophy.

Lt Stephen Smith and the winning Platoon

Sig Roy Romans, LCpl June Woolley, LCpl Stephen Reid and Sig Jason Williams taking a well earned breather during the military exercise

EXERCISES

With the majority of the Squadron without communication equipment, the ability of PSI **SSgt Dave Ashley** to get and borrow equipment has been fully tested. Despite these difficulties, we have managed to keep our trade skills up to scratch and now count several 'A' tradesmen amongst our numbers. In fact the CO, **Lt Col I. H. Thomson TD**, was so impressed with our performance on his annual exercise that he awarded us the communication trophy for the winning Squadron.

This year Troop Commanders were given a free hand to organise a Troop arduous training weekend. **Capt Dinah Hughes** took her crew for a wet weekend on the South coast to do watermanship training. The Cheltenham contingent and Brigade Tp went for the dry land option climbing hills in Wales whilst Mould Tp was unable to make up its mind whether to stay dry or get wet so, went hill-walking and canoeing, also in Wales.

COMMUNICATION ASSISTANCE TO EXERNAL EVENTS

At the prestigious International Air Tattoo, 12 members of the Squadron manned the message centre and radio links to provide vital co-ordination for this complex event. Not to be outdone, Mould Tp donned its green wellies and provided help for control communications at the Badminton Horse Show.

57 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
NMC TROOP GO AMPHIBIOUS!

The year's annual 57th Sig Sqn NMC Troop weekend was held at Wyke Regis camp. The real excitement was caused by the novel camp facilities; namely assault boats, raft building kits and support craft!

Capt Dinah Hughes split the Troop into two competitive elements for raft and assault boat races. The winning team was led by **Sgt Philip Packer** with much support from **Ptes Susan James** and **Clare Gardener**.

Sunday saw **Lt Steven Smith** organising some rather unusual command tasks—in which **OCdt Jonathan Loveys** held an unplanned swimming demonstration! Still at least it didn't dampen his enthusiasm!

The weekend culminated in a short navigation exercise. **Cpl Lionel Gray**—one of the Troop stalwarts—set a hot pace, in the quest to find the carefully selected . . . thirst quenching . . . RV on Portland Bill! All in all, a delightful weekend enjoyed by everyone.

The Winning Team

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

September saw the Regimental Annual Camp at Longmoor which proved very successful, concentrating on military skills. October saw the Regiment hosting the Annual Reporting Centre for the Sheffield area, with 1,200 reservists being processed over the week.

CAMBRIAN PATROL 90

Last year the odds were against us as only five members of the team managed to finish the 35km patrol. This year was very different, for we were the only team out of 46 entries to start with a full team of eight, and finish with nine! **Sig Wilson**, the reserve, not to be done out of a Puma flight to the start, found that having started there was no turning back and became the elusive ninth man, much to the bewilderment of the various DS!

Ably led by **Lt Bill Carr**, with great support from his 2IC **Cpl John Marsden**, the team not only finished the gruelling patrol through the Brecon Beacons, but achieved a Bronze award. A highly commendable effort.

Back Row L to R: Lt Bill Carr, Sig Paul Burditt, Cpl John Marsden, Sig Bryn Wilson, Cpls Andrew Wragg and Trevor Grant
Front Row L to R: LCpls Peter Jackson, Dave Hawley and Sig Gary Helliwell

EXERCISE TEAM MATE 90

This exercise took place at Longmoor during the Regimental Annual Camp and lasted for 48 hours. Modelled on the infantryman's 'Bread and Butter' skills, it consisted of a series of stands set within a navigation context over a 17km route.

The Squadron team leader, **2Lt Vickie Walker** never got past the start point and had to suffer in the bar throughout the exercise! The teams adopted different styles in navigating the course; the more adept went for the standard 'Silva' or prismatic look, whereas the more inept tried to grasp the glamorous but fatal 'Constellation' approach.

The end of a long 48 hours
Back Row L to R: WLCpl Andrea Bilton, Sig Bryn Wilson, Cpl Andy Wragg, 2Lt Andrew Mould, Cpl Trevor Grant and LCpl Dave Hawley
Front Row L to R: Cpl John Marsden, WSgt Chris Travis, LCpl Pete Jackson and Sig Paul Burditt

Our intrepid team, fermenting under the leadership of **2Lt Jane Boulton** deviated from the course to take in a few scenic villages. When asked for an explanation by **RSM Budden** (who kindly picks you up from nowhere and drops you off miles from somewhere else) he was informed that 'yes, the map reading was a bit off but we were just practising getting lost so that we know what it is like for the next time!' Top tip of the exercise came from **SSM Jeff Pearson** who proved that the blind can lead the blind when he navigated the Squadron to the harbour area. All in all a most enjoyable (for some) and entertaining exercise.

93 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) (BLACKBURN AND MANCHESTER)

'Camp 1990 at Longmoor in Hampshire will be one to remember', said **Lt Col Acda**, CO of 38 Sig Regt (V) of which 93 Sig Sqn is a part. At the risk of being accused of trying to clock up Brownie points, he was correct in the best possible meaning of the word 'remember'. A Signal Regiment sometimes loses sight, to its cost, of another world beyond antenna, Morse Code, commcens and all the other things which mean everything to a communicator. The purpose of Camp 90 was to rectify this by providing military training but with a difference. The rolling wooded terrain of Longmoor Training Area would be the stage and the Squadron with its sister Squadron would be the players.

If you had mentioned AFV 432 to many of the Squadron, you would probably have received a few blank looks. A home defence unit rarely, if ever, brushes shoulders with armour. But thanks to the good offices of REME Bordon and the silver tongue of **WO1 (RSM) Budden**, four of these vehicles plus an assortment of plant equipment would be available for half a day of sheer delight suitably organised with great panache by **WO1 (MTWO) Bentley**. Combined these with convoy drills and cross country convoy driving in HGV vehicles, 110 diesel landrovers and motorcycles and you can see why some of our soldiers are still recounting some tall tales.

No military activity would be complete without a patrol competition. Some innovations provided by the DS produced very interesting results whilst highlighting weaknesses. If in addition to this you let loose the 2IC with sufficient vehicles to deploy into the field for a full blown exercise, the full objective of realistic training becomes apparent. So realistic was some of the training that **SSgt Tom Knipfer** of the US National Guard, an ex Vietnam veteran attached to the Squadron on an exchange basis, admitted to being impressed.

Like most territorials, the members of 93 work hard and play hard. Portsmouth was the port of call for the rest day and the various sights were well and truly seen. A certain amount of alcohol was taken, for medicinal purposes only, as a relaxant, and the writer was told that it was very successful for this purpose. The camp of 90 will be remembered for many other things than those mentioned, each person drawing on his own experiences. Here's to the camp of 91.

L to R: WPte Haworth, WCpls Brown, Dawson, Sgt Bolgere, Sig Pearce

87 SIG SQN (V)
PERSONALITIES

OC — **Maj Mike Petty**
2IC — **Capt Frank Atkins**

PSAO **Capt David Shakespeare**, SSM **WO2 Mike Piechota**, SPSI **SSgt Trevor Jenkins**, PSIT **Sgt Mark Daniels** SQMS **SSgt John Wade**, SQMS(TA) **Sgt Stan Ross**.

Enjoying late sunshine—members of Natcon Tp who joined forces with MST/TAOR Tp to have a weekend 'barging' on the canals in Northants

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

To mark this year's Remembrance Day, the Regiment marched to St Mark's Church to attend a Service of Remembrance. Other participants in the parade were the local Branches of the Royal Marines Association, Royal Sigals Association, Parachute Regiment Association and the Royal British Legion.

The parade was headed by the 2IC, **Maj Jenny Wilson** and the Honorary Colonel, **Col Sandy Cramsie** took the salute on the return to the TAC after the service.

Lunch was served to members of the Regiment, the associations and families in their respective messes.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Farewells and best wishes to **SSgt Shuggy Barclay, Sgt Pete Huzzey** and **LCpl Paul Pani** on their postings and to **Sgt Kevin Oriordan** on his leaving the Army. A warm welcome to **SSgt Ozzie Osborne, Sgts Tich Wright, Jim Macrae** and **LCpl Drew Drewitt**, we wish them a happy tour with the Regiment.

40 Sig Regt (V)
Belfast

85 Sqn march out of the TAC led by 2IC Capt Joe Fallows while Maj Jack Amberton, *(right)* plays drill instructor

VISIT OF COMD 12 SIG BDE (V)

On Tuesday 5 December the Regiment had the pleasure of welcoming our new Brigade Commander, **Brig K. P. Burke** on his first visit to the unit at Clonaver Park TAC.

He was met at the airport by his minders for the day **Maj Jack Amberton** and **WO1 (RSM) Ian Urquhart**. A heavy day's schedule started with a visit to Comd 107 (Ulster) Bde at Lisburn Garrison, then to Belfast to visit the Secretary, TAVRA Northern Ireland. After lunching with the Permanent Staff Officers at Oakley Officers Mess, Holywood he was on the road again to Larne to visit the TAC at Mill Brae. A visit to the Sergeants Mess and supper with the Regimental Officers ended what must have been an exhausting day's itinerary.

The Comd shows a WRAC recruit how to fit webbing properly

An unbelievable event, Cpl Burgess, alias 'Capt Crypto' is stuck for words at last

The Comd shares a joke with Sgt Billy Dickson

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are extended to Foreman of Signals, **SSgt (FofS) Ozzie Osborne** on achieving an HND in Telecommunications Engineering.

SSgt (FofS) Ozzie Osborne receives his framed HND certificate from WO1 (RSM) Urquhart

News from Squadrons

NORTHAG Air Support Radio Sqn BFPO 18

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC **Maj P. J. Hryhoruk**
2IC **Lt J. Verwoerd** RNLA
SSM **WO2 R. Bruce**, YofS **WO2 (YofS) R. W. Marshall**, OC Comms Tp **SSgt J. Gray**, IC Wksps **SSgt P. Taylor**, CC **Sgt P. O'Brien**, MT Sgt **Sgt P. M. Arnold**. Reports **Sgt Pete O'Brien**.

EXERCISE AUTUMN RELIC 1990

NASRS held their annual Military Battle Camp at Garderen Training Area between 1-5 October.

On arrival, four sections of mixed nationality proceeded to 'bivvi up' on possibly the worst bivvi area ever to exist as Section Commanders endeavoured to shout orders over the noise of the adjacent autobahn.

Day one went with a bang with a pyrotechnics demonstration by **Sgt 'Gunny' McFeely** rounding off with instruction on where not to throw a thunderflash followed by a Cooking in the Field demo by our very own Keith Floyd, **Lt Jan Verwoerd** RNLA.

Meanwhile back at the bivvi area **Sgt** 'Poacher' **Pete O'Brien** Section Commander of 1 Section, 2 Platoon tactfully tried to explain to **Gef Marc Redeker** that an order to lie down and take charge of the gun was not an ideal opportunity to catch up on his beauty sleep. He can be assured that he didn't need it as the lads later admitted that he was looking quite attractive by day three.

Day two took the lads to the Battle Inoculation Range where **Sgt McFeely** demonstrated his ability. Sloth of the day however turned out to be a close fought match between **Kpl Billy Swartenbrock BE** and **Gef Morph Burchard GE** who were struggling over the third obstacle whilst the remainder shook the sand from their clothing. They did however finish the course. Well done lads.

The evening of day two involved 2 Platoon moving location 4km up the road which would include a well practised de-bus drill. Forty minutes later and with three false starts they arrived at the de-bus location where during the drill a horse, accompanied by its rider, made excellent contact with a large pack and several sleeping bags, heading one back into the top right hand corner of the DAF truck.

It was during day two that we learned that there were enemy forces in the area. Not by any infiltration or activity but by a chance meeting in the local Kaserne. Thanks goes out to **SU Ralph '007' Erlewein GE** 'Shaken and Slurred' for this valuable information. The enemy force being **WO2 (YofS) Wilf Marshall, SSgt Paul Taylor** and **Sgt1 Ron Boeser** RNLA or better known throughout the trenches as 'The Three Amigos'.

As expected during the early hours of day three the Amigos did pay a visit to 2 Platoon commanded by **1SM Rohnny Coosemans** BE and Section Commanders **Sgt Paul Hubble** and **Sgt1 John Weyers** RNLA where a welcoming committee waited to cut the enemy to pieces. It became apparent later that the enemy must have been in possession of the latest Robocop body armour as they came back a second and third time. Umpires next year please!

Day three ran along the same lines as day two with the Platoons changing places with 2 Platoon now defending the CP commanded by **SSgt Jim Gray** and Section Commanders **Sgt Pete O'Brien** and **Sgt1 John Dupont**. As expected the enemy arrived right on time only to be greeted by several unexpected road blocks. Had it not been for the skilful driving of **SSgt 'Mr McGoo' Taylor**, capture would have been imminent. It became obvious that the Robocop get up had still not been discarded as they came back again for more punishment.

The morning of day four consisted of packing up and area cleaning with the Germans and Belgians being involved in a photo finish in the 'I can pack my tent faster than you' Competition with the Belgians beating the Germans into a second place by a peg and a bungie.

The camp was rounded off nicely with a hot shower and a gourmet meal at the Kaserne with traditional refreshments and an early(ish) night.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The month of November saw farewell to **Sgt Dennis Morgan**, his wife **Lyn** and their sons **David** and **Andrew** who leave us on posting to CDA Salisbury for the last six months service. **Sgt Morgan** claims to be the longest serving Brit ever at ASRS, arriving in Tongeren on 21 August 1984. Best of luck for the future.

Congratulations goes to **Sgt Percy Arnold** and **Debbie** on the birth of their first son **Alan Michael** on 26 October. Well done.

VISITS

NASRS was visited in the field by Comd Comms BAOR **Maj Gen J. O. C. Alexander OBE** on 12 September 1990 where he met the members of the Squadron. **LCpl Dave Haytack** impressed the General with his Gurkha Curry.

Comd 4 Sig Gp, **Col P. E. A. Chaddock** visited on 22 October. He watched a demonstration of the TREND equipment and met squadron members. The visit was concluded with a lunch in the International Restaurant.

JOC 24 HOUR SPORTS MARATHON

This years 24 hour Sports Marathon in Aid of Mensen Helpen Mensen took place in the Sportshall Heco in Tongeren on 6-7 September 1990. NASRS team consisting of: **SSgt Jim Gray, Sgts Paul Hubble, Pete O'Brien, Sgt1 Ron Boeser** RNLA, **Cpl Steve Howard, LCpl Mark Richards, Kpl Edwin Van Eck** RNLA, and **Kpl Michel De Graaff**—Team Manager.

The marathon began with a 4km relay road run which proved to be a shock to the system with **Cpl Steve Howard** making up lost ground on the third leg and finishing third place overall.

The second event took the team to the putting green where **Cpl Steve Howard** again excelled himself by uttering those famous words 'leave it to me, I'm a pro believe it or not' and promptly missing the Official's head by a matter of inches. We didn't believe him, and **SSgt Jim Gray** repeated the same stroke minutes later, finishing in third place overall.

Other events consisted of volleyball, five-a-side football, archery, basketball, ten pin bowling, badminton, table tennis and the final event aerobics which again proved to be a shock to the system.

The event proved to be a huge success, the Squadron finishing joint fourth overall, raising over BF 200,000 for charity.

Other teams taking part were: Belgian Air Force, German Air Force, Dutch Air Force, NATO Programming Centre (NPC) and the Royal Air Force.

JOC 24 Hour Sport Marathon—NASRS Team
Back row (left to right): Kpl Van Eck, Sgt1 Boeser, Cpl Howard and LCpl Richards
Front row (left to right): Sgt Hubble, SU Erlewein (Photographer), and Sgt O'Brien
Absent from photo: SSgt Gray and Kpl De Graaff (Team Captain)

1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215 Sig Sqn) Tidworth

Q TROOP

PERSONALITIES

QM	**Capt John Hornby**
RQMS	**WO2 Des Faherty**

SQMS (K) **WO2 Steve Wheeldon ACC**, SQMS (T) **SSgt Mel Johnson**, SQMS (A) **SSgt John Hall**, URS SNCO **Sgt John Bache RAOC**, Mil Trg SNCO **Sgt Nick Evans RPC**, LWMB SNCO **Sgt Mick Flanagan**, Cook Sgt **Sgt Derek Melhorn ACC.**

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

Welcome to the following and their families who arrived recently. We wish them an interesting tour with the Squadron: **Capt Hornby, SSgts Johnson** and **Hall** all the way from A Troop, **Cpl Stewart Reviles, LCpl Tony Codling** (RPC), **Ptes Taff Hindley** (RPC), **Gaz Owen** (RPC), **Richard Reece** (ACC) and **Dave Tann** (ACC). Along with the welcomes we bid farewell to: **Maj Stan Hargreaves, WO2 (RQMS) John Standen, WO2 Steve Wheeldon** (ACC), **Sgts Nick Evans (RPC), and Derek Melhorn** (ACC), **Cpl John Reardon** (RPC), **LCpl Mark Brock** (ACC) and **Pte Alan Gibbins** (RPC). Our best wishes go with you all.

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate the following on promotion: **SSgt Des Faherty** to WO2 (RQMS), **SSgt John Standen** to WO2 (RQMS) (T) 7 Sig Regt, **Sig Ben Batley** and **Pte Mark Brock** (ACC) to LCpl. Congratulations also to **LCpl Chippy** and **Shirley Monk** on the birth of their son **Jamie**.

TIDWORTH GARRISON INCINERATOR

The Department has recently taken control of a brand new modern incinerator which is controlled by **LCpl Geordie Stephenson** (RPC). The incinerator is known by all as 'The Stephenson Rocket'.

The Department has been kept extremely busy over the past six months with a combination of the following Brigade FTX, Ex Lion Sun 9 in Cyprus, PRE, Stocktaking Boards, Audits, SA80 conversion and deployment of personnel to Op Granby.

CHARITY

The following have raised money for charity: QM sponsored cycle race from St Paul's Cathedral London to St Mary and St Nicholas Church Tidworth on Friday 12 October. The distance covered was 103 miles which was completed in nine and a half hours and raised £1,200 for Wilton Church Organ Appeal Fund.

The Troop entered five competitors in the road run event 'The Salisbury Plain 15' which took place on Sunday 4 November at Amesbury. Out of a field of some 600 runners they achieved the following results:-

Name	Placing	Time
WO2 Wheeldon ACC	302	2 hrs 4 mins 41 secs
SSgt Johnson	276	2 hrs 1 min 4 secs
LCpl Codling (RPC)	89	1 hr 42 mins 45 secs
LCpl Adams (ACC)	356	2 hrs 14 mins 9 secs
Pte McCowley (ACC)	375	2 hrs 20 mins 58 secs

A total of £110 was collected through sponsorship. This will go towards purchasing a wheelchair for **Michael Renard** who suffers from MS and lives in Tidworth.

SHQ TROOP

There's been a lot going on lately (more precisely it's been a lot going away). The Troop, which is mainly techs, clerks, Mess stewards (sorry, driver linemen) and a couple of 'hand bags' has undergone a few changes of late. Just about the only one staying (at least until he's fit for windsurfing again) is the Tp Comd **Capt Dave Gilchrist**.

The going away has centered around Op Granby. **SSgt Geoff Graham** and all his techs, with the exception of **Cpl Wilf** 'The Corrector' **Kempton**, are on their way to sunshine and sand. Firstly, we had to put the workshop vehicles into light care and preservation (OOU storage is the latest buzz word but we don't know what it means). The Corps Museum might have been a better place for them. **Cpl** 'Spud' **Murphy** wants to know why we're not taking Bruin to the Gulf.

We've also said goodbye on a more permanent basis to **WO1 (FofS) Tom Sharp** who has had enough and has gone to be a big wheel in civilian comms. **Cpl Scott Carpenter** couldn't hack another PRE and has gone to be a small wheel. Also we say goodbye to: **Cpl 'Bod' Barr** (thanks for the re-wiring job but where did you put the diagrams) for 16 Sig Regt, **Sgt Paul Bartlett** who thinks he'll be safe in 21 Sig Regt and **Cpl Paul Mayer** who has gone to NI (was he ever here?). **Cpl** 'Teddy' **Ruffin** will have to really duck and dive in 1 Div to escape cross country.

The Orderly Room is saying goodbye to **LCpl John Parker** (off to 22 Sig Regt), but we manage to get replacements and welcome **Cpl Adrian Ferris** to the Corps eating and smoking team. Also away is **Sgt Vanessa Dike** WRAC to Bulford via Kenya.

Making sure the Foreman's rover passed PRE are: *Back row:* LCpl (now Cpl) Duncan Shaw, Cpl Wilf Kempton, LCpl (still LCpl) 'Freddie' Farnfield
Front row: LCpl (now Cpl) Paul Simpson, Cpls Dave Beech, Paul Mayer, *'Buster'* (Tech Wksps 'dog') and Dave Hewitt would rather be elsewhere

EXERCISE CAMBRIAN MARCH
CONTROL HQ

Ex Cambrian March is a Patrol Competition hosted by HQ Wales. It is a Military Skills Competition run over an area of 75kms in the sunny countryside of Sennybridge and South Wales.

The personalities were: IC **Lt Mark Billingham**, Watchkeeping: **SSgt Chris Skelton, Sgts Chris Middleton** and **Steve Coombs**. Three rebroadcast stations were sited on prominent peaks of the renowned Black Mountains, **Cpl Steel**'s crew being so highly placed they always had their heads in the clouds. Communications throughout the exercise were good, and strangely enough for the area so was the weather.

Resupply was done by **Cpls Steve Lovell** and **Freeman** who were kept busy with tasking from **Lt Billingham**, who emphasised the fact that they weren't to get bogged in. The resupply crew disregarded this advice at the earliest opportunity; however they managed to get themselves out again. Thanks to ID and D for hosting and looking after us. See you next year!

RRB 2

After a rather boring convoy run to Wales, during which **Sig 'I've** just passed my test' **Nicholls** managed to keep all the wheels on the road, we arrived at our rather bleak hill top site led by **Lt Mark Billingham** and **LCpl Taff Owen.**

After our glorious leader **Cpl Steele** and **Sig Karl Touhey** did a bit of hang-gliding with the 9 by 9's we settled down to sort out our creature comforts for the next two weeks. **LCpl Fergie Ferguson** soon found life without a kettle all too much and had to return to Base Camp at Sennybridge. The rest of the excitement consisted of shouts of 'Gene on', and 'Gene off', and the odd bit of trench digging as **Cpl Steve Lowell** and **LCpl Skull Freeman** decided they didn't want to play at driving any more and did a bit of peat excavating with the resup rover.

Sig Karl Touhey discovered to his horror that an RAF Rescue Puma which materialised from the mist was now playing chicken with the 8m mast he was to take down.

The Golden Blanket goes to **Cpl Gazza Steele**, who has a long lie-in every time Sunderland loses a match, so with Sunderland's record there were quite a few long lie-ins!

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd	**Maj M. W. Edwards**
2IC	**Capt R. P. Wilson**

Ops Offr **Capt S. R. Workman**, AO **Capt J. Aspinall**, RSM **WO1 (RSM) M. A. Granitza**, YofS **WO2 (YofS) G. M. McCrindle**, CC **SSgt (ORQMS) J. Richards.**

The latter part of this year has been dominated by Ex Suman Warrior of which the Troops will tell their own stories. There is much turmoil in the Squadron with handover/takeover notes being rapidly written since changeovers are taking place at Sqn Comd, 2IC and RSM levels. We wish **Capt John Turner** all the very best for his new job in Bde HQ just across the road.

Capt Scott Workman receiving the coveted Lanyard Trophy from Col Galloway

LANYARD TROPHY
by Capt Scott Workman

The Lanyard Trophy this year was held in North Yorkshire. The competition was a straightforward 40 mile course along the Cleveland Way and across the North Yorkshire moors, starting and finishing in Burniston Barracks. Unfortunately due to Op Granby commitments the entries were limited, but nevertheless worthwhile and all who took part gained from the experience.

Without any training, the Squadron team beat off a stiff challenge from 2 Div, who showed early promise but lost a lot of time going across the moors. Thanks to 2 Div for providing some good competition and gaining second place just 29 minutes behind the Squadron team.

Thanks to **Capt** 'Chopper' **Aspinall** for organising and running an excellent competition and, of course, my personal thanks to the old faithfuls who always volunteer for these competitions: **Sgt** 'Jack' **Hawkins, Sgt Jim Hanlon, Cpl** 'Compass' **Rose, Cpl Stu Archer, LCpl** 'Woody' **Woodward, LCpl** 'Dayo' **Day, Cpl** 'Smudge' **Smith, Cpl** 'Oli' **Oliver, Cpl Chris Brown, Cpl Tom Keville** and **LCpl Chris Coates.**

A special mention to 55 Sig Sqn (V) showing good determination and the will to complete the course, well done; hope to see you next year.

EXERCISE SUMAN WARRIOR
by Cpl 'Karaoke' **Walsh**

Three weeks in Malaysia, yes, that's right, the Far East, and not Salisbury Plain as usual. Ex Suman Warrior was a five Nation Exercise which included Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and, of course, the United Kingdom in the guise of 5 AB Bde. The lucky members of the Troop to depart as Admin Staff were **Cpls Jeff Whittaker, Scouse Walsh, LCpls Julian Lynch, Phil** 'Screws' **Ireland** and **Matt Southcott.**

After several days of acclimatising to the hot and sticky heat, of Penang we prepared for the arrival of other contingents. There was much moving of stores and accommodation during the first few days which in the hot and humid heat proved tiresome work, except from **Julian** who maintained his 'no work' policy. However, **Capt Fred Bancroft** and our globetrotting RQMS **Steve Clarke** seemed to have everything under control, including his R&R phase around Singapore, and it was not long before everything was running smoothly.

It was a good exercise, with all the Para element earning their Malaysian Para Wings. Many new friends were made among the contingents and everyone was impressed by the warm hospitality of the Malaysians.

(Left to right): LCpl 'Gaz' Shuck, Cpl 'Iggy' Gratrick and LCpl Chris Coates
Malaysian Jumps Course on Ex Suman Warrior

ALPHA TROOP

Tp Comd	**Capt Steve Vickery**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Eddie Grattidge**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Dougie Craig**

TROOP NEWS

The Troop has now all returned from Ex Suman Warrior in Malaysia after the delayed return of **Sgt Dougie Craig** and **Cpl Dave Kennedy** on their rear party duties in Penang.

The exercise went well with the Squadron providing the communication for all five nations—Singapore, United Kingdom, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand. The operators worked well with all the variations of English on the nets.

Congratulations to all the para-trained personnel who completed their Malaysian Jumps Course, and who now sport Malaysian wings.

POSTINGS

Welcome to **LCpl Perrie** and **Sig Evans**—looking at pre-Para early next year. **LCpl Crookes** and **Sig Mount** return from their tour in Belize. All the best to **Cpl Dave Girling** and his wife, **Christine**, on the arrival of baby **Heather.**

FAREWELLS

The Troop has now lost **LCpl Greg** 'Village' **Harwood** to civvy street. All the best for the future.

Congratulations to **Sig Combe** on passing 'P' Coy first time.

BRAVO TROOP

Tp Comd	**Lt Dave Rose RA Signals (Lt Healey Ex Long Look)**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Fred Hutchinson**
Tp Sgts	**Sgts Jack Hawkins** and **Andy Dawson.**

MIKE TROOP

Tp Comd	**WO2 (FofS) Paul Gaffney**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Phil Green**
Radio Wksps Sgt	**Sgt George Crozier**

Congratulations to **LCpl Jeff Wright** who has successfully completed P Coy and is now at RAF Brize Norton throwing himself out of the Hercules. **LCpl** 'DM' **Davies-Morris** somehow managed to wheel and deal himself onto an HGV 1 Course at the Army's expense, he is now a member of the 'Yorkie Bar' fraternity. A sad farewell to **LCpl** 'Dayo' **Day** who is off to civvy street to pound the beat. Congratulations to **LCpl** 'Woody' **Woodward** for coming top on his RSDCC and his well earned promotion to Corporal. **Cpl Stu Archer,** meanwhile is off to 3 Div in sunny Germany on promotion to Sergeant, we wish him good luck and hope to see him back with us in the near future, hope the new car makes it.

Q TROOP
PERSONALITIES

QM	**Capt Fred Bancroft**
RQMS	**WO2 Steve Clarke**

SQMS(A) **Sgt Martin Gear**, SQMS(T) **Cpl Colin Rich**.

ALDERSHOT NEWS
by Cpl Colin Richieee

This month the Department has been flooded with much sought-after Posting Orders, rumours are that we will soon be annexed to 22 Sig Regt! Those about to leave us have already begun the wind down that affects us all. **SSgt Mac** however began his many years ago. Having more time on their hands the Department has begun some record breaking attempts. **Sgt Martin** 'Muscles' **Gear** is going for the most courses in the shortest amount of time, he seems to be doing well. **LCpl Dave** 'The Brain' **Dewar** has gone for a much tougher record, that of quickest fail on a course, a record already set by **Cpls Colin Richieee** and **Rubin** (Alexis Sayle) **Paul** who simply had no chance of holding on to this flimsy record once **Dave** 'Brain' had set his mind on breaking it. We are sure it will stand for some time. **Cpl Scouse** 'My Rover' **Walsh** has opted for an even tougher record, that of the person who can look the most convincing while doing nothing, not much chance of breaking the existing record firmly set by **SSgt Mac**. The closest anyone has been, of course, was **LCpl** 'Pretty Boy' **Lynch**, good try though, **Scouse**! Having recently passed driving tests other members have chosen driving related records. The most miles and waffle in one week has been set by **Sig** 'Ginge' **Duncan**, also the record for most mistakes on a driving assessment has gone to **Sig** 'Stewy' **Totten**, most number of months to pass a test set by **LCpl Chris** 'is he back yet?' **Palmer**, and most unlucky person goes to **LCpl Meredith** for we feel having taken over FATSO from **LCpl** 'Brain' **Dewar**, he has a good chance of breaking all previous records.

Goodbyes to **SSgt McKenzie** and his family on his posting to ACIO Preston. Hoping all is well in the new post.

Welcome to **LCpl Ian Meredith** and his wife, **Samantha**, plus baby **Danielle** from his two year holiday in Cyprus.

19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209 Sig Sqn) Colchester

QM DEPT

The Squadron deployed on Ex Panthers Preen with the QM's Dept in the thick of things with the collection and transportation of all stores to Fort Tregantle.

Day 1 of the exercise and the sections departed on a day navigation exercise over Dartmoor with the rain coming down and the mist setting in. With the mist really thick now the Quartermaster **Capt Bob Lockwood** and **SSgt Dave Meakin** arrived at the CP after suffering **Sig** 'Del Boy' **Brindley**'s driving.

The QM wanted to video some of the sections in action so he departed for check point 8 with **Capt Alistair Ross** and **Sgt Paul Morgan**. The QM found this heavy going; he was filming as he approached the check point, he then realised that the others were leaving him behind as he had the camera on full zoom focus.

On arriving at CP 8 the QM took park in his favourite past time, having a brew, this was provided for him by **Sgt Paul Morgan**. After a short wait a section appeared out of the mist so the QM leapt into action with his camera. He showed his excellent camera work with some very low rolling shots, after taking a couple of tumbles, so it was a good job that the sound recording wasn't functioning properly.

The second day consisted of another navigation exercise with 2 Command Tasks. As with day 1 the QM was on hand with his camera at Command Task 1 which was devised by **Sgt Steve Dalton** but run on the day by **WO2 Colin Fenwick.**

Comd Task 2 was run by **SSgt Andy Waldron** and **Sgt Steve Dalton,** here the sections had to catch a chicken and prepare a meal using the vegetables collected along the way. This was also filmed by the QM with a section of marines showing us how they kill a chicken.

The military phase ended and we then moved onto the adventure training phase which consisted of climbing, abseiling, canoeing and a confidence course with all the events being recorded by, yes you've guessed, the QM and his video camera.

A special 'thank you' goes to HMS *Raleigh* for its support and providing us with all the canoes and adventure training kit.

During the period of the exercise the Squadron played two football matches and achieved the following results: 19 Inf Bde 1 HMS *Mountbatten* 0; 19 Inf Bde 3 B Sqn 9/12 Lancers 1.

Back at Colchester and preparation and training starts for the Brigade Sports Competition with the Squadron Volleyball Team comprising mainly QM staff, winning the competition outright.

COMMS TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**Capt Alistair Ross**
2IC	**2Lt Dan Taylor**

SSgt **SSgt Derek (Scouse) Deegan**, Sgt **Sgt Chris Warnes**.

DETACHMENTS

Sig 'Daz' Wright has now settled into life at JCUFI and enjoying the 'Falklands Summer', see you back in February.

OP GRANBY

Op Granby or Desert Shield as our allies have called it, has taken a manpower commitment from the Troop, far too many to mention.

ASSAULT COURSE COMPETITION

Teams were entered by all departments which included a combined LAD/QM team. The competition turned out to be a very close and hard fought event, with the LAD/QM team which started as one of the outsiders taking first place with Def Pl second.

The Winning Team

SPORT

Recently, Colchester Garrison held a sports week, in which all major and minor units participated in various sports. A special mention to the waterpolo team which managed to win all its heats and came first. Well done. It was an enjoyable week.

NEW ARRIVALS

Welcome to **2Lt Dan Taylor** from Sandhurst (who made a great impression by writing off our only staff car within his first two days. Also, welcome to **LCpls Morely** and **Badger** may your tours be happy ones.

DEPARTURES

We say farewell and good luck to **Lt Neil Holden, LCpls Keith Pickersgill** and **George Watson** to civvy street, **Cpl Dave Copley** to 30 Sig Regt, **Sig 'Brooksie' Brooks** to 249 Sig Sqn.

227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT) BFPO 18

Back Row (Left to Right): Sgt Mick McDonald, LCpl Chris Hunt, Sgts John Bryant, Johnny Wilkes, SSgt Rod Oakley, Cpls Keith Townsin and Ian Gurney

Front Row (Left to Right): Mrs Jo Vaughan, Sig Paul Dacey, Maj Brian Robinson, WO2 (SSM) Colin Thompson, LCpl Geordie Morgan and Cpl Angus MacPherson

The end of an era is upon us with the amalgamation of 227 Sig Sqn and UKDSU HQ AFCENT on 1 December 1990.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE SQUADRON

1948 — Squadron formed as the Western Europe Sig Tp, then the Western Europe Sig Sqn, then HQ ALFCE Sig Sqn, Fontainbleau, France.
1949 — First Wire notes in April; everyone seemed stunned at living in a 12th Century French palace.
1959 — The Squadron becomes 227 Sig Sqn (ALFCE).
1966 — The Squadron becomes 227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT) and the following year moves to Maastricht, The Netherlands.
1971 — **Jo Dupont** starts working for the Squadron as a civilian storeman; he's still here!
1984 — **Sgt Derek Pocock** arrives.
1985 — First Squadron ARU for nine years; it seems that HQ (BR) Comm Z forgot about us, and nobody had the heart to tell them.
1990 — **Sgt Derek Pocock** still here; why should we have all the pain?
1990 — 1 December, Squadron disbanded.

To all those members of the Corps who have served at AFCENT or will serve here during their career, the Sergeants' Mess, in the attic of Buildings 1/J, will continue to thrive, as from 1 December 1990, the newly formed Royal Signals Association South Limburg will have its home there. The Association membership will include Corps personnel serving in HQ AFCENT (Brunssum), AWCS, UKDSU Det Maastricht, 641 Sig Tp, NASRS Tongeren, and former members of the Corps (30+) who are resident in the area. Our intention is to keep the flag flying in this most pleasant area of Europe. The Association proposes to hold an AGM in early March, a Newsletter confirming date and venue will be sent to members. **WO1 (RSM) Taff Williams** is the contact for the Royal Signals Association Branch at HQ AFCENT.

DISBANDMENT DAY

So, disbandment time has finally arrived, and the Pennant must come down for the last time. It will be framed and left with all other Unit photographic albums/Sergeants' Mess Books, trophies and property and Squadron has amassed over the years. It was fitting that on this sad occasion **WO1 (RSM) Taff Williams** (AWCS AFCENT), **Maj Brian Robinson** (OC 227 Sig Sqn and Comd AWCS AFCENT) and **WO2 (SSM) Colin Thompson** lowered the Squadron Pennant.

WELCOMES

We welcomed **WO2 (SSM) Colin Thompson** and **SSgt (SQMS) Rod Oakley**, the last to join the Squadron prior to disbandment.

CONGRATULATIONS

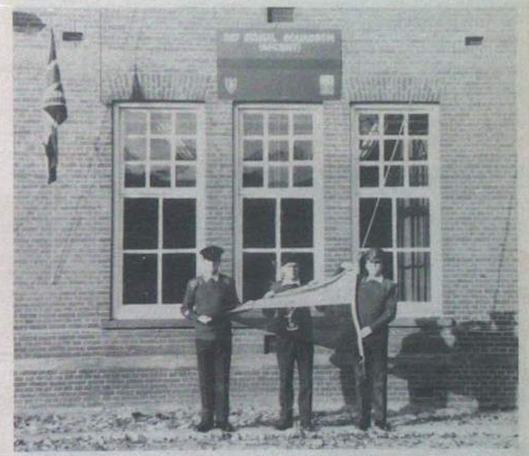
Congratulations to **Cpl Keith Townsin** and his wife **Kerrie** on the birth of their son **Charlie**, and to **Sig Chris Hunt** who received the biggest surprise of his life during the visit of OIC Royal Signals Manning and Record Office to the Squadron on Friday, 16 November 1990. **Col M. S. Louden** asked **Sig Hunt** to stand up at the end of the presentation to junior ranks; **Chris** received his Lance Corporal's stripes personally from **Col Louden** who had brought them with him from Glasgow!

FAREWELLS

Farewells are often sad more so on the disbandment of a Unit. We say farewell to our double-hatted Commander, **Maj Brian Robinson** and his wife **Mary** and thank them both for the enormous and excellent support to the Squadron and their contribution to the national and international scenes. We wish them a fond farewell and good fortune for their next tour in UK. Those also leaving are **Cpl Keith Townsin** to NI, **Cpl Angus MacPherson** to 602 Sig Tp, **Sgt Mick McDonald** to the factory (8 Sig Regt) as a Military Training Instructor and finally to **Sig Paul 'Junior' Dacey** when he receives his posting instructions—finding a suitable job for a man with his talents is proving difficult!

Brief farewells to **Sgt John Bryant, Cpl Ian Gurney, LCpls 'Geordie' Morgan**, and **Chris Hunt** as they move across to HQ AFCENT. Even briefer farewells to **WO2 (SSM) Colin Thompson, SSgt (SQMS) Rod Oakley, Sgt Johnny Wilkes RAPC** and **Jo Vaughan** our long suffering typist as they are not going anywhere fast—they remain in the same building and are incorporated into the UKDSU Det Maastricht; they will be bolstered shortly by the arrival of **Sgt Jimmy Park** from HQ AFCENT.

A mention for **Mr Jo Dupont**, our civilian storeman for his service to the Squadron over the last 20 years and best wishes for his retirement.



Lowering of the Pennant *(left to right)*: WO2 (SSM) Colin Thompson, Maj Brian Robinson and WO1 (RSM) Taff Williams

FOOTBALL MATCH

Sergeants Mess v Junior Ranks supplied by the playing reporter in the form of **Cpl Angus MacPherson.**

After some pressure by the Seniors they went a goal ahead through a high lobbing cross from **Sgt** 'Mac' **McFeely** which got to the back of the net despite our 'extremely tall' goalkeeper, **Cpl Rob Wiltshire.** The Seniors nearly made it 2—0 with a low drive from **WO2 (SSM) Colin Thompson** which went just wide.

After half time we came back with a vengeance with goals from **Sig Richie Harding** and **Cpl Angus MacPherson**, and a clash between the Seniors goalkeeper **Sgts Brad Bradberry** and **Steve** 'the plank' **Prowse**, meant that the Juniors finally came out victors by 3 goals to 1. After the game both players and spectators retired to the International Dining Hall for a superb Sunday lunch provided by the chef, **LCpl Phil O'Hara**. It was then on to the Sergeants' Mess for the presentation ceremony. Our thanks to **SSgt Stan Holden** and his committee for a very enjoyable day.

229 Sig Sqn
BFPO 45

On 15/16 November 1 Sqn Berlin HQ and Sig Regt held a Skill-at-Arms Meeting on the Ruhleben Range complex. The first day was a usual SAAM with three background activities, First Aid, NBC and a Command Task. Six teams competed, Bde A, Bde B, SHQ Tp, Tech Tp, Commcen A and Commcen B.

At the ranges the teams dispersed to their respective stands, all ranges were used and all shots fired were accounted for to determine the best shot. It soon became evident that four people were in the running of overall title; the GPMG shoot was well contested with **Sgt Metherell** obtaining the highest score of the day, **Cpl Arkwright** Second, **LCpl Gilmore** Third and **Cpl Hatton** Fourth.

Then came the .22 shoot changing the order. The APWT was the clincher for **Cpl Arkwright**, a REME attached Cpl who became overall champion with **LCpl Hatton** in Second place.

On 16th the Training Wing Trophy Competition was held for the second time and is a prized trophy within the Squadron. The competition was competed for by the same teams. It started with a Speed March with some good times being recorded over the four mile course (a slight untruth on behalf of the Trg SNCO as the course was slightly longer than this). Forty seven minutes by Tech Tp was the fastest time of the day. Next was SHQ Tp with 50 mins, Commcen B Tp did it in 54 mins with 5 WRAC in the team.

Immediately after the Speed March the teams completed a stretcher race over 1.5km approximately. The race finished at building 51 RFC, and, with the adrenalin flowing and nerves twitching a blindfold was applied to each team member who had to strip and assemble his SLR. Immediately it was assembled **LCpl Yafai** led the teams to the Urban Assault Course. Then came a relaxing jog to the next stand where two LWB landrovers were parked. The teams task was to prove how quickly they could change all the wheels. With jack handles, jacks and wheel braces organised chaos took over—the team with the LAD chaps were the winners! The final activity in the Training Wing Trophy was a Section in Defence Shoot and some very good shooting was achieved by all teams with some very good scores from the WRAC.

Praise for the WRAC, led by **WO2 (YofS) Langford** and achieving Fourth place. Well done Yeoman and your petticoat warriors.

Many thanks go to the DS and the organiser of the event **Sgt Hutchinson**. Although physically demanding the SAAM was enjoyed by all participants.

The results confirmed the hot, pre competition favourites SHQ Tp, living up to expectations, and becoming the 1990 Training Wing Trophy Champions.

WLCpl Rix finishing the race

238 (London) Sig Sqn
Chelsea Barracks

MIKE TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**Capt L. F. Brown**
Tp Sgt	**SSgt G. Baldry**
PTO	**Mr C. Hatcher**

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

The Troop welcomes the arrival of **SSgt John Godfrey, Sgt Ally** and **Mrs Duncan** and **Cpl Bev** and **Mrs Beveridge.**

Goobyes to **Cpl Taff Bryant** and his wife **Kerry**, best wishes for the new baby, Goodbye to **Cpl Sean MacKay**, off to civvy street, so too is **Cpl Steve Wheatley** and his wife **Margaret.**

Also farewell to **SSgt** (soon to be SSM) **Geoff Baldry** and **Kay**, who are off to 22 Sig Regt.

OSCAR TROOP

Oscar Tp has had a fair turn around in the past couple of months.

In October we said farewells to **Sig Jayson Malcolm** to 3 Inf Bde Sig Sqn. We also said farewell to **WPte Tracy (PJ) Price-Jones** now Pot OCdt at Beaconsfield (good luck to your course PJ).

In November we said our farewells to **WCpl** (now Sgt) **Bev Hill** to ACIO Central London (just around the corner), **SSgt Paul Flintham** to 2 Sig Bde Corsham, **WPte Pauline** 'Pebbles' **McPhail** to 9 Sig Regt (lucky **Pauline**) and last but not least **WPte Karen** 'Gappy' **Buckwell** to Aldershot Exchange. We wish you all well in pastures new.

COMMCEN

On 1 October the Commcen went legless or was it 'headless' as we were going about our jobs like headless chickens for the first two weeks. I am happy to report that it has settled down now and we are only getting two 'extras' per shift.

DETACHMENTS

Two lucky people from the Commcen have been invited to work at High Wycombe for the next couple of months; staying in a four star hotel they are **LCpl John Harding** and **WPte Fiona Bitters**. Hope you are enjoying yourselves.

RADIO TROOP
FAREWELL

To **Sgt Dodd** to sunny Blandford and **Cpl Salisbury** to even sunnier civvy street.

WELCOME

To **Sig Hineson** and family and **Sig Garner, Lea, Harris** and **Williams** all from Harrogate.

On 21 November a troop outing was arranged by **Cpl Taylor** to visit the sewers of London! The party consisted of: **LCpls Winning, McIntyre, Sig Tait, Ashwood** and **Phillips.**

We were met by **Mr Graham Coursley** at 1000 hrs at Hyde Park. He then proceeded to dress us up as Doozers, wearing orange coveralls, waders, (with big socks) and carrying miners lamps. Once we looked suitably ridiculous we descended into bowels of London.

When we reached the bottom we stood up to our knees in fast flowing sewage, while **Mr Coursley** gave us a very interesting talk on what happened to it all. Rivetting! We were carrying special meters which would signal to us if the gas level was reaching a dangerous level. It did so at the next manhole and we resurfaced only to find that the gas level was even worse. We resurfaced outside the French Embassy, much to the disgust of the embassy staff. We then crossed over the Knightsbridge Road and re-entered the sewers further along.

It was most amusing to note that whilst waiting at the lights to cross the road that no one came within 20m of us. At the end of the trip we were once again given a very interesting talk by **Mr Coursley** and his men.

We would like to thank Thames Water Board and all their staff who gave us such an interesting day. It was an unusual experience and we all enjoyed finding out how the Capital's essential services are kept working.

TROOP CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Troop Christmas Party was a complete success. Thank you **Cpl Heal, LCpl Head, WLCpl Hughes** and **Sig Jones** for a very good night.

244 Sig Sqn (AS)
RAF, Brize Norton

EXERCISE HIGH PEAK
ON TOP OF THE WORLD
EXPEDITION TO KENYA/TANZANIA

After the highly successful training trip to central Norway in June, 10 members of the Squadron left Heathrow Airport for Nairobi via Egypt Air and Cairo. A service aircraft was unavailable and the expedition had to use civil flights and without generous sponsorship we would not have been able to go ahead. The plan was to spend two weeks acclimatising at about 5,000m on Mt Kenya and then to move on to Tanzania to attempt Kilimanjaro, at 5,896m the highest mountain in Africa.

One day was spent in Nairobi buying final supplies before the party set off for Mt Kenya. The route chosen was the Naro Moru trail coming in from the west of the mountain and, after a five hour ride aboard a 4 tonner through Eucalyptus and Bamboo forests, the party still hadn't seen any Koalas or Pandas!

The first phase was a climb up the Vertical Bog into the Teleki Valley at 4,300m. The going was very hard due both to the condition underfoot and the altitude and the whole trip took two days. The bleak Teleki Valley, home for the next 10 days, consisted of very sparse grasslands leading up to the rocky slopes of Mt Kenya itself. The mountain is an extinct volcano and although we aimed to climb up two of the highest of three peaks that make up the massif, a severe Kenyan winter had left the routes iced up and too dangerous for the party to attempt. The next few days were spent doing arduous walking and rock climbing at altitude.

Cpl George Rahman and **LCpl Paddy Maybin** were badly affected by altitude and had to return to a lower level. The rest of the party spent one day circumnavigating the massif including a very long scramble up to the top of Arthur's Seat with its' impressive views over Kenya. **Capt Paul Glibbery, Sgt John Howell-Warmsley** and **Cpls Egg Irwin** and **Rocky Bentley** managed an early ascent up Point Lenana at 4,985m, the third highest peak reached by a scramble along the massif ridgeline. **Capt Jim Wood** and **2Lt Ashley Hayden** went in search of Two Tarns but could only find one because of the heavy fog! **Sig Wiz Wiseman** was left behind to fend off marauding Hyraxes (a rodent like creature related to the elephant). The rest reached the top of Point Lenana in perfect weather a day later.

The return trip, in the 4-tonner, was made even more exciting by heavy rains making the track very slippery and the vehicle ended up across the track on the odd occasion. At this point it was decided to split the expedition so that those who experienced little difficulty on Mt Kenya could go on to Kilimanjaro and the others would return to ensure at least one peak was climbed. There had been three cases of potentially fatal cerebral oedema in the preceding month so we could not risk this happening to our party.

Cpl George Rahman and **LCpl Paddy Maybin** went back to Mt Kenya under **Capt Jim Wood** taking the longer and more scenic Chogoria trail from the east. The climb was taken slowly and none experienced any problem with altitude. On the way down, through the vertical bog again, reports reached the party of a lion in the campsite at the bottom but thankfully it had gone by the time we reached there!

At the first campsite, Mackinders Camp at 4,300m
L to R: Cpl Egg Irwin, Capt Jim Wood, Cpl Rocky Bentley, Sig Wiz Wiseman, LCpl Paddy Maybin, Capt Paul Glibbery and Sgt John Howell-Walmsley

The other half of the party set off for Tanzania and the expedition's ultimate aim—Kilimanjaro. After braving atrocious road conditions and an expensive border crossing, the party arrived three days later. The route was up the Umbwe Trail finishing by climbing up the Heim Glacier. The glacier was first climbed in 1957 and was described as a grade two ice climb. However since then it has retreated and in doing so it has become a much more difficult climb at grade four and the 10 hour climb became a three day trip! **Cpl Rocky Bentley** and **Sig Wiz Wiseman** stayed at the last campsite whilst **Capt Paul Glibbery, Sgt John Howell-Warmsley** and **Cpl Egg Irwin** made the climb. It became steeper with each telling of the story but they finally reached the top exhausted but exhilarated.

Everyone climbed at least one peak and the last party climbed a very difficult route up the highest peak in Africa. All members have now got enough stories to last them for a year or two and are rightly proud of their achievements.

LCpl Paddy Maybin displays the team T-Shirt with Bation in the background

One of the many rests on the long walk in
(Left to right): Sig Wiz Wiseman, Capt Paul Glibbery and Sgt John Howell—Walmsley

Not looking too excited at the thought of dehydrated soya, Cpls Egg Irwin and Rocky Bentley and Sig Wiz Wiseman

251 Sig Sqn
Aldershot

Where has 1990 gone?

They say that the busier you are, the faster time passes and looking back over the year it seems to be true.

The Squadron has two WRAC members for every member of Royal Signals! Senior personnel:-

OC **Maj R. G. Drake**
2IC **Capt D. Mitchell**
SOC **Capt D. H. Jepson**, OC Tropo Tp **Capt P. H. Davies**, OC Tech Tp **Capt J. Gerrad**, Tp Offr **Lt K. M. Lillystone**, CDSO **WO1 J. Skelton** and SSM **WO2 S. Barclay**.

Lt Kay Lillystone, who took over from **Lt Claire Minshall** in June of this year has been posted to Munster Germany as Battery Captain, Headquarter Battery 2 Fd Regt for a colocated tour with her husband. **WO2 (SSM) Sandy Barclay**, who took over from **WO2 Ann Clark** in October 1989 assumes the appointment of RSM 10 Company WRAC on promotion. The Squadron welcomed **Lt Sally Mason WRAC** and **WO2 Kate Woodcock WRAC** in December.

1990 was a busy and an exciting year. The Squadron hosted important visitors, culminating in the visit of **HRH, The Duchess of Kent**. Military training was completed at a three week training camp at Browndown Camp, Gosport. Members of the Squadron have taken advantage of the many adventure training courses available, from rock climbing to gliding, and four members of the Womens Royal Army Corps have participated in training in Northern Ireland. In September one member of the Squadron, **SSgt Steve Croot** together with three other colleagues raised £1,600 for four charities—Cystic Fibrosis, The Foundation into the Study of Infant Death (Cot Death Research), the Rushmoor Mallards (The Society for Mentally and Physically Handicapped People in the Borough) and the Farnborough St John's Ambulance Cadets—by cycling over 243 miles from Aldershot to Hull.

During the year we have entered a total of 21 individual and team/league sporting events—we have won two of those events. What we lack in ability we certainly make up for in enthusiasm!

The most notable sporting achievements include the success of three members of the Squadron in the South East District Individual Badminton Championships, 6—8 November 1990. **SSgt Steve Croot** (Tele Tech (Systems)) and his partner **SSgt John Millership RAOC** won the finals of the Inter-Unit Doubles Championships and **SSgt Shirley Clark** (Tele Op Data) and **Cpl Karen Marritt** (Tele Op Data) came runners up in the Womens Inter-Unit Doubles Championships. The Squadron also won the South East District Inter-Unit Volleyball League earlier in the year.

Each year during the weekend of the Army (Womens) seven-a-side Hockey Championships a team of workers from the Squadron help to set up and run a refreshment stall on the sidelines for hockey players and spectators alike. We are well known for our culinary skills.

This year was no different—whilst the team prepared to 'do battle' . . . **SSgt Rena McGregor** 'Chief Chef' donned her apron and prepared 'to feed an Army!'

UNEXPECTED PRESENTATIONS

There have been a series of presentations made to various members of the Squadron during the year.

Maj Drake during a surprise visit, presented certificates to seven members of the Squadron for various courses passed. He also handed an envelope to **Ptes Whalten** and **Ray** each containing a single stripe. A delighted **LCpls Whalen** and **Ray** then returned to squad and the rehearsal continued.

The second occasion involved a surprise visit by **Maj Drake** to the communication centre during normal working hours.

Three members of the Commcen were under the impression that they had failed to clear a signal in the correct manner and expected the wrath of **Maj Drake** to descend upon them. He handed each an envelope which they believed contained the 'offending' signal, only to find that **Pte Lye** had become **LCpl Lye, LCpl Marritt** had become **Cpl Marritt** and **Cpl Devenney** had become **Sgt Devenney** and much to their relief there was no 'offending' signal. Celebrations followed!

254 Sig Sqn (UNFICYP)
BFPO 567

SHQ
PERSONALITIES
OC **Maj F. T. J. A. Riley**
2IC **Capt P. J. Watt**
SSM **WO2 W. Henderson**, SQMS **SSgt D. Forbes**, CC **Sgt A. B. Rose**, St/Acct **Sgt R. Clatworthy**, FSO Clk **Mrs J. McGhie**, Typist **Mrs S. Hiscock**.

It was with regret that the Squadron said farewell to **Maj Jerry Peck**, his wife **Belinda** and son **Alexander**. We wish him and his family all the best and a good tour in Bielefeld as SO2 G1/G4 in Corps Headquarters.

We would like to welcome the new OC, **Maj Frank Riley** and his family. We hope they have an enjoyable time here with the UN in Cyprus.

EXERCISE APHRODITES AMBLE

During the period 5-10 November 1990 Ex Aphrodites Amble XXI took place in the Episkopi area. This exercise was designed to test the Squadron's fitness, map reading and basic military skills taking the form of a competition involving eight sections of five men. The finish line was Evdhimou beach where an RCL was supposedly waiting to whisk the tired teams away. Radio Tp managed to come overall winners although Commcen Tp won the march phase. Times varied up to six hours between first and last position.

Throughout the whole exercise the morale of the sections was very high and the competition very fierce. Everyone had an enjoyable exercise but was glad to get back to the 'Wire Inn' for a barbecue.

Aphrodites Amble: The overall winning team from Radio Tp: Cpl Timmy Mallett, LCpl Ted Heath, Sig Paul Parsons and LCpl Steve Rose *Photo by MCpl Gyl Beaupre*

The winners of the march phase from Commcen Tp: Cpl Mick Hodds, Sig Doobs Rogers, Georgia Wiffen and Mike Warren

STAG PARTY

Tuesday 27 November saw the Stag Party for the Sqn 2IC, **Capt Jon Watt**, who on Tuesday 4 December married his sweetheart, **Miss Sophie Hunter**.

The entire Squadron gathered at the Wire Inn, where quite a few beverages were consumed and the Squadron Comd, **Maj Jerry Peck**, presented him with a 'very expensive' wedding gift accompanied by the best wishes of all the Squadron.

RADIO TROOP
Tp Comd **Capt Mike Purcell** (Canadian Signals)
Tp SSgt **SSgt Mick Halford**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Jerry Gervais** (Canadian Signals)

The Troop is fairly busy with inspections, visits and trials. New arrivals are still trying to get used to early morning Sqn PT (in the dark!) especially the Canadians still suffering from 'jet-lag'. Our fishing trip, unfortunately, was not successful, due to bad weather—unusual for Cyprus.

Finally welcome to our new arrivals—have a good tour and goodbye and best wishes to all our recently departed members of the Troop.

TECH AND LINE TROOP
PERSONALITIES
Troop Comd **WO2 (FofS) S. G. P. Whiteford**
Tp Sgt **Sgt S. Norris**
Tech Sgt **Sgt A. Broadbank**, Line Sgt **Sgt P. Jennings.**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Warm welcomes extend to **Sgt Rab Binnie** from Berlin and **LCpl Scott Carmichael** from 14 Sig Regt and from 259 Sig Sqn and 662 Sig Tp, **Sig Ev Galloway** and **Mez Mesmer**.

Our fond farewells to **Sgt Ade Broadbank** and family, enjoy Blandford and your Foremans course. **Cpls Laurie** 'FMT-3' **Casci** and 'Macfly' **Mackay** on returning to 30 Sig Regt. **Cpl Si Hodgson** and **Sig Shuggy Wray** who both return to 259 Sig Sqn.

DASH 8 AND 9

The inter-Troop Dash competitions continue to be fiercly contested.

Dash 8 was held in October consisting of three events: five-a-side football, seven-a-side hockey and a pairs orienteering course.

SHQ Tech & Line won both the football and hockey putting them in a strong position going into the final event. However, even though **Sgt Alf Norrie** and **Cpl Si Hodgson** had the fastest time of the day this was cancelled out by the pathfinders—**Cpl Laurie Casci** and **Sig Shuggy Wray** who took 1 hr 40 mins against the fastest time of 34 mins.

The final scores were as follows: SHQ Tech & Line—35 pts, Radio Tp—30 pts and Commcen Tp—24 pts.

Thanks go to **Sgt Paul Jennings** for organising this competition.

Dash 9

Dash 9 was the Squadron Safe and Skilled Driving Competition consisting of four sections: A written test, a manoeuvering test, driving test and a cross country phase. Everyone managed to get through the day successfully without any major disasters although **Cpl** 'Master Driver' **Casci** was the only one to get all four wheels off the ground at once. The final winners were Commcen Tp.

COMMCEN TROOP
PERSONALITIES
Troop Comd **WO2 (YofS) D. Mac Taggart**
Tp Sgt **Sgt I. Thornton-Granville**
Shift Supervisors **Cpl Pops Betts** (A Shift), **Cpl Jabba Ker** (B Shift), **Cpl Ginge Purves** (C Shift).

ARRIVALS

The Troop welcomes the following: **Cpls Mick Hodds, Jabba Ker, Pops Betts, Ron Atkinson, LCpl Voyse, Sig Terry Toomes, Miners, Humpy Humphries** and **Skidmore**.

DEPARTURES

Fond farewells go to **LCpl Dave Green** and **Sig Dave Greenstreet**.

TROOP BOWLING NIGHT
by Cpl Ker

It was decided to hold a Troop bowling evening at the local bowling alley with most members attending. **Paul Ker, Ginge Purves** and **Mick Hodds** proved to be the more competent in the sport.

However, by the end of the evening all members of the Troop had bettered their skills, was this to do with the beer?—and a fine evening was had by all. Thanks again to **Ginge Purves**.

SAFE AND SKILLED DRIVING COMPETITION
by Sig Miller

On 23 October the Squadron held its Safe and Skilled Driving Competition which was won by **Sig Dusty Miller** (Team Capt) **Sig Ritchie** (I haven't done this before) **Warren** and **Sig Tom Wiffen** formed the team. Congratulations go out to all the team members.

602 Sig Tp (SC)
Bicester

ARRIVALS

2Lt Zoë Almonds has now arrived from Berlin to take up the busy and demanding appointment of 2IC—at least that was how her predecessor described the job!

SC COURSE 1/90

Special Communications Course 1/90 has ended and we congratulate the following successful students and welcome them into the Troop: **WCpl Bower, Sig Foster, MacKintosh, McDonald, Winstanley, WPtes Flaherty, Hinchliff** and **Rawson.**

The end of course party was a lively affair, as usual, and was also attended by **Mr Ken Purnell** and **Mr Pat Gratton** of our Association of Friends. **Mr Purnell** presented **WPte Mary Flaherty** with the Best Student award, the *first* time it has been awarded to a member of the WRAC.

All the course has already been deployed to working detachments; the photos show some of them displaying their new SC skills.

ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS

The AOF has already been mentioned. It consists of ex-members of the Unit who meet from time to time for a few drinks and the chance to meet old friends and reminisce about how it was in their day.

Although numbers have been steadily growing, there is always room for new (or should it be old?) blood. The AOF is open to *all* ex and serving Troop members (not only operators).

If any ex-Troop member would like further details they should contact: **Dave Smedley**, 5 Old Rectory Close, Powick, Worcester WR2 4QU.

SUMMER CAMP

Report by WCpl Tansie Bower

The Troop's annual Summer Camp was held a little late this year in Tenby, South Wales.

The week started with fog and rain and various displays of marksmanship on the ranges with **Sgt Nick** 'Hot Shot' **Stapleton** having the best score of the day, **Cpl Tansie** 'Bullseye' **Bower** was the most improved shot with her 12in group! Last but not least was **Pte Mary** 'Missed Again' **Flaherty** whose target got away unscathed when she claimed that her extra large helmet had blinded her! The first day ended as they all did with the SSM's de-brief, 'A successful day was had by all'.

Wednesday started with a strenuous cliff-top run for the Shrapnel Trophy which was won by **SSgt Mike Hope.** Runners-up prizes went to **Sig Phil** 'Donovan' **Whitehead** for making it over the finishing line with his extra weight and the 2IC who showed initiative and took a short cut (closely followed by the other girls!). The afternoon produced 602's leaders when command tasks were carried out by some very unethical methods.

The 'A' Team!
Standing (left to right): 2Lt Zoe Almonds, WO2 (YofS) John Arkley, LCpl Jason Trimmer and Cpl Tansie Bower
Kneeling (left to right): SSgt Paul Chandler and Cpl Smudge Smith

Thursday began with a casual orienteering competition where, strange as it may seem, all competitors got the same number of points (no conferring, honest!). The day was rounded off with yet more lunatics putting their confidence to the test. Led by **Sgt Andy Stevens** (APTC) they hit the rock face (sometimes literally) attempting to do some climbing.

Friday the Troop showed its military skills combined with SC trade skills by tactically clearing a wood and setting up communication. The week ended in high spirits when everyone went back to their childhood and took part in **SSgt Mike Hope**'s 'Its A Knockout'. The Tp Comd and SSM took the brunt of the water filled buckets, balloons and sponges but no-one escaped the dreaded Swarfega!

Suitably exhausted, dried off and still smelling of the gungy green stuff, the Swedish chefs **SSgt Paul Chandler** and **Yeoman John Arkley** fed the hungry mob with a barbecue and finished off with a couple of pints kindly paid for by the Boss who was celebrating (?) something of a birthday mile-stone.

EXERCISE DEAD SET

Report by Cpl Stan Riley

The exercise was a NATO CPX conducted during the period 2-17 October 1990. The Troop deployed to AFSOUTH, Naples, Italy.

Once we had convinced the Carabiniere to let us in, the exercise went smoothly. The operators, once again, performed their duties displaying outstanding professionalism, dedication and that they are all-round-nice-guys (and this is being written by a Tech!!). Believe it or not, there must be some ill-informed people out there if they begrudge them their Special Comms pay. Well all I can say to them is—anyone can apply to join!

At the end of the exercise, despite suffering from complete and utter exhaustion, we took R & R in Rome, Naples and the Isle of Capri—where the cars come from?

So, if you are a nice person and would like to work long hours on occasions, you should consider a career at 602; you will have a super time.

Sig Graeme MacKintosh working a CW schedule with Sig Mac McDonald lurking in the background trying to look busy

WPte Jane Hinchliff and Sig Rick Foster operating Special Communications equipment

662 Sig Tp
BFPO 58

PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd — **Capt Nick Naylor**
2IC/AO — **Lt Kim Thurlow WRAC**

SSM **WO2 Dale Ikin,** OC Maint Sect **WO1 (FofS) Peter Martin,** OC Comms Sect **WO2 (YofS) Chris Rogan,** SQMS **SSgt John Williams,** Chief Clerk **Sgt Steve Gorman,** Station Commander FSS Cape Greco **SSgt John Smith.**

REDESIGNATION PARADE

662 Sig Tp was formed from 262 Sig Sqn on 24 August 1990. A redesignation parade was held at Harding Barracks to mark the occasion.

The Commander British Forces Cyprus, **Maj Gen John Friedberger** officiated during the ceremony which commenced with an inspection of the Unit Quarter Guard commanded by the SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) Keith Talbot.**

The Quebec Band of 3 Queens added colour to the occasion.

The Commander ordered the redesignation which was signified by the lowering of the Squadron pennant and the raising of the 662 Sig Tp pennant.

Cpl Jill Mackay raises the Troop pennant and Pte Tanya Smallridge hangs on to the Squadron pennant

Cpl Wicks receiving his GOC NI Commendation

It seemed a suitable occasion for **Cpl Paul Wicks** and **LCpl Nigel Kerr** to receive their GOC Northern Ireland Commendations and the Commander was delighted to carry out the award ceremony.

The SSM **WO2 (SSM) Dale Ikin** then marched the newly formed Troop off to the informal party with wives to the strains of Auld Lang Syne.

The concluding ceremony was the unveiling of a commemorative plaque by the Commander.

LCpl Kerr receiving his GOC NI Commendation

PRESENTATION

One of the final official ceremonies which the outgoing Dhekelia Garrison Commander **Col Crispin Champion** performed was presenting **Sgt Michael Scott** with his LS & GC medal. The occasion was even more significant as the Commander's dog 'Max' failed to get in the picture. The ceremony took place in the new Sergeants' Mess on Friday 14 September.

Sgt Scott and his wife Marie, with the Garrison Commander

MAINTENANCE SECTION

OC	**WO1 Pete Martin**
Admin SNCO	**SSgt Des Watson**

The section is going through great change at the moment with many projects either having been recently completed, in hand or imminent. To let readers know that the maintenance staff here, is not spending all its time on the beach, here is a list of recent projects. For those who have recently left the Unit no, neither the new exchange nor the radio relay systems are on line yet!

COMPLETED PROJECTS

February 1990—Conversion of all officers married quarters military telephones to the civilian telephone network.

March-September—Replaced all commercial radio nets with Mould/Pegasus equipment.

July—Laying of 21 × 100 pr cables from old MDF to new exchange.

September—Laying of 3 × 100 pr cables from Test Unit A to Alexander Bks in preparation for the incoming Resident Battalion, March 1991.

October—Designed and installed new 'Ops room' for Alexander Barracks.

November—Laying of 4 × 100 pr cables from new exchange MDF (DOC) to Test Hut A. (To replace 30 year old lead cable laid down Normandy Road.)

MAINT SECTION—TELE MECHS
by SSgt Nigel Grant

I/C	**SSgt Nigel Grant**
2IC	**Sgt Mick Senior**

In recent months there has been a large turnover of Tele-Mechs within the section. We have bade farewell to the following: **LCpl 'Lamie' Lamb**—who turns in his line belt to become a civvie. **LCpl 'Taff' Skinner**—who thinks 'flak jackets' are the 'in' fashion. **Sig Andy Jones**—dodging aircraft on the perimeter track. **Sig 'Tosh' Pope**—Snakes and swamp fever are to his liking. **Sig 'Bolts' Bolton**—Anywhere as long as it's not from 10,500ft.

We welcome: **LCpl Wilbur Wilson**—who has swamp fever! **Sig 'Mez' Mesmer**—who knows **Sgt Dave James**. **Sig John Gill**—who arrived on 23 September 'the spiv'.

In the new year **Sgt Mick Senior** is off to 'Sunny Catterick'! It is believed that he already has plans to start a Tele-Mech convention within the Training Regiment. He will be replaced by **Sgt Bob Witherstone.**

LCpl 'Johno' Johnson and **Sig 'Mez' Mesmer** have traded in dark blue berets for sky blue and are at present basking in all the home comforts of UN Nicosia.

Sig Al Hayhurst is well on the road to recovery after leaving an indentation of his person in the front bumper and bonnet of a local motor vehicle. He is doing well in the local radio quizzes.

Cpl Neil Inman and **Sig Mick Durey** have hibernated in the MDF pit in preparation for the new exchange fit.

There is no truth in the rumour that **SSgt Nige Grant** is to apply for Cypriot Citizenship. His present tour has been extended until February 1992. Disappointment for those who have been queuing up to fill this post is regretted.

MAINT SECTION (RADIO RELAY)
by Sgt Chris Bough
ARRIVALS

Sgt Chris Gardner and his wife **Hazel** and newly promoted **Sgt Harry Simpson** well done, and welcome to you all.

DEPARTURES

Sgt Mike Scott and **Marie** to 15 Sig Regt. **Cpl Mick Garbett** and **Wendy** to School of Signals. Farewell and good luck with the Triathalons.

PERSONALITIES (Ex Radio Relay)

Sgts Chris 'DPM' **Bough, John** 'Telemech' **Garhard, Clive** 'Rigger' **Smith** and **Tim** 'Sportsman' **Pickersgill.**

Things are hotting up weather and work wise. We have just merged with the 'ex' TE Techs so the IQ of the workshops has halved and the workload doubled. The section is preparing for the arrival of the new Crisp equipment, so the NRSA forms are coming out, with courses back to the cold UK.

RADIO SECTION
by Sgt Frank Grant and Cpl 'Murph' Murphy

Welcome to Sgt **'Brad' Bradley** just arrived from 633 Sig Tp Belize, who has already been chosen from a cast of thousands to run the PRI. Good luck **Brad!**

Farewell to **Cpl 'Stig' Elliot** on posting to 2 Div. **Stig** will be missed for his sense of humour and willingness to get stuck into a variety of jobs, often 'getting his hands dirty'. All the best in your new Unit.

THE JOB

Maintenance and repair of over 120 base vehicle and portable commercial radio installations covering the ESBA area, Nicosia, Ay Nik and the Cape. Looking after a variety of users vehicles, Resident Inf (CERR) Unit, RMP, Ad Police, RCT, Security Coy, Fire Service, Ambulances and Recce Vehicles.

RECENT EVENTS

The past 18 months has seen the complete replacement of all Cyprus commercial radio nets by the Pegasus radio and talkthrough system. Also a variety of projects including antenna refurbishment/relocation in Dhekelia, Radio equipment room to house the talkthrough cabinets, and the Ops Room relocation.

A FUNNY

On a recent visit to a site in Nicosia, two Radio Techs, who wish to remain anonymous, broke down on the motorway and stopped on the hard shoulder. As they got out to check the motor they heard shooting and dived back in the vehicle to hide behind the seats. A local Cypriot, out bird shooting, wondered what all the commotion was about. Needless to say, an unnamed informer also rang up BFBS to nominate them for the coveted prize of 'Wally of the Week'.

TE WKSPS
by Cpl 'Aussie' Chapman

Well, here is the final episode from sleepy hollow, as of the beginning of the New Year we will have moved out of the old Commcen building and into RR Workshops. It is rumoured that the hierarchy wish to keep a close eye on us. No, not really, the real reason is that this place is going to be vacated in the interests of efficiency and better management.

We would like to congratulate **Sgt Bob Wymer** on his marriage to **Julia**. All the best wishes for the future also go to **Sgt Don Anderson** on his marriage to **Dee.**

A final note to all you ex-members of 262, we are still suffering the 'Strowger' but it is going shortly!

CHARITY DARTS EVENT

On Saturday 20 October **Cpl Kev Murphy** organised a 24 hour darts marathon which took place in the Unit club 'The Bitsa', in aid of the Helen House Hospice and the Childrens' Society. It was sponsored by the local Nissan dealer 'Klitos' plus raffle prizes kindly donated by local firms and shops in the area.

Just about everybody joined the 1 and 2 club.

The event proved to be a huge success and C£600 was the final sum raised.

Bitsa Team
(Left to right): LCpl Luckhurst, Cpl Maynard, SSgt Grant, Cpl Murphy, LCpl Skinner, Sgt Corrigan and Cpl Pickersgill

THE ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

Admiral	**Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB MBE**
Commodore	**Col P. J. Pritchard**
Vice Commodore	**Lt Col C. K. Powell**

Rear Commodores: Offshore, Lt Col J. A. Grierson; Dinghies, Lt Col M. J. P. Collins; Windsurfing, Lt Col C. D. McK Kemp

Secretary Maj G. M. Lewis-Taylor.

All serving members of the Corps, Regular (including Apprentices and Juniors), male and female, are members of the Royal Signals Yacht Club by virtue of their contributions to Corps Funds. Retired members of the Corps may continue to be members of the Club provided that they register with the Retired Members' Representative.

The Club owns four offshore yachts; *Petasus 3* and *Skywave* are kept at Gosport, *Quicksilver* is at Kiel in Germany and *Parang* is at Larnaca in Cyprus. A fleet of six Enterprise racing dinghies is based in Catterick. The Club also owns 12 racing windsurfers. Dinghy sailing and windsurfing also take place worldwide under Club auspices using other craft not owned by the Club.

THE 1991 SAILING SEASON

Plans for the 1991 Sailing Season are well under way and although at this time of the year sailing may be the last thing you want to think about, now is the time to get the dates into your diary and start planning.

Whilst some of the details still have to be filled in, particularly for the dinghies, most of the dates are set out below.

Offshore		
15-19 Apr	R Signals Day Skipper Course	Solent
7-9 Jun	Yacht Club Offshore Rally	Solent
28 Jun-2 Jul	ASA Offshore Regatta	Solent
3-7 Jul	Services Offshore Race	Channel
Dinghies		
4-5 Jun	R Signals Keelboat Regatta	Seaview
6-7 Jun	Triangular Regatta	Seaview
27 Jun	RAF v R Signals Match	Grafham Water
13-14 Jul	Gold Cup/Conninham Cup	Seaview
7-8 Sept	Army Dinghy Championships	Netley

The RSYC Central Committee has decided that, because the six Enterprises which have been based at Parkstone for the last three seasons are not being used, they will be transferred to the North of England. Thus, if the four boats already based at Harrogate are taken into account there will be 10 boats based in the North.

Corps dinghy sailing in the South will now be based on the quite excellent facilities provided by the Army Sailing Association at Netley. Netley will be our Home Water for Inter Corps matches.

The Corps Dinghy Regatta will probably be held at Netley in late May/early June. Details of this and the Inter Corps fixtures will be published in the April issue of *The Wire.*

WINDSURFING

6-7 Apr	Roermond Icebreaker	Roermond
8-9 Apr	R Signals BAOR Championships	Dummersee
29 May-1 Jun	Army UK Championships	Browndown
3-5 Jun	BAOR Championships	Dummersee
29-30 Jun	Army Championships	Weymouth
1-3 Jul	BFG Championships	Dummersee
27-28 Jul	Joint Services Championships	Rutland Water
16-17 Sept	Inter Corps (BAOR)	Dummersee
2-6 Oct	R Signals Championships	Browndown
14-15 Oct	BAOR Inter Services	Dummersee
17-18 Oct	BFG Slalom (UK sailors welcome)	Renesse (NL)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Crown Hotel, Blandford on Friday 25 October 1991 starting at 1830 hrs. The Yacht Club Dinner will also be at the Crown Hotel on Friday 25 October 1991, at 1930 for 2000.

J24 'Chieftain'

The ASA owns two J24s which are loaned on a long term basis to Corps Yacht Clubs to campaign. *Chieftain* is one of these and the Royal Signals Yacht Club have taken on the campaign until the end of 1991, with the possibility of extending until the end of 1993.

A J24 is a 24ft planing keelboat, with a crew of up to five. The concept of a planing keelboat may seen odd to some but it does take quite a lot of wind to get her up on the plane—up to force 5—and she is very light; witness the fact that in the right (or wrong) conditions she can be knocked flat when under spinnaker and can even invert. Both the Army boats have done this although we are glad to say, not when the Corps hands.

1990 has been our first full season sailing her. The campaign has included all the major UK National events and the European Championships. The results have already been published in the October 1990 *Wire.* Suffice it to say that it has been one long learning curve, but by the end of the season we rank in the top 10 in the UK. However, postings and so on are seriously depleting this experienced crew—so—if you are a keen sailing enthusiast, in fairly easy reach of the south coast, and would like to get involved in this year's campaign, contact **Capt David Ellis** at CPD Blandford, telephone Blandford 2489. He would like to know your experience to date, your availability and your **Weight**. This last is very important as the maximum crew weight for a competitive J24 is 400kg.

Contacts

Yachtmasters		
UK	**Maj Barrett**, School of Signals	Blandford 2480
BAOR	Adjutant, 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt	Verden 302
Cyprus	**Maj Wilson**, 9 Sig Regt	Ayios Nikolaos 7466
Dinghy Secretaries		
UK	**Capt Ellis**, CPD, Blandford	Blandford 2489
BAOR	**Sgt Avey-Hebditch** 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt	Korbecke 359
Windsurfing Secretary		
UK	**Capt Gilchrist**, 1 Inf Bde Sig Sqn	Tidworth 2043

If in doubt, contact the Secretary, **Maj Lewis-Taylor** at HQ SWDist on Bulford 2939 who will put you in contact with the right person.

The Commodore

After four years, the outgoing Commodore, **Col Bill Roper**, handed over to **Col Peter Pritchard**. The Royal Signals Yacht Club is greatly indebted to **Col Roper** for his hard work on behalf of the Club. The Committee has recorded its sincere thanks and good wishes to him.

— Sport —

BADMINTON

ROYAL SIGNALS BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIP 1990/91

The Corps Badminton Championship was held in the gymnasium Blandford Camp on 28/29 October 1990. This championship was the first one played in the UK since 1984 which made it rather special. Hopefully now that this revival has occurred it may continue annually as it did so prior to 1984. The size of the entry was encouraging with almost 50 participants, 16 of the number coming from 1 and 3 Div Sig Regts, 28 Sig Regt and 21 Sig Regt. The mens' singles and unit doubles trophies going to 21 Sig Regt and 3 Div Sig Regt respectively. The ladies singles, doubles and mixed doubles trophies remaining in the UK.

Most encouraging for the future was the sight of **Sig Smith**, 21 Sig Regt (two years out of Harrogate) and **Sig Merchant** Comms and Sy Group (first year out of Harrogate) contesting the 'singles' final. Both youngsters put up an excellent show in a closely contested match. With such young talent coming the Corps should be back amongst the leaders.

Unfortunately the President of Royal Signals Badminton was unable to attend. Taking part in the Veteran's competition was one of the 'elderly' stalwarts **Capt (Retd) Ted Heasman**, who kindly presented the prizes.

FINALS 1990/91

Event	Winner	Runner Up	Scores
Mens Singles	**Sig Smith** (21 Sig Regt)	**Sig Merchant** (Comms & Sy)	18—14 14—18 15—6
Mens Plate	**Sgt Kendal** (21 Sig Regt)	**Sgt Moore** (94 Loc Regt)	15—4 15—6
Unit Doubles	**SSgt Wandless** **LCpl Hinson** (3 Div Sig Regt)	**Sig Fenwick** **Sig Merchant** (Comms & Sy)	10—15 15—11
Mixed Doubles	**Sgt Moore** **Mrs Johnson**	**Maj McLoughlin** **WCpl Stackwood**	15—8 15—7
Ladies Doubles	**WCpl Stackwood** **Mrs Barry**	**Mrs Wandless** **Mrs Hatchard**	15—9 15—11
Open Doubles	**WO2 Chhetri** **Sgt Moore**	**Sgt Kendal** **Sig Smith**	15—9 15—11
Ladies Singles	**Mrs Johnson** (School of Signals)	**WCpl Stackwood** (30 Sig Regt)	11—3 11—3
Veterans Doubles	**Capt** (Retd) **Heasman** **SSgt** (Retd) **Ellis**	**Maj McLoughlin** **WO2 Chhetri**	15—14 15—0

INTER CORPS BADMINTON 1990/91

The Corps participated in the annual Inter Corps Badminton Tournament which took place in Worthy Down on 23/24 November 1990.

Seven different Corps teams entered the competition which was drawn into two groups, the Corps was drawn against the RAOC, RE and RAPC.

Unfortunately for us two key players were injured in our first match against the RAOC, **Sgt Jim Moore** 94 Loc Regt RA, fell and damaged his chest and **Sgt Chris Naylor** School of Signals damaged his shoulder, we lost this match 6—3.

From then on it was an uphill struggle and although some of the younger players excelled themselves the results still went against us. We lost to the RE and RAPC by nine rubbers to nil.

Those who represented the Corps were: **Maj P. J. McLoughlin** 242 Sig Sqn, **WO1 H. Elkin** School of Signals, **SSgt S. Croot** 251 Sig Sqn, **Sgt I. Gilbert** 238 Sig Sqn, **SSgt T. Williams** 8 Sig Regt, **Sgt C. Naylor** School of Signals, **Sgt J. Moore** 94 Loc Regt, **LCpl M. Graham** 233 Sig Sqn, **Sig P. Merchant** Comms & Sy Gp.

BASKETBALL

ANNUAL CORPS TOUR 1990
by Lt Col T. Everett

This year the Corps UK tour clashed with Remembrance Sunday and gymnasiums were in very short supply.

We were most grateful to **Lt Col M. R. Stevens RCT** for allowing the Corps Squad to use the Inter Corps Championships venue at HQ RCT TA at Grantham for training prior to the event.

Training commenced on Thursday 8 November followed by a practice match versus Loughborough University in the evening.

Signals started well going out to a 10 point cushion by the eighth minute. An excellent performance by the Signals five **Fred Tedby, Gavin Grant, Eddie Williams, Jimmy Peat** and **Dave Smith** but we lost 79 to 49.

A second practice match versus the Int Corps on Saturday. The original plan was that this match would practice the substitutes in competitive basketball. In the event our injuries and a fall off in Int Corps support for its team, a team of 8 Sigs played a team of 7 Int.

Signals skill and experience proved too much for Int. After several minutes to settle down and switch on to the task in hand all of the Signals players acquitted themselves well and ran out easy winners at Signals 83 Int 22. New boys **Pete Beale** and **Jonah Jones** doing well. Our President, **Brig Bill Robins**, attended to support the team and met all the players on the bench during the match.

Sunday evening and the first match in the Inter Corps Championships versus the ACC.

First 5 **Gavin Grant** (capt), **Mark Reeves, Eddie Williams, Jimmy Peat** and **Dave Smith**. A good start despite the ACC scoring first Signals went to a 10 point lead by the fifth minute but the Chefs pull back to go 2 points in front by the 12th. Subs by coach **Smith** bringing on **Jones, Tedby** and **Bain** at various times and Signals got its act together and the score at half-time—Signals 36 ACC 32.

A good positive game by Signals in the Second half and we won by 76 to 60.

Our next opponents are the Int Corps. The outcome was predictable and the object was to make the substitutes take responsibility and win on their own merit. Score in the first half Signals 29 Int 11.

Second half and Signals get themselves sorted out **Jonah Jones** having a good spell under basket and good breaking from **John Smith** and **Mark Reeves** and later by **Pete Beale.** A much better all round performance in the second half, final score Signals 72 Int 24.

Later the opponents are the RA. They had an improved team this year and proceeded to demonstrate their intent by going to a 12 to 5 lead by the 4th minute. We worked well as a team and by the 10th minute had got back in front but at half-time it was Signals 36 RA 41.

The second half was a very exciting game where Signals just could not put the ball consistently in the basket failing to take advantage of the numerous opportunities their hard work had created from both the field and the free throw line. Signals 62—RA 63.

Thursday morning and the AMS. A much improved side since they entered the competition several years ago. They scored first and held their lead until the 8th minute when Signals managed to go into the lead at 12 to AMS 11. The Corps then began to assert its authority and at half-time was 36 to AMS 25. The second half and predominantly good play from Signals took them steadily to a comfortable win of 80 to AMS 45. Signals had to work for this result as AMS never gave up and at times pressured signals out of their rhythm.

Thursday pm and the old opponents REME. This is the make or break match for pool positions. The Signals first five were **Gavin Grant** (Capt), **Jimmy Peat, Eddie Williams, Dave Smith** and **Bagsy Bain.**

REME scored the first 2 baskets but Signals replied with some excellent driving by **Bagsy Bain** and breaks from **Eddie Williams** to go up 9 to REME 4 by the 7th minute. At half-time Signals 29 REME 26.

Second half and Signals added 8 without reply to go to an 11 point lead REME fought back to a 5 point deficit and a good 3 point shot from **Eddie Williams** took it back to 8. **Mark Reeves** and **Jonah Jones** entered the fray and did their jobs well keeping REME out and playing the clock out. A final thrust by Signals to a finish of Signals 62 REME 51. The most disciplined and controlled game Signals have played and it paid off!

This result meant that in Pool B REME, RA and Royal Signals had lost one game each so the final position is decided on points difference between the three teams, this was Signals + 10 first, RA—2 second and REME—8 third. This means Signals play RE and RA play APTC in the semi finals. The semi finals vs RE started indifferently RE going into an early lead Signals pulled back and went ahead by the 7th minute then another indifferent patch, RE go 9 points up another fight back by Signals but half-time arrived with Signals 4 points down at 29 to RE 33. Having come down from the euphoria of beating REME the previous evening the first 5 are having difficulty getting back paid off and we were 60 all.

Second half and RE immediately extended their lead to 10. Slowly but steadily the Corps pulls back and our slow but determined fight back paid off and were 60 all.

An extra period of five minutes was played, we maintained our pressure and despite an early 3 point score by RE that momentarily put them back in front, our control paid off and we won with a final score of Signals 74 RE 67. Another thrilling game that aged the coach and the secretary several years!

So at last to the final. We cannot do worse than runners up which we achieved last year but we would dearly love to win for the first time! Opponents APTC who beat RA in the other semi final without too much trouble. The crowd were expecting the result to be APTC but get behind Signals who are the perceived underdogs. We were also supported by our President **Brig Bill Robins** who had come up for the final. An even start, 8 each after six minutes and APTC realised that they are going to have to pull out all the stops if they were going to win. They pulled away to a lead of 8 in the 11th minute, **Fred Tedby**, whose injuries had been nullified by pain killers came on. We changed our play pattern using **Tedby** as big man and played some determined ball to reduce the APTC lead to 2 points at half time. **Gavin Grant, Bagsy Bain, Jimmy Peat, Eddie Williams** and **Dave Smith** were playing extremely well following two hard games against REME and RE virtually on their own.

Second half and Signals scored the first 5 points to go ahead, the play continued basket for basket with Signals just in front and APTC playing to catch up. Then disaster **Bagsy Bain** was fouled off with three minutes to go, there was a minute's loss of concentration while the team was reorganised the APTC scored 4 quick baskets to go 6 points up. Signals recovered their composure but APTC were far too experienced to let a 6 point cushion go with only two minutes left on the clock. Final score Signals 59 APTC 63. So near and yet so far. An exciting final played in good spirits and entertained the large crowd watching, a fitting end to a fine Championships.

RESULTS
MATCHES

Friendlies

VS Loughborough University Lost 49—79
VS Int Won 83—22

Corps Championships

VS ACC	Won 76—60
VS INT	Won 72—24
VS RA	Lost 62—63
VS AMS	Won 80—45
VS REME	Won 62—51
VS RE	Won 74—67
VS APTC	Lost 59—63

Overall Positions

1st APTC
2nd R Signals
3rd RA
4th RE
5th REME
6th RCT
7th AMS
8th RAOC
9th ACC
10th INF
11th INT Corps

Standing (left to right): WO1 John Smith Comms & Sy Gp UK (Coach), Sgt Jimmy Peat and Sig Jonah Jones 16 Sig Regt, Lt Eddie Williams 22 Sig Regt, SSgt Fred Tedby; Sgt Bagsy Bain and LCpl Bob Whipp 16 Sig Regt

Sitting (left to right): LCpl Mark Reeves 16 Sig Regt, WO2 (FofS) Dave Smith SHAPE, Lt Gavin Grant 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt (Captain), SSgt Les Robinson Comms & Sy Gp UK and Cpl Pete Beale 13 Sig Regt

Behind the Camera: Lt Col Terry Everett School of Signals (Secretary)

CRICKET

ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS CRICKET—1990
Captain's Report by Lt Col S. A. Coltman

This season saw the continuation of the Army Merit table whereby we play the major Arms and Services. Unfortunately, other than beating the RAC, fortune was not on our side. We lost a close game against the RCT and were well beaten by both the RA and the Infantry. We had the better of the game against the RAOC and rain affected the other games.

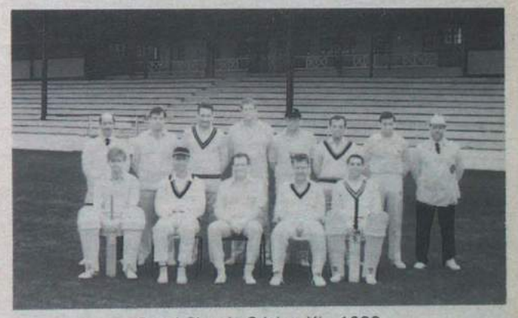
The weather in May was excellent but thereafter reverted to the normal UK pattern and June was mixed. The standard of wickets was fair but, mainly due to the rain, Catterick was very slow. It is to be hoped that as Catterick is a maintained ground that the standard will improve as the groundsman is 'educated'.

The Corps bowling was adequate but not particularly penetrative but mention should be made of the improvement during the season of **Cpl Dean Haynes** (30 Sig Regt). **SSgt Nigel Scott** (71 Sig Regt (V)) also bowled well. The catching, at times, was excellent and then we would drop an easy catch. At this level, players must ensure they retain their concentration—catches win matches! What was disappointing was the batting. Although some good scores were made, including a fine century by **Lt Col Chris Wright** (at RMCS) and some good knocks by **Sgt Paul Gardner** (Comms and Sy Gp UK), too often players failed to concentrate. Corps cricket is not a 30 over or limited over match. Too many just gave their wicket away without thought. While it was nice to see some new faces, only those who perform satisfactorily can expect to be picked in future years unless they show more concentration. I would like to congratulate both **SSgt Nigel Scott** and **Sgt Paul Gardner** on being selected to play some games for the Army—well done.

Some 22 players represented the Corps but most were struggling to find their feet. Few high scores were made. Only one of the new players came good this season. **Cpl Dean Haynes** who deservedly was awarded his Corps Colours. His averages tell the tale. There was an apprentice of note, **AT Tim Jones** from AA Coll Harrogate and I would hope with the known UK postings for next year, that we will do better. I am also very grateful for the excellent standard of umpiring we received and to **SSgt John Parrish** (249 Sig Sqn) who stood in most of our games.

I am very appreciative of the support I received from Commanding Officers—more often than not, players were released. I am also indebted to the secretary, **Capt David Luckett** (AA Coll Harrogate) for his efforts and I wish him well in Northern Ireland. His place, towards the end of the season, was taken by **Capt Bill Balding** (TACT). I am also very grateful to the CO 11 Sig Regt for all the administrative support for our games at home in Catterick.

The following represented the Corps: **Lt Col S. Coltman** (Captain)—MOD PS 1(A), **Lt Col C. Wright**—MOD CIS(A), **Maj P. Wilkin**—8 Bde HQ, **Capt W. Balding**—TACT, **Capt D. Luckett**—AAC Harrogate, **Capt M. Prodger**—1 Bde HQ & Sig Sqn, **SSgt N. Scott**—71 Sig Regt, **SSgt W. Watts**—2 Div HQ & Sig Regt, **SSgt P. Knight**—242 Sig Sqn, **SSgt S. Potterton**—School of Signals, **Sgt A. Barnett**—238 Sig Sqn, **Sgt N. Bahado**—8 Sig Regt, **Sgt P. Collins**—AA Coll Harrogate, **Sgt P. Gardner**—Comms & Sy Group, **Sgt I. Gilbert**—238 Sig Sqn, **Sgt J. Simpson**—8 Sig Regt, **Sgt S. Smith**—School of Signals, **Sgt J. Watts**—AA Coll Harrogate, **Cpl R. Charley**—AA Coll Harrogate, **Sgt P. Gardner**—Comms & Sy Group, **Sgt I. Gilbert**—238 Sig Sqn, **Sgt J. Simpson**—8 Sig Regt, **Sgt S. Smith**—School of Signals, **Cpl D. Haynes**—30 Sig Regt, **Cpl G. Wilson**—225 Sig Sqn and **AT T. Jones**—AA Coll Harrogate.



Royal Signals Cricket XI—1990

Back row (left to right): SSgts J. Parrish, S. Potterton, Sgts J. Simpson, P. Gardner, Capt W. Balding, Cpls R. Charley and D. Haynes

Front row (left to right): Cpl G. Wilson, Capt D. Luckett (Secretary), Lt Cols S. Coltman (Captain), C. Wright and SSgt W. Watts

RESULTS

Merit Table	P 7	W 1	D 3	L 3
Other Matches	P 5	W 2	D 1	L 2
Total	P12	W 3	D 4	L 5

SCORES

23 May at Sandhurst

RMAS	220—6*	
R Signals	151—7	
AT Tim Jones		43

Drawn

30 May at Shrivenham

R Signals	207—5*	
Lt Col Chris Wright		100*
RMCS	144	
SSgt Nigel Scott		4/26
Lt Col Steve Coltman		3/20

R Signals won by 63 runs

31 May at Aldershot

ACC	181	
Sgt Geoff Watts		4/60
SSgt Nigel Scott		3/24
R Signals	182—3	
Sgt Paul Gardner		96*
Cpl Dean Haynes		38*

R Signals won by 7 wickets

1 June at Arborfield

REME	208—7*	
SSgt Nigel Scott		3/58
R Signals	26—3	

Drawn—RSP

7 June at Catterick

RA	199—5*	
SSgt Nigel Scott		4/43
R Signals	147	
Sgt Paul Gardner		51

RA won by 52 runs

8 June at Catterick

R Signals	125	
Cpl Dean Haynes		48
Sgt Paul Gardner		33
RAF Signals	126—3	

RAF Signals won by 7 wickets

12 June at Catterick

Infantry	265—7*	
R Signals	105	

Infantry won by 160 runs

14 June at Catterick

RCT	138	
Cpl Dean Haynes		4/49
Cpl Rick Charley		3/18
R Signals	128	
SSgt Billy Watts		38

RCT won by 10 runs

19 June at Bovington

R Signals	175	
Cpl Dean Haynes		48*
Lt Col Steve Coltman		46
RAC	139	
Cpl Dean Haynes		3/25
SSgt Nigel Scott		3/36

R Signals won by 36 runs

29 June at Deepcut

R Signals	166—9*	
Lt Col Steve Coltman		36
RAOC	109—8	
Cpl Dean Haynes		4/14
Capt Bill Balding		3/35

Drawn

2 and 3 July at Catterick

R Signals	102 & 181	
SSgt Peter Knight		57
Maj Paul Wilkin		53
RAPC	256—6*	
Cpl Dean Haynes		3/74 & 27—2

RAPC won by 8 wickets

4 July at Chatham
R Signals v RE
Abandoned—rain

Battering Averages

Name	Innings	No	Runs	HS	Average
Cpl D. Haynes	8	2	225	48*	37.50
Lt Col C. Wright	6	2	129	100*	32.33
Sgt P. Gardner	8	1	198	96*	27.28
SSgt W. Watts	6	1	96	38	19.20
Sgt P. Knight	6	0	113	57	18.83
Lt Col S. Coltman	10	0	176	46	17.60

Bowling Averages

Name	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Cpl D. Haynes	90.5	20	293	20	14.65
SSgt N. Scott	108.4	30	310	19	16.31
Capt W. Balding	69	16	223	11	20.27
Sgt J. Watts	66	14	231	11	21.00

Catches

SSgt S. Potterton	6c	1st
Lt Col S. Coltman	6c	
Cpl R. Charley	5c	

GOLF

ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS GOLF 1991

The RSGS match fixture list for 1991 is as follows:-

MATCHES

Date	Opponents	Venue
Wed 8 May	RAPC	Tyrrells Wood
Wed 22 May	RE	Hankley Common
Thu 30 May	HMS *Mercury*	Isle of Purbeck
Wed 12 Jun	Staff College	Aldershot
Wed 26 Jun	RMAS	Aldershot
Thu 27 Jun	RAF Sports Day	RAF N Luffenham
Fri 28 Jun	RCT	Blackmoor
Fri 26 Jul	RA	Berkshire
Fri 9 Aug	REME	Blackmoor
Fri 6 Sept	RAOC	Fulford
Mon 19 Sept	Ironsides	Woking
Fri 4 Oct	RAMC/RADC	Farnham

MEETINGS

22-23 Apr	Spring Meeting	Tracy Park
4-5 Sept	Autumn Meeting	Catterick
20-24 May	AGA Championships	Royal Cinque Ports
17-21 Jun	AOGS Championships	Hillside and Southport

All Corps Golfers who have not received a personal copy of this fixture list should register their interest with the Hon Sec **Maj S. G. Falla**, School of Signals.

ORIENTEERING

ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS CHAMPIONSHIP

The Championships were held over 3 and 4 November in Dalby Forest, about 20 miles from Scarborough. It was hosted by 8 Sig Regt. **SSgt (SQMS) J. Bell** arranged accommodation and meals at the STC Scarborough. **WO1 (RSM) J. Mullender** ensured administration ran smoothly. The start and finish areas were controlled by several members to T Troop (who said a T1 course wasn't interesting?), aided by over 20 members of D Troop 3 Sqn.

The competiton was an enjoyable challenge. Day one was the individual event and climbing 325m and 275m on the A and B courses provided a very hard day's competition for all runners. Day two was the relay event and after a slight scare for the ad hoc teams—what no map!—all runners got away on time. In spite of even worse weather than on the Saturday the terrain was to the liking of all the runners.

The event was a success for both runners and organisers and it will be good to see both new and old faces at next year's championships.

RESULTS

Individuals

Course A	1st	**SSgt G. Cottington**	11 Sig Regt
	2nd	**SSgt P. N. Batts**	SEME
	3rd	**Maj Smythe**	6 RRF
Course B	1st	**LCpl A. M. Parker**	251 Sig Sqn
	2nd	**Cpl Rogerson**	244 Sig Sqn
	3rd	**AT Boston**	AA Coll Harrogate (Jnr)
Course C	1st	**Capt E. Vingoe**	School of Signals
	2nd	**Maj Walker**	Womens Svcs Team
	3rd	**Capt C. O'Nians**	Womens Svcs Team
Course D	1st	**Cpl J. L. Cooke**	34 Sig Regt (V)
	2nd	**LCpl H. Darby**	37 Sig Regt (V)
	3rd	**Pte J. Fellows**	33 Sig Regt (V)

Teams

Major Units	1st	8 Sig Regt
	2nd	School of Signals
	3rd	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Minor Units	1st	264 Sig Sqn
	2nd	5 AB Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
	3rd	Comms and Sy Gp
WRAC	1st	37 Sig Regt (V)
Juniors	1st	AA Coll Harrogate

INTER CORPS ORIENTEERING

The annual Inter-Corps competition held last year saw a couple of changes. Firstly it was sensibly brought forward from its slot near Christmas to the end of September and secondly the Corps Team brought a host of stars from BAOR making up two full teams of eight runners. The only missing 'superstar' being the new father **Capt Phil Brown**, now posted to 13 Sig Regt.

The competition is run over a night and a day event and this year was based on the relatively new Woolmer Forest map. Team selection (either A or B) proved difficult and after the night event despite **Cpl Steve Sharp** and **Capt Nigel Gill** both having excellent runs it looked asthough the 'B' team might beat the 'A'! The team Captain, **Maj Nick Bateson**, didn't help his own team selection by having a nightmare of a run, finishing almost last, (pressure of work, perhaps?). The weather was foul and in the end we were grateful for both teams producing four men to provide the scorers.

In the day competition the difficulty and length of the course produced some stamina problems for some of our runners at such an early stage of the season. Again **Cpl Steve Sharp** had an excellent run with the fastest time for the day event bringing him fifth place overall. **Maj Nick Bateson** made up for his appalling nocturnal display with a ninth place and behind them all the Corps runners are congratulated on having the determination to finish the 11km over the tough Woolmer terrain.

The full results were as follows:

Night Event		Day Event
8	**Cpl Sharp**	1 **Cpl Sharp**
17	**Capt Gill**	9 **Maj Bateson**
22	**SSgt Case**	25 **Capt Perks**
25	**WO2 Crosby**	37 **WO2 Crosby**
28	**SSgt Butler**	38 **Sgt Anderson**
36	**SSgt Rose**	39 **WO2 Clarke**
53	**Capt Purser**	40 **SSgt Butler**
56	**WO1 Lawton**	47 **Capt Wood**
66	**Sgt Anderson**	56 **Sgt Robinson**
71	**Capt Wood**	58 **Capt Gill**
72	**Maj Etherton**	59 **Capt Purser**
75	**Capt Perks**	69 **SSgt Case**
79	**Sgt Robinson**	72 **SSgt Rose**
90	**LCpl Forshaw**	78 **Cpl Whichelo**
100	**Maj Bateson**	82 **Sgt Preston**
121	**Cpl Whichelo**	93 **Maj Etherton**
		95 **WO1 Lawton**
		LCpl Forshaw (Retd)

In the day event we needed six scorers per team producing an overall result of the 'A' team being placed fourth behind the REME, Royal Artillery and the Infantry. The 'B' team were a respectable eighth place.

Thank you to all those loyal runners for turning up at Longmoor Camp particularly those from BAOR and to **WO2 Clarke** and **Sgt Preston** from 5 AB Bde who due to some confusion were forced to run as non scorers!

INTER SERVICE CHAMPIONSHIPS

As a result of the above championships and past form **Maj Nick Bateson** and **Cpl Steve Sharp** were selected to run for the Army team in the Inter Service Championships held at the October Oddysey Badge Event on 6 October 1990 at Bishop Auckland.

The Championships are held over the M21A Course and the standard was such that the complete Army scoring 7 were all in the top 20 in the Badge Event. The result was a personal triumph for **Cpl Steve Sharp** who won the Championships by four minutes from **WO1 Dickson** the current Army Champion. **Maj Nick Bateson** had a steady run to finish in ninth place in the Inter Service Championship and to be the 7th Army Scorer.

Cpl Sharp was awarded his Army colours, and **Maj Bateson** was re-awarded his colours following his 1989 representation. The event was a triumph for the Corps in that we were the only Corps to have more than one person in the scoring runners. Eat you hearts out Gunners.

Cpl Steve Sharp Winner Inter Services Orienteering Championship

Maj Nick Bateson—9th position Inter Services Orienteering Championship 1990

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal GCVO

President: The Master of Signals

Chairman and Treasurer: Major General P. D. Alexander CB, MBE

General Secretary: Colonel A. N. de Bretton-Gordon — **Assistant Secretary: Major G. Schofield MBE**

Welfare Secretary: Mrs P. J. Haw — **Administrative Officer: Mr M. R. Drain**

Association Office, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Tel Military System: London District 8245. STD 071 414 8245 Welfare Secretary (direct line) 071 630 0801.

CHESTER BRANCH

Our Social Secretary, **Bill Winder** organised a visit to the museum at RAF Cosford on Sunday 5 August which was much enjoyed by the 30 members and guests of the Branch.

We held our annual Social Buffet Dance on Friday 30 November at the Royal British Legion Club at Upton by Chester; the social secretary thanked members and guests for their support which contributed to an enjoyable evening.

The Branch was well represented at the funeral of **Dave Roberts** who died on 6 October 1990. **Dave** joined the Corps as a National Serviceman, then served in AER from 1954 to 1967 and afterwards with TAVR from 1967-79. Colleagues from 80 Sig Sqn (V) Chester and British Telecom, where **Dave** had worked all his life, together with Branch members attended his funeral.

All set for our visit to RAF Cosford

Refreshments on the way home

GLOSSOP AND DISTRICT ROYAL SIGNALS OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

This association stems from 2 (North Midland) Corps Signals which was formed from Nos 1 and 2 Coys at Glossop and No 3 Coy at Chesterfield in May 1939.

A photograph of 'The Unit', which was taken at the Skegness Camp in August 1939, and the names of those on it, who have so far been identified, now hangs in the Glossop Heritage Centre together with the Association's plaque commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Unit's formation. All but 42 of No 1 Coy's 153; 14 of No 2 Coy's 135 and approximately half of No 3 Coy's 118 have been named.

It is hoped to complete the register of original members and to this end we ask anyone who can assist to please get in touch with **George Colclough**, Chairman, 37 Manor Park Road, Glossop, Derbyshire SK13 9SQ. Tel: (0457) 853743.

HARROGATE BRANCH

In November the country looks forward to Bonfires and Fireworks. That is, except for the members of the Harrogate Branch of the Royals Signals Association. November for us is the occasion of our Annual Dinner closely followed by the Remembrance Parade.

It is traditional for the Branch to hold the Annual Dinner in the Sergeants' Mess of the AA Coll, Harrogate on the Friday prior to Remembrance Sunday. This year 90 members and guests assembled in the ante room of the Sergeants' Mess.

Our Guest of Honour, was **Col W. H. Backhouse** Commandant of the Army Apprentices College. Other guests included the Vice Chairman for number 1 area **Col (Retd) A. W. Illingworth** (is this a first?) and his wife **Barbara** and associate member **WO1 (RSM) Rab Ritchie** Scots Guards and his wife **Val**. It was good to see our three octogenarians **Tom Forest, Ernest Perry** and **Phil Wilson** 'on parade' accompanied by their respective ladies. **Tom Forest** visited Australia during the summer. **Ernest Perry** who enlisted in 1924 was within a few days of his 84th birthday and **Phil** and **Ivy Wilson** recently celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. One of **Phil**'s grandsons is currently serving with the Corps in Celle.

Col W. H. Backhouse, then gave members and their guests a brief on the Corps today, which included on one hand, our commitment in the Gulf and on the other, a first for the College, where very shortly we are to see lady Apprentices undergoing training. He continued by saying that there were two Forewomen in the Corps already and very shortly the first WRAC will attend the Yeoman's course. After the speeches the tables were cleared away, the Disco set up and members danced the night away.

Col W. H. Backhouse addressing the branch

On Sunday 11 November, 30 Branch members paraded behind their Standard for the Remembrance Parade. **Col W. H. Backhouse** took the salute with the Mayor of Harrogate. After the parade members retired to the Sergeants' Mess for Lunch.

The Corps is well represented in the Harrogate Victory Branch of the Royal British Legion, and **Mr Roy Wain**, who has been its secretary for many years is shortly to assume the appointment of Yorkshire County Secretary. **Mr Brian Black** and **Mrs Sue Black** are Standard Bearer and Treasurer respectively.

The Branch has enjoyed a good year, and our sincere thanks to the Commandant and the RSM of the College for helping to make it so.

If you are in Harrogate on the third Friday of any month come and visit us in the Conservative Club, East Parade. You will be made more than welcome.

Barbara Gibbon saying farewell
L to R: Mr Dave Bowden (Chairman), Mrs Barbara Illingworth, Mr Ken Purnell (President) Col W. H. Backhouse

President **Mr Ken Purnell** gave a short resumé of the activities of the Branch during the past year. He first welcomed our guests and wished **Col W. H. Backhouse** a happy and successful tour of duty in Harrogate and then paid tribute to **Col (Retd) John Davies TD** who became our first president when the Branch was reformed. Sadly, **John** died in August of this year and is very much missed. It is largely due to his drive and determination that the Branch is the success it is today. **Ken** then made reference of the prowess of our recently formed Golf Society, which were again the winners of the Stan Pavey Cup. This keenly contested competition is held during September and is organised by one of our associate members **Capt (Retd) Chris Baron RAEC**. Finally the president, on behalf of the Branch, bade farewell to our only lady committee member **Barbara Gibbon. Barbara** has joined her husband, our ex Standard Bearer, **Colin** now based in Luxembourg. **Barbara** was a very worthy member of both the Branch and committee and her going has left us all a little sad. On a brighter note however, looking forward to 1992, I suppose we can lay claim to having the first European Member!

WEST LONDON BRANCH

Report by Capt Jane Knight

Following a warm evening in summer when members attended the Royal Tournament, the autumn has seen many Branch activities. A theatre party went to 'Aspects of Love' and had a very good evening. In November we visited HM Tower of London and it must be remarked that **John Kenny**'s repartee brings great interest to the tour and the Ceremony of the Keys which follows. Perhaps as an ex-Warrant Officer of the Corps he is well qualified. We enjoyed an excellent buffet supper in the Yeoman Warders Club and thank the lady whose expertise provided such a fitting end to the evening.

On a Sunday in October members of the Branch attended Divine Service at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, where our Standard was carried by **Mr Harry Ruff** and the parade inspected by the Governor, **Sir Roland Guy GCB, CBE, DSO**. We were joined by members of the East London Branch whose Standard also was paraded. After the service we enjoyed the hospitality of the In-Pensioners Club and a Corps wall plaque was presented to **Mr Charles Docherty**, who served in the Corps during the war, who lives near the Hospital and had joined our members for the occasion.

The Branch Annual Dinner, held at the Osterley Hotel, had a record attendance of more than a 100 members and guests in October. We were delighted to welcome as our guests **Brig M. R. Topple ADC** and **Mrs Topple**. For many of our members this was their introduction to our Area Vice Chairman but we hope that now that they know us **Micky** and **Chris Topple** will see us more often.

WINCHESTER BRANCH

From the photograph above you will see that we held our Annual Dinner in April. We were honoured by the presence of the then President of the Association, **Maj Gen Archie Birtwistle** and **Mrs Birtwistle**, the Mayor and Mayoress of Winchester and our President, **Maj Gen Alistair Anderson**. There were 40 members of the Association, drawn not only from our own Branch, but also Aldershot, Reading, Salisbury and Southampton. We have 30 members, a number of whose wives attended our meetings on the second Tuesday of every month at 7.30 pm in the Club of the Winchester Branch of the Royal British Legion. Any members of the serving Corps, or the Association are very welcome to join us, if only for a visit and to come to our Annual Dinner, on 27 April 1991.

At the last AGM, the following appointments were made: **Lt Col T. A. Howard** stood down as Chairman. In recognition of his services to the Branch since its inception in 1983 and to the Corps as a whole over the years, being a founder member of the Corps, he was made a life Vice President.

Maj D. P. Gardiner TD took over as Chairman. **Douglas** has been in the Branch since its formation, by then resident in Winchester, although he was, in fact, still Chairman of Aldershot Branch (*Wire* notes Aldershot Branch April 1990—Yes, point taken!).

Terry Smythe is now Deputy Chairman and **Bill Metters** continues as our stalwart Treasurer. **Mrs Kathleen Percival** is Welfare Officer and son **Philip** the Branch Standard Bearer.

Last, but not least, our indefatigable Secretary, **Maj E. C. W. West-Watson TD—Colin**—continues to look after the Branch Admin, from the Cathedral Close, where he doubles up as Secretary to the Friends of Winchester Cathedral.

Finally it is with great regret that we record the retirement of our President **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson CB**, who has moved away from the area. Good Presidents are not easy to replace, but we are working on it!

Maj Douglas Gardiner, Terry Smythe, Maj Gen Archie Birtwistle, The Mayor of Winchester (Councillor Fred Allgood), Maj Gen Alistair Anderson, Lt Col Alan Howard and Maj Colin West-Watson
(Photo: courtesy of 'Hampshire Chronicle')

602 SIGNAL TROOP (SC) ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS

It was a very pleasant surprise when our Chairman **Ken Purnell** and **Pat Gratten** were asked to present the prize for the Best Student on Course SC1/90. On arrival at Bicester we were greeted by the OC **Capt Nigel Gill** and were told that a barbecue had been arranged for the night's festivities. The name of the best student had been kept a secret of course (in the best SC tradition). The winner this year was **WPte O'Faharty** . . . Yes, a lady for the very first time, and it was a treat to see her face when her name was announced by **Ken**. Well done **Pte O'Faharty** but come on lads, let's have a bit more effort from you. The evening went into the early hours of the morning and a great time was had by all, but all this only goes to prove what a good liaison there is between the retired and serving members of the Troop.

As many of our members know that since we have become affiliated

members of the RSA we have been collecting to buy our own Standard so that we could Parade it at the 1991 Catterick Reunion as of yet we have not found all the money required. If anyone would like to make a donation however small please forward it to **Brian Priestley**, 45 Vanguard Close, Derby Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 3RS. Tel: 081 681 1270. Cheques made out to 602 AOF.

Our annual dinner this year is to be held at Westcliff-on-Sea on 20/21 April 1991. It should be an excellent weekend with many friendships renewed so make the effort to be there and bring your good ladies with you.

ITALY REVISITED

from Jane Knight

Last October I was fortunate in being included in a Grenadier Guards Association visit to Italy to dedicate a plaque to the memory of men of the 1st Guards Bde who fell in defence of Monte Battaglia in the Appenines. 'Battle Mountain' was crowned by a ruined medieval castle providing an observation post dominating the valleys and entire mountain range, essential to keeping supply lines open for the Allied advance. In October 1944 the position was taken over by the 1st Guards Bde at the request of the American 88th Div which was losing a 100 men a day on the mountain. The Brigade held the mountain but at high cost.

From our hotel in the south we made full day visits to Cassino and its' familiar landmarks and to the positions and landing beaches at Anzio and Salerno. On each occasion there was a short wreath laying ceremony at the War Cemetery and at Anzio I felt honoured when accorded the privilege by the Grenadier Guards of delivering the Exhortation.

It wasn't all nostalgia. We stayed in a delightful hotel with private beach at Gaeta before travelling North via Assisi to the Adriatic coast. Here we were joined by **Maj Gen Sir John Nelson**, who commanded 3rd Bn. Grenadier Guards at the time of the action, and **Lady Nelson**, and by **Col Sir Bryce Muir Knox**, Senior Gunnary Officer, Ayrshire Yeomanry, the artillery unit supporting the Brigade. The serving Regimental Adjutant Grenadier Guards, **Maj Conway Seymour** and **Mrs Seymour** came out from London for the dedication service on the summit of Battaglia, followed by a memorable luncheon party with the Partisans attended by the Mayors of local villages. The ex-Partisan associations are very much alive and there was great cameraderie, the familiar brightly coloured Partisan scarves being exchanged for the ties of our party. In the following days up in the mountains it was not uncommon to see a Brigade tie proudly worn by a local Italian ex-Partisan! We were given a terrific write-up in the Rimini Gazette with the reproduction of an ancient picture and a headline identifying us as Wellington's Guards who defeated Napoleon at Waterloo! We were shown great hospitality visiting Partisan museums. At Imola the General remarked it was the best museum he had ever visited when, entering the courtyard, we saw trestle tables groaning under the weight of wine, beer and delicious home made cakes. But it was at Castel de Rio that I found photographs of our own 10th Indian Div. Signals maintaining communications in the indescribable mud and blood of the Santerno Valley. In this museum, among an assortment of British, Italian and American equipment and arms I found a 19 Set, a Tele F and a Canadian made 19 Set with Russian instructions, power pack and spares. In Santerno Valley War Cemetery, as in all the others, a number of our Corps are laid to rest.

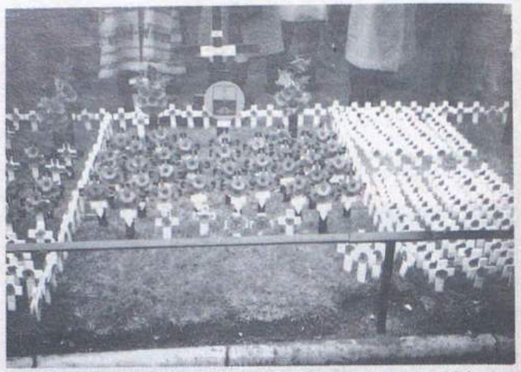
Capt Barry Double, Grenadier Guards Association, who organised the tour, generously gave me poppy crosses and in every cemetery I planted crosses on Royal Signals' graves, every one carefully tended with its own tiny flower garden.

And by the way, if you know anyone who lost his mess tin at Salerno, a Grenadier Major found it on the beach. It's a bit rusty but probably can be restored with a little spit and polish.

MAJOR A. R. MANLEY R SIGNALS

Will anyone knowing the present whereabouts of the above named Officer, or who knew him, kindly communicate with the Editor of *The Wire*. **Maj Manley** joined the Army or was commissioned on 1 April 1934, was promoted Captain in 1940 and Major in 1943. He was at Pompeii (Salerno and Naples) in September 1943. This appeal is in connection with planned commemoration occasions by the Italians and we have been asked to do all we can to help trace this Officer.

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE—1990



The Royal Signals plot at the Field of Remembrance which was opened by HM The Queen Mother on Thursday 8 November. Maj Gen A. Yeoman CB Representative Colonel Commandant and some 50 members of the Corps, serving and retired, attended

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during November 1990:-

Bequeathed by Lt Col Harold Dudley	£	50,000.00
Arthur Andersen & Co Foundation	£	500.00
Mrs N. A. Sykes	£	240.00
The late Mrs M. Vernon	£	100.00
M. G. Hishin	£	100.00
4 Coy 2 Air Formation Signals	£	26.00
Mr Brian Pope	£	25.00
Mrs J. L. Power	£	15.00
Lt Col P. Whitemore	£	10.00
Col (Retd) M. L. Jenkins	£	10.00
Certa Cito		£10.00
J. Cummings	£	5.00
G. A. Jenkins	£	5.00
H. Simons	£	4.00
A. Trueman	£	4.00
Misc	£	11.00
		£51,065.00

The following donations were gratefully received during December 1990:-

Middlesex Yeomanry	£55.00
D. Chappell	£50.00
Anonymous	£25.00
L. S. Pilling	£20.00
R. N. Hutchings—CAF	£20.00
J. Greenstreet	£10.00
F. E. Stagg	£10.00
M. Ham	£10.00
G. S. Dawson	£ 6.00
R. H. Peacock	£ 4.00
	£210.00

REUNIONS

ASSOCIATION REUNIONS 1991

Association Reunions in 1991 will take place at:-

Blandford 19 May 1991
Catterick 29/30 June 1991

(The Freedom of Richmond celebrations will be held on 28 June 1991).

Application forms from members who do not belong to a Branch of the Association are available on demand to RHQ towards the end of February.

DENBURY NEWTON ABBOT JUNIOR LEADERS REUNION

The Triennial Reunion in and around Newton Abbot will take place on 27 and 28 September 1991.

The programme will cover Friday evening and all day Saturday.

The reunion will be on much the same lines as 1988 when approximately 100 attended and this may well be the last reunion under the present system so it is hoped that all the regular attenders and some new ones will be able to make the dates.

Any enquiries in the meantime to **Sam Ward**, 56 Seymour Road, Newton Abbot, South Devon. Tel: (0626) 52101 or daytime (0392) 51056.

EX BOYS (254) REUNION—1991

Following the successful reunion in Catterick last year, it has been decided to hold another gathering in 1991.

The reunion will be held in the: Commodore Hotel (part of the Balmoral Group), in Scarborough, over the period 4-6 October 1991.

The hotel caters for 80 guests, and if we have 60, the hotel is ours lock, stock and barrel! If we get beyond 80, they have a sister hotel for the extra accommodation needed.

Accommodation is en-suite with colour TV, tea and coffee making facilities. There are two lounges, bar, dance floor and dining room. Music would be available on the Saturday night. The cost for all that: £46 per head (Friday Dinner-Sunday Breakfast inclusive). A cheque for £10 deposit per person is essential—balance to be paid at the hotel.

Applications to **George Severs**, 22 Dallington Close, Burhill Road, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey KT12 4JG or telephone (0932) 221635.

3RD DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB

The 40th Anniversary of the formation of the club and the 39th Reunion and AGM Luncheon will take place at the Victory (Services) Club, 63-79 Seymour Street, London W2 on Friday 22 March 1991. Assemble from 1030 hrs, lunch at 1300 hrs. Ladies are invited to join us.

Past members of the 3rd Div Sig Regt are invited to join the club. We need you. Further details from the Chairman **Maj K. N. Smartt**, 'Imber', Millway Road, Andover, Hants SP10 3EU (Tel: (0264) 52297). Membership details from the Treasurer **Maj D. J. Roberts**, 'Laeken', 67 Southgate Road, Southgate, Swansea, W Glamorgan SA3 2DU (Tel: (044128) 4981).

4 (INDIAN) CORPS SIGNALS

The 43rd annual reunion dinner will be held at the Victory Services Club, London W2 on Friday 26 April 1991. Anyone who served with the unit and wishes to attend should contact **Ted Marsh**, 30 Blakes Way, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN23 6EW. Tel: (0323) 411346.

ETHIOPIA PILGRIMAGE 1991

A special pilgrimage to commemorate the campaign in Ethiopia is being planned by the Royal British Legion for March/April 1991. All enquiries should be addressed to: The Royal British Legion, War Graves Pilgrimages, Royal British Legion Village, Maidstone, Kent ME20 7NX. Tel: (0622) 716729/716182/717172 (24 hours). In this connection anyone knowing the present whereabouts of war widows, **Frances Olive Lampitt (Sgt Donald)** or **Doris Gertrude MacSweeney (2Lt Timothy)** is asked to advise **Mr Piers Storie-Pugh**, Head of Pilgrimage Department.

602 SIGNAL TROOP (SC) ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS

The reunion will be held on the weekend 20/21 April 1991 at the Westcliff Hotel, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 7QW. Tel: (0702) 345247.

Anyone who has served with 602 Sig Tp (SC) past or present, serving or retired who wishes to attend will be most welcome. For hotel reservations (over night stay and breakfast) please contact the Westcliff Hotel direct advising them that you will be with the 602 AOF party to take advantage of the discount offer. To reserve your seat(s) for the dinner, at £14.00 per head, or for further information please contact **Pat Gratten**, 1-3 Herbert Grove, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2AT. Tel: (0702) 466602.

CAN YOU HELP

264 SIGNAL SQUADRON AND 63 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

We are interested in contacting all former members of 63 (V) and 264 Sig Sqns, who may be interested in attending a reunion during the summer of 1991. Please write to The Signals Reunion, c/o The Occupier, PO Box 1227, London SW3 4SN.

DO YOU LIVE IN THE GLASGOW AREA?

If you reside in the Glasgow area and are interested in forming an Association Branch please write to Commanding Officer, 32 Sig Regt (V), 21 Jardine Street, Glasgow G20 6JT.

WANTED

Formation signs and cloth Regimental badges of the Corps by collector. If you wish to part with these please write to **Mr C. J. Young** (ex Lance Bombardier in 6 (V) Queens) 33 Lytham Street, London SE17 2PN.

LETTERS

From: Mr W. W. Hindmarsh

Dear Sir,

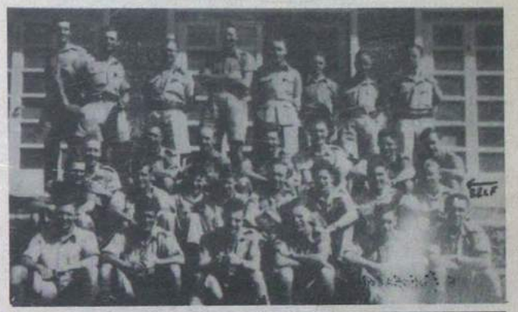
Reading of the planned Pilgrimage to Ethiopia in 1991 in the October issue of *The Wire* I wonder if the enclosed photograph taken on Christmas Day 1941 may be of some interest to readers, a combined force of 25 Bde on detachment from 12 East African Div Sigs.

I was Lineman Corporal then (extreme right third row from the back). Later I served in Ceylon, India and Burma.

I enclose another photo taken in Vimy lines in 1938/9; that should evoke the odd memory!

Yours faithfully,
Bill Hindmarsh

38 Millfield Avenue
Northallerton
North Yorkshire DL6 1AX



From: Mr J. N. R. Perks

Dear Sir,

In your December issue, on page 614, you ask if **Lt Col Hemsley** is the oldest surviving member of the Corps.

I was born on 18 September 1892 so am eight months older.

I enlisted in RE Signals on 5 August 1914, the day after war was declared and sailed for France on 15 August as a motor cyclist despatch rider with the 1st Divisional Signal Coy, RE.

I took part in the retreat from Mons and in the first battle of Ypres.

I returned to England after Christmas and was commissioned in January 1915 returning to France in early summer 1915 where I served for a time as Brigade Signal Officer in the trenches near Loos.

After some six months on the Serbian front, based on Salonica, I served in Palestine with the 60th (London) Division ending up in Jerusalem where I witnessed the surrender of the city to General Allenby by the Arab Mayor.

I started the 2nd War at Prestatyn under **Lt Col 'Poppy' Day**.

Yours faithfully,
J. N. R. Perks

7 Derwentwater Road
Wimborne
Dorset
BH21 1QS

DEATHS

Beckett—Col F. S. Beckett ERD—served 1940-64—died 25 November 1990.
Buscall—WO1 R. J. Buscall—served 1931-55—died 12 December 1990.
Chambers—Lt Col T. G. Chambers MC—served 1929-69—died 7 January 1991.
Cole—Maj W. E. P. Cole—died 22 July 1990.
Dugdale—Sig A. Dugdale—served 1942-46—died 24 November 1990.
Everard—Maj J. F. Everard—died 29 December 1990.
Fowke—Lt Col C. C. Fowke—served 1947-83—died 2 December 1990.
Keenan—Mrs Joyce, wife of **Capt** (Retd) **A. E. Keenan**—died 25 December 1990.
Pearson—Maj R. J. Pearson—served 1930-65—died 20 May 1990.
Stevenson—Capt H. Stevenson—served 1943-68—died 10 November 1990.
Stoakes—Cpl T. H. Stoakes—served 1938-47—died 28 October 1990.
Van der Groot—Maj D. N. Van der Groot—served 1926-44—died 9 November 1990.

OBITUARIES

Pilley—Maj K. O. Pilley TD. Ken joined the Corps in 1943 and from 1943-1946 served in India—in Delhi and Sikkim.

After he left the Corps he returned to his job in the Post Office. He joined the TA in 1950 and in 1956 was commissioned and commanded Radio and Line Troops of 64 (NM) Sig Regt TA. He transferred to 38 Sig Regt (V) on the amalgamation of 46 Sig Regt and 64 Sig Regt in 1967.

He was appointed QM (TA) and then went on to command HQ Sqn where he retired as Major in 1971.

In 1968 he was awarded the TD and in 1980 the Imperial Service Medal. He died on 4 December after a short illness. Our sincere sympathies go to his wife **Doreen** and to his family.

Pike—Cpl T. C. Pike. Thomas who served in the Corps for 30 years died at his home in Staines on 11 December 1990. He left the army in 1976 after service in Korea, Cyprus, 16 Sig Regt in Germany and at the Horse Guards. He will be very sadly missed by his devoted family and his many friends. The Corps was represented at his funeral. We send our condolences to his widow **Norah**, and children **Tina, John** and **Brenda**.

Smith—Mrs Violet Smith. Many will be sad to read of the death, just after Christmas of **Mrs Smith**. Any title for the job that **Mrs Smith** performed at the Signal Wing of RMA Sandhurst would fail to do justice to the service she gave. For 27 years from 1949 to 1976, **Mrs Smith**, was a mother figure to the many cadets who aspired to join Royal Signals on commissioning. At the same time she served all officers and soldiers on the staff of the Academy who wore the Corps cap badge.

After her retirement in 1976, she surrounded herself with memorabilia of her life at Sandhurst in the service of the Corps. She kept in touch with many of those who had the privilege of serving with her at Sandhurst. Her family had been infected with her enthusiasm for Royal Signals; the Corps March was played at her funeral. She will be mourned by the many whom she befriended and those whom she helped.

Speight—Cpl Mark Terence Speight. It is with deep regret that we report the death of **Cpl Mark Speight** as a result of a road traffic accident in Scotland on 25 November 1990. **Mark** enlisted in the Corps on 13 August 1985 and served with 8 Sig Regt, 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt and 3 Cdo Bde Sig Sqn.

He was a very keen athlete who excelled at middle distance and cross-country running. He represented the Army at 800 and 1,500m and was a member of the successful 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt Athletics Team that won the Army Team Championships on two occasions.

Mark was a very cheerful and popular character who enjoyed life to the full. He will be sorely missed by his many friends in the Corps and especially the past members of 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt Athletics Team. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

Steer—Sgt S. J. Steer—died suddenly on 21 October 1990 aged 53 years. **Syd** joined the Corps as a Harrogate Apprentice in 1952 and trained as an Operator, Wireless and Line. During his career he served in Germany, Singapore and Cyprus, eventually ending his service in 1977 with 8 Sig Regt in the rank of Sergeant.

Syd retired to his native Scarborough and almost immediately joined the civilian staff of the Signal Training Centre at Burniston Barracks, where he served for 10 years before starting a third career in civilian life.

A Life Member of the Association, he was an active member of the Scarborough Branch. He was elected Vice-Chairman in 1986, and Chairman in 1987, a post which he held until his untimely death.

His interests were not confined to the Corps, and in recent years he devoted much of his spare time to fund raising for a charity researching into the cause of blindness in babies (Retinopathy of Prematurity).

Shortly after retiring to Scarborough he offered to help out at a local Scout Group and ended up as their Chairman. Such was the man.

Throughout, and after, his army career **Syd** dedicated himself to everything he undertook.

He will be greatly missed, and our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife **Elaine**, daughters **Geraldine** and **Gillian** and son **Jamie**.

Watts—WO2 B. G. Watts. Brian served in the Corps from 1957 to 1977 and died on 22 November 1990. He enlisted as a Radio Operator in 1957 then retraded to Technician. He served in Malaya during the emergency and also in Hong Kong, Germany, Kenya, Holland and United Kingdom. He finished his career in 1977 as a WO2 Foreman of Signals at 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. He was a well respected member of the Corps. On leaving the army he worked for BNOC until 1986 when he moved to work as an area manager, Telecommunications Engineer at 239 Sig Sqn, Colchester. We send our sincere condolences to his wife **Gloria** and to his family. He will be sadly missed.

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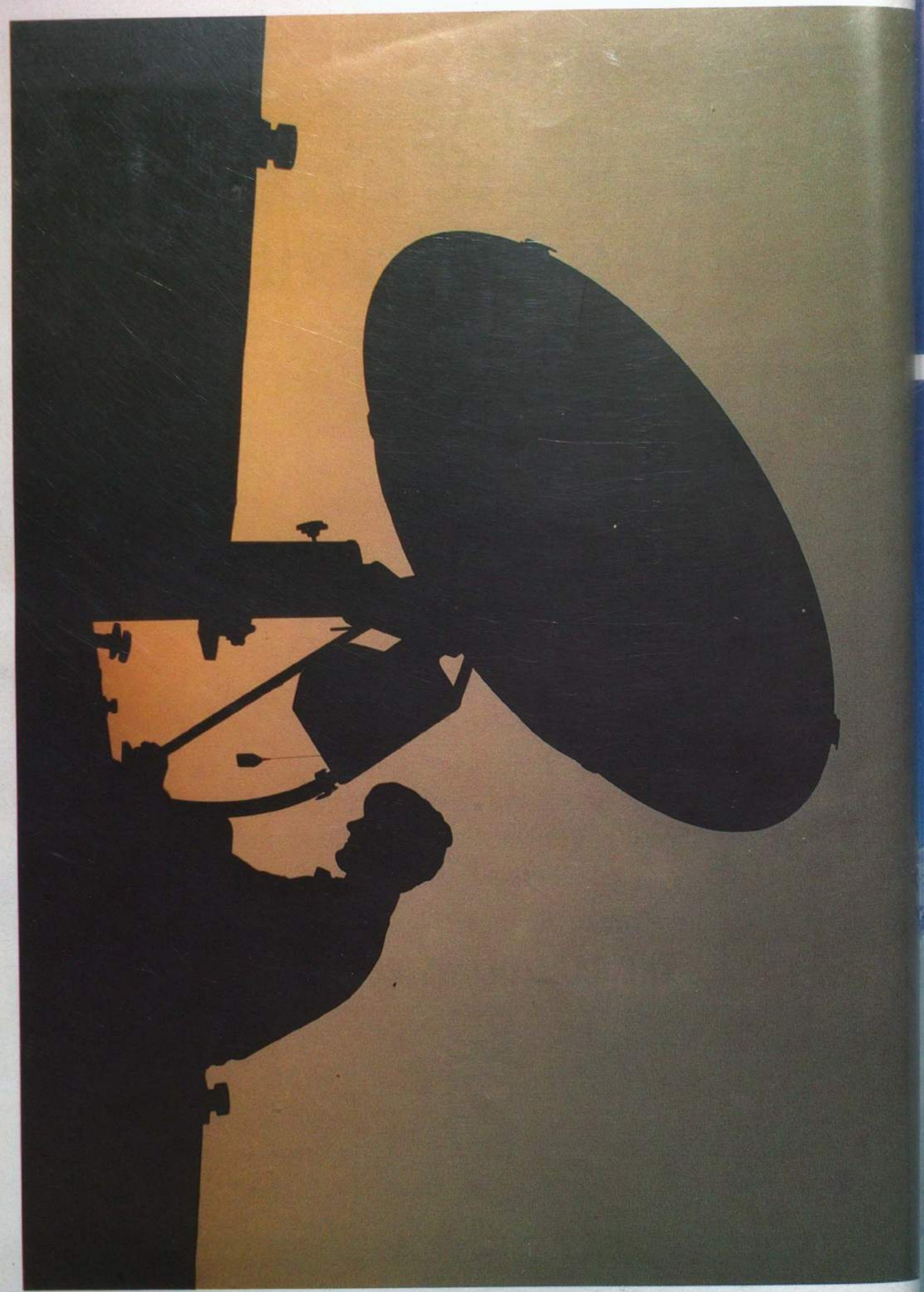


THE wire

The Royal Signals Magazine

April 1991

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.

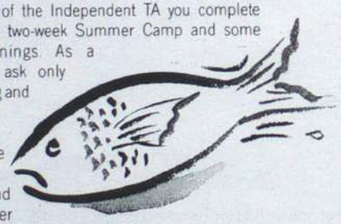
There are three options open to you.

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

April 1991 Vol. 45 No: 2

The Wire

All correspondence and matter for publication in **The Wire** should be addressed to **The Editor, The Wire**, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD.
Tel No: London District Ext 8246
STD 071-414 8246.
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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

THE NEW MUSEUM PROJECT—AN UPDATE

Since the Master of Signals reported in the last issue of *The Wire*, the fund raising Executive Committee, chaired by **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB, MBE, DL**, met at RHQ to plan for continued activity with the Appeal. Among the measures discussed were the holding of a 'prestige' dinner to be attended by our Colonel-in-Chief for major contributors, the organisation of 'Pro-Am' sporting fixtures, and setting up a fund-raising framework for UK, on a regional basis. The design of a new leaflet on the project, which will be widely distributed, was also approved. This leaflet will list the names of sixty six distinguished men and women from all walks of life who have consented to join our General Committee and support our cause.

Measures were also discussed to reach the many thousands of ex Royal Signals members around the world who may not know of the project but who would be willing to contribute. Donations continue to come from serving and ex serving members, and readers of *The Wire* if they have still to contribute, are urged to do so.

ROYAL SIGNALS MEMORIAL CATTERICK

The Assistant Regimental Secretary thanks those who responded to his article in the February *Wire* about the campaign commemorative plates which are to be fixed to the walls surrounding the Memorial in Catterick. As a result, the following plates are to be manufactured in time for them to be in place for the Reunion in Catterick on 29 and 30 June.

North West Persia	1920	Suez	1956
Waziristan	1921-1924	Cyprus	1955-1959
North West Frontier	1935-1939	Arabian Peninsular	1957-1960
Palestine	1936-1939	Borneo	1962-1966
The Second World War	1939-1945	South Arabia	1964-1967
South East Asia	1945-1948	Cyprus	1964-1965
Palestine	1945-1948	Northern Ireland	1969-
Malaya	1948-1960	Dhofar	1969-1976
Korea	1950-1955	South Atlantic	1982
Kenya	1952-1956	Namibia	1989
Egypt	1953-1954		

The campaign in the Gulf will be considered in due course.

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OUR COVER PICTURES
Front: Capt Sean Dexter and party at the top of Mera Peak (21,247ft) in Nepal, with Mount Everest in the background (see page 82).
Back: (top) Sgt Paul Engering in Uganda (see page 85), (bottom) Sig Chris Jones of 238 Sig Sqn after his part in an underwater marathon for charity (see page 84).

— From our "In" Tray —

EXERCISE PARBAT QUADRANT

by Capt S. C. Dexter

Ex Parbat Quadrant was a Royal Signals mountaineering expedition to Nepal undertaken by members of 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and 8 Sig Regt in October last year. The expedition was led by **Capt Sean Dexter** ably supported by **Capt Simon Lowe**, the expedition's 'true story' teller. The remaining members of the expedition were **Cpls Stan Staniford, Bob Dillet** and **Bo Pradhan** from 4 Div and **Cpl Wayne Willson, LCpl Tim Mounfield** (Johnny to those who really know him) and **Sig Shakey Skears** from 8 Sig Regt.

The aim was to climb Mera Peak (21,274ft) and Island Peak (20,305ft) in the Solu Khumbu region of Nepal. And so it was that the members met at the Lord Baden Powell House in Knightsbridge, to have a final sort out of equipment and packing of rucksacks before embarking on the great adventure. This had in fact started a couple of days before for some, when the travel agent was unable to issue the plane tickets due to a 'technical hitch'. After several frank exchanges of opinion seats were secured on a Biman Airways (who are they?) flight to Dhaka and from there to Kathmandu. It was with some relief that we and our fellow passengers took off from Heathrow, bound for a flooded and strike bound Dhaka International Airport. After a three hour delay in Dhaka we were on a one hour flight to Kathmandu.

On our arrival in Kathmandu we emerged from the airport to be met by the trekking agent Prem Khumar Shrestra. We spent a day in Kathmandu preparing for the trek before getting a bus to Jiri, quite literally the end of the road. The next morning while Prem set about taking on porters we set off along the well worn Everest Base Camp trek route. The next seven days took us through the cultivated foothills, crossing numerous ridges and descending into the valleys en route to a village called Lukhla. It soon became apparent that **LCpl Mounfield** would wow the locals with the very latest in mountaineering fashion.

Lukhla had a particular significance for us as we would be flying out from there at the end of the expedition. The airstrip in fact split the town in half, but more worrying was the fact that it was only 250m long and had been 'built' on a 25 degree slope at the end of which was a cliff! When a plane came in to land the airfield was cleared and everything and everyone stopped to watch.

With the prospect of our flight back to Kathmandu much on our minds, we left Lukhla and the last permanent habitation for two weeks to begin the next phase, the trek to Mera Peak. After climbing a pass called the Zatra Og at 4,500m we descended 1,000m into the Hinku Drangna valley and began walking up the valley slowly gaining height. When the sun was shining it was reasonably warm but as soon as it went in, or the wind got up, it became bitterly cold, with the temperature dropping rapidly to minus 15 degrees centigrade. Higher up at the Mera base camp the temperature at night was minus 30!

The daily routine was now well established; 'bed tea' would be brought to us at about 0600 hrs followed shortly afterwards by a bowl of hot water for washing which, I have to confess, saw precious little use from some tents, however it did serve as a reminder that it was time to leave the warmth of the maggot and get up! Breakfast was heralded by the cry 'washing water ready' and the arrival of a bowl of water for washing hands. After breakfast we would start walking, at this stage, forever uphill. Once the sun had risen high enough there would be a short break to take off some of the warm clothing. Lunch was a fairly leisurely affair, albeit sometimes a cold one. Lower down it gave us the opportunity to have a wash and do some dhobi, however as we got higher, washing became less of a priority and was superseded by playing cards and trying to stay warm. After lunch we would walk on for a further couple of hours before stopping for the night. Playing more HTC and speculating how much **Sig** Shaky **Skears** would be able to eat would take us up to supper. The cold drove us to our sacks at about 2000 hrs, but usually not before **Cpl Bob Dillet** had involved all in a 'debate' on any earth shattering topic that came to mind!

We took six days to walk to the Mera La which at 5,400, was to be the base camp for our attempt on Mera Peak. Our arrival at the La brought on a few cases of acute mountain sickness, with 'doctors' **Dexter** and **Lowe** prescribing liberal amounts of paracetamol to most of the porters who, to a man, had a headache. The next day was our first rest day in two weeks, a popular decision! This allowed us to sort out our kit for the climb and to get used to using crampons.

The first of November was the big day, we got up in the bitter cold at 0330 hrs, had a light breakfast, and set off by torch light. After half an hour we reached the foot of the glacier, fitted our crampons, roped up and started the long climb. Fortunately the snow was in good condition, and when the sun rose it wasn't too cold. As we climbed higher the Himalayas unfolded before us. It was a fantastic day, with snowcapped mountains in every direction as far as you could see. Our only enemy was the altitude, every step soon became an effort but, despite this we plodded on.

Unfortunately after a couple of hours **Cpl Stan Staniford** was unable to go on. **Capt Simon Lowe**, selflessly, volunteered to take him down. The rest of us carried on. The rests became more frequent as we struggled on up, trying to summon up the energy to take the next step. As we neared the summit cone, one or two gasped that this was the hardest thing they had ever done! But the goal was now in sight, and with a bit of gentle encouragement and sheer determination we reached the bottom of the final slope to the summit. After a short break we set off on the final climb up the steep section to the central summit. At 1210 hrs, to everyone's great relief, we reached the top. The view was fantastic, Everest away to the north dominated all. After a short photocall amid the panting and gasping, it was time to descend. Three hours later six exhausted members and Horace arrived at base camp to a well earned cup of tea!

The next phase of the expedition took us up the Hunku Valley, all above 5,000m, to a pass called the Mingbo La. The walk to the La took us four days, up by frozen lakes and through the glacial desert of the valley. On the morning of the second day the naik (head porter), looking very ill, complained that he had been touched by a ghost during the night! 'Doctor' **Dexter** had a quick look at him and applied Western science by giving him two paracetemol! He recovered two days later!

We had known that descending the Mingbo La would involve some technical difficulty, however neither **Simon Lowe** nor I were prepared for the 450ft near vertical drop down an ice fluting on the other side! However we were committed and besides we also knew that this was the quickest way to get a Star beer and a hot shower! The porters were even less prepared for what was to come; being tied to a rope with their loads 10ft above them and being lowered down, sometimes none too gently, to me standing 450ft below was a completely new experience for them. The whole process took eight hours with most of the team members coming down in the dark. **LCpl Mounfield** notably came racing down, falling 40ft (or was it 150ft Tim?) in a shower of sparks and ice! We camped that night on the glacier below the ice fluting before continuing the next day to a village called Pangpoche, not before having to fix ropes down the serac barrier at the foot of the glacier to help the porters get off. Undoubtedly the descent had a lasting effect on the porters for whenever we passed them after that all they could say was 'Mingbo La'!

We had lost a day descending the Mingbo La and, as a result, going on to climb Island Peak became impracticable, which was fortunate as we were to learn later that our flight back to Kathmandu had been brought forward a day!

We were now back on the Everest Base Camp trek and, more significantly after a break of two weeks, back in the land of 'teahouses' and very expensive beer. From Pangpoche we trekked back to Lukhla to catch our flight (that lived up to expectations) to Kathmandu.

Our remaining days in Kathmandu saw some frenetic T-shirt buying (real design your own bargains) and also a mysterious 'deterioration' in **LCpl Tim Mounfield**'s eyesight that required him to acquire a pair of cosmetic spectacles! **Cpl Bo Pradhan** took the opportunity to go home, a journey that took five days travelling there and back for one day at home! The rest of us in the meantime, having exhausted Kathmandu's entire stock of T-shirts, bade a fond farewell to Prem and left for a rainy and cold England.

'Topping Out' Cpl Wayne Willson with Sig Shakey Skears and Cpl Bo Pradhan following

Tea break on the trek back to Lukha
From Left to Right: Sig Shakey Skears, Cpl Wayne Willson, LCpl Tim Mounfield, Cpls Stan Staniford and Bo Pradhan, Capt Simon Lowe and Cpl Bob Dillet

The expedition members on the Mera La with the Sirdar and cook

Cpl Bob Dillet descends the Serac Barrier off the Mingbo Glacier, watched by Capt Simon Lowe

EXERCISE LONG LOOK 1990

By Sgt (W) Maggie Beattie RNZAMC

You may ask 'Who is this person who speaks the Queen's English!'

To give you a clue and contrary to popular belief my country's national emblem is the Fern Leaf and not the Kangaroo. It is said that rugby, racing and beer drinking are our national pastimes, but I can assure you, that if you saw my uniform you would say that fashion would be the front runner.

We don't say 'Gidday' but our nearest neighbours do. We have become extremely popular in Britain and make up the western islands of the south pacific group called New Zealand; not everyone may agree with my definition of our geographical position.

Plugging New Zealand a little more, we are environmentally friendly, nuclear free and conservation minded. We have to be in tune with nature as our population is 3,000,000 people and 60,000,000 sheep.

Enough of that and to progress to a more serious note. I am attached to 1 Sqn 16 Sig Regt from the Royal New Zealand Army for four months.

Being a responsible SNCO I corresponded with my British counterpart, **Sgt Liz Williams** (who, by the way, is a Scot). Prior to my departure from NZ, she replied with assurances that the weather would be mild, which I interpreted to mean freezing.

Hence, as a typically prepared Kiwi I stepped off the plane at Dusseldorf Airport in winter skirt, blouse and wollen jumper (NZ wool of course) into 32°C heat. Consequently, I stuck to the tarmac in a melted heap. The moral of that story, is to be wary of 'Jocks' conveying weather forecasts. I arrived slightly jaded, to say the least, at my accommodation in Rheindahlen Garrison Chateaux WRAC Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and encounted an accommodation block completely surrounded in concertina barbed wire. Being of an impressionable age you can imagine the crazed thoughts that ran through my mind (surely it can't be that bad, are the inhabitants of this block a wild, mad lot barricaded in to minimise their exposure to the greater military population?). I have since learned that the concertina barbed wire is part of security and that the inhabitants of the WRAC Mess are a very hospitable and friendly lot, even though they don't speak the Queen's English Kiwi style.

WSgt Beattie of the New Zealand Army presents a plaque to the Sqn Comd

Introductions followed all around 1 Sqn, then into a guided tour of the Big Ouse, which I have since discovered is the Big House and the pulse of Rheindahlen Garrison. Once everyone was back from summer leave it was full swing into things and the gentle advice of 'We don't actually do it that way in the British Army!'.

Sailing—'Did you say sailing Sir?' I said to **Maj Harris**, the OC (not that I was eavesdropping you understand) I'd love to go sailing, well you know what I mean the old motto 'Give it a go Mate'. So off I

trotted (with all the warm gear that I could scrounge and another poor unsuspecting WRAC **Pte Debs Evans** to participate in the Inter Divisional Sailing Competition at Kiel, as part of the 3 Div sailing team. Well 'Duckies' what can I say but *fantastic*. Fortunately for us the skipper, mate and crewmen had an infinite amount of patience; they were participating in this competition with two very green (as in raw) female sailors, and a Kiwi who couldn't sail. It's sacrilege. We sailed from Kiel, in a series of races around the coast and up to Denmark. The first two days were relatively calm and we settled into learning the ropes or halyards as they say in maritime terms 'Well what's so hard about this lark'? I thought quite cockily to myself.

Then the rot set in, or should I say the waves, just ripples to the rest of the crew. But I can assure you that I perceived them as tidal, as I harnessed myself to the boat and thought that I was too young to die at sea. However, I survived obviously as I'm here to tell the tale, sea legs and all.

Next it was on to Berlin for a liaison visit (if you know what I mean) for a week, which unfortunately coincided with the unification celebrations. I had previously been advised about the BMT wine, which is supposedly 'gopping'. Well being a person never to turn my back on a challenge and not knowing what 'gopping' meant, I purchased copious quantities of this wine and have now been enlightened as to what the word 'gopping' means, namely, that if you drink more than four bottles you'll wake up with a headache to kill all headaches and which will last for a minimum of three days.

Guildford followed Berlin, two weeks attached to a TA Basic Training Course at the WRAC Training Centre and another friendly and hospitable Mess. Four of us made an excursion to London with a train and underground pass. Just imagine putting your video on fast forward with the picture rushing across the screen. Well that was what we intrepid travellers were like, Piccadilly, Soho, West End, Tower of London, Big Ben, Houses of Parliament, Whitehall, Cabinet War Rooms Offices just to mention a few of the sights graced by us and my constant companion (camera).

And then on to a well earned two weeks leave when I visited Northern England. But all good things have to come to an end and I am now at the Garrison Training Wing for a week. Well what can I say, with two WRAC SNCOs who are hooked on Victoria Wood and insist on showing me their impersonations. Then there are the two Colour Sergeants, one has the unusual name of 'Die' (with a name like that one assumes that he should be 6ft under in a wooden box) and the other Colour Sergeant is a 5ft nothing Jock who insists on playing practical jokes (I mean is this guy for real) and finally a Trg WO2 who has spent time in Namibia and can talk English Kiwi style (I'm impressed).

Before I sign off, I cannot leave without mentioning to you the WRAC code word. If you haven't guessed, it's *Bless*. The great convenience of this word is that it can be adapted to any situation when your, ie happy, sad, peeved off or just generally haven't got a word to fit the situation and on that note I'll say Au Revoir to the British Army, BAOR and Bless to you all!

SIG CHRIS JONES TAKES PART IN 48 HOUR UNDERWATER MARATHON RECORD

Sig Chris Jones of 238 Sig Sqn took part in an underwater marathon, 'walking' to and fro along the bottom of Chelsea Barracks swimming pool in London, for the 48 hour underwater marathon during the weekend of 18-20 January 1991.

Chris, 22 years old, who comes from Midsomer Norton was one of 28 divers from the Londinium Sub Aqua Club who took part in the non-stop relay. 'It was hot and very hard work but well worth the effort' was the verdict.

The divers set an unprecedented record of a total distance of 56.6 miles underwater and hope that their record will be included in the Guinness Book of Records. Over 300 bottles of air were used during the marathon and considerable technical problems were overcome by the fitting of a communication link to the surface allowing the divers to keep in constant touch with the surface. **Chris** spent much of his weekend submerged ensuring that all the safety equipment was fully working.

The underwater marathon raised over £5,000 for charity which was donated to The Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children and Weston Spirit. For weeks before the event **Chris** was busy collecting personal sponsors and managed to raise over £200 and received a special thanks from **Paddy Vincent** the appeal president of The Great Ormond Street Hospital.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

by Sig Phil Kenyon

Sitting down on the train I looked to my right to find my mum and dad had followed me on to the station, so I stood up and went to the door to say farewell out of the window. I couldn't fail to notice that my mum had burst into a flood of tears.

The guard blew the whistle and my dad managed to unhook my mum from the window just as the train set off. It was only when I sat down that I started to think what my first posting would be like. I'd accepted the fact that for the first few weeks I would adopt the name of 'sprog'. It wasn't the fact that I would be working on an RAF base that worried me either, I'd been in the RAF Cadets so I was pretty familiar with RAF bases from summer camps.

I wasn't too worried about having no friends there because three people I knew were already there. The prospect of flying wasn't worrying either, I'd done that before. The thing that had me anxious was the fact I was going to another country, something that I'd never done before, I didn't know what the Germans were like (even though I'd heard many rumours) or the food. I couldn't speak any German (well not of any use anyway). I had taken the time to get about three hundred marks from the bank, it didn't look real, it looked worthless, like something out of a monopoly game. Apart from a fiver, that was all I had.

The train pulled up at Kings Cross and I had a wrestling match with my bags. After two falls and a submission I waddled out of Kings Cross (it was hardly walking with all the weight I was carrying) and waddled over to St Pancras Station. I knocked on the JSATC door and a fellow popped his head round the door and said 'ID please'. Inside I got my tickets and had my baggage taken from me. 'Be back in two hours' the chap said, so off I popped heading for the restaurant. I ordered a sandwich and a coke and that was the last of my English money.

A coach ride later I was at Luton Airport waiting for the plane to arrive. Eventually it came and I boarded. I sat between a tall chap with glasses and a lady whose face contorted into some interesting shapes when we took off. The air hostess's face was smiling falsely at me churning out the words 'would you like some tea or coffee sir?'.

Stepping off the plane I didn't feel that I was in another country, Wildenrath was just another RAF base.

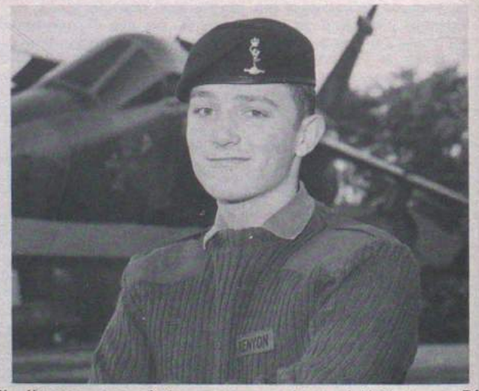
I was met by **Sig Holmes** who I'd never met before, he was picking up **Sig McCarthy** who had just come back from the Falklands. On the way back he mentioned the fact that I would be going soon, he was smiling . . . I wasn't!

When we arrived at Bruggen it proved to be very different from what I expected, it was a lot bigger and all the trees surprised me too. But it also appeared to be a lot more pleasant than I first anticipated, I thought it would be sinister and dingy.

I arrived right in the middle of a beer call, so my first impression of the Troop was of a group of sarcastic blokes taking great delight in scrutinising my sense of dress. Not the best of times to arrive, but during the weekend I got to know them a lot better.

On the trade side of it I know now that a percentage of my time spent at Catterick 8 Sig Regt was a waste of time because of all the different equipment used out here.

My overall impression of RAF Bruggen is much better than I first thought.



Sig Kenyon, one of the newer members of H Troop at RAF Bruggen

MOTORCYCLE PROJECT

Uganda 90! Phase 2

by Sgt Paul Engering Chief Motorcycle Instructor in the Advanced Training Wing, Army School of Mechanical Transport

This was my second visit to Africa, last year I was in Gambia. This phase was a two week period, 3 to the 17 December 1990 (in Uganda).

I was working directly for the World Health Organisation and my brief was:-

- To train Pre-selected Instructors.
- To observe a Students course.
- To prove the Motorcycle Training Manual.

The end result was to increase the numbers of Motorcyclists so that the extended Immunisation Programme could reach outlying mountain regions.

THE TEAM

Team Leader: **Mr Bjorn Poulson**, Transport Consultant, World Health Organisation. Instructor: **Sgt Paul Engering**, Royal Signals Motorcycle Instructor. Instructor: **Mr Tim Matthews**, owner of the National Motorcross and Trials Academy (Worcester).

INSTRUCTORS

(a) **Elly, Joseph, Alex** and **Jackson** from Ministry of Health, for the expanded Programme of Immunisation.

(b) **John, Dan** and **James** from Ministry of Relief and Social Rehabilitation (Department of Probation).

(c) **Sam** from Save the Children Fund.

WEEK ONE

When **Tim** and I were picked up by **Bjorn** (the Dashing Dane). We introduced ourselves to the potential instructors, who I might add were very keen to learn, and discuss in great detail, the course they were about to start. Our aim at this talk was to prepare the instructors, as to how they would be taught by us and how they would build and conduct a course round their students, using the Motorcycle Training Manual.

It was decided to extend the instructors course to four days, to give us more time. Unlike the previous year everything was organised by **Steve Cavell** and his Team at Save the Children, down to the last nut and bolt, apart from the time Schedule which it was run on! African Time!

We were housed at a Christian Community Centre for our first week, about 15km from Kampala. Needless to say, the living accommodation was very sparse (but liveable)!, apart from the howling dogs all night! The instructors manual which **Tim** and I used as a guide, we amended as we progressed through the week. The students made steady progress, although some riders were not that experienced to start with, after completing the Cross Country phase **Elly** and **Joseph** had mastered some sort of clutch control.

Down-town Kampala is like London in rush hour, the only difference being you had to dodge the pedestrians, who liked to jump in front of any motorcycle in the near vicinity! We all survived the week finishing with a mechanical quiz on Saturday morning. We then moved to two houses in Entebbe, owned by Save the Children fund. What luxury! Complete toilet seat, Mosquito net, running hot water and Coke in the fridge. **Tim** and **Bjorn** managed to get their house fitted with tables and chairs! Ha Ha! (but I had the phone that worked).

Sunday day off (only joking). **Tim** and I decided that we should list the amendments in the Instructors Manual to clarify certain points. Five hours later we broke for lunch, a barbecue hosted by SCF. A good afternoon was had by all.

WEEK TWO

On Monday we tasked all the instructors, who had passed the previous week with flying colours to prepare their motorcycles, training areas and lessons to help their courses run smoothly. The eight instructors were given four students each. Numbers did vary from day to day, which enabled 'our lads' to be flexible. **Steve Cavell**'s son **Nick** (Throttle Jockey), on Xmas hols from college, joined us for the week. So day one started with great confusion, with what seemed hundreds of people turning up. We found the instructors were hanging back and letting the students organise themselves. This fault was pointed out to them by **Tim** (without his loud-hailer). The instructors moved and things started slotting in according to plan and Manual Timings (remember African Time!).

'Our lads' had their students working hard, only **Dan** (the Man) could be heard above the Motorcycles on the Training area. By the end of day one all the instructors realised that in addition to arms, legs and a voice you also need two sets of eyes (Welcome to instructors heaven).

Tim and I observed the instructors techniques and if required took them to one side to rectify their faults. As the days moved on, four in all, the instructors became more observant, spotting and correcting faults easily. The students responded to their instruction and more confidence followed on both sides.

At the end of day two, five students were having problems with their co-ordination and balance, we decided to concentrate them in one group under one instructor. We had anticipated having these problems as the use of push bikes is limited to work purposes and Uganda has only been widely mechanised for about 10 years.

We lost two students through leg injuries and they unfortunately could not complete the course. By Friday we had 27 reasonable riders, who after giving a very good display for the Minister of Health, in front of TV cameras received their Riders for Health Course certificates. **Barry Coleman** (Writer) had organised a 300km 'PR' road-ride for the following day.

I organised an extra day's training for weaker students, most arrived just to improve their basic skills. I spent the day working with the students, moving them stage by stage, so by the end of the day all but one, had been on a trail ride around the area. **Florence** whom I spent most time with, had lost confidence when she burnt her leg. She has since written to me telling me her leg still hurts, but the riding is getting better. I expect her to join a course in the near future.

Now we depart for Kenya, a day off at last (Safari in the National park without motorcycles).

I would like to add my thanks to instructors and students alike, for all the hard work they put in. Also without the preparation work of the people listed below, we would not have been able to hold a very successful two weeks. Thank you all.

John Parry Williams and **Alistair MacArthur** (UNEPI), **Steve** and **Trish Cavell** (Save the Children), **Sam Lutwama** (instructor who organised each day) (SCF), **Anne** (for our tickets home)(SCF), **Tom Olal** (SCF), **David Mayanya** (SCF) and and **Petersen Ddelunga** (SCF).

This article and the accompanying photographs are reproduced by courtesy of Maj C. Candlin, Coldstream Guards, Editor of 'Drive Alive'.

John *(far left)* poses for photo before he continues his lesson

Bjorn—the dashing Dane with learners

CORPS FOLKLORE

by 2Lts A. J. Parsons and T. O. Wood

Many articles and papers have been written about various aspects of the history of the Royal Corps of Signals. This article brings together some of the facts and folklore from the early years of the Corps and discusses the origin of the cap badge, its nickname, 'Jimmy', and puts forward some suggestions for the term 'Scaleyback'.

The origins of the Corps can be traced to the formation of 'C' Telegraph Tp Royal Engineers in 1879. As the requirement for military communications increased the Telegraph Bn RE was formed. The Commander of the 2nd Div of the Bn, **Maj C. F. C. Beresford**, considered that they should have their own device or crest.

As editor of the Military Telegraph Bulletin, **Maj Beresford** asked readers for ideas for such a crest, publishing two sketches of his own as suggestions. His own ideas proved to be most popular, but his first (that of a lineman on a telegraph pole) was quickly rejected!

His second sketch was better received and in the Military Telegraph Bulletin dated 15 September 1884, the following description may be found:-

'On a loose sheet will be seen a sketch of a design for a device for the Telegraph Bn. It is taken from the well known figure of 'Mercury', the 'Winged Messenger of the Gods' and I think appropriate in every way. I believe the original figure was found among the ruins of Pompeii and is now at Naples.'

It may be reasonably assumed that **Maj Beresford** came upon the idea from a bronze cast of Mercury which his father bought at the Paris Exhibition of 1861. This cast now stands in the Corps Museum in Blandford. The earliest example of a figure of this style is in Florence, sculpted in the mid 16th Century by Giovanni Bologna.

On the 9 May 1891 **Maj Beresford** and **Lt C. J. Elkington** presented a mace to the band of the 1st Bn, topped by the figure of Mercury. By this stage it was generally accepted as the emblem of the Royal Engineer Telegraph Bn.

Mercury was a Roman God whose origins come from the Greek God, Hermes. According to Greek mythology, Hermes was the son of Zeus, King of the Gods, and Maia. Hermes was born in a cave on the Mount of Cyllene in southern Arcadia, and a few hours after being born he had invented the Lyre. Later the same day he is said to have sneaked out of the cave, where he found a herd of cattle which belonged to his brother, Apollo. Hermes drove the cattle away, after covering their hooves with leaves to prevent them leaving tracks. When he reached a forest he killed and ate two of the cattle and hid the remainder in a glade. When Apollo discovered his loss, he found Hermes and took him before Zeus to face his judgement. Zeus ordered Hermes to give back the cattle and, in return for the two he had eaten, he gave his lyre to Apollo. Apollo was so pleased with the lyre that he presented Hermes with a magic wand. Eager to test its magical powers, Hermes thrust the wand between two quarrelling serpents who coiled themselves around it. This amused him so much that he ordered them to stay there for ever. Thus we have the Caduceus.

Zeus later appointed Hermes messenger of the Gods and presented him with the Talaria (the winged sandals) and the Petasus (the winged cap). He was also the God of eloquence, commerce, rain, wind, travellers, shepherds, cheats and thieves!

The Royal Warrant for the formation of the Corps was signed on 28 June 1920 in the Court of St James and was published in Army Orders, Number 275, on the 2 July 1920. Army Order Number 359 published on the 30 August 1920 says:-

'George RI

Whereas We have noted with great satisfaction the splendid work which has been performed by the Signal Service Branch of Our Royal Engineers during the war of 1914-19, and whereas in Our Warrant of the 28 June 1920, We authorised the formation of the Corps of Signals; Our Will and Pleasure is that this Corps shall enjoy the distinction of "Royal" and shall henceforth be known as Our "Royal Corps of Signals". Given at Our Court at St James, this 5th day of August, 1920, in the 11th year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,
Winston S. Churchill

At this stage a cap badge had still not been chosen, in fact it was not until 24 March 1921 that a cap badge was approved. The description of this first badge was:-

'. . . On the base of an oval band, inscribed "Royal Corps of Signals", a globe, thereon a figure of Mercury, the whole ensigned with the Imperial Crown . . .'

The Cap badge in use today was designed during the Second World War and approved in 1946. The official description is:-

"The figure of Mercury holding a Caduceus in the left hand; the right hand aloft, poised with the left foot on a globe all silver, above the globe a scroll inscribed "Certa Cito" and below, on each side, six laurel leaves all gold, the whole ensigned with the crown in gold.'

Common usage has led to the figure of Mercury being known as 'Jimmy'. Indeed, in the 1930s the crest was referred to in this way in official War Office correspondence.

The actual origin of the nickname is unknown. It has been suggested:-

- That it was a play on the name of Jimmy Emblem. Emblem was a member of the very successful Corps Boxing Team in the 1920s and a very popular member of the Corps.
- However, there is evidence to suggest that the nickname was being used for the crest on the letterheads of 'B' Corps Sig Coy in Limerick as early as 1907.
- It was used by the Band of the Royal Engineers Signal Service as early as 1904 at Aldershot.

The origin remains a mystery but it seems that 'Jimmy' was in widespread use at least as early as the turn of the Century.

'Scaleyback' is a term often used by members of other Regiments and Corps as a nickname for members of the Corps but the likelihood is that none of them knows the origin of the expression. As with 'Jimmy', there are many stories in existence.

One popular idea concerns early backpack radios. These were powered by lead-acid batteries and it was the acid leaking from the batteries which scarred the backs of their operators. Another suggestion is that during the First World War linesmen may have worn some form of body armour on their backs; this was to protect them from bullets and shrapnel while laying or repairing line between trenches.

A further alternative is that the headquarters of one of the early Corps Units was based above a fish market. An extension of this theory is that during the invasion of Normandy in 1944, a Corps Unit was based in a fish market and the soldiers had to sleep amongst the discarded fish scales.

A further suggestion comes from an ex-Sergeant Major of the Corps in the early 1920s: 'Scaleyback' is a colloquial term for a disease in horses caused by ill-fitting saddles or harness equipment. The term is therefore aimed at people who cannot look after their horses properly; however there is no evidence to suggest this was true. The Corps last used horse-drawn cable wagons in 1937. Again, there is no definitive solution; however the last seems the most plausible.

Despite being a relatively young Corps the folklore is rich with uncertainty. We have given just two examples, the origins of which may never be determined. The only certainty is that as the Corps gets older the number of stories and explanations will increase.

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Col Worlledge OBE.
Brig H. Clementi Smith.

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– Movements –

OFFICERS

MARCH 1991

Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col A. R. Bailey	SANGCOM
Lt Col R. J. Evans	MGO Sec (PE)
Lt Col N. F. Fisher	DSS(A)
Lt Col G. H. Goodman	School of Signals
Lt Col C. R. Harper	HQ BAOR (Comms)
Lt Col J. A. Phillips	8 Sig Regt
Lt Col G. Powell	ACDS (CIS)
Maj E. J. W. Banham	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
Maj B. J. Barton-Ancliffe	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj R. C. Brodie	71 Sig Regt (V)
Maj G. J. Cary	DG Pol and SP (PE)
Maj R. A. Clague	11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Maj N. D. Couch	RMCS
Maj N. C. Fairley	21 Sig Regt
Maj J. L. Fletcher	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Maj P. J. Grogan	Staff College
Maj E. Heritage	RMCS
Maj A. M. Jenkinson	Staff College
Maj S. C. Johns	HQ Trg Gp and Catterick Gar
Maj A. J. Madsen	RMCS
Maj M. A. Rough	Staff College
Capt I. Cameron-Mowat	Staff College
Capt I. A. J. Condie	Staff College
Capt G. W. S. Elliott	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt I. Hooper	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt R. W. Lapslie	22 Sig Regt
Capt M. P. Llewellyn	RMCS
Capt D. P. Meyer	Staff College
Capt R. G. Nicholson	RMCS
Capt P. C. O'Connor	11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Capt P. A. Owens	238 Sig Sqn
Capt G. Pickersgill	7 Sig Regt
Capt R. J. Quinlan	Australian Sig Regt
Capt G. J. T. Rafferty	Staff College
Capt S. J. Richardson	Staff College
Capt G. P. Simpson-Horn	7 Sig Regt
Capt J. R. Wallace	Army Pers Selection Gp
Lt B. A. Appleby	AA Coll Harrogate
Lt A. Clark	11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Lt A. C. Sarginson	School of Signals
Lt I. A. Walton	9 Sig Regt

FORTITER-FIDELITER-FELICITER

WISPERS

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To arrange visits and for further details and prospectus, please contact the School Secretary – Mrs B Hanauer (0428) 643646.

WOs and SNCOs

FEBRUARY 1991

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 G. C. Walker	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
AWO1 (YofS) K. J. Doyle	15 Sig Regt
AWO1 W. J. Haslam	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
AWO1 (YofS) J. S. T. Sykes	21 Sig Regt
WO2 T. Jones	28 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) R. P. Moren	229 Sig Sqn
WO2 M. Smith	16 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) S. P. Sutton	HQ RAO
WO2 J. C. Tepielow	14 Sig Regt
SSgt G. J. Baldry	22 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) S. J. Driver	608 Sig Tp
SSgt J. Gibson	14 Sig Regt
SSgt J. R. Middleton	9 Sig Regt
SSgt J. Morris	AA Coll Harrogate
SSgt W. D. McLean	238 Sig Sqn
SSgt G. McMillan	School of Signals
SSgt R. R. Petrie	21 Sig Regt
SSgt S. E. Piddock	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
SSgt N. A. Scott	QG Sig Regt
ASSgt A. W. Dawson	38 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt M. P. J. Fitzpatrick	14 Sig Regt
ASSgt R. A. Snow	210 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. M. Black	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt C. L. Brown	8 Sig Regt
Sgt M. N. Fisher	16 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Goodwin	7 Sig Regt
Sgt R. W. Hannah	15 Sig Regt
Sgt K. P. Hayfield	21 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Hogan	28 CTT (Chester)
Sgt B. A. Knight	School of Signals
Sgt F. A. Millington	Comms and Sy Gp
Sgt P. Newman	28 Sig Regt
Sgt S. J. Owen	8 Sig Regt
Sgt P. D. Richardson	633 Sig Tp
Sgt K. Roberts	15 Sig Regt
Sgt D. C. Robinson	28 Sig Regt
Sgt N. W. Rothery	608 Sig Tp
Sgt S. Shiels	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt R. G. Webb	39 Sig Regt (V)
ASgt S. A. Howard	30 Sig Regt
ASgt S. G. J. Newton	AA Coll Harrogate
ASgt T. Parle	RAF Mount Pleasant
ASgt M. Wright	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

MARCH 1991

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (FofS) D. A. Brisco	13 Sig Regt
WO1 (YofS) W. Tosh	16 Sig Regt
AWO1 (YofS) D. W. Bowman	HQ Training Gp R Signals and Catterick Garrison
WO2 K. L. Gilder	8 Sig Regt
WO2 F. McAleer	8 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) D. White	School of Signals
SSgt R. C. Bray	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt N. R. Churcher	238 Sig Sqn
SSgt (FofS) S. Gill	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) I. S. Horton	HQ 4 Sig Gp
SSgt P. J. O'Connor	28 Sig Regt
SSgt M. J. Pound	London UOTC
Sgt M. K. Abraham	7 Sig Regt
Sgt B. Armstrong	9 Sig Regt
Sgt P. I. Barclay	9 Sig Regt
Sgt S. J. Blackmore	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt M. O. Dullaghan	11 Sig Regt
Sgt B. M. D. Glossop	JCUFI
Sgt D. C. Halkett	7 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Hilton	7 Sig Regt
Sgt P. G. Horge-Mogg	28 Sig Regt
Sgt M. R. Neighbour	7 Sig Regt
Sgt G. P. Rhodes	HQ AFCENT
Sgt P. Scantlebury	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. W. Scott	15 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Smeaton	7 Sig Regt
Sgt S. L. Smith	633 Sig Tp
Sgt P. S. Sutton	14 Sig Regt
Sgt S. Swain	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt R. Sykes	30 Sig Regt
Sgt J. J. Taylor	11 Sig Regt
Sgt S. Thompson	Comms and Sy Gp
Sgt R. L. Witherstone	262 Sig Sqn
ASgt R. W. Bishop	8 Sig Regt
ASgt A. J. Frost	AA Coll Harrogate
ASgt S. R. Kelly	22 Sig Regt

NOTICES

CORPS DATES

Please make a note in your diary of the following events for 1991.

Tuesday 14 May—Corps Officers Dinner at the London Press Centre.
Sunday 19 May—Blandford RSA reunion.
Saturday 15 June—Corps Officers Luncheon, Blandford.
Friday 28 June—Freedom of Richmond Parade.
Saturday/Sunday 29/30 June—Catterick RSA reunion.
Sunday 30 June—Corps Officers luncheon—Catterick.
Thursday 28 November—London RSI Lecture, International Press Centre.
Tuesday 17 December—Corps Carol Service in London affiliated Church.
Further details will be published nearer the dates.

CORPS DINNER 1991—CORRECTION

The notice and application form for the 1991 Corps Dinner (14 May 1991) sent out in the Winter 1990 Journal, incorrectly stated that 'a pay bar will be open from 1745 hrs: The bar will now open at 1900 hrs and the cost of the dinner (£18 per head) includes pre dinner drinks. A pay bar will be open after dinner.

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 9 July 1991.

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.

DON'T SAY GOODBYE SAY HELLO.

If you're about to leave the Services the prospect of Civvy Street could be as daunting as it is exciting. After all, you've got to resettle, make new friends and generally take on a new life.

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SITUATION VACANT

VACANCY FOR A PERMANENT STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (TA)

A vacancy for a Permanent Staff Administrative Officer (PSAO) will occur in 64 Sig Sqn, 38 Sig Regt (V) based at Sheffield on 1 December 1991.

Terms and conditions of service are given in TA Regs 1978 Chapter 6 Part 3. The upper age limit for appointment is 56 and the normal retiring age is 60.

The post carries the rank of Captain (TA) with an annual salary of £15,906 rising by six annual increments to £18,487.

Applicants should have served in the Regular Army as an officer and have experience of G1 and G4 duties. A sound knowledge of service fund accounting is desirable.

Short listed applicants will be required to appear before a Selection Board on 18 September 1991.

Applications including a curriculum vitae and details of two referees should be sent to: Adjutant, 38 Sig Regt (V), Manor Top TA Centre, Hurlfield Road, Sheffield S12 2AN.

The closing date for applications is 16 August 1991.

LETTER

From: Col M. J. Ridlington, CO 8 Sig Regt

Dear Sir,

May I, through your columns, thank all those officers of the Corps who so kindly subscribed towards a farewell gift to mark the recent retirement of Malcolm Stephenson, the Chief Steward of the Royal Signals Officers' Mess, Catterick. The response to my invitation for donations was immediate and generous, proof of the affection in which Malcolm is held by the many officers who have passed through the Mess during his 30 years service. Nearly £1,000 was raised: this enabled us to give Malcolm an inscribed silver Jimmy and a small 'resettlement grant' at a presentation ceremony attended by the Master of Signals, the Representative Colonel Commandant and many others, making a fitting climax to a splendid career of service to the Corps.

Yours faithfully
M. J. Ridlington

8 Sig Regt,
Catterick Garrison,
North Yorkshire DL9 3PS

FOR SALE

ROYAL SIGNALS MESS KIT. Good condition, comprising jacket (with rank badges up to WO2), waistcoat, bow tie and trousers (waist 32, leg 31). Will suit someone 5'7"-5'8" of medium build.

Apply **WO2 (FofS) M. G. Cooper**, 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Colchester Mil 2779 or Civil 579375. Price £85.

SERVICE DRESS. Little-worn SD, badges of rank to Lt Col. Mess jacket, overalls and waistcoat, spurs' badges to Lt Col. Ht 5'6", Chest 38", Waist 36", Inside Leg 29". Reasonable offers invited. Telephone **Lt Col** (Retd) **W. C. Lombard** (0609) 775965.

OFFICERS MESS KIT. Complete, Captain's badges of rank. To fit 6'2" and chest 44". Available to view at Worthy Down. Telephone: **Capt F. J. Connor** 0962 883996 (evenings). Any reasonable offered considered.

SAILING

Interested in sailing? See Yacht Club notes on page 149.

ACCOMMODATION

Maj (Retd) C. S. Mason. Clive and **Christine** offer you a welcome at the Pentire Rocks Hotel, New Polzeath, Nr Wadebridge, North Cornwall, Tel: Trebetherick (020886) 2213. Corps members and their families are offered free accommodation, Breakfast at £7 per head and dinner at £15 per head, minimum stay two nights.

REPORTS FROM THE GULF

(These notes were prepared prior to the outbreak of hostilities.)

1 ARMD DIV HQ AND SIG REGT

By the time these notes are read significant developments will have occurred. The general background needs no repetition and is amply described in the press. In these notes we hope to convey some of the more personal experiences of members of the Corps serving in the Gulf. There are inevitable omissions; each soldier has his own story, some are included, but others will have to wait until our return or later issues of *The Wire*.

Submitting these notes under the name of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt may be deceptive. The reality is that approximately 2,000 plus men of the Corps plus the divisional and brigade staffs which have been grouped within the title, are drawn from units throughout BAOR and UKLF. The initial success of communications reflects great credit on each of those donor units and the training units which have ensured that men and equipment have been more than equal for the harsh conditions encountered.

For the uninitiated the Regiment has been divided into 11 Squadrons supported by three echelons. Each Squadron is named to most accurately reflect its composition and origins.

1 Sqn—OSC 131 Trunk Sqn—From 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.
2 Sqn—Div Main HQ Sqn (Alpha)—From 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.
3 Sqn—OSC 133 Trunk Sqn—From 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.
7 Sqn—OSC 135 Trunk Sqn—From 7 Sig Regt.
14 Sqn (EW)—EW Sqn—From 14 Sig Regt and 640 Sig Tp.
21 Sqn (SH)—Support Helicopter Force comms support—From 21 Sig Regt (AS).
22 Sqn—Div Rear HQ Sqn—From 22 Sig Regt.
201 Sqn—Div Main HQ Sqn (Bravo)—From 201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn.
204 Sqn—4 Armd Bde Sig Sqn—From 204 (4 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn.
207 Sqn—7 Armd Bde Sig Sqn—From 207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn.
FMA Sig Sqn—Composite Squadron from BAOR units providing comms to the Forward Maintenance Area.
Echelon—Subdivided into A1, A2 and B echelons.—Based on the echelon of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

Some individuals and Squadrons have been deployed in the desert for longer than others. Now, however, the Division is complete and the lessons learned in the early days of Granby 1 have been passed on to the less seasoned desert veterans. Despite the occasional banter about length of service in the region there is no doubt that morale is extremely high and professionalism abounds.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

The time has already come to say farewell to some members of the Regiment. **Capt Bob Sharp**, Adjutant, to a post as SO3 G1 in the HQ FMA where he delights in posing G1 problems for his successor **Capt Andy Bristow**, nevertheless **Bob** has been seen making clandestine visits to the RAP (where his wife **Mary** is the RMO). **Maj Tim Inshaw** (OC 212 Sig Sqn) has stepped into the shoes as Regimental 2IC deputising for **Lt Col Martin Stretch** (congratulations on your promotion) who has taken over the responsibility for the Ptarmigan system. Farewell to the ops team **Capt Tony Lomax** and **WO1 (YofS) 'Mac' McCarthy** who depart to Cyprus and York respectively. We thank them for their hard work which all contributed to the successful deployment of the Regiment. In their places we welcome **Capt Alf Thomas** and **WO1 (YofS) Mick Boxall** who have found themselves rapidly absorbed into the Comms Plans team. Presiding over us all is the CO, **Lt Col John Kirby** who tries to keep track of all his teams' movements on his Atari Portfolio computer. He and the RSM **WO1 (RSM) Brian Dalton** have clocked up enough miles visiting sub-units to satisfy any insurance company's No Claims Bonus Scheme. Whether the insurance company would have noticed the holes in the upholstery, exhausted suspension and general signs of wear and tear is open to debate. Other comings and goings are described in the notes from the Squadrons.

1 SQUADRON

TRUNK NODE 041 EAGLE TROOP

TN 041 moved into the desert on Sunday 18 November, on a windy day that continuously blew sand in your face. On arrival a dead goat was found in the quarry and a 'volunteer', **Sig Dave Martin-Woodgate** very kindly removed it, together with rope and gas mask. Later on, the showers and toilets arrived. These were however somewhat open and windswept. We soon found some American toilets which we quickly requisitioned. These were slighty more private. In front of our position there is a lot of soft sand. Much to our amusement people constantly ignore our warnings. We then stand back and watch them get bogged in. Unfortunately it has not always been visitors. Much to our own embarrassment **LCpl 'Seamore' Hutchings** has bogged in at least twice. After being here for seven weeks, we have got ourselves a very comfortable routine.

Sgt Mick Ginty is certainly not backward about ensuring he gets his fair share of the goodies. He is certainly looking after his stomach. The OC, **Lt Phil Wheeler** has been teaching some of the lads how to

The Officers of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt 'somewhere in the desert'—4 January 1991

play bridge. **Cpls 'Hutch' Hutchinson** and **Jeff Foster** are proving to be excellent students and are proving to be a real problem for the OC. Unfortunately for **Lt Phil Wheeler** he has not won a game yet. Work has been hard for our REME and ED team. The REME team, **LCpls 'Leggy' Ledgard** and **'Beef' Emery** have been very busy fixing our vehicles. **LCpl 'Beef' Emery** is taking it all very casually; he still believes he is on some sort of beach holiday and is just waiting for the tide to come in. **LCpl Barny Barnard** is still very confused about it all. Having recently completed a Falkland Tour he still thinks he is down south; he cannot work out why penguins now have four legs, a hump and a long neck'.

TRUNK NODE 061 HAWK TROOP

Due to the recent Squadron reorganisation the Troop has seen some changes. The numbers in the node command element have been increased sharply. The Troop OC, **Lt Adam Parsons**, has recently been fortunate to be promoted, have a birthday and miss his wedding all in the space of 10 days. **SSgt Neil Ardern** is presently playing with the prospect of being able to deal almost solely with admin, although **Sig** 'Egghead' **West** is giving him a run for his money. **Sgts** 'Dave the Rave' **Watson** and **'Taff' Millard** seem to be working part-time. The other half of their time is spent visiting our friendly Americans, Kuwaitis, and local workers. The newest addition in Node Command has been 'Big J', **Cpl** 'Eddie Yates' **Jenkins** who is the tech representative. The crew of the switch 061 now consists of **LCpl Mark** 'In my key' **Stein, Wayne** 'Super Ted' **Harvey, Sig Si** 'Cuddles' **Cullen, LCpl Steve** 'The tunnel worm' **Bowman, Rob Hardiman, Jon** 'The lizard **Robinson, Tony** 'Scorch' **Flood, Si** 'Sniffer' **Cartwright** and last but not least **Mark** 'Bob' **Haskins**.

061A, crewed by **Cpl** 'Chest' **Cheshire** and **Sig** 'Beachy' **Beacher**, have just returned to the Node after a long absence. They have been known as 800A for the last two months, serving the BAAs and DAAs. 061B, D, E have also been stuck with the node. Again crew changes have occurred with the addition of a third crewman. 061B is now **Cpl 'Taff' Owen, Sig Ben Reynolds** and **Steve Faulkner**. 061D is crewed by **LCpl Steve Barnes, Sig** 'Ugly' **Peak** and Big **John Botham**. 061E is a new addition to the node, the det and most of the crew come from 22 Sig Regt. They are **Cpl** 'Ritchie' **Richardson** and **Sig Taff Ames**. The newest addition is **Sig** 'Blue Job' **Madge**. Finally 061C have been in the node home location, back to the port for maintenance, up to 041 as a standby det and finally back to the node. The Chief YoYos are **Cpl** 'Yorkie' **Whatley, Sig 'Paddy' Moore** and **Chris Sharp**. To the family and friends of TN 061 thanks for all the blueys, presents and messages sent out so far.

SCRA TROOP

After the deployment of SCRA Centrals to Saudi Arabia, our Troop was formed under the glorious command of our French Canadian OC 'I shall say this only once' **Capt Girard**, his evil henchman **Sgt Mick Licence**, and his trusty companion, **LCpl** Jacko **Jackson**. After **LCpl** 'Fatty Jonah' **Jones** shot the Troop Comd with a loaded water gun, his revenge was to deploy 306 into the desert, where **Cpl** 'I am so handsome' **Wilford** detailed **Sig** 'Pooper Wallah' **Pope** to build the mark IV field toilet. 307 deployed into the desert to support TN 061.

LCpl 'Snake' **Clark** and **Sig** 'Winston' **Hutchinson**, REMFs 314 suffered a major shock by deploying into the desert after 11 weeks in the port would like to know if they can go home now. While 315 with their spicy food expert **LCpl** 'Carlos Sanchez' **Kelly** and **Sig** 'Jock' **Westworth** can't wait to deploy again with their new human dynamo **Sig** 'Bullet' **Farnes** who escaped from TN 071 to be with them.

TRUNK NODE 071 GOLF TROOP

TN 071 has now moved from its 'Hamburger Hill' location to join the rest of the Squadron in the desert kraal. We are now having a big clean-up after two months constant working. The clean-up began with the admin team run by **Cpl Shawn** 'I can handle another job' **Seraphin**. His team consisted of **Sig Taff** 'The Heat' **Llewellyn** (When he's not pumping iron), **Paul Green, Smudge Smith** and **Scott** 'Stig' **Pringle**. The Troop mechanics: **LCpl Dave Waterhouse** and **Cfn Darren Cruttenden** have coped admirably with requests such as 'can you fit panniers to all the vehicles with no welding kit and no metal during the next 48 hours whilst also servicing them?'. Meanwhile the chefs **LCpls Shaun Gravett** and **Kev Coles** have been celebrating now that they no longer have to feed 70 hungry US Marines.

On a more serious note all of TN 071 would like to send their love and best wishes to all family and friends back at home, and to wish them all a belated happy new year.

TRUNK NODE 040 (21 SIG REGT)

The Troop has now been in theatre some two months, less our own salty seadog **Sgt Howie** 'The Sailor' **Barlow** who had the honour of a free ticket on that well known tropical cruiser 'Slotewrgratch' and don't we all know it. **SSgt Billy** 'The Switch' **McLean** is still putting up with **Howie**'s tall seadog stories of treachery on the high seas as they both work in the same wagon. It would be unfair at this stage not to mention **2Lt Dakin** who does show up every few days to do the odd two hours shift!

TRUNK NODE 013 (22 SIG REGT)

As the latest addition to the new improved 1 Sqn, the node has been put together as a 'best of the rest' selection. Encompassing 22, 7, 16, 3 ADSR Sig Regts with our cuisine from Colchester in the form of **Cpl Bob Parry** and **Pte Steven King**. We must not forget the REME, from 4 RTR and 1 RGJ, provided by **Cfn Morph Heyward** and **Cpl Beard**. It was not long till we deployed north co-locating with the US Marines in a formation known as Group RIPPER. They were very hospitable with many a lamp being swung, tall story told and volleyball games played. We very quickly settled down in this oasis the Americans called 'Rippertown'. Christmas and New Year were seen in with a bang as the Troop attempted to get drunk on non-alcoholic beer. We also joined in with our American friends in their religious celebrations at an inter-denominational service.

TRUNK NODE 015 (22 SIG REGT)

Having discussed this attempt at a literary masterpiece at length with the Troop Comd TN 015 **2Lt** 'My hat doesn't fit' **Blower** we feel that Shelley and Keates will not have a lot of competition. The Radio Relays have finally gathered. It has taken three weeks, but they have now gathered from the four corners of Saudia. Headed up by **Sgt Glenn** 'Scrounger' **Henderson** we have the following: On Alpha det ably led by **Cpl** 'Keys' **Sales** with **Sig Junior Crawford** and **John** 'Silent' **Murray**. On Bravo Det with **LCpl Tommo Tomson** 'I love myself', **Sig** 'not all jocks are bad' **Pirrie** and **Rick Castle**. On Charlie Det, run with a fist of steel by **Cpl Steve** 'Here we go again' **Peacock** with **Sig** 'Storming' **McLeod** and **'Tankie' Hooper**. Now that we have moved into the desert the drivers amongst us consisting of **Sig Gregory, Shaw** and **Scales** are trying to swap their Landrovers for camels. They can often be seen disappearing over the horizon in the cloud of dust. Last, but not least, we must mention our REME contingent, **Cpl Andy Shears** and **Cfn** 'Biddy' **Biddlecombe** who have managed to keep our vehicles on the road.

2 SQUADRON

We had two cold but very happy weeks training before the Div staff joined us on 5 January. Our area of the desert was at that time empty so we practised desert driving, night navigation and many other things. Meanwhile more equipment arrived daily and our problem now is where to put it all when we move. Our Master Chef **SSgt Steve Smith** must be the only chef in the ACC who has his own AFV 432 complete with L37 machine gun turret in which to move rations and cooking equipment. His driver is **Pte** Foxy **Fox** (1 PWO) and his gunner is **Cpl Williams** ACC. Likewise the line det carry and lay line from another AFV432. The driver is **Pte Barney Barnett** (1 PWO) the commander is **LCpl Al Morton** and the gunner is **Sig** Cappy **Caprio**.

The boys of Diamond 1 are working hard as ever to keep the staff happy. This includes 24 hour a day hot coffee dispensed from a specially purchased Burco boiler. Congratulations to **Mick** 'Tomo' **Thompson** on his promotion to LCpl.

On the Rebros, life has been busy providing special range communications for the work up training. **Sig Scott Johnstone** and **Woody Hepplewhite** had an amazing escape when the helicopter in which they were travelling crashed and they walked away suffering only from shock, cuts and bruises. Meanwhile **Sgt Dougie Tait** was concerned, as all the LO's and RRB's in his Troop had AFV's but he still had a landrover for resupply. Now he is happy again as he too has an AFV 432 with a GPMG mounted. Meanwhile OC 2 Sqn **Maj Geoff Cary** is keeping a note of the best quotes he has heard. Here is one of them.

OC 2 Sqn to **YofS Andy Trask**: 'Yes get us half a dozen of those YOS'.

YofS: 'Well I doubt if they've got that many sir—but I might be able to get five or six'.

3 SQUADRON

OC Sqn	**Maj R. G. Thomas**
2IC	**Capt S. M. Jines**

Ops Offr **Capt N. Cary**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) R. J. W. McNahon**, FofS **WO2 (FofS) R. S. Downie MBE**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) D. Till**, YofS **SSgt (YofS) A. Campbell**, MT SNCO **Sgt S. Osman**.

Everyone arrived safely in Al Jubail and we were accommodated in a transit camp to await the arrival of our vehicles. Christmas Day was spent on the beach in glorious sunshine after the men had each received a Royal British Legion present. The gifts were very welcome and we would like to express our sincere thanks to all members of the Royal British Legion for their support and kind donations. Later on

that day the Officers and SNCOs served Christmas Dinner to the men. The standard of the cuisine was marvellous considering where we were and the conditions the chefs had to work under.

Our vehicles arrived on the 27th and were driven to a holding area where we carried out our checks prior to deploying into the real desert for a Squadron plug up. Comms checks complete the trunk nodes peeled off to provide comms (and still are) redesignated as 3 Sqn under command of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. The Squadron has also been increased in size by the addition of TN 031 from 16 Sig Regt.

TRUNK NODE 012

We have now been here 28 days but it seems as though we have been here far longer. The daily routine is well and truly established. A number of amusing things have occurred. **Cpl** 'Jai' **Tully** tasked **Sig 'Terry' Peters** to dig a trench. After a short while **Cpl Tully** decided to check of **Sig Peters** progress (a man not renowned for his sense of initiative) and saw that he was working well. He also noted a shepherd and his flock heading their way. Sometime elapsed and **Cpl Tully** decided to check on **Sig Peters'** progress once more. He found **Sig Peters** lounging on his webbing smoking. **Cpl Tully** blew a gasket and began to take **Peters** apart when he noticed the shepherd digging away like a madman! Maybe **Sig Peters** has more initiative than he is credited with.

Heard in the confines of Node Command. A frustrated **Lt Williams** trying in vain to put a point across to another Node Command said 'Now listen, just watch my lips'. Over the subset? Must be phonovision!

TRUNK NODE 043

It was a case of second time lucky for the boys of Trunk Node 043 who were called up for Op Granby 1.5, this time however it was for real. 21 December saw the trunk node deploy to the Gulf. The narrative went something like this:

We hit the sand with anticipation, we were greeted with a warm dry atmosphere but just to be original we were all feeling cold. Clearly our first misinformation was on the weather. After another two hour journey we reached the reception area in Al Jubail. At this point we were kitted out with all the latest hi tech desert kit. We saw lots of American soldiers at which point we all heaved a sigh of relief because at least now we were guaranteed maple cake rations and big macs in the desert.

The next week was really useful. We visited the beaches and acclimatised. We brought lots of arab burgers from Pearl Beach Camp at special rates! We also heard the now legendary cry of 'Squadron on parade for a photo'. Christmas Day was brilliant a Squadron party and a small food fight! and lots of non-alcoholic beer.

TRUNK NODE 053

After a quote 'Jolly nice day out' unquote **2Lt** 'I've got a penpal' **Naden** and **Sgt** 'I've pranged my rover' **Tye** returned from an eventful recce to lead the node into the desert. On arrival in our new location work was quickly co-ordinated to provide the little luxuries that would make our stay in the desert more bearable, with **Cpl Gaz Tuff** leading his willing band of Radio Relay 'volunteers' and **LCpls Steve Brodie** and **Dicko Dickinson** and **Sig Taff Sherwood** in converting a Saudi 'thunder box' into a double shower stall. The node chefs **Cpl Hutch Hutchinson** and **Pte Tosh Tocher** continue to sustain with a commendably high standard of food despite difficult light. He completely singed his camel eyelashes when lighting the petrol fire immersion heater. He has also made our chemical agent warning system redundant after shouting 'Gas, Gas, Gas,' in his dreams in the middle of the night and succeeded in getting the Tp Comd, Tp SSgt and Sgt into respirators. He is a continual source of amusement however; we would not be without our **Tosh**.

We have been having regular sports afternoons with the skills of the ERV (Slumberland) crew coming to the fore, **Cpls Mick Duggan** and **Max Marriot** (The Skinhead Twins) amazing everybody with their agility on court after so many hours in bed.

TRUNK NODE 063

The story of destruction goes on. Since our last communique we have moved several times. To train to communicate and to avoid the advance of enemy tanks. The official warning of a move has been superseded by the simple expectation of moves immediately on arrival at a new location or after a thunderous downpour. Our on the job navigation lessons are proving educational if not beneficial, with numerous troop members setting out into the unknown with little more than blind optimism to guide them (certainly not a map!). **Sgt** Rip Van Columbus **Weavers** took a mere 12 hours to cover the 45kms to a neighbouring trunk node with the assistance of fellow founding fathers **LCpl Fuller, Sig Morris** and **Garton**. Whilst on the topic if anyone should find **LCpl Spick Sirignano** or **Sig Knowles** could you please point them towards home.

Chefs **Fordham** and **Leach** continue to draw crowds to sample their wares and are narrowly ahead of the hot showers in morale boosting. Good news is abundant on the radio, but not overflowing locally so the inability to drink to the promotion of **LCpl** (now Cpl) **Morrison** will be noted for future correction. Meanwhile his crew of **Sig Morris** and **Rafferty** enquire as to whether the promotion was linked to a posting, but gave assurances that they would soldier on anyway.

TRUNK NODE 041

Well its certainly been an interesting month or so! Since deploying into the desert we have experienced almost every weather condition from blistering heat to driving rain. In fact, at times the Troop could have been forgiven for thinking they were deployed on British beaches when the tide was out! Life here is quite comfortable now we have most of the home comforts (showers, loos etc) obtained I know not where (and best not to ask) by **Sgt Jesse Jamers**. Still the boys are in fine spirits and the efforts of the dymanmic duo, chefs **LCpl Willy Walker** and **Pte Taff Stevens**, who manage to provide excellent meals no matter what the conditions. Finally, a note to our parent unit back in Krefeld. We will be home as soon as the job is done. Standby for a massive party on our return!

7 SQUADRON

7 Sqn began arriving at the great sand pit on 21 December, just in time for a nice warm(ish) Christmas. The first few days were spent in Al Jubail, sorting ourselves out and waiting for the vehicles to be shipped in. Comparative luxury gave way on Christmas Day to a two and a half hour move out to the desert and a central location for Christmas Day. **Maj Tim Watts** commanded for a while something which looked like an outpost from the Empire; pennants, flags and vehicles neatly arranged under the eye of **Sgt Maj Chuck Walker**. The site had been recce'd by **SSgt Graham Reith** and **Capt Kim Evans** and the meals supervised by our resident chef, **Sgt Pete Dicker**.

Perhaps the biggest achievement all round has been the outstanding level of wheeling and dealing. You can swap anything with an American for a Royal Signals beret, from a complete combat suit, to any number of camp beds, to a magnum .45 pistol! (the last offer was not taken up). For a while even **SSM 'No 4' Walker** managed to swap the OC's Rover for an enormous truck and three marines!

Now round the troops:

SCRA (CENTRAL) TROOP

After a dull few days sunning ourselves in a transit camp called 'Archiroden' Lines, where the whole population of Arabian mosquitoes were having a winter vacation, floppy hats and desert boots were purchased from downtown to embark upon our great adventure into the desert.

After collecting our vehicles from the port we set off on a three hour cabbie, on what seemed like endlessly straight roads, we viewed many camels, a few sand dunes and lots of Americans. Our first location had been carefully sited, a patch of sand, bordered on each side by more sand.

The first thing to do was eat Christmas dinner, complete with crackers and paper hats, followed by opening presents from the British Legion. With our recently unwrapped torches we made off, hesitantly, to our hammocks and campbeds. After shaking out our sleeping bags we eyed our possible avenues of approach for the hordes of scorpions, snakes and spiders that would undoubtedly be waiting to pounce on us. Two days later we came across our first creepy crawly, Bertie the beetle, a friendly local who visited us on many occasions.

Sgt Kev German took the lads on a desert driving course and upon leaving the road and driving onto the sand, promptly bogged in. After the laughter had subsided the instructor complimented **Sgt German** for a perfect example of what not to do.

Then it was out to our first communication sites and the troop bomb-burst across the desert, where we have remained, through rain and shine, ever since.

Mail has been the highlight of everybody's day. So wives and girlfriends, keep the blueys coming. Finally special hellos to those left in Herford from **Sgt German, Cpl Nash, LCpl Lloyd** and **Sig Neeve**.

TN 021
by Lt Kevin Francis

We arrived in the desert on Christmas Day. Despite the conditions, morale remained high and the Christmas boxes went down very well. A visit by a Squadron of Challengers soon brought out the cameras and a reassuring air settled over the more anxious. 30 December saw a change of scenery with the node moving to a quarry. The rumours of showers and washing machines soon spread around and it was with some anticipation that we rolled into the Dust Bowl.

By New Years Eve we were all settled in and looking forward to a few days of sun, and slit-trenches. The appearance of a sackful of mail did wonders for morale and brought smiles to many faces along with a mad rush for more blueys.

All of TN 021 would like to wish their families and friends a very happy 1991 and look forward to coming home safe and soon.

TN 023 THINKING OF HOME
by Lt Kevin Atkinson

From all soldiers away from home come stories of both the good and bad times. The most heart warming yet, is the sight of **Andy Howard** holding his grandson for the first time in RAF Aktrotri. An opportunity taken by his son serving in Cyprus. **Cpl Perham** will hopefully be back in time to see **Kim** give birth to their first child. All our best goes to all wives and girlfriends in Germany and the UK.

TN 022
by 2Lt Nikki Brown

All was quiet. The moon shone brightly on a landscape vaguely reminiscent of itself. A lone cricket chirps in its vain attempt to find a mate.

'Oi! Put that ****** fag out!'

The peace was disturbed. Trunk Node 022 had arrived. Straight away everybody split off in their different directions.

Most people got out of work on communication or camouflage but Detachment Commanders, **Cpls White, Vickers, Boldero, LCpls Rockliffe** and **Dleppang** and last but not least my driver **Sig Davies** were tasked to check thoroughly all the troop vehicles under the watchful eye of **Sgt Hopcroft**. They obviously completed this task successfully as we arrived at the concentration area for our Christmas meal without mishap. **Sgt Stephen** (824) was our Father Christmas for the day and dished out the presents after a traditional Christmas Dinner prepared by **LCpl Kavanagh**. The next few days involved a great deal of work for the whole Troop. All our equipment needed a thorough airing and shake out to remove all the cobwebs that accumulated on the three week sea voyage from Emden. **LCpls Randles** and **Drummond** worked wonders on the switch, getting everything updated. The night watchman, **Sgt Sounders** kept things going 24 hours along with **Sig Davies** (919), who was forever toiling away on the generators under the moon and a thick layer of oil. The Troop was now ready to deploy. We got sent back to Al Jubail, or slipper city as it is sometimes called, to provide the beginning of all the trunk communications. We have now been in the port for several days without event. **LCpl Milne** and **Sig Bailey** have been detached from the Troop but we look forward to their return in three days. **Cpl Overton** has been running the Troop administration and seems to be a good wheeler dealer and has been keeping the Troop well cared for and also himself, spending much of his time in the American PX and burger bar. On the whole, life is much easier than we all imagined before we left. Everything is going well now that we have all adapted to the different way of life in the Gulf.

SEP GROUP
THE TEAM

SO1 Ptarmigan	**Lt Col Martin Stretch**
SO3 Ops/Plans SEP	**Capt Bob Dobson**

SO3 SEP/TOT **Capt Drew Robertson**, F Man **Capt Peter Baron**, SEP Watchkeeper **WO1 (YofS) Ian Parry**, TSEP Watchkeeper **WO1 (FofS) Wil Stockdale**, TSEP Watchkeeper **SSgt (YofS) Ron Perry**, Driver **Cpl Leigh Northeast**, Driver **Cpl Gaz Sullivan**, Temp Attached **WCpl Karen Ballington.**

THE SAGA OF SEP AS SEEN BY SCORPION

Our small team is commonly known in BAOR as System Executive and Plans. However, out here it is better known as Somebody Elses Problem!, more of that later. We arrived in theatre on 21 December 90 to begin the reception process. Two hundred and fifty sets of personal kit were off-loaded from the aircraft and put onto a vehicle for onward movement to the port. When it arrived the kit was stacked in lines for us to collect. As you may well imagine it was a mammoth task trying to find our own equipment: once found we then reloaded it onto another vehicle to move us to Archirodon Camp. Here the system was far more inventive, the kit was unloaded again but in the darkest part of the camp possible! Shouts of 'Anyone seen my Kit!' could be heard long into the night. After a day of relative peace we moved to the FMA to marry up with our vehicles; no mean task as we did not have transport available to us and had to beg from the Gunners of all people. The TSEP vehicle located and a second vehicle procured to house SEP we gradually took control of the 'system'.

One of our first problems was trying to get anything issued to us (as I said earlier SEP-Somebody Elses Problem) still, a few white lies and the odd case of 'asset stripping' and we were ready.

The day finally dawned when we had to make our first venture into the desert. This was to show the General and SEP/TSEP functions, and the strength of the Ptarmigan system available to him. Even this was not without its problems. No sooner had we left location then we had a puncture on one of our vehicles. As you can see from our team list we are slightly top heavy when it comes to chiefs and indians. The sight of four Officers, two WO1s, a Staff Sergeant and two Corporals trying to change a wheel is one that will always remain with me. SO1 Ptarmigan, in between filming us, was also seen to lend a hand in jacking up the vehicle much to the delight of the indians.

The festive period saw us receiving Red Cross Parcels courtesy of SO2 E Man (**Maj Steve** 'Father Christmas' **Marshall**), and a new toy for the SO1. Not only does he have this Ptarmigan train set to play with, but he also received a brand new Toyota Land Cruiser (SEP Battle Bus). It is not infallible however, it too managed to sustain a puncture!

We are now firmly ensconced in the system and SEP can now be referred to as 'Something Else to Play with' as we start our planning to move assets around the country.

Capt Pete Baron departed (over the move period) to talk about freaks with 7(US) Corps—We don't want too many of those about do we—he is expected back in a couple of days with one or two camp cots and of course a job well done.

Our thicket of yosses Perky and Parky are proving to all that that breed of soldier is capable of turning their hand to any task, ably guided by **FofS** (I'm a foreman) **Stockdale**.

Finally a mention of our three **Cpls Northeast, Sullivan** and **Ballington**: none were initially planned to be part of the SEP team but as destiny would have it all three are a very important addition to the crew, albeit that **Cpl Ballington** will soon depart to a TN for the remainder of the operation.

SSgt Kev Winkles and **LCpl Martin Hyett** set off on the scrounge to make everyones' (but mainly their) hives more comfortable.

Once 'Kev's boudoir' had been completed (to a standard that would have impressed your average Crown Prince) he started running around making **LCpl Buzzard** and his gang of reprobates dig holes everywhere. The map of Saudi Arabia is soon going to have to be changed to below sea level!

Once we had effectively lowered the node's profile, **SSgt Winkles** decided to lower the boys profile by slightly altering the old saying about 'the first casualty of war'. We know the truth, the first casualty of war is your haircut. Most of us now look as though we are constantly wearing our helmets.

Now that people can no longer hide their receding hair-lines some, ie **Sgts Doris Day, Gary Tock** and **Cpl Neil Stewart** are having a competition to see just how little hair a man can have on his head.

Cpl Brummy Lavers decided to join the contest in a slightly oblique way by having an accident with some petrol and a match and losing his eyebrows. He always has to be different.

LCpl Andy Spiers has become our local ecologist, he is now into recycling in a big way, even his diesel and petrol keeps getting put back in the Saudi soil. In a few year time the Spiers and Son Petro-chemical Company will make a massive strike in this area!

TN 024
by Lt Colin Hinsley

Trunk Node 024 arrived in Saudi Arabia late on 23 December 1990, it was a smooth journey. **SSgt Shenton** and **Cpl McIntyre** met the main body at the Port of Al Jubail, in the early hours of Christmas eve. On travelling to the port **Sgt Stephen (901)** quite aptly described Saudi as a huge building site. After numerous loading and unloading of equipment, Christmas eve was spent sorting ones personal items out in preparation for the move to the concentration area on Christmas day.

22 SQUADRON

The story of the recently disbanded Rear Headquarters and subsequent rebuild of the all new 22 Squadron 'Armoured Rear Headquarters' has been, to say the least, a busy one.

We began training for life in the desert, which at the time we mistakenly thought would be a great deal different from what we were accustomed to. The training included navigation, the inevitable NBC, weapons, vigourous PT sessions and a memorable health and hygiene lecture. We were even privileged enough to get a look at some maps which can be at best described as . . . brown. Training complete our big day loomed upon us. The night before our flight **Foreman** 'Vidal Sassoon' **Plumb** produced a pair of clippers and set about transforming a group of relatively normal looking soldiers into a group that would probably get turned away from a football match. As someone remarked we resembled a group of 'walking wingnuts!' Preparation complete we departed at an early hour from a deserted Hannover airport and began our journey to sunnier climes.

Our Club Saudi holiday very nearly came to an abrupt end as we attempted to land in a sandstorm. Despite poor visibility and strong winds the approach was smooth until we descended below the storm and a somewhat shocked pilot realised that the aircraft was approaching the wrong runway. A very sharp left hand turn corrected the situation although many of us at the time were unsure as to the pilot's intentions, one theory was that he was trying to write his name in the sand with the tip of the wing.

Our first contact with the natives was in the form of our drivers, who seemed intent on playing dodgems throughout the journey whilst forcing us to listen to Saudi Arabias answer to Bros. The next two days were spent in the port area searching for and checking vehicles and generally orientating ourselves.

Since beginning shift work large numbers of the Troop seem to have vanished and gone to ground collecting only now and again to eat and then merging back into the sand. The staff managed to double the manpower and every man and his dog have brought along additional vehicles thus lengthening and prolonging our frequent moves. Our kit was very quickly stripped down to the bare minimum to allow for the growing number of computers, paper, maps and photocopiers and the biggest stock of astro-turf for the main complex. The majority of kit backloaded included waterproofs and warm weather clothing, and as luck would have it, shortly after our kit departed the weather took a turn for the worse. To answer all the questions we frequently get in our letters and to set the record straight,—it does rain in the desert—**LCpl Geoff Cohen** appeared almost immediately in the vague hope that he may be able to go fishing but we think he was being just a touch optimistic. The subsequent days were spent in a location which looked like a scene from the Somme, whilst **Cpl Robert Barker** and his crew of linemen wallowed around in ever increasing puddles looking for cable and everyone became generally soaked to the skin. Since being in the desert we have discovered just how many orifices the human body possesses and how quickly sand collects in them. None realise this problem more than our powermen **Cpl Paul Cross** and **Sig Steve Graham** who have the additional problem of servicing and repairing generators in a less than hospitable environment. As **Sgt Rab Horne** noticed one wet and windy morning, the desert looks more like Soltau training area without any trees rather than a desert.

Our closing note must mention the Admin party under the watchful eye of **Maj John Walsh**, who take on all the jobs which keep a growing headquarters fed and watered.

REGIMENTAL ECHELON
MIKE TROOP

On 19 December 1990 the remaining members of Mike Tp, 1 ADSR arrived by Tristar in Saudi Arabia.

The Radio ERV, crewed by **Sgt Barney Patel** and **Cpl Steve Gadsdon** will in future be called Special Projects Section. This is because 7 and 4 Bde have kindly supplied an ERV each to do the real work.

The Ptarmigan ERV has four new members, **Sgt Dom McGrath, Cpls Steve Tait, Daz Booker** and **LCpl Graham Willcock**. After receiving many gash 'Tommy' Trends and 'Ronny' Cossors from the previous cowboys, the lads have now transformed their ERV into a Tardis full of kit awaiting something or other. The trouble is nobody knows exactly what.

We stopped at the port on the way in and picked up **WO1 (FofS) Dave Gorse**, who has had to leave his easy desk job at HQ FMA to come and assist **Capt Russ Davey** with Equipment Management. I have been told that this is the (thankless?) task of shuffling bits of kit around the Regiment until everyone is smiling.

'Oh, it only rains for a few minutes at a time' they said back at the port. Not true, we found out. It rained solid for two and a half days and the desert turned to mud. Well that's the rain for the year, we thought. Wrong again, we drove through mud to get to our next location and then it rained again for another 24 hours. Now we have been promised that we have definitely had our share of rain. I was told this by the same person who said, 'Your second set of combats will be issued tomorrow'!

Mike Tp Echelon—1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

201 SIGNAL SQUADRON
ALPHA TROOP DIAMOND ONE

Well after our 48 hours 'acclimatisation', the Squadron deployed by open top 8 tonne vehicles to the drop off point. Someone had a sick sense of humour, as all the passengers were a slight tinge of blue on arrival. From there on we then entered its 'Twilight Zone', of setting up the complex in slow time getting to know the set up and hopefully what the staff would require? We had a couple of days grace before we were dispatched into a funny, little earth work which looked as though 'Beau Geste' had masterminded it. These earth works are never the correct size and pieces of string are always being produced to get the exact measurements. The wonders of modern technology. To complicate matters more cam nets were issued, these were sewn together to produce a huge net which completely covered the complex. This was by no means an easy task.

Since we have been here, there has been an endless task of tightening the cam net, tidying the tea area, digging in generators and generally keeping the area tidy so that the crews can live in reasonable comfort around the area. I forgot to mention the 'Desert Rose', this is a bit of a pain because the staff are never happy where its placed. Its either too high or too low, not close enough or too far away, one day maybe we will get it right!

Attached to our merry band is **Cpl Paul David** from 206 Sig Sqn and also **Cpl Chuck Norris** is the phantom barber of the complex. These two have integrated well and they ensure that some people don't have to visit the hairdressers for at least the next six months.

Everyone is in good spirits and all are hopeful about an early end and a flight ticket home.

BRAVO TROOP DIAMOND FOUR

On arrival at our first location **SSgt Dave Showell** was mortified to find that his most important desert accessory, his camp bed, had already been lost. Needless to say he was inconsolable. The location was reasonably pleasant, bearing in mind the ground and conditions, miles and miles of sandy wasteland.

Although everyone of us is missing those left behind in Germany, we are fortunate that the recent weather, grey skies, blustery winds and persistent rain keeps 'sunny Hohne' constantly in our thoughts.

CHARLIE TROOP DIAMOND SEVEN

The frequent moves have kept the lineys busy, especially **Cpl Mac McKittrick** who's been tasked to find what's wrong with the RMP telephone, only to find the 'plods' fast asleep around it. The leader of the liney's, **Sgt** 'Rip Van Winkle' **Rouse**, has been testing his skills against the latest in computer navigation equipment. At the end of an hour long lecture on how to use the equipment, he asked the question 'Yeh that's great, but how do you turn it on?'.

Sgt Tim Wells often leads the administration vehicles to new locations and has mastered the navigation, but still has to come to terms with the terrain. He led the Troop vehicles up a track for 5kms, which normally would be a short journey. However the vehicles rapidly became bogged down and nine hours later the REME recovered the last vehicle, that had become stuck in the sand.

The REME LAD team, lead by **SSgt Mick Ferris**, has had an extremely busy time keeping the Squadron's vehicles on the road, and adapting the vehicles for use in the desert. **Cpl Al Brewis** has also spent some of this time repairing his bed, which has broken twice. It may have something to do with his raging appetite, without at least one loaf of bread with each meal he does not feel satisfied.

All in all, its been a very busy time for the members of Charlie Tp and will continue to be so in the months to come. We are all waiting for an improvement in the weather maybe after our second month in Saudi Arabia we will be complaining about the heat!

207 (7 ARMOURED BRIGADE) SIGNAL SQUADRON

The past 10 weeks since arriving 'In Theatre' with 7 Armd Bde have flown by.

We have now been joined by the 'Black Rats' of 4 Armd Bde, 201 Sig Sqn, the remainder of 1st Armd Div Sig Regt and the Trunk Node Squadrons of most Regiments in Germany. Welcome to you all.

Christmas has come and gone and we move into an uncertain New Year, a year in which we all hopefully go home safely to our families.

The Squadron is now going through a low-key training programme while the rest of the Division goes through its paces to get operational. The men are in good heart with only the lack of wives, families and beer occasionally getting them down.

We look forward to seeing you all again sometime this year.

Over now to the Troops for their view of life with 7 Armd Bde.

ALPHA TROOP

Since departing the lovely shores of Germany for our winter holiday in the sun varied series of events have happened.

On arrival to the sunny shores of Saudi Arabia our first surprise lay awaiting us in the port of Al Jubail our luxurious five star location with its very own open door air conditioning system more than compensated for the lack of beds.

Anyway all this soon faded away as we entered the desert for the first time on the 26 October 1990. Over the next two weeks we got used to the desert proper until we moved to our present location in the worlds biggest sandpit. Now for the wives of those who joined us from 201 Sig Sqn. 'Hi, back there in the rain, snow and generally cold weather. Its been two and half months since we left 22 Armd Bde (The Plastic Rats)'. **John Yates** 'which det am I on now?' **Paul Taylor** 'this shampoo smells funny!' **Geff** 'Golden Sleeping bag' **Winder** and **Spike Forbes** are all happily integrated into Alpha (Main) Tp. We're having a great time lots of beer (non-alchoholic) sand and camels everywhere!

TECHS

by Sgt Phil Mackenzie

WO2 (FofS) Blondel, SSgts (FofS) Smikle, Sgts (FofS) MacKenzie, Gummow, Clegg, Samuel-Camps, Cpls (FofS) Spinks, Jeffries, Brannan, Fielding, Bruce, Murphy, LCpls (FofS) Webb, Wargison, Flintoff, Reed, Blair and **Preece**.

For those of us who have to live in the pleasant, comfortable, dare I say cushy environment of the desert there are plenty of faults to keep us busy and deserving fully our large pay packets.

Ptarmigan is doing its utmost to irritate the protruding bits of the dashingly handsome techs who have to maintain it. Whilst in the sleazy, seedy world of Clansman the dust gathered, the valve dusters gather together in dark, smelly groups and mutter words like 'Synth, Turf, Arfat and Wibble'.

Cpl Steve 'The Pantham' **Brannan,** is covertly changing trades to an operator (traitor) as he lurks in the murky recesses of SAS/MC 614.

BRAVO TROOP

COMMS OPS

DET PERSONALITIES

Lt Ian Walton, Sgt Mark Richmond, Cpl Bill Walker, LCpl Andy Allen, Sig Freeway Lane.

Christmas Eve in Saudi Arabia, the daily routine remains the same, batteries, vehicle maintenance; the usual stuff.

Boredom is the main problem with Christmas giving us just a little respite from the normal dragging routine.

Hundreds of Christmas cards show that we are in many people's thoughts. All the best to those back home for the New Year and Looking forward to April'ish.

ECHELON

LAD/URS

The LAD/URS headed by **SSgt Pete Cullingworth** has the impossible tasks of fixing everything the Royal Signals break. The LAD consists of **Cpls Roger** 'Snooze' **Clark, Nigel** 'ARC' **Dus, Cfn Lee Crapp, Ed Evans** and **Dave** 'Dasher' **Blackett.** We are supplied by a fully out of stock RAOC URS run by **Sgt Colin Brothwell** and **Cpl Paul Sharry**.

MT

The MT Section has over the past few weeks been overworked and underpaid as per normal. Most of the manpower of the MT has been heavily involved in the servicing of the Squadron's B vehicle fleet due to the adverse conditions encountered in the desert.

In between servicing the remainder of the time is spent doing daily details, moving stores and personnel around the training areas and the everyday replenishment of our daily needs such as water, fuel and food (as we all know an army marches on it's stomach). Everyone who makes their daily visit to the A2 Ech Pod can only hope that **LCpl Chris Pilcher** will, one day, manage a smile. Never mind **Chris** may go home one day.

Sgt John and all members of the MT would like to wish every success to the departing MTWO, **WO2 Jeff Pearson**, on his posting to the RCT Mobile Display Team in Aldershot and a big thankyou for his work to date. We would also like to wish a happy and successful tour to his replacement, **SSgt Paul Mellish**.

DEFENCE FIRE TEAM

Contrary to popular belief the RPC Defence Fire Team is alive, awake and located within Ech. Our grossly overworked half section led by **SSgt Kev Whally** who can be seen sitting in the sun dealing with Defence Platoon matters.

Cpl Taff Reynolds can be seen doing his daily workout, that's when he can be released from single handedly running the CP, duties and fatigues. I may add. **LCpl** 'Angry' **Anderson** who can be seen religiously first parading Big Vern the love of his life, our Defence Bedford. Then last but by no means least, **Pte Billy Stevenson** who spends the pitiful amount of time he gets free from his arduous duties, writing home to his loved ones. Well that's about it from the defence for this issue.

QM DEPARTMENT

Everyone in the Department would like to thank all family and friends for the cards and gifts over Christmas and hope they are all well and not too cold over there.

Last but by no means least a mention to those missed off last time. **Cpl Jim Green** holding the fort at Main and our two telephone operators, **LCpl** 'Coatsy' **Coates** and **Sig** 'Stiffy' **Stiff**, the only 'shifties' at Ech, so they keep telling us!

HQ BAA RATT DET

Sig Mark Roberts has been desperately trying to improve his sun tan so that as even he can laugh at the locals. Unfortunately some one forgot to tell him you can't sunbathe under the moon. It was good to have him back out of hospital after his pnuemonia cleared up. **LCpl Keith Parsons** still runs the most efficient det in the BAA. On a recent move they decided to bog their det in up to the chassis just for fun and to see how long they could keep smiling whilst digging it out. Congratulations to **Cpl Danny Fielding** on his promotion.

LINIES

As ever the line crews remain in good spirits. All the crews still wait with bated breath for **Cpl Dave Stewart** to get his fags out. The latest great task the men of the line have completed is the Mercury telephones in camp 4. For 10 days **Cpls Dave Stewart** and **Bob Bruce** drove their crews on to install the phones. **Sig Micky Vaughan** became an expert at resetting the micro computer inside the phonebox and assisted in connecting all 40 phones. **LCpl Craig Harber, Sig Foo Harris** and **Tetley Crossley** all aided in long and slow process of laying cable and connecting phones in the nurses accommodation area. In fact this small task took most of the time.

HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

A FEW WORDS FROM THE WIVES IN VERDEN

Things are very quiet at the moment here in Verden, with most of the husbands away in sunnier climes.

We have our own Families Centre in the old 3 Sqn block. After a few minor alterations it now houses the Post Room, Families Office, Families Information Room and a meeting place for the wives to gather and to discuss everyday matters, read their blueys, generally have a laugh over a coffee whilst the kids run up and down the corridor chased by **SSgt Roy Partington** and his merry men!

LCpl Franklin is now offering a consolation prize of sweets (hard boiled) when your expected bluey doesn't turn up.

Various shopping trips and Sunday lunches are put on for the wives which help to pass the weekends (far better than watching Grand Stand). These trips have been well attended so far and we hope will continue so. When the wives go on these shopping trips, a couple of wives (martyrs or mugs?) run a creche in the Grapevine.

A few girls have found fame (but not fortune) being interviewed by the German press; **Carol Davey, Sue Dott** and **Liz Roberts**.

All individual Squadron coffee mornings have stopped for now as, 'sticking together' seems to be the Regimental motto.

On behalf of all the wives, we'd like to thank the 'team' in the Families Information Room for making these difficult times as easy as possible for us—do you think they'll help us organise a big reunion party for their return?

Keep smiling boys! We miss you and wish you a safe return.

Liz Roberts, Sue Dott and Carole Davey

REPORT FROM ULSTER

XV

15 Sig Regt
BFPO 801

We are now into our second year of existence, 1 February being our Regimental Birthday. Sport and social events are always a welcome break from operational duties and the never ending cycle of shift work. 1991 promises to be another good year for sporting successes. To date the Regimental Rugby team has done extremely well, the Squash team reached the quarter final of the Army Cup, the Basketball team is currently in the UK Zone B final and on the Cross Country scene **Sgt Bill McCreath** has just become the NI Service League Champion for the 1990/91 season. **WCpl Hartley** represented the Womens Services Command team in a fixture against the TA and Hampshire. The Regiment's WRAC Cross Country team were runners up in both the NI Championships and the Womens Services League.

The social scene for the year has already got off to a good start, the Garrison Sergeants' Mess was the setting for a dinner to mark the departure of **Sgt Tommy Burns** after 22 years service in the Corps. The evening was superbly organised by **WO2 (SSM) Jeff Williams** and the unveiling of **Tommy**'s somewhat illustrious career proved interesting listening, adding to the enjoyment of the occasion. **Tommy** has served the Corps extremely well and he will be especially missed by all the lads in Romeo Tp, 233 Sig Sqn. Another recent departure is **WO1 (YofS) Bill Tosh** the Asst Ops Offr, his expertise especially on the COMMIS computer system will be missed—not least by myself, having struggled valiantly to master the intricacies of the word processor. **WO1 (YofS) Kev Doyle** has arrived from 14 Sig Regt to take over from him and boost the Regimental Squash team. News that **WO2 (SSM) Mick Orange**, the SSM of 225 Sig Sqn has been selected for promotion to WO1 was of course celebrated in the customary style. **Mick** is now looking forward to the day when he stops having to buy the RSM a pint and everyone buys him one! Many congratulations on what is quite excellent news.

That other bastion of the social scene, the Peake Inn, is at last about to undergo a major refit and is also being enlarged to accommodate the increased membership that becoming a Regiment has entailed. Everyone looks forward to having a Regimental club that will be the envy of the Garrison.

Sgt Tommy Burns in full flow during his farewell speech. WO2 (FofS) Brian White *(front)* mentally visualises Tommy's accounts of the war stories

WO2 (SSM) Jeff Williams receives his LS & GC Medal from the CLF, Maj Gen D. P. Thomson

The families of the recipients, flanked by Lt Col S. M. Siddall, and WO1 (RSM) B. C. Howe

BASKETBALL TEAM

WO1 Pete Lang, WO1 Chris Pugh, WO2 Mick (the Ref) **Orange SSgt Stu Price, Sgts Ian Elborn, Geoff Land, Chas Chester, Cpls Wally Wallace, Bondie Bond, Stevie Bennett, Tony Delaney, LCpls Chris Youles, Gary Wilson, Noddy Holder** and **Sig Paul Gennery.**

The NI Major Unit Competition was held at Lisburn Garrison Gym on 15/16 January 1991. The Regiment played 1 BW and won by 89 points to 45. We then played 1 WFR and won again by 45 to 24 points, which qualified us for the Zone B finals.

WRAC CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations go to the WRAC X Country team on being runners up in the Northern Ireland Championships. The team consisted of: **Cpls Cook, Llewellyn, Hartley, LCpls Jeffries, Reeve, Ptes Randall** and **Brett.**

225 SIGNAL SQUADRON
ADMIN TROOP
SQUADRON OFFICE PERSONALITIES

Clerk **Sgt Bryan Smith**, Movs Clk **Cpl Sandy Bennie**, Ops Clk **Cpl Steven Bennett**, Typist **Mrs Veronica Jones.**

Recently we have seen the departure of **Sgt Howard Ripley** to HQ 2 Sig Bde (Corsham) and hopefully by now he has found a suitable Golf Course where he can spend his time. We will send on the photographs from your LS & GC presentation when you send us your completed clearance certificate!

We would like to welcome **Sgt Bryan Smith** to the Squadron Office as he continues his intrepid trek of postings in the Province—Londonderry—Armagh—Lisburn.

RQMS DEPT
PERSONALITIES

RQMS **WO2 Willy Ironside**, Stores Sgt **Sgt Pete Rogers**, Cpl **Cpl Paul Berney**, LCpl **LCpl 'Scotty' Scott.**

We say farewell to **Cpl Danny Ford** who is now sunning himself in 9 Sig Regt and congratulate him on his well deserved promotion just before his departure.

We welcome **Cpl Paul Berney** and we are sure that he will eventually adjust to the climate of the Province after his tour in Cyprus.

COMMCEN
PERSONALITIES

NCO IC **Sgt Geordie Leitch**, 2IC **Cpl Geoff Glover.**

The Commcen is undergoing a major personnel change over the next few months, with **Cpl Geoff Glover** heading to 28 Sig Regt (don't work too hard **Geoff**); **Cpl Ian Foulkes** to AFNORTH, **Cpl Lee Cooke** to Blue Watch, Blackwall Fire Station and **LCpl Dave Murgatroyd** to civilian life.

Cpl Charlie Brown and **LCpl Simson Bartlett** can look forward to some unpaid overtime until the replacements arrive.

MT SECTION
PERSONALITIES

MT Sgt **Sgt Mick Tate**, MT Cpl **Cpl Bob Heppleston.**

The MT continues to provide a Taxi/Car Hire (loan) service for the rest of the Squadron and the standard of vehicles we get has definitely improved over the last few months (if only everyone would stop having accidents).

We would like to congratulate **WO2 (SSM) Orange** on his recent selection for promotion to WO1.

To all members of Admin Tp who have departed recently, we wish them well in the future and hope that they will find something useful to do with their Squirrels!

ECHO TROOP

Those of you familiar with the recent history of Echo Tp will know that we come to the end of an era with the departure of **Sgts Gav Jones** and **Steve Draycott. Sgt Draycott** jumped at the chance of a long language course and **Sgt Jones** has finished his DIY resettlement course and returns to the vicissitudes of civvy street, armed with only a strong sense of humour and an unrivalled video collection.

On the plus side, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome aboard **SSgt Gaz Littlewood,** closely followed by **Sgts Liz Thomson** and **Sarah Moorkite.** We know they will have an interesting tour and we will do our best to make sure its a happy one. Onwards and upwards!

GOLF TROOP

Once again the technical people have been busy all over the province, not least **Sgt Bill McCreath** who has been scampering about under the loose heading of cross country. Congratulations to **Billy** on becoming the league champion and also on winning the NI Cross Country Championship.

The Troop would also like to welcome **Cpls Mick Swift** and his wife **Julie, Paul Irwin** and his wife **Lynnette** as well as **John Boreman** and his gerbil (now promoted to Sgt). We have to say goodbye to **Al Giles** who has gone to 8 Sig Regt (good luck on your T1). We hope his grumbling appendix outlasts his calculator batteries. Also leaving are **Sgt Ady** and **Marion Knight** who thought they had finally escaped to SPA (wait for the Rig bids). We also say fond farewell to **Sgt Bob Hailstones** who leaves for 1 Civ Div. We have learned to rename the term 'Murphy's Law' to 'Bob's Law' or to be 'Bobbed'.

Sgt Ian Elborn has been practising wearing his rayban's and studying every night his 'Ladybird Book of Choppers' to prepare himself for his pilot's assessment. Also leaving us this month (with deep regret from the rest of the Troop) is **Sgt Ian 'Shaky' Makins'** hair which leaves us for the Vidal Sassoon Salon museum. Good luck to you all.

BASKETBALL

225 Sig Sqn succeedeed in winning the NI Minor Units Basketball League in 1990 in the nick of time, since the deadline for entries was (just) prior to the formation of the Regiment. The Minor Unit League was very competitive, fought out with skill and a great deal of determination.

233 SIG SQN
COMMCEN TROOP
THE MANAGEMENT

Tp SSgt	**SSgt Bottomley**
Tp YofS	**SSgt MacKenzie**

Exch Supvr **Sgt Leitch,** NCO IC **Sgt Powell,** DSO A **Sgt Chilton,** DSO B **Sgt Marshall,** DSO C **Sgt Hunt.**

During the period of December/January, the Troop has seen the departure of several members. We gathered in the Regimental Club to say goodbye and a fond farewell to the Tp Comd **Capt Jackie Pollock** on promotion and posting to Catterick. The Troop wish her all the very best in the future. We say hello to **Pte Sharon Thompson** and congratulations to **Cpl Scat Ribbons** on her promotion.

We nearly forgot, the exchange received a new Sgt, so welcome to **Sgt Sue Leitch.**

INDIA TROOP

Tp Comd	**Capt Karen Osterburg**
2IC	**WO1 (YofS) Chris Pugh**

Tp SSgt **SSgt Gary Dodd,** FofS **SSgt (FofS) Mick Milne.**

WHISKY SECTION

Manager **WO2 Tony Byrne.**

Life in the section goes on as normal (or as near normal as possible) and our new 'working' area is complete. For months we have been tripping over contractors and avoiding falling debris. No more will we be told 'only two more weeks!' The place, all bright and new, is now ready to be occupied. **Sgt John Prowse** is now in heaven, a whole new area to hoover and polish. He was last seen ordering a bulk shipment of Pledge, and with all the workmen gone the techs are looking for a new source to replace lost tools.

We would also like to welcome the new Tp Comd **Capt Osterburg,** we hope she has a happy tour here.

Also recently arrived is **Cpl Alan Smith** who, on arrival, let slip he was a DIY buff. He is now the section chippy. So if you need a cheap wardrobe . . . I know a man who can (he's a very, very nice man). Also goodbye to **Capt David Vardy.** One final note, spare a thought for **LCpl Mark 'Paddington' Graham** who is currently on a fact finding trip for the NHS.

VICTOR SECTION

Manager **SSgt Mick Brooks.**

Victor Section (nee Victor Tp), after cutbacks now consists of 19 men maintaining the equipment. To the few who have had the privilege to serve here you might note we are shortly to move buildings again to amalgamate with Whisky Section. Included in this package is an upgrade of equipment.

The past four months have seen the Section very busy with new Ops arriving and the Modem room team upgrading the equipment. The latter led by **Cpl 'Norm' Ritchie** having held the fort for three months before the arrival of **Cpl 'Middlemassive' Middlemiss, LCpl Dave Saunders** and **Sig Mick Spark.**

Congratulations go to **Sig 'Sick-note' Almey** for finding his way back to NI. Mum sends her love and says look after your ear! **LCpl Pete 'Smeds' Smedley** deserves on entry in the Guiness Book of Records. He became a civvy on 16 December 1990 and by early January he had re-enlisted and was on his way to 28 Sig Regt.

TECH SECTION

We lost **Cpl Ian Middlemiss** to Victor Section to update their Comms—he must be finding it hard work because he's back down to 15 stone. We've also lost **Sgt Keith Geddes** several times to hospital. The FofS is off to Cyprus in June and has already started taking it easy. **Keith Geddes** leaves the Army in May.

Cpl Chris Smith has promised to return and **Cpl Billy Reilly** has had his glasses zeroed so as not to get lost at Fort George again. Four of the lads are busy planning their 'excursion' to England to take part in the T1 entrance, and **Sgt Rob Hicks** is busy revising for his Foreman's course.

ROMEO TROOP

Tp Comd	**WO1 (YofS) Steve Whytock**
Tp FofS	**WO2 Brian White**

Tp SSgt **Sgt Pete Farrington.**

The last couple of months in the year saw the Troop workload increase considerably and members of the Troop deploying to all corners of the Province installing equipment.

We have had some farewells during this time and have said goodbye in the Troop's unique way. Firstly **Sgt Tommy Burns,** a well known character in the Corps, left us after three years and the Army after 22 years. He will be missed throughout the Corps and we wish him and his wife **Scotty** the very best of luck in the future. Also farewell to **Sgt Pete Reeve** and **Cpl Mal Pryke** who have gone to 9 Sig Regt and Belize respectively. Who says you don't get sunshine postings from here?

Welcome to **Sgt Dave Oliver, Cpls Neil Bedford** and **Ian Robinson.** Enjoy your tours. Finally congratulations to **Sgt Jonah Jones** who has become a father, now perhaps we can get some work out of him!

TECH TROOP
RADIO/RIGGING SECTION

The Section has one new arrival, **Sgt Paul Gorman** and his family from 21 Sig Regt. He has taken over the running of the rigging section from **Cpl 'Old man' Boucher.** We would like to congratulate **Cpl 'Mitch' Mitchell** on passing his T1 entrance exam and wish him well for the future.

INSTALLATION SECTION

The Section is now ready to burst into action, well sort of! **Cpl 'Where's he gone now' Brown** is keen and eager to learn everything and **Cpl 'I want to drive' Bowes** still trying to get the transport arrangements right—so what can possibly go wrong now.

As for **Cpl Brown,** well if you can understand what he's saying (and more to the point 'why'!) you can see the reason why he has now been appointed as the official 'Section Translator'.

Cpls Bowes and **Brown** are going to be busy showing the new installation techs the ropes. 'What can happen next?'

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT
PERSONALITIES

QM	**Maj Ian Buckley**
RQMS	**WO2 John Burgess**

1014 **SSgt Derek Leggat,** ET **Sgt Kev Tunstall,** LP **Sgt Keith Wightman,** R&I **Cpl Chris Collin,** URS **Cpl Spike Haynes,** DB **Sig Dougie Gray,** CIV **Mr Davey Stewart.**

CIV's AND CRVs

This busy department recently said bon voyage to **Cpl** 'who's counting?' **Sammy Anderson** who is leaving the Army. We wish him all the best and sincerely hope that he finds a job to his liking in Harrogate and continues to enjoy his windsurfing. In his place we welcome from sunny Lippstadt **Cpl Spike** and **Mrs Debs** 'Box' **Haynes.** We wish them a happy and successful tour in Lisburn and look forward to many barbecues in their nice large garden.

We are without a civilian clerk but all past members will be pleased to know that **Sgt Wightman** is doing a terrific job.

The RQMS **WO2 John Burgess** has been off work for some four weeks following an operation. Rumour has it though that a figure has been seen late at night on a certain golf course not far away limping around and hiding in bunkers whenever another player approaches. Seriously RQ, we wish you a speedy recovery and hope to see you back at work soon.

The Department continues to provide members for a number of Regimental Sports teams. The QM runs the Squash team and they are through to the quarter final of the Army Cup. **SSgt Derek Leggat** and **Cpl Spike Haynes** both represent the Regiment at cross country and **Sgt Kev Tunstall** has been selected to represent the NI Combined Services Rugby Team. So all those Stores Accountants out there that are looking for a cushy posting, don't apply to come to 15 Sig Regt—unless you are a 'Superman'.

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 809

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Those who have departed include **LCpls Chris Braund** off to civvy street, **Taff Swithenbank** back to Cyprus and **Woody** 'the spaceman' **Woodfine** to some hut in the jungle—with no trains and nowhere to hang the anorak it looks like a tough time ahead. In addition it is farewell to **LCpl Tony Brown** off to pastures new somewhere near 19 Inf Bde, but not quite, and **Sig Fred Gee** leaves us for 8 Bde. We're now trying to decide who came off best.

To make up for the loss we welcome **Sig Jason Malcolm** and **Jason Gascoigne, Robbo Robson** and **Gas Steed** and last but not least the human chimney-stack **LCpl Taff Skinner,** and the original war-dodger himself **Cpl Garry Besant.**

On the promotions front MRO appear to be in generous frame of mind and **LCpl John Chivers** now sports two stripes and **Sig** 'Dan the man' **Burdus** and 'Docket' **Dixon** cease to be 'Young . . .' and get their feet on the first rung of the ladder. Congratulations to all three.

A recent visit to Amsterdam showed **LCpl 'Mod' Moylett** how to make Edam and **Sig Fred Gee** how to make clogs.

PERSONALITIES
A SHIFT
Cpl Al Hanlon
LCpl Neil McMillan
Sig Gwyn Thomas

B SHIFT
Cpl Mick Luckes
LCpls Mack Mc Gowan and
Biffa Cullen

C SHIFT
Cpl Dave Cryer
LCpls Jon Collins and
LCpl Scouse Dixon

A recent promotion within our working environment has quite taken everyone by surprise with **LCpl 'Scouse' Dixon** getting first rung on the ladder after two long hard years out of training. On reflection, this could have been the reason why Scouse was reluctant to lend anyone any units from his two 100 unit phone cards that he has been saving for the last month!

We extend a hearty welcome to **Sig Gwynford Thomas** and **Mrs Thomas** who (sadly for them) arrived here from sunny Berlin recently, following the departure of **LCpl Al Bennet** to the 'hugely sought after . . . civvy street'!

One of our many notable successes of late was the triumphant victory of our team in the 'Brigade quiz night', where our team (consisting of **Cpl Mick Luckes, LCpls Biffa Cullen, Jon Collins** and A.N. Other, who shall remain anonymous!) finally overcame the dominance of the Foreman and **SSgt Clive** 'mastermind' **Soutar.**

Finally, a message to **Sig Garry Love** from all the Troop and the Squadron. Best wishes for a speedy recovery and we all look forward to seeing you back again in the Squadron as soon as possible.

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PERSONALITIES
Sqn Comd — **Maj D. McDowall**
2IC — **Capt I. G. Standen**
AO **Maj J. L. Godfrey** 15/19 H, Tp Comd **Lt M. McGinty**, RSM **WO1 (RSM) P. Whitehouse**, YofS **WO2 (YofS) P. Forryan**, FofS **WO2 (FofS) J. Abernethy** and CC **Sgt (ORSQMS) M. Cole**.

SHQ
THE VIEWS FROM THE SHARP END—PART 2
by LCpl Danny Cockram

Cries of 'two sugars son' from the Sqn Comd directed to **Sig Rob** 'Son of Chief' **Townsend**, when he gets to work—and 'two sugars son' every half hour after that tells us that everything is normal.

Cpl Marty Briody has been excelling himself on the sports field, Chief—**SSgt Mick Cole** still excelling in getting home (this time via the Isle of Man), the Admin Officer, **Maj Godfrey** excelling in the most notable hat competition and myself—I've joined the escape committee and freedom, in the shape of 16 Sig Regt, looks promising (roll on March '91).

We say hello to **Sgt Paul Dickson RAPC**, who travelled a mammoth distance to be with us—13 miles up the road, escaping the clutches of 1 Kings, to take over the pay side of things here in Londonderry.

Since December the Waterside Inn (the Squadron bar) has had a definite 'enthusiasm injection' administered. Previous members of the Squadron may remember it as being a comfortable, if somewhat quiet, watering hole usually catering for half a dozen or so people on a good night. It now boasts Disco nights and Quiz nights which have meant our resident barman **Cpl Tony** 'where's your glass' **Hodge** has had to work for a living.

Well, I'll bid a fond adieu, now I'm off to Krefeld. Here I come Germany (or is it the Gulf?).

COMMS TROOP

The new year brings the usual variety of Londonderry weather: heavy rain, light rain, drizzle, showers, downpours etc. It is under this wide range of conditions that work here continues unabated by both terrorist action or Op Granby (We aren't sure which is a greater threat to our manpower at the moment). Comms Tp is as busy as ever.

COMMCEN

Greeting from Commcen Londonderry.

First of all we should start by saying a few hellos and goodbyes. We would like to welcome **WPte Carol Smith**, who managed to turn up at her new Unit, not to her NIRTT course. We say farewell to **WLCpl Buckle** formerly **Brookes-Dowsett** (all best wishes for the future). She is off to 28 Sig Regt with her hubby.

We say farewell to our resident chess champion **Sig Taff** (What's your name now then) **Chapman**/Herbert/Kasparov, all the best in Civ Div Wales.

Commcen Londonderry in North West Frontier land is a small but busy commcen full of cheer, wisdom, jokes and traffic, lots and lots of traffic. The average shift is two operators (the norm). Over a period of time the operators grow an extra pair of arms and ears to operate the multi-function commcen. The three phone telephone exchange service we provide for the staff is undergoing a costly refit to introduce the dial-a-disc system, but seriously the phones never stop, we are very popular. The fax machine has taken over from the television (mainly because we get more on the fax!). We all look to the future and the challenges it may bring (I wonder if they will change the Brigade boundaries again, and give us all of Northern Ireland?).

LINE AND RIGGING SECTION

After a long rest (Sqn Battle Camp and a RSSSC) we would like to welcome our illustrious leader **Sgt Steve Maycock** back to where the work is! Over the past few months with the changes in our TAOR the workload has been hectic to say the least. Leave and interesting courses now seem a thing of the past. However, the old adage of work hard—play hard has allowed the Section to excel on the sports field with **Cpls Neil Roome** and **Taff Thomas** 'backing up' the Squadron at Rugby and **LCpl Terry Brice** still doing well on the football field.

Finally we would like to welcome **Sig Dean Sutton** (22 months to go!).

SYSCON

We would like to welcome **Cpl Bob Booth** back again.

Congratulations to **Sig 'Taff' Jones** not only for his newly achieved rank but for his brand new white bracelet he acquired from 'MPH' after yet another game of rugby.

With the Province firmly in the grips of winter the MT has so far only fallen foul to the icy conditions once,' ironically and unfortunately, by **Cpl John Sennett** who had presented the winter driving lecture on the last Squadron training day. He maintains that he was right in saying that 'ice is a killer, you can't see it, you can't hear it and you can't smell it but it's out there and it will get you in the end'. Needless to say he is hoping that he is the only one to total a brand new car this winter!

The PRE is here again and the MT and LAD are once again running around talking of 'easier times' last year as, no doubt, the last PRE report reflects but this year we have a secret weapon. In the form of **LCpl Kev Harvey**; we are putting him in the servicing bay.

And finally we welcome **LCpl Ady Sparkes** to the LAD and hope his name is not in any way connected to his electrical abilities as a tradesman.

QM DEPARTMENT
RQMS — **WO2 (RQMS) Mick Ara**
SQMS — **CSgt (SQMS) 'Titch' Varney**

Tp Sgt **Sgt John** (Driver of the Year) **Hogan**, RAOC Sgt **Sgt Trev** (Want a Haircut) **Tilley**, MFO Cpl **Cpl Dave McCulloch**, RAOC Cpl **Cpl Terry** (Match of the Day) **Stidwell**, Misc **LCpl 'Stay' Shaw**, Expense **LCpl 'Rocky' Rokotuni**, Bedding **Sig 'Nasher' Bartlett**.

Firstly we say goodbye to everyone's favourite RQ **WO2 (RQMS) Bob Taylor** who has left us for 1 Inf Bde as RSM. We say a fond farewell to **Sgt Don Cunningham** who was promoted to Sgt on posting to Belize for six months and then on to Berlin (again) and to **Sgt Pip Porter** who leaves us to go to sunnier climates in Armagh.

As one leaves so another arrives and we say hello to **WO2 (RQMS) Mick Ara** who joins us from 200 Sig Sqn and to **Sgt John Sinnett** our newly arrived, newly promoted slop jockey, we welcome you both. If we haven't got it, we can get it, and if we have it already we're keeping it! That is our motto in this department.

Sgt Tilley Cross Country SNCO would like to thank all the Cross Country runners for their support throughout the long season. Thanks **John, Trev** and **Phil.**

Handover of RQMS from WO2 Bob Taylor *(R)* to WO2 Mich Ara *(L)*

'THE SQUASH TEAM
by WO2 (YofS) P. Forryan

Sports teams usually get a mention for their achievements at winning tournaments or trophies. This team comes under the spotlight for its devotion to the game of Squash. Who else in their right minds would travel for four hours to play on court for 10 minutes? The prerequisite to become a team member is to be besotted about the game.

On behalf of the team Capt, **WO2 (YofS)** 'We'll win next time' **Forryan**, well played to the following optimists: **Capt McCombe, WO1 (RSM) Whitehouse, CSgt 'Poacher' Varney, Cpls Walker, Ahmed, McCulloch** and **LCpl Radford.**

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

RQMS DEPARTMENT

Greetings from the RQMS Department in what has proved to be a period full of changes. Led by **WO2 (RQMS) Bob Rack** and **Sgt John Brown**, the department has managed to get through an Ord Ancillary inspection, PRE and a Board of Officers, all within a three-month period. **Sgt John Brown** was looking forward to a relaxing few months before his eventual discharge in October—think again **John**.

Replacing our chief scrounger **Sig 'Ginge' Halsall** is **Cpl Chris Begg**; so far we haven't run out of coffee, which is definitely a good sign.

A warm welcome goes to **Cpl Tony Foat**, who recently arrived from the cadet training team in Hounslow. Posted to pastures new in the near future is **LCpl Gary Hanna**, soon to leave us for the 'greatest military Academy in the world' (RMA Sandhurst)—no illusions of grandeur please **Gary**!

Finally a mention for the sterling work done by the Unit FATSO, **Sgt Gary Copley** (RAOC), also compiler of these notes. It is obvious that they weren't written by a Royal Signals SNCO.

TM TROOP
HELLOS AND GOODBYES

A fair number have left the fold over the last few months which has naturally meant we've had a surge of 'NIPs' posted in.

Firstly, farewell to **Cpl** (now Sgt) **Vince McNaught** who has gone to 11 Sig Regt to do his bit towards training the RSMs of the future! **Sgt Mick Murphy** has left us to attend his Foreman's course in Blandford, the best of luck to him and his wife **Ali**. Finally, **Cpl Gaz Clapham** has gone to Belize—lucky beggar! The new additions to the Troop are **Cpls** 'Kaffa' **Townsend, Jan Seymour** and **Wayne Freeman.**

Although a number of the old sweats have left there is still a strong horticultural flavour in the Troop—enough said!

A word of congratulations to **LCpl** 'Spiney' **Campbell** for passing his Rigger's course.

COMMS TROOP

Many thanks to **Cpl Steve Russell** and **LCpls** 'Geordie' **Bartlett, Charlie Forsyth** and **George Johnston** for a well run and somewhat eye opening Party.

We're now well into normal routine of PT and OC's runs which seem to take us to places in Slipper City we never knew existed.

Cpl Gordon Mackenzie is back from his tour of the Far East (Hong Kong). He sent the Troop a postcard to tell us that he solved any drink problems the island may have had—he learned how to consume it all himself!

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

We'd like to welcome to the Troop the following personnel: **LCpls Shaun Curry, Nick Feasey** and **Sig 'Dunnie' Dunderdale.**

Our best wishes go to **LCpl Willie Whitelaw** who joins 3 ADSR (or should we be wishing 3 Div good luck with **LCpl Whitelaw!**), **LCpl Phil Hewish** who joins the 'feds' and **Cpl 'Jinx' Jenkins** who departs for the far off reaches of MT Tp.

AND

We've just heard that **SSgt Ray Spencer** has been selected for promotion to WO2. Well done Staff—many congratulations!

BOXING DAY FOOTBALL MATCH
OFFICERS AND SENIORS VERSUS THE JUNIOR RANKS

There was an expectant buzz in the air as dawn broke on a very wet and windy Boxing Day. At last, the main sporting event of the year was upon us and the crowds were out in force. Unfortunately operational commitments meant that the game couldn't be played at Wembley so pitch B in Thiepval Barracks was chosen as a suitable alternative. The weather wasn't favourable and the following conversation took place: 2IC—'Looks like rain, and the pitch is waterlogged.' OC Comms—'Oh dear—I'm not into all this mud and stuff.' OC Sqn—'Airhall I think—anyway we stand a better chance in there'.

So six teams prepared to do battle. During the matches suitable refreshments were provided by our catering specialists **SSgt Bob Wright** and **Sgt Frank Roberts.** It was an incredibly close competition, the final results are as follows: First: Junior Ranks A, Second: Junior Ranks B, Third: Junior Ranks C, Fourth: Officers/SNCOs A, Fifth: Officers/SNCOs B and Sixth: Officers/SNCOs C.

Well, there's always next year!

BASKETBALL
TEAM

SSgts Charlie Foster, Ray Spencer, Cpls Simon Fell, 'Yorkie' Payne, LCpls Lahey, Gaz Hales, 'Geordie' Bartlett, 'Marv' Marvel, Sig 'Smudge' Smith and **Paul Dunderdale.**

The NI basketball league started very slowly this season and our only game fielding a full team produced a win against 176 Pro Coy.

On Saturday 5 January the qualifying stage in the Army Inter-Unit Basketball Championships 90/91 (NI) was held at Lisburn gymnasium. The Squadron played some good basketball to reach the Minor Unit's final against 33 Fd Sqn RE. We lost to them but qualified for the NI District Competition held at Leconfield on 30 January. With three key players unable to attend, we knew we had a couple of hard games ahead of us. We also drew the short straw and played two games without a rest; two hours of basketball. The last 15 minutes proved too much and the home team (ASMT) stretched the lead. However, we had an enjoyable couple of days.

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Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

AT RSM Mark Parr together with his parents receives the congratulations of GOC NEDist, Maj Gen HM Rose

RUGBY

The successes of the Permanent Staff rugby team dominate the headlines at the College. The team encountered its stiffest competition to date when it played away at Ouston against Depot Scottish Division in the quarter finals of the Army UK Minor Units Rugby Cup.

Depot Scottish Division boasted a Scotland B international prop together with Edinburgh Academicals' second row pairing. Not surprisingly the opposition dominated the play in the forwards, leaving **Capt Rick Mather** to bemoan his continued presence in the team after again receiving the brunt of much punishment and bruising—but as usual the post match cigarette eased many of his pains. However, the backs produced a tremendous performance to help the College snatch victory by 16—14, with tries from **Sgts Atkins** and **Tredwell**, and two penalties and a conversion from **SSgt (YofS) Firth**.

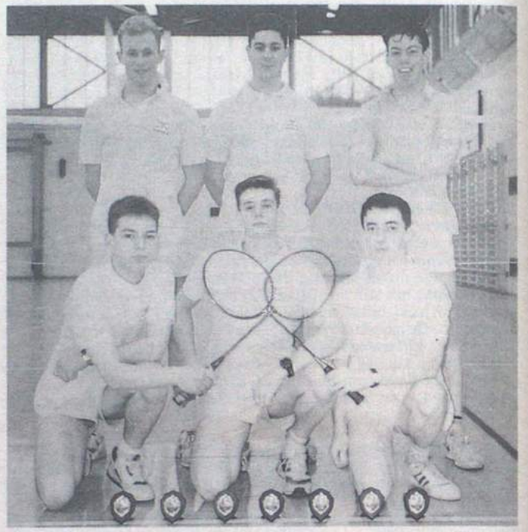
The PS Rugby Team
Back Row, L to R: Majs Boag, Heritage, Capt Mather, Lt Urwin, SSgt Collins, Sgt O'Brien, Lt Bowers, Sgt Matthews, Mr Browning, Sgt Chapman and WO2 Thompson
Front L to R: Sgts MacPhee, Tredwell, Woods, 2Lt Pettifer, SSgt Firth, Sgt Atkins and Cpl Cooper

BADMINTON

Badminton at the College continues to be very popular with the club running at its maximum strength. The main competition this term has been the very competitive Army Junior Inter Unit Championships, which this year were held at the Army Apprentices' College, Chepstow. Despite very heavy fog for the journey the College team arrived just in time for a welcome hot meal before getting in some vital practice on court. This practice paid off since the team's first round opponents were the very strong team from the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Engineers. The College won by the narrowest of margins 5—4. In the last rubber the College second pair, **ATs M. Baker** and **Clarke**, won by the very tight scores of 15—13 and 15—14!

This early win was quickly followed by wins over the Junior Leader Regiment, Royal Artillery (7—2) in the second round and Junior Leader Regiment, RCT (5—4) in the semi-finals. In the final the College met the host team, Army Apprentices' College, Chepstow. The College first pair, **ATs MacMillan** and **S. Baker**, played well to win two rubbers, but was eventually out-played by the host team and lost 2—7.

The College badminton club is also pleased to record that **Lt Ruth Cox** won the North East District Ladies singles championship, and together with **Capt Jackie Young** helped York District to win the team title.



The Army Junior Inter Unit Runners Up
Back L to R: ATs M. Baker, Sutton and MacMillon
Back L to R: ATs Burns, Clarke and S. Baker

PENNEY SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC — **Maj Heritage**
2IC — **Capt Aitken**

CSM **WO2 Swain** Gren Gds, SQMS **Sgt Alex Carmichael**, A Tp Sgt **Sgt John Fradley**, B Tp Sgt **Sgt Norman Finnegan**, C Tp Sgt **Sgt Stan Matthews**, Rct Tp Comd **2Lt Pettifer**, Sgt **Sgt Dick Tredwell**.

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

In January the Squadron said farewell to the 2IC **Capt** (Cup of tea) **Bill House** who leaves us for Middlesborough. The Squadron extends a warm welcome to the new 2IC **Capt Pete Aitken**, his wife **Ann** and the family fresh from 14 Sig Regt.

SQUADRON PS v AT NCOs GAMES NIGHT
Report by AT Cpls Lenton and Keen

On 17 January Penney Sqn's finest lined up alongside the Permanent Staff in the Senior Term Bar for the College's major tournament of the term. Prior to the commencement of battle everyone enjoyed a typical Cookhouse Curry.

After a few beers the games began. At first it looked as if the ATs would walk away with the trophy. A tremendous first leg of darts by **AT Cpls Bryan** and **Dytham** put them well clear of **Sgts Fradley** and **Tredwell** and, to win the darts match, **AT Cpls Lenton** and **Tulk** put up a world class performance, to beat **Maj Heritage** and **Capt House** by a narrow margin. This was followed by an excellent win in the pool competition by **AT Sgt Digger Doherty** and **AT Cpl Kenny Keen** over a stunned **WO2 Swain** and **Sgt Carmichael**. From then on things went downhill, especially when **AT Sgts Glass** and 'Gurkha' **Ayres** fell into a stalemate trap and lost the dominoes. The ATs finally conceded defeat and the trophy to the 'Old Duffer's' team.

EXERCISE YOUNG WARRIORS DEFENCE
Report by AT Sgt Driver-Williams

In late January, 88 apprentice tradesmen from intake 89B embarked on Ex Young Warrior Defence, affectionately known as 'Dig'. Day One began with a morning's refresher training on basic military training, followed by demonstrations on how to construct sangars and fire trenches. Day Two was the real start to the exercise, up at the crack of dawn, a move to Catterick, and a three mile patrol over rough terrain into harbour locations. Then without delay work began on the trenches; spitlocking and digging, and more spitlocking and digging, until the following morning all the trenches were complete (those that weren't full of water anyway!).

By this time we had all got into the routine of the stand-to, guard stag and very little sleep. The culmination of the exercise was a 'quick battle' followed by a tactical withdrawal in the form of a four mile forced march carrying full CEMO to a PUP. Throughout the exercise Penney Sqn maintained its high level of morale and professionalism!

EL ROCK
Report by AT Clover

Despite the arrival of the cold winds and the snow the ATs preparing for El Rock were still desperate to get out and about. After the briefing on current conditions everyone received their climbing gear, which included some very trendy boots. On arrival at Whernside Manor all the ATs were impressed with what they thought was to be the exercise accommodation. Then they were diverted to a dilapidated shack, crammed with bunkbeds and fitted with a very primitive heating system. Consequently it was good news when we heard that we could venture into the hills overnight.

After a filling breakfast groups of five to six ATs set off for a spell of hill walking with their EL instructors. **AT Oz Bowden** was soon persuaded to reduce his initial speedy pace march to enable our team to make a more steady ascent of the Cumbrian range. Bitterly cold winds and lots of snow made the trek difficult and slow. However, the overnight destination was eventually reached—a derelict farm. A fire was soon started and spirits began to improve, especially after **Capt Henschel** led the gathered ensemble in seasonal song-making.

After the challenging events of the mountaineering came an introductory spell of caving. Despite a feeling of claustrophobia the darkened cheesepress did not win the day. Finally, the week was rounded off with some rock climbing and abseiling. **AT** Stamper **Venables** demonstrated his amazing spiderman act, attracting crowds of civilian observers. Another week of EL was quickly over, too quickly perhaps, but credit goes to the instructors for another enjoyable time away from the College.

SCOTT SQUADRON

Intake 89A left the College on graduation and went to Catterick to learn what all the green boxes do. Also making a break for it was **Capt Andy Duncan**, who in true Jock style ensured a glut of presents by combining his departure with promotion and marriage, all in time for Christmas. He was last seen with his wife **Clare** removing their municipal skip full of presents away from the Mess en route for Blandford and Middle Wallop.

Intake 90B progressed from being mere recruits to become fully fledged apprentices. Their pass-off parade was somewhat curtailed by a heavy fall of snow. However, congratulations to **Recruit Thompson** on winning the Best Recruit prize.

Best Recruit Thompson receives his prize from Maj Boag

SWIMMING/WATER POLO

Congratulations go to Scott Sqn water polo team on winning the College competition, in no small part due to the talents of **ATs White** and **Crossland**. However, Rawson Sqn once again defeated all to retain the Swimming Competition trophy by a considerable margin.

EXERCISE SNOWSCAPE I

For several years and this year too, **Maj Pugh** has organised an Alpine ski training exercise in Austria, successfully introducing large numbers of apprentices and junior leaders to the joys of the Austrian ski slopes. The party comprised 28 apprentices and 12 permanent staff, including **Dr Watson** from the MRS who was not only a skier of some determination but also an expert photographer and has produced a video of the whole expedition.

After a long coach journey the party arrived at the Hotel Alpina, in Mayershofen, a comfortable family-run pension. We soon bussed down to Josef Frankhausers ski school where skis, boots and poles were issued.

Afternoon ski school with SSgt Major taking a last moment snortle *(centre)* in anticipation of the trials and tribulations ahead

The next six days surpassed all expectations. The weather was calm and sunny, whilst the snow was plentiful. On the first day everyone was grouped according to ability, with **Majs Pugh** and **Vigurs** looking after the novices and intermediates and **SSgt Major** taking command of the race team. For the skilled there was endless slalom training, whilst the less advanced mastered the snow plough and parallel turn. At the end of the week there was the customary ski school slalom race which was successfully completed by everyone, underpinning the excellent instruction given during the week. For the record **AT Massey** finished second to **SSgt Major**.

91A RECRUIT SPORT COMPETITION

As we go to press the competition for the 91A Recruit Troop Sport Trophy appears to be a fairly evenly matched affair. The first event, the cross country, saw a 1—2—3 for Bradley Sqn. Not surprisingly, with such domination at the front of the field the team event was also won by Bradley Sqn.

In the next two events, basketball and hockey, Penney Sqn has managed to edge ahead with fine wins and some very fancy ball work.

However, all is not lost for Bradley Sqn as several events still remain to be contested before the overall outcome is known.

91A cross country 1-2-3: JLdrs Bell, Boswell and Cutting

Penney Squadron 91A hockey champions

All because the lady loves milk tray! JL Nicholson emerges from the ice breaking routine minus rucksack and skis

Maj Gen G. R. Oehlers presents LCpl Wills with his reward for long service and good conduct

BRADLEY SQUADRON

Bradley Sqn is now the growth industry in the College. The continual influx of Junior Leaders means that the most senior Troops in the Squadron, Rapier Tp and Whitespear Tp, are only intake 90B. However, with Quadrant Tp made up of 90C and the new Lightning Tp consisting of 91A the Squadron looks forward to a period of stability to consolidate on the talent and work towards the summer term when we are traditionally at our strongest.

We welcome **CSM Dickson**, his wife **Wilma** and family, from 1 Scots Guards. The Squadron wishes you a happy and successful tour at the College.

EXERCISE NORSCAPE

To celebrate the beginning of the New Year and a new term, six Junior Leaders and two members of permanent staff from Bradley Sqn embarked on Ex Norscape, a two week attachment to 249 Sig Sqn in Norway. In a horrible outward journey it took us three days to reach Maurset, Norway, everyone was keen to start training. Members from 249 Sig Sqn delivered a series of lectures before the team went into the field and the first overnight location which was a five man ridge tent. Having prepared the location, an introduction to ski joring (being towed behind an oversnow vehicle) quickly demonstrated that Franz Klammer's reputation as a skiier was not likely to be challenged by the JLs.

After a comfortable night in the tent the team moved on to the second location, a snow hole. A few strenuous hours digging ensured the construction of two very comfortable snow holes for that evening despite temperatures down to −15°C. The Norwegian LO had constructed an igloo which looked as comfortable as the snow holes had been.

The next day we were to experience the delights of ice breaking drills. Skiing into the water through a hole cut in the ice is a peculiar form of entertainment which the members of 249 Sig Sqn clearly enjoyed. The JLs all acquitted themselves well, and once back in the warmth and able to speak, were glad of the experience but not anxious to repeat it.

There followed a further night in the field in the new four man Arctic tents and various demonstrations on Arctic camouflage and concealment. The team got considerably better at ski joring, and visited the tactical positions of the Squadron on exercise. A few days downhill skiing with the QM, **Capt Bill White** ensured that the exercise had been a great success, each JL having achieved his Arctic Survival Trained (AST) standard. Many thanks to 249 Sig Sqn for their assistance and we hope it can all be repeated at a future date.

STOP PRESS

As we go to press the College Permanent Staff team has just beaten Depot Prince of Wales Division 12—3 with two tries from **Sgt Atkins** to qualify for the final of the Army UK Minor Units Rugby Cup to be held at Aldershot. The side has also qualified for the semi-final of the NW/NE/Scotland Cup after a 16—10 victory over JIB Ouston. This was an especially satisfying result, because many of the team's main players were unable to play.

At the Junior level the Apprentices and Junior Leaders managed to defeat the Junior Leader Squadron, 11 Sig Regt, in the quarter final of the Army Youth Cup. The final result was 16—10 with a particularly pleasing performance from **AT White** on what can only be described as a typically cold, windy, miserable Catterick day.

Worthy of one more mention is **Sgt Atkins** whose winning performances with Yorkshire have seen him through to the final of the ADT County Championships.

School of Signals
Blandford Camp
Dorset

OFFICER RECRUITING AND LIAISON ORGANISATION

The October 1990 issue of *The Wire* contained a two page article titled, somewhat optimistically, 'Officer Recruiting Liaison Organisation—A Six Monthly Review'. After much computation by the technical wizards of ORLO (degrees in geography, economics, biochemistry and meteorology between the four serving officers) we decided it was probably time for another contribution. The SSM says I must tell everyone what ORLO does, so here goes: we recruit officers for the Corps.

Most in the Corps probably feel that they know ORLO quite well, if only for the excitement with which they await the next request to host potential officers or help with a display. Many people will be aware that under Options for Change the Corps is considering forming an ORLO Support Regiment, approximately 850 strong, which will be trained for armoured, jungle, desert, arctic, out of area and airborne operations and equipped with Satcom, Ptarmigan, Clansman, Euromux, line, AFVs, Haglunds and working Land Rovers. However, until such time as this microcosm of our Corps is formed, we must continue to rely on the support of outside units in the Corps recruiting effort.

The last six months has seen this year's University OTC presentation tour start, Ex Dales Challenge in Catterick, another very busy School's tour, numerous public recruiting displays and pre RCB briefings and, the culmination of a vast amount of hard work, the new Familiarisation Visit.

UNIVERSITY OTC TOUR

The Corps aims to visit each of the 19 University Officer Training Corps every two years, and this year has a programme of 14 presentations. With events changing rapidly at the moment the presentation is rewritten weekly to keep right up to date, with the emphasis on Out of Area operations and 'the unexpected' rather than the heavy armoured battle across the North German plain.

EXERCISE DALES CHALLENGE

This is an exercise run for University Officer Cadets and hosted by the Training Group at Catterick. Held over a cold November weekend last year, around 60 cadets were shown aspects of Trade Training by 8 Sig Regt and the practical deployment of Ptarmigan, Euromux and a Brigade Headquarters by 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt and 34 Sig Regt (V). Saturday evening saw the cadets off to RHQ of 34 Sig Regt (V) which arranged an excellent social function. 11 Sig Regt ran a patrol competition the next morning, concentrating on aspects of military training such as map reading, command tasks, VCPs, grenade throwing and, of course, the assault course. London UOTC won the competition and the Commander Training Group, **Brig M. W. H. Roberts OBE**, presented a framed picture to their winning team.

Winners: Ex Dales Challenge 90 Patrol Competition—Brig M. W. H. Roberts with London UOTC

ROYAL SIGNALS SCHOOLS TOUR

This tour includes visits to brief both CCF and ACF contingents, as well as fifth and sixth form audiences. **Capt Ian Whitehall**, ably assisted by **Cpl Bob Morrice**, has a programme of around 80 presentations up and down the country. Rumour has it that on smelling a school dinner, **Ian** will immediately speak for 40 minutes on the British Army and Royal Signals.

FAMILIARISATION VISITS

Some officers will remember their first visit to Blandford, on their familiarisation visit. However, most probably will not, either because the sheer excitement of visiting the School of Signals numbed their minds or because the visit scored low on the Rambo-factor of joining a combat arm, a point not missed by our colleagues in the recruiting organisations of other cap badges. The old format of a visit every Monday night/Tuesday morning has now been changed in favour of a visit for up to 30 potential officers, held on average once a month, and lasting 48 hours.

Day 1 sees the potential officers (POs) arrive at lunchtime at the Headquarters' Mess. The afternoon is spent on a very 'broad brush' introduction to the various tasks of our Corps, followed by a short talk on Electronic Warfare and a practical exercise. In the evening we hold a semi-formal Mess dinner at which the POs are shown the public rooms of the Mess and told something of the history of the various Corps paintings and pieces of silver, and then hosted at dinner by the ORLO team and members of the troop commanders course.

Day 2 sometimes starts with an exercise which occupies most of the day. They are shown military skills particularly relevant to the Corps (for example, setting up and defending a brigade HQ) and have the opportunity to try out their new found knowledge in a little surprise which follows. Whilst the POs are getting a taste for the outdoor lifestyle, Radex Tp and Systems Tp from the School are setting up for Ex Three and Fourpence, a communication race around camp. No, this is *not* the type of race which requires you to push a one wheeled trailer around muddy fields. A communication chain including Ptarmigan, line, Scimitar and Clansman equipment, as well as the various interfaces between them, is partially set up. The two teams of POs are then deployed around the camp to complete the tasks required at their location in order to complete their part of the circuit and pass the team's message. We would not claim that POs go away experts in the theory of di-polar frequency modulated on-line encrypted phase multiplexed green boxes, but all feel they have achieved something in the exercise and, most important, see at first hand the calibre of solider which they will be expected to command.

The final day starts with an equipment display (I hear Sqn Comds and 2ICs around the country jump in expectation of another way to help Corps recruiting) on the airfield. POs also fire on the 30m range and, the finale of their visit, a battle run.

We have been helped with the equipment display by a wide variety of units, including 30 Sig Regt (in particular 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn), the School Regt, 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, 244 Sig Sqn and 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)).

THE FUTURE

Despite the rather pretentious title this bit will not contain any great predications about 'the way forward', demographic troughs or changes in LOA. However, it is an opportunity to thank all Units who have supported us, whether by displays, hosting potential officers or whatever and assure you that the variety of tasks and opportunities demonstrated by your support is something always commented on by POs. ORLO continues to look forward to forthcoming events, and your support. Gold stars for your office wall are available from SO3(W)(Bribes) at ORLO.

THE INEVITABLE BIT

No *Wire* article is complete without the 'arrivals and departures' bit which tells you who is where and who from your years of birth has been sacked and thus reduced their chance of becoming SOinC(A). So: **Maj Alan Madsen** (SO2) has left for Staff College, on promotion to Capt (again), and **Lt Col Ian Crouch** now heads the ORLO team.

Capt Alan Blackwell (SO3) is now waiting for his replacement to be nominated so that he can go off and learn to write and play with tanks (or the UK equivalent) on JCSC.

Capt Emma Pascoe (SO3(W)) replaced **Capt Deborah Wheatley Price** who, last December, became the first Royal Signals officer to legally wear a wedding dress when she married **Capt Ken Jones**.

Capt Ian Whitehall (SO3(B)) continues to improve his encyclopaedic knowledge of Britain's schools as he tours the country spreading the word.

Finally, but by no means least, **WO2 (SSM) Peter Halstead** and **Cpls Chris Lloyd, Bob Morrice** and **Tony Pope** continue to sort out all the bits that the rest of us don't understand, dig trenches for command tasks and deliver Corps calendars, whilst also trying to make sense of the endless string of 'good ideas' which the officers produce.

WELBECK BAOR TOUR 1990
From Lt B. Alderson

Lt Col Chubb (Corps Rep RMCS): '**Alderson**, how do you fancy three weeks in Cyprus as your summer attachment?'

Lt Alderson (Already wondering whether factor two suncream would be suitable): 'Well if you insist Sir.'

Col C: 'It's yours, now about the German tour following it . . .'

Lt A (Not for the first time confused, but dreaming of Grolsch and duty free's): 'Go on Sir!'

Col C: 'You'll be escorting 12 students from Welbeck College. ORLO has organised a tour around a few Regiments in BAOR and you've been chosen from a cast of thousands as the ideal, honest, shining example of a young Officer to escort them.'

Lt A (Smelling a Genus Rattus but lacking the nerve to question in case his three weeks in the Med disappeared as quickly as they appeared): 'Well Sir, if you put it like that . . .'

So it was that I first became involved with the Welbeck College BAOR summer tour. After my three weeks acclimatisation in Cyprus, I met the party at the HQ Mess in sunny Blandford (only 20° cooler but close enough) and the tour was underway.

The following 12 days were a whistle stop tour of Royal Signals locations between Roetgen and Berlin. The Welbexians were shown a vast array of communication equipment and installations and were even allowed to operate some of them. Funnily enough, I was never offered a chance—perhaps it was universally accepted that I was too dangerous to be given a piece of equipment that was not on my signature!

It was not all work though with the host Regiments ensuring that the party had the chance to play hard too. There were chances to sit in the front of a Phantom aircraft, drive various vehicles, crush other vehicles, fire more 7.62mm rounds than a Regiment in a year, fly in a Puma helicopter (twice), sightsee in Berlin, and not surprisingly consume huge quantities of 'bratties' at the many barbecues. Somehow even the weather stayed fine for every barbecue. The tour was rounded off in magnificent style with the party attending a Regimental Ladies Dinner Night in the Mess of 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

The following Units contributed in varying degrees to make the tour very successful: 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, 7 Sig Regt, 14 Sig Regt, 16 Sig Regt, 21 Sig Regt and 29 Sig Regt. A big thank you to all Commanding Officers, Officers and Soldiers from all these Units who put in so much time and effort and gave 12 future army officers some experiences and memories that they will not forget for quite some time.

The Welbexians and their favourite taxi

United Kingdom Delegation
Live Oak
BFPO 26

CLOSEDOWN OF LIVE OAK
from Lt Col P. R. Brewis, the last Communication Officer to Live Oak

On 9 November 1989 the Berlin Wall was breached and a chink appeared in the Iron Curtain. Since then the curtains have been drawn widely, the blinds are being lifted and a new era in Europe is emerging.

A small and relatively unknown organisation called Live Oak which has been in existence since the spring of 1959 and colocated with SHAPE both in Paris and at Mons in Belgium finally closed down.

Live Oak was made up of members of the four power Command (France, Germany, United Kingdom and United States) with three Services (Army, Navy and Air Force) represented. Likewise the communications element was drawn from the three Services of the nations except for the British contribution which came from Royal Signals only.

Members of the Corps will remember with affection their connection with Live Oak. Some will have served at the headquarters, others will remember exercises such as Treaty held annually at Sennelager and Wulfenbuttle or maybe Railex/Probex in May, or even Bold Gauntlet the air exercise. Live Oak had affiliations with 7, 16, 22 and 29 Signal Regiments as well as HQ BAOR, the Defence Communication Centre in MOD and the Defence Communication Network. Many staff from the headquarters will also remember with affection the annual Staff exercise (Steadfast) held in January at Mons which always ended with a fabulous reception.

All of this has now ended. On Tuesday, 27 February Live Oak held its final parade. On a crisp, bright, and cold morning representatives of the four nations lined up outside the headquarters. In the presence of Comd Live Oak, **Gen John Galvin** who is also SACEUR, the flags of the four nations were lowered. At the same time a well remembered and time honoured servant to Live Oak, **Merrio Brown** unveiled with **Gen Galvin** a full size piece of the Berlin Wall. This was followed by members of the Bonn Group reading citations from the various Secretaries of State congratulating Live Oak on its achievements.

Since the final parade Live Oak staff have been collecting equipment from all the outlying stations—from Berlin to Ramstein and from Auenhausen to Rhinedahlen. The TARE has been dismantled and given to the British; the telephone exchange to the French; the furniture to the Americans and the Secure voice equipment to the Germans. All the nations received a fair share of the spoils. The UK Delegation Commcen will shortly be re-housed in a new room in the main Shape building. The Live Oak building will be empty by Easter. I will turn the lights out when I leave.

Live Oak Quadripartite and UK Delegation Communication Centres Staff
Back Row: (L to R) Cpls Barkworth (UK), Groom (UK), Sgt Hunyadi (US) and Cpl Deeming (UK)
Centre Row: (L to R) Sgts Pertler (GE), Sgt Leaning (UK), Gillard (UK), Rachel (US), Roberts (UK), SSgt Nagel (GE) and Cpl Greener (UK)
Front Row: (L to R) PM Blancho (FR), ADC Allard (FR), WO1 Brown (UK), Lt Cols Brewis (UK), Karwath (GE), ADC Adoue (FR), SSgts Repasi (GE) and Robinson (UK)
Absent: WO2 Dempsey (UK) — on Op Granby

RSRE
Defford

It was Friday 18 August and the phone rang, it was **Maj Joe Moreland** from LSOR8, one of Defford's main customers. 'You know that OOA circuit diagram for the VSC 501 I drew and you quoted prices on, . . . Well I need to know if it will work by next week!' This was the start of RSRE Defford's involvement in Op Granby. 30 Sig Regt have a small detachment based here and at this time was down to one man, **Sgt Rus Batley**. Between August and December there was a steady stream of Royal Signals manpower to assist with trials, operating VSC 501s, Euromux and every type of data terminal known to man. The current SO2(W) Satcom at RSRE, **Maj Simon Green** was determined to have a parade and wear uniform again, but never had enough for three ranks.

Our first activity involved this minimux and after the scientists had taken it to pieces and added the odd chip to make it function it was into the long saga of making it work. **Rus Batley** went off on a 'funny' to the Gulf. We spoke to him regularly, normally after his morning dip in the pool. It must have been rough. The activation of the SMITH circuit was often passed to us by RAF Oakhanger. I don't think that they knew it stood for Section Member In The Heat, enabling ET (Excited Technician) to phone home.

During his absence we had on attachment **Sgt Tanky Sharman, Cpl Dave Coffee** and **LCpl Rocky Rock** (did the pay office ever get their advance of pay back?). **Rocky**'s speciality with the girls was the 'this is the last weekend before I go to the Gulf' routine, and it worked so he said. Also attached to learn something about a new modem were **Cpls Ian Slinger** and **John Jolly**, who were left to their own devices to read the manual and learn by experience.

In about October time we were issued with Euromux from 36 Sig Regt (V) and our first two experts **Capt Colin Hooper** and **FofS Alan Newbury**. During this week the Patron system was proven and by the following week it had changed its name to Mentor. To all those who do not know how to answer the phone to an Admiral it's 'sir'. The trial period extended somewhat and **Maj Stan Vannons** job in 12 Sig Bde HQ was made difficult supplying TA manpower. From 36 Sig Regt (V) were **Cpl Pete Haskins, Sgt Paul Thornhill, FofS Thomas-Peter** and **Sgt Mark Ward**. From 34 Sig Regt (V) there was **Sgt John Hughes** (it only took **Maj Green** a day to remember where they had met before) and **FofS Phil Berry** who later passed his B1 in VSC501, various modems and the whole of the Patron/Mentor system, became an instant expert and disappeared off to the Gulf. During this period also we had from School of Signals **Cpl Stuart Gibbs** and his RR crew.

As SATCOM disappeared to the Gulf quicker than you could say LRUs, **Maj Bill Kent** 2 Sig Bde won the competition to design a mobile Satcom terminal for Comd 7 Armd Bde. It was rumoured the design was fatally flawed as the dish had to be removed before firing.

For a brief spell attached from 249 (AMF(L)) Sig Sqn were **Cpl Paul Drysdale** and **LCpl Mike Lingard** who ended up playing musical pay offices. If any one is detached to Defford please bring your advance of pay for NRSA before you come.

Using sign language Maj Simon Green explains how the system works to the Secretary of State for Defence The Rt Hon Tom King MP

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1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 32

RHQ

First of all we would like to welcome our new Station Comd, **Lt Col Wilson**. We hope he has a very pleasant stay.

Over to the lads in the Gulf. Our anti-smoking Supt Clk, **WO1 Graham Manning** has, after his agonising experience of giving up smoking, started again.

Sig Andy Little seems to be doing all right for himself out there. He thought he'd like a bit of female company in the way of a nurse and decided that the only way to achieve this would be to throw himself off a Panzer. So he did.

We would like to welcome our new Adjt, **Capt Andy Bristow** and a big hello to the other members of the Regiment with HQ FMA Sig Sqn. We are all wondering back here if **Lt Col John Kirby** has found a good Fun Run route in the sand! Sand marathons perhaps?

Congratulations are in order for **Maj Martin Stretch** on his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel. Also to **WO1 (RSM) Brian Dalton** being selected for Commissioning. Well done.

On the WO2—WO1 promotion board we congratulate **WO2 (FofS) Willy Dott, WO2 (SSM) Rod Whately** and **WO2 (SSM) Wally Drain**.

Hello to **Jock** 'Dockin Dons' **Cameron** who is on his wagon somewhere in the desert.

To everyone in the Regiment out there in the Gulf, take care, keep writing and we hope to see you all very soon.

L to R: Sig Andy Little, SSgt Mick Tanser and Sgt Mick Davis
Front: LCpl Dave Cameron

QM(T)

Now that the dust has settled it is a good time to sit and reflect on the past five months. Just as we were coming to the end of 1990 exercises and looking forward to year end festivities, Op Granby was upon us. All, but four of the Department, were deployed to Soltau in order to get 7 Bde away. Everybody knuckled down well and worked all hours of the day and night. Anyway, after all the furore and organised chaos 7 Bde departed on their way to the Gulf. The Department was ably led by **Capt** (now Maj) **M. W. Ledwards**, and ably assisted by the now renowned **'RQ of the Desert' Nat Cole**.

So that's where all our sand bags went!

OPERATION GRANBY 1

Maj (QM) M. V. Ledwards, WO2 (RQMS) Cole, Sgt Bungay, Cpl Greene, LCpls Dack, Bartleet, Grundy, Sig Bridges and **Botwright**.

After they had gone, there remained much work to be done in the Department. What had gone where? Who had loaned what? What goes back where? All went well on the whole, but what of the medical vehicle that was not required. When the owners were told they could have it back the answer was 'no mate, you wanted it, you keep it'. Obviously one of their better wagons!

As you may guess, they were persuaded otherwise. Just as all this was finishing, along came 1.5, (don't know why they didn't call it 2, must have been a computer problem). This to a certain extent created more work than Op Granby 1 because of the amount of equipment involved and the short space of time in which to achieve the aim. Thanks from the Department and the Regiment to all the Tech Storemen from other Units who helped us out during this time. A special thankyou to **Cpl Dave Nicholl** of 22 Sig Regt, without whose expertise we would have been severely handicapped. To give you some idea, in a four day period, we had to CES check and allocate nearly 200 different types of vehicles, from 436s to power vehicles, together with all the other types of stores, creating well over 1,000 RVs. Everyone knuckled down well and true to our tradition didn't stop chuntering (which kept everybody sane). The team, ably led by **WO2 (RQMS) Chhetri**, despatched all the equipment and since then have gone to join the Brigade.

Thankyou to **Majs Steve Marshall** and **Ted Banham** who stepped into the breach and guided us through it all. Lastly, from all of us at **'Z', Sgt Tiny Reynolds, Mr Dave Conley** and **Mrs Edith Milne**, to all those at 'A', take care lads. We'll keep the beers cold and may God grant a safe and speedy return.

OPERATION GRANBY 1.5 PERSONNEL

WO2 (RQMS) Chhetri, Cpls Lucas, White, Smith, LCpls Rain, Rayson, McGrath, Waters, Radcliff and **Sig McGuinness**.

HQ SQN MT

In the RCT element the hierarchy consists of the following personnel: **Capt Andy Cornet** MTO, **WO2 John Scheltens** MTWO, **SSgt Steve Allan**. With the deployment of 207 Sig Sqn to the Gulf as part of 7 Armd Bde. The Regimental MT Tp was asked to provide 14 RCT personnel to be tasked by the MTWO **WO2 Jeff Pearson** to carry out the various jobs such as POL, Rations, Ammo and Water Supply vehicles.

When it was announced that HQ 1 Armd Div was to be deployed, a further 23 RCT personnel were to go to the Gulf with the Divisional Signal Regiment: these included the MTO and Troop SSgt (**SSgt Steve Allan**) who had just arrived in the Regiment. The tasks carried out by the MT were to be driving the COS, DCOS and drivers were detached to Main, Step Up, Rear, and at Echelon driving POL, Rations, Ammo and other Supply vehicles. The MT Rear Party wish them the best of luck out there.

The Rear Party consisting of **WO2 John Scheltens, Cpl Alex Haddow** and **LCpl Dave Williams** along with our civilian drivers have been working hard maintaining our fleet of cars in order to provide transport for conveying wives and children and children at boarding schools to and from airports.

WO2 Jeff Pearson has now returned from the Gulf owing to his posting to the Mobile Display Team in Aldershot; we wish him and his family all the best in the future.

1 ADSR Echelon taking a well earned break from activities in the Gulf

201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 30

Op Granby is the topic of all conversations throughout the Corps, and the Squadron now becomes part of any such conversation.

Despite many changes of dates, **Maj Andy Forster** was finally able to announce the date—27 December which ended all rumours. Everyone's thoughts were with those on Granby 1 and 7 Armd Bde as they left. We did however welcome everyone into the fold who was attached to us for the operation.

The Squadron was at Al Jubail for two days before deploying for exercises. We all now wish them a safe and speedy return.

The Rear Party administered by 1 RHA is finding life in Hohne busier than when the Squadron is here, but **Cpl Bob Giffard** is smiling having gained a well earned second tape. He has assured **LCpl John Bannister** that he will buy the customary beers when the Squadron returns. **LCpl** Mitch **Mitchell** is still explaining the mysteries of the new photocopier to all who care to listen while **Sig Mike Downes** and **Pte Shane Endericks** have indented for a ten pack of workers to assist them.

Finally mention of the ladies left holding the fort. Morale is high and with mutual support always available, their thoughts are with the Squadron.

The UAO in full swing. Does that man know what he's doing? Sgt Hoppy Hopkins attached to 7 Armd Bde

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2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
York

ROMAN TROOP
TROOP COMMANDER'S BLURB

It seems only a short time ago that I was slaving over the keyboard and re-counting the exploits of the Troop. We remain busy fronting up the Regiment's effort for the Gulf. Last time they heated it, this time they froze it on an exposed airfield 'somewhere in the South of England'. The latest work for Op Granby involved working Ptarmigan over a satellite link. It demanded a lot of novel approaches and gave the technicians and operators the enviable position of being involved at the frontiers of research. The SOinC was briefed on the trials during his visit in January and congratulated all concerned for the effort that had been made.

There have been two other notable events. The first was the renaming of the Troop to Roman Tp (the other Trunk Tp has been renamed Viking Tp).—'What have the Romans ever given us?' will be answered in the next issue.

The other event was that inspection of inspections—RSIT. Bags of effort resulted in good reports, the most notable being that of **Cpl Brian Clark** and **Sig Mac McGachy**, whose vehicle had the best result in the Regiment!

COMINGS AND GOINGS

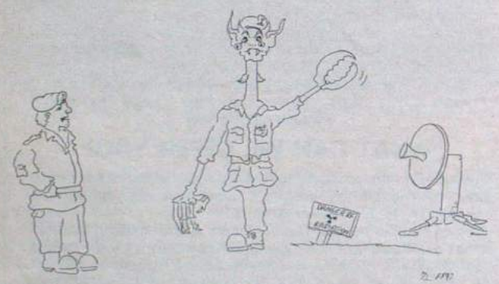
Once again the Comings and Goings have been quite considerable. We welcome into the Troop **SSgt Bill Garn, Sgts Paul Caygill, Andy Edwards** and **Al Higgins**. (Is there a real need for an officer?). **Cpl Baker** joins us from Warminster and **Sig McGachy** and **Kuzerepa** are settling into their York tour. As we toil over these notes **Sig Pritchard** has joined the fold, or should we say cohort.

Goodbyes now to **LCpls 'Nora' Battye** and **Ray McCollum**. We wish them well. (I am sure that North Sea ferries will miss **Nora**.) Also to **LCpl Hobson** who has left the bachelor mob to become a 'pad'. Congratulations to **Mark** and **Ann**.

THE SATCOM TRIALS

Obviously it would be indiscreet to say too much about the trials. If you are that interested read it in the Daily Press!

The overall results of the trials were: Some kit is not to the South East of Dover; **SSgt Aidy Jenkins** and **LCpl Bud Walter** are now to the South East of Dover; **Capt Peter Bradley** is back in York. (Tough! Just his luck to be flying out the day the War started) and the Americans got wet because of their total lack of knowledge of the infamous Dambuster Bar Game.



How many times have I told you? Don't walk in front of the dish!
Royal Signals/RAFSEE/USAF satellite trials: Oct 90-Jan 91'

FOX (49 INF BDE) SIG TP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**Capt Graham Complin**
2IC Recce Offr	**2Lt Andy Parsons**

Tp SSgt **SSgt Pete O'Connor**, Tp YofS **SSgt (YofS) Wally Bacon**.

The last few months have seen a few movements within 49 Bde Sig Tp. We have said farewell to **Cpl Jeff Barker** who has left the Army, as has **Sig John Tierney. Sgt Kev Roberts** takes up his new post in Northern Ireland, **LCpl Ted Rogers** has been detached to sunny Cyprus and **Sgt Bruce Pearce** flew south for the Winter—to the Falklands. We wish them all well.

Sgt Pearce was only a recent arrival, as was **Sig Rog Bousfield** and we welcome him from 16 Sig Regt. Also in our thoughts are **Sig Tim Harrison** and **Cpl Paul Jude**, who are presently serving in the Gulf.

Fox Tp, as we are called, has been busy. As well as routine work we have provided the Spearhead Detachment for 30 Sig Regt, led by **Cpl Martin Oxley**. We also had a large involvement with Ex Dales Challenge, an exercise for UOTCs designed to interest the Cadets in Royal Signals. A good time was had by all, probably more so by the Troop members than by the Cadets! **LCpls Pete Wilkinson** and **Ted Rogers** displayed an interesting instructional technique, which included uses of sections of vehicle whip, which are definitely not in the manual. **Cpl Andy Sinclair** took a shine to one of the young female Cadets.

The Troop has also been active raising funds for the Regimental charity and **Cpl Paul Aston** was the drive behind the Troop washing rather a lot of cars one Thursday morning. Almost £200 was raised.

LCpl Rogers 'instructing'

MERLIN (15 INF BDE) SIG TP
TROOP PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**Capt Dave Hix**
2IC Tp	**2Lt Tim Wood**

Tp YofS **SSgt Taff Williams**, Tp SSgt **SSgt Andy Snaith.**

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURES

A sprightly bunch of new arrivals to the Troop include **SSgt (YofS) Taff** (Do not mention Rugby!) **Williams**, who has joined us from 8 Sig Regt. **LCpl Titch Maidment** has recently arrived from 21 Sig Regt. Having left 21 Sig Regt in mid RSIT, he arrived here just in time for our RSIT prep. Finally a new arrival from 8 Sig Regt—**Sig Mark Langhorne**.

Recently gone are **SSgt (YofS) Terry Burbidge** who has gone to 39 Sig Regt in London. **Sgt Pete** 'Squeaky Clean' **Collins** left us to join Mercury, we all wish him, and wife **Jan**, all the best in civvy street. **Cpl Tayne** has moved over to HQ Sqn and **Sig Wilson** left us for 16 Sig Regt. Best wishes to all from the Troop.

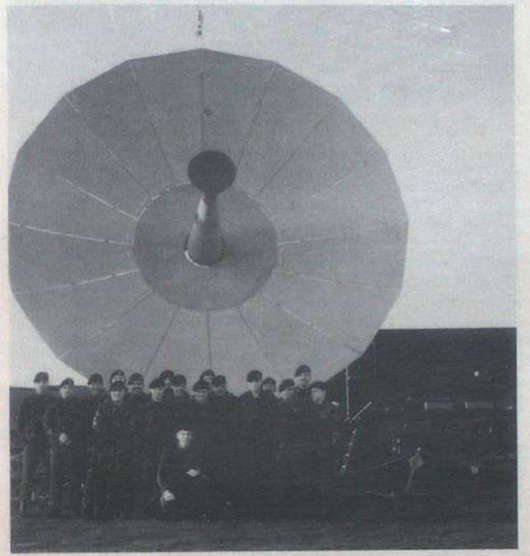
OPERATION SPEARHEAD

Following the deployment of elements of 30 Sig Regt to sunnier climes the Regiment was given the task of providing operators for Op Spearhead. Although Fox Tp provided most of the requirement, as usual they needed some help to finish the job. **LCpls Dave Harrer** and **Stevie Pope** travelled down to Blandford on behalf of 15 Bde. Their tour of duty passed uneventfully and we expect them back in the Troop to do some real work after a long leave.

The requirement for an additional Spearhead was also met in part by the Troop. After a brief period of training in Blandford, **Cpls Keith Graham** and **Kev Yates** returned to York to await their call up. Their services were not required and they have been reported to be working in the garages. This is, as yet, unconfirmed.

SATCOM TRIAL

LCpls Titch Maidment, Al Richards, Pete Southern and **Sig Steve Lowton** were all involved at one stage or another in the SATCOM trial. Rumour has it that spirits were extremely high, for further details see Alpha, sorry Roman Tp.



Capt Peter Bradley *(centre, kneeling)* and the Trial Team

OTHER NEWS

There have been no major commitments for the Troop, although some members have been off to exciting places. Ex Dales Challenge, an OTC exercise on Catterick Training Area. Yes—but what about the exciting places?

On the sporting front **Sig Pete Stubbs** gave an excellent display in the Regimental Boxing to win the best runners-up prize. A brave showing in the cross country from the whole Troop! Special mentions go to **SSgt (YofS) 'Whippet' Williams** who was Ninth. On the Regimental front **Capt Dave Hix** and **Cpl Keith Graham** are having a fair time on the Rugby field. **SSgt Andy Snaith** and **2Lt Tim Wood** have represented the Regiment on the Football pitch. The newly formed Hockey Team, which is now a major force in NEDist, is aided and abetted by **2Lt Tim Wood, LCpls 'Laurie' Askin, Pete Southern, Sig Charlie Henson** and **Stevie Peters**. There is also a mention for **LCpl 'Geordie' Crawford** last seen on his way to 656 Sig Tp to go skiing—again!

2 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd	**Maj Tony Rock**
2IC	**Capt Ray Duffy**

Ops Offr **Capt Andy Walker**, SSM **WO2 Derek Payne**, OC Eagle Tp **Lt Gavin Grant**, OC Falcon Tp **Lt Grant Hume**, SQMS **SSgt Bob Clair**, FofS **SSgt (FofS) Russ Baldwin**, YofS **SSgt (YofS) Ken Sirr**

The Squadron has participated in all the major sporting competitions (with mixed success) and produced some excellent displays for the MNAD Study Period. Falcon Tp lads can now add B3 Scaffolding Techniques to their Spec Qualifications!

Congratulations go to the Squadron Basketball Team which had a good win in the Inter Squadron competition. **Lt Gavin Grant** and **Cpl Phil Winter** (both from Harlem!) played very well and hit the three pointers consistently, ensuring comfortable victories in each round.

INTER SQUADRON BOXING COMPETITION
Report by Sig 'Jock' Grice

The Regiment Inter-Squadron Competition was held on Thursday 13 December 1990. The Squadron managed five boxers into the finals, of whom four won their bouts! **Sig 'Mac' MacIntosh, Sgt H. Glean, Sig Adam Teale** and **Si Link** all had convincing wins, this after only a month's training!

Sgt H. Glean had a convincing win. His middleweight bout was eventually stopped. **Sig Adam Teale** consistently picked off his opponent in the Light Heavyweight bout and **Sig Si Link** fought the last bout of the evening in the Welterweight division and proved, yet again, how dangerous his right hook is!

Everyone enjoyed the training as much as the fights themselves and the sights are firmly fixed on the 1991 competition. Congratulations also go to **LCpl Steve Royston** and **Sig Wayne Hilton** who both won their exhibition bouts. Thanks go to **Cpl** 'Chink' **Sloan** who trained them all so well in such a short period.

Back Row (L to R): Cpl Mac MacWilliam, Sig Dave Duffield, LCpl Pritch Pritchard, Sgt 'H' Glean, Cpl Chink Sloan, LCpl Steve Royston and Sig Adam Teale
Front Row (L to R): Sig Mac MacIntosh, Jock Grice, Si Link and Wayne Hilton

VISITS
by LCpl Evans

Eagle Tp has been involved in a round of visits from the new CRA, SOinC and the GOC NEDist.

A lot of work went into setting up the displays, plus the various inspections going on, the lads were kept busy! The SOinC visited on 9 January and was met by the 2 Sqn Comd, **Maj Tony Rock**. The SOinC visited the Fly Fwd HQ and one of the Bde rear link dets.

EXERCISE WINTER WANDER
by Cpl John Murray

Eagle Tp found it had gained a few extra pounds of weight 'all round' as a result of Christmas festivities, so it was off to the seaside and the Cleveland Way!

It was a cold, grey January morning when the Troop set out to cover the 15 mile trek. However, before long some 'racing snakes' had sped off. **Cpls Steve Elliot, Dave Reid** and **Sig Steve Young** (obviously training for next year's Lanyard Trophy) had the lead from start to finish. The real contest was at the end of the field, a fierce race between **Sgt Al Donaldson, Cpl Taff Roderick** and **Sig Blackey** and **Orchard**. In the end youth won the day.

On arrival the lads were greeted with hot pasty and chips and given another route card to the nearest 'watering hole' which made everything worthwhile!

Finally we must say some farewells and hellos. Farewell to **Sig Scott Berry, Paddy Campbell** and **LCpl Paterson**. All the best in your new Units. Hello to **WO2 (SSM) Derek Payne** and **Mrs Payne. LCpl Martin Fell, Sig Tim Jones, Marc Orchard, Gary Scott** and **Paul Hynard**. We welcome you all!

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 114

APOLOGIA
By the Unit Wire Officer

The previous two issues of *The Wire* have been devoid of contributions from this Regiment. Spare a thought for the hapless Unit *Wire* Officer whose contributions were submitted, but rejected by the BFPO. The first effort was returned to sender for want of a first class stamp and the second reached London only to find that *The Wire* Magazine was not known at 56 Regency Street. A likely story—but true! We now hope to redress the balance.

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS
PERSONALITIES

CO — **Lt Col J. R. B. Cook**
2IC — **Maj P. L. Maloney**

Adjt **Capt E. A. Davis**, A/RSM **WO2 (SSM) D. Thomas**, SC **WO1 (SC) C. J. Bell**, ORS **Sgt Roy Clarke** ORC **Cpl Phil Davidson**, Docs **LCpl Billy Kidd**, P20 **Sig Wicks**, Movs **WLCpl K. Chapman**, Registry **WPtes K. Lucas** and **Hitchman.**

RHQ has said farewell to **WO1 (RSM) A. Spray** on his posting to 11 Sig Regt to accompany his daughter after her road accident. We wish them all well. In his stead **WO2 Dave Thomas** has stepped in from the Trg Wing and is beginning to flex his muscles, and his vocal chords! Congratulations also to **WO1 (SC) Chris Bell** for running the Sergeants' Mess in the meantime—and only on Band 5!

Away from the usual routine of RHQ, much effort has been put into Op Granby welfare, by the Families Officer, **Capt Phil Welch** and his team of **SSgt Clive Williams, Cpl** 'Brummie' **Blondell BEM** and of course **Mr** 'Pickles' **Unwin.**

RHQ has lost two combat clerks to Op Granby; **LCpl Al Sargent**, whose only complaint is that he hasn't seen a camel yet, and **LCpl** 'Izzy' **Izatt**, who obviously hasn't found a pen or typewriter with which to write back to us. Remember lads, the Pen is mightier than the sword—that's why we gave you an SLR!

ONE SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj Rod Thomas**
2IC — **Capt Steve Jones**

Ops Officer **Capt Neil Cary**, OC TN 043 **Lt Jim Clare**, OC TN 053 **2Lt David Naden**, OC TN 063 **Lt Neil Selby**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) McMahon**

1 Sqn is currently known as 3 Sqn of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. Confused? You won't be when you realise that the Squadron has deployed in toto on Op Granby. That's perhaps why it's fully manned with officers for a change. In addition to its own Trunk Nodes, 1 Sqn welcomed TN 012 from 22 Sig Regt, commanded by **Lt Eddy Williams**, and his 2IC is **SSgt Griffiths.**

Since deploying, the Regiment has been in contact with OSC 133 over Ptarmigan. **Maj Rod Thomas** sounded clear as a bell, which started a vicious rumour that the Squadron hadn't yet left their garages. But when the pictures came back of sun, sand and even more hedgehog haircuts, we really began to feel sorry for others.

Sig Officer contemplating life, the universe and which bit he has to let go

Sig McNeil attempts to 'Paint his Wagon' while Cpl Tuff and Sig Clarke try to improve the aerodynamics of a Radio Relay truck

'Hello Mum'

TN 063 send a clear message to Bagdhad: 'It's *** cold here"

4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

HQ SQN

We have 18 different cap badges in the Squadron producing a closely bonded team. Op Granby has obviously had an effect on our lives, as with every Regiment in 1 (BR) Corps. Nevertheless the team has managed to carry on as normally as possible.

Our Squadron Social Club has received an enthusiastic welcome, not only for the service it provides, but also for the generous subsidies given to our soldiers who have participated in adventurous training or Snow Queen.

Lately, we have had our fair share of comings and goings with a change-over of Quartermasters. We said farewell to **Lt Col John Richardson** who was succeeded by a representative from England's senior Infantry Regiment, **Maj Vic Ebbens** of The Queen's Regiment. We welcomed **Lt David Welton** RPC, who is not a new arrival in the real sense. He has moved from the Training Officers post into the new appointment of Squadron second in command. The relinquished Training Officers post has been taken over by **Lt John Mullender.**

The second largest department in the Squadron next to the LAD said farewell to the TCWO, **WO2 Pete Spivey** and welcome to **WO2 John Proctor.** The Regiment realising the MT was too competitive has sent 22 RCT soldiers to the Gulf. We wish them well and a safe return.

Finally, on the sporting front the Squadron has been represented in all Regimental sports, notching up creditable achievements in both hockey and football leagues. We look forward to leading the Regiment home in the Harz Mountains Marathon in June.

ONE SQUADRON
SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj E. A. Newnham**
2IC — **Capt K. A. Jones**

SSM **WO2 P. Ramsey**, FofS **WO2 P. Edmonds**, YofS **SSgt P. Jones**,SQMS **SSgt J. Pickles.**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Squadron has undergone its own version of Options for Change, with the arrival of both a new Sqn Comd and 2IC. We welcome **Maj Elaine Newnham**, who is the first female Royal Signals Sqn Comd in 1 (BR) Corps and **Capt Ken Jones** as 2IC. The 2IC's other OC, wife **Capt Debbie Jones** has been posted to 7 Sig Regt to avoid increasing the number of **Joneses** in the Regiment. We also welcome **SSgt Jim McLachlan** and family, **Sig Gaz Bates, Dickie Bird, Sinbad Coombe** and **Neil Yarnell.** For every arrival there must also be departures, and we say farewell to **Maj Dick Barfoot** and family and **Capt Jerry Bradshaw** and his wife **Penny**, bound for an arduous two years in Nepal. **Cpl Neil Hendry** and his wife **Suzanne, LCpl Skull Skerritt, Sig Hobbo Hobson** and **Mr Mac McDonald** have also recently left. We wish them all the best for the future.

CONGRATULATIONS

There has been a glut of promotions within 1 Sqn and so we congratulate the following: **Sgt Ossie Lindon, Cpls Andy Beel, Alex Hurst, Geordie Ridley, LCpls Steve Dewar** and **Wil Wilday.**

LIFE IN GENERAL

1 Sqn has been busy by providing communications in support of the Op Granby deployments. So as not to be left out we have sent **LCpl Graham Keith** and **Sig Charlie Brown** to 'the Gulf'. On the Sports scene 1 Sqn has entered the Minor Unit Football League. Opinion has it that what we lack in speed we make up for in experience.

2 SQUADRON
SHQ TROOP

We said farewell to **Maj Mike Holman** on his way to a Watchkeeper's post in the UK (supporting Granby). After a short period in the chair **Capt Dave Smith** leaves for 8 Sig Regt. We wish them both all the best in the future. We welcome **Maj Nigel Moore** and his wife **Christine**, we hope that you enjoy Herford.

A1 TROOP

Still suffering the shock waves of Op Granby 1.5, the Troop greeted the month of December with much licking of lips and rubbing of hands, in anticipation of some well earned leave. However, as we all know only too well the best laid plans . . . We were visited by **Gen Sir John Chapple GCB, CBE, ADC,** Chief of the General Staff.

Cpl 'Chippy' **Wood** appeared with the good news that he is now British 'Skeleton Bobsleigh' Champion, well done **Cpl Wood.** For the rest of us, preparation for our first exercise of the year, aptly named 'Ex First Footing'.

A2 TROOP

The Troop welcomed **SSgt Doherty**, after a spell as SSM. Congratulations to **LCpl Shalley** on his promotion.

We say farewell to **Capt Jon Williams**, the Sqn 2IC, we wish him all the best. We welcome into the Troop **Sig** 'Chic' **Heward** from the School, **Sig** 'Baldrick' **Wilson** from 1 Inf Bde and **Sig** 'Paddy' **Campbell** from 2 Div.

A3 TROOP

Happy not-so-new year to everyone and anyone. A3 wish all members, families and friends of the Corps a New Year that brings as little strife as possible. Our thoughts and some of our personnel go with those of you on operational duties—God speed to you all.

SKELETON BOBSLEIGH
by Cpl Wood, A1 Tp, 2 Sqn

'Skeleton-Bobsleigh! What the hell is that!' I hear you ask. Well it involves lying on a sledge, going head-first down a bobsleigh run at speeds in the region of 70-90 mph (depending on the track). The sledge, which looks like a drinks tray with two runners beneath it, weighs about 45kg. After summer training, consisting of sprint and cycle training, the season was drawing close, and the butterflies in my stomach were getting bigger.

9 NOVEMBER

Only a few days to go before the first training session of the season on ice. The first was planned to be at Konigsee, near Salzberg. I wished I wasn't going there, as I had crashed twice at Konigsee at the end of last season and I didn't fancy a repeat at the beginning of the new season.

One day to go before travelling down south, whilst we were working on a 'panzer' a track-spreader-bar landed on my thumb. That put an end to that weekend's training (what a good start. Maybe someone up there was trying to tell me something).

17/18 NOVEMBER

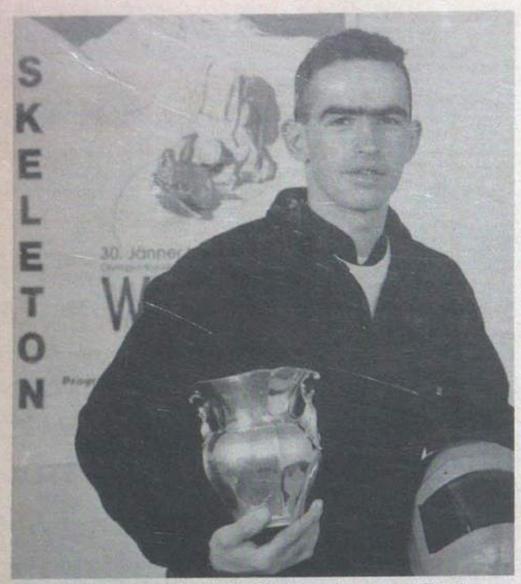
The big day arrived and before I knew it I was standing at the top with my sledge with about 30 seconds to go, my mind working overtime. Sixty seconds later I was in the finishing bend and getting off the sledge, thinking 'that was OK, even if it was a slow time'.

The next two training runs went OK, no crashes so far. The next day was competition day. Not a very good result, but I did have a new sledge. A lot of work was needed on it, rearranging the weights and just getting used to it. Back to Herford.

25 NOVEMBER

A competition in Igls, Innsbruck, Austria. Still the sledge was not quite right.

Cpl Wood in the Start gate . . . tense moments before his first run in the British Championships



Cpl Wood with the British Skeleton Champions Trophy

DECEMBER

Two competitions at Konigsee and Igls. I was getting used to the sledge. **Lt King** thought that as OIC sport he would come along and have a go too. I recorded the fastest time of the week

1-5 JANUARY

The British Championships. What a day to travel to Austria—New Years' Day. The training paid off as I won the British Championships. What a close race it turned out to be. I won by 0.16 of a second. It was also a good day for the Forces with seven in the top ten from a field of twenty-five competitors. The next day—6 January—my first international race, The Tiroler Meisterschaft with international class opposition. A good result, finishing 8th out of a field of 30.

The next races are the Welt Cup (World Cup) series and World Championships. I just hope my luck holds out as I am off to St Moritz, one of the hardest, fastest and most unfriendly tracks on the Skeleton-Bobsleigh circuit, with speeds of about 85-90 mph.

3 SQUADRON

Sqn Comd **Maj Justin Johnson**
Comd N Tp **Lt Mark Hanby**
Comd TN Tp **WO1 (FofS) Mick Poland**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) John Somerville**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) Ron Woodger**, FofS **SSgt (FofS) Mick Minton**, Ops SNCO **Sgt Dave Mason**, Div Tp Sgt **Sgt Dave Shuttleworth**.

SHQ TROOP

In December the Squadron welcomed **Maj Justin Johnson**. We wish him and his wife **Janet** a pleasant stay in Herford. We bade farewell to **Capt Barry Williams** and his wife **Sheila. Barry, Sheila**, and 'Sheba' the dog will be missed by all ranks. To ensure he got a proper send off the Squadron took him for a last PT session . . . in the 'Comms Ops' armchair. At the end of the run he discovered how cold the pond was! We wish him luck as QM (Everything) in Verden. The last few months have been busy for us all in support of Op Granby. However, life goes on and we are busy with UWIs and preparation for forthcoming exercises. We look forward to the arrival of **Lt R. T. O'Hara** from 28 Sig Regt as our new Sqn 2IC.

TM TROOP

This month instead of the normal run of the mill notes, we thought we would do a profile on the longest and probably best known member of the troop. Anyone who has served in 4 ADSR, and certainly any past members of TM Tp will know the name of **Martin Smith** the R & I man.

Martin joined the troop in 1975, after a successful and distinguished career (using his own words) in the Royal Signals, and has served under five TOTs and five FofS. Just to emphasise under-manning, the troop strength then was 82, 16 of whom were permanently employed repairing T100Rs. That compares with a present strength of 19. Quoting a few of **Martin**'s fond memories (no names of course, so those who remember will not be embarrassed). He recalls the time spent on exercises—when the TOT sparked up his pipe and as the smoke billowed forth, a switched-on sentry grabbed a bucket of water and threw it on the tent. Of course the TOT got soaked—of an FofS who couldn't fit in too much work as it would have interfered with his fishing and of another who shouted at people more often than did the RSM. **Martin** has seen a few changes in circumstances, for example the Corporal in charge of the Battery Shop who returned some years later as the TOT. **Martin** also recalls the time when he decided to try out the brand new squash courts only to find a German workman knocking the door down; he was trying to retrieve his cement mixer. **Mr Martin Smith** sends all best wishes to those who may remember him.

N TROOP ARRIVALS

The troop would like to welcome **LCpl 'Geordie' Paterson** from 2 Div and **LCpl Ashley Wood** from 8 Sig Regt.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Lt Mark Hanby, Cpls Mark Hurren** and **Woody Allen** on their recent promotions. When the troop is together again we will all have that beer.

LIFE IN NOVEMBER TROOP NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 1990

The end of the year saw the troop involved in many tasks that took them far and wide: Civpop—Sennelager, Op Granby—Bielefeld, Ski Course—Austria, Regt GD—Herford, Exercise—Lippstadt, Site Gd—Germany and leave in UK!

TROOP STORIES

Most soldiers moan about Guard duties but our very own **Sig Plug Graham** loves them. A 12 hour duty for him turned into 12 hours duty and six hours asleep—but where? After many phone calls we eventually tracked Plug down to one of the cells and got him back to work in the afternoon.

Government Communication Headquarters
Radio Officer

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GCHQ

200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn BFPO 41

FAREWELL TO MAJ DENNIS MILLS

Monday 17 December 1990 saw the departure of **Maj Dennis Mills** and his wife **Anne** from the Squadron. The day started with a simple HO/TO ceremony where our new Comd **Maj Peter Walker** signed for the Squadron. Then **Maj Dennis Mills** was led away for farewell drinks with the officers and SNCOs. During this quiet gathering the conference room was raided by four of the biggest hoods in the Squadron. **Maj Mills** was daubed with cam cream and fully battle prepped. Finally he was dragged out of the Squadron seated aloft the ferret scout car. **Maj Dennis Mills**'s high standards will stand us in good stead for whatever we may face in the future. We also say goodbye to **Anne** who has worked hard for the benefit of all the wives of the Squadron. We wish them both the very best for the future and congratulate them on the birth of their baby daughter **Alice**.

'Goodbye Maj Mills, Hello Maj Walker'

SQUADRON WEDDINGS

Three weddings in the Squadron in two days! On 16 November **LCpl Ben Casey** swept **Dagmar** off her feet and on to the back of a Harley Davidson. On 17 November **Cpl Jim Reeves** married **Tracey** at Herford and that afternoon **Sgt Jim Latimer** and **Jannette** married here in Hobart Barracks in Detmold. Congratulations and good luck to you all.

LCpl Ben Casey and Dagmar leaving the church in style.

211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn BFPO 29

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd **Maj D. M. Steele**
2IC **Capt J. W. Dakin**
OC A Tp **Capt I. G. Lawrence**, OC B Tp **Lt J. C. Gillespie**, YofS **WO2 (YofS) C. K. Luckham BEM**, FofS **SSgt (FofS) H. Barclay**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) M. J. Wood**, SSgt A Tp **SSgt N. W. J. Barnard BEM**, SSgt B Tp **SSgt M. Boyle**, MT Sgt **Sgt K. Baxter**, URS **Sgt K. Bullen**, Chief Clerk **Sgt S. M. Hayes**, ORC **LCpl S. A. Upsall**.

The Squadron is fortunate in as much as we have remained relatively intact despite hostilities, only nine soldiers having been deployed to the Gulf: **Cpl Lamont, LCpls Smith, Downing, Sig Davis, Hughes Gaffney, Darvill, Workman** and **Dvr Littlewood**. Our best wishes are with them.

ORIENTEERING

The 'silk pyjama' and bramble bush brigade has been at it again. In pursuit of excellence, eight members of the Squadron entered the Corps BAOR Championships held at 13 Sig Regt. The A team; **Capt 'Fast' Lawrence, SSgt 'Vet' Barnard, Sgt 'Sleek' Openshaw** and **Cpl 'Whizz' Cole** achieved a creditable second place in the minor units events, and **SSgt Barnard** was the over 40's Royal Signals BAOR champion.

SKIING

Both Nordic and Alpine teams from the Squadron are now training in Austria. With snow conditions being very good our hopes for good results are high. Congratulations go to **Sig Siggs** who won the Novice Cup at the Corps Championships.

AWARDS

The New Year Honours List brought the news that **SSgt Neville Barnard** was awarded the BEM, a reward for all his hard work with Prince Rupert School Combined Cadet Force. Congratulations from the Squadron.

VISITS

The first was from TACT (Training Advisory and Control Team) on 21 November headed by **Brig Roberts**. The team toured the Squadron and met nearly all the soldiers. The team heard some unpublished views on training in the Corps.

The second visit was that by Comd 1 Sig Bde/Comd 1 Comms (BR) Corps, **Brig Taylor**. After an initial discussion with the Bde Comd, **Brig Taylor** was shown around the Squadron visiting the hard working Commcen, the LAD, the training wing, the techs, the Squadron bar and had a chance to speak to the Squadron Officers and SNCO's.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

After two and a half years, **Maj Hadfield** finally handed over command of the Squadron on 7 January. **Maj Hadfield** leaves to command 22 Sig Regt via a short stint in the Gulf. Our best wishes go with him and his wife **Cathy** and his children. **Maj D. M. Steele** has assumed command. We welcome **Maj Steele**, his wife **Diane** and their two children and hope they have a good tour.

NORDIC SKIING

Though many people thought that **Lt Jonathan Gillespie, Sgt Mick Openshaw, Cpl Mark Pryke** and **Sig Dave Hewitt** had been posted since no one had seen them in months, the truth is that they were Nordic Skiing. The word skiing may conjure up visions of glamour to the uninitiated, however those who have trained for a Nordic race season know otherwise. It is no skive, for while it occurs in beautiful parts of the world—Norway and Austria—one's mind tends to be concentrated away from the scenery and more on struggling for breath.

We left Minden in the sunshine for Kiel where we spent a night in transit accommodation before driving in freezing conditions to Frederickshaven where we caught the ferry to Oslo. A long journey through falling snow saw us arrive in Skei in the Peer Gynt Valley late that night.

NORWAY

Each day began with a 20 minute jog and stretch followed by breakfast. Raw eggs and milk became flavour of the month here—certainly not one for those with a weak constitution. The morning session consisted of technique training under the guidance of hired Nordic ski instructors and lasted about two hours. Here we hardened downhill skiers tried to forget all we had previously learnt and adapted ourselves to the fact that Langlauf skis have no edges, no grip

and no way of staying upright (as the downhill skiers who took part in the 15km race in Austria found out). In the afternoon another two hour session followed concentrating on stamina, speed and distance. It is during these 15-20km sessions that a general temperature principal emerged: the colder the temperature the more your nose will stream, across your face, over your sholder . . . Temperature was also critical in determining which wax had to be used to provide grip and forward propulsion. Get it wrong and 10km feels more like 30km.

Evenings consisted of **Sgt Mick Openshaw** offering us simple home cooking, before we all collapsed into bed at about 2100 hrs. At the weekend we stopped training for one day and headed to the local disco. **Cpl Mark Pryke** was unable to dance due to the lack of feeling beneath the knees after a 1km walk on snow in bare feet (as his shoes had no grip).

At the end of the first week in Norway we had a short race over a distance of 6km and it was **Cpl Mark Pryke** that led the team home. Races increased in distance until they culminated in the Corps Championships in the last week. To provide some competition they were run in conjunction with the Engineer teams training in Austria. The following races were run: Individual 10km, Individual 15km, 4 × 6km Relay and a 6km Biathlon. This proved a useful prelude to the Divisional Championships and although we never had the established skiing teams in our sights, each member put in his utmost to produce personal best times. We left having worked hard and with the satisfaction of beating 200 Sig Sqn.

AUSTRIA

The snow was excellent in Galtur this year with fresh falls occurring every three days. Training continued as in Norway but before it could commence a very steep hill that descended from the Hoch Galtur Hotel had to be negotiated. This became known as 'Dob Hill' which became as fast, banked and curvaceous as the Cresta Run (exaggeration is for the benefit of the reader). It is here that **Lt Jonathan Gillespie** lay winded and broken after a stunt that would have put Eddie the Eagle to shame.

For the Divisional races we moved accommodation to the Sauna Walter—a friendly Austrian B&B. Much preparation had obviously gone into this event and we would like to thank all those involved who worked in the office or froze along the loipes for the effort they put in. The routes for the 10km and the 15km were very similar and both included a steep, lung-busting, herring-bone climb with a subsequent fast descent at the end of each race. The Biathlon proved that zeroing practice bears no relation to actual firing in the race. For the 30km Patrol Race my thanks go to **Sig Mick Roberts** who, unprepared and without complaint, stood in at the last minute for **Dvr Crossman** (RTU for Op Granby) and tolerated the 'encouraging' words offered en route to bring the team in in a perfectly respectable time.

Whilst we never threatened any of the prize winners, the Nordic ski season was a worthwhile experience for those soldiers who had the courage to subject themselves to two months intensive training and demanding competition and the sense to avoid their bank manager. For all those BFT fatties who still think it was a skive, we look forward to seeing you on the loipes next year.

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T. FROST (Saddlers)
SOUTH PARADE, BAWTRY
DONCASTER, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Sgt 'Mick' Openshaw pushes for home during the 4 × 6km relay

211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn Nordic Skiing Team: *(from left to right)* Lt Jonathan Gillespie, Sgt Mick Openshaw, Cpl Mark Pryke and Sig Dave Hewitt

EXERCISE FIRST FOOTING

This was the first outing this year for the Bde Sig Sqn and the first deployment for the new Sqn Comd, **Maj Don Steele,** and the other new arrivals. It took a while to regain the flair with which we type in Ptarmigan subset numbers. The experience of seasoned battle warriors was soon passed on to the new soldiers, and with each move the drills got faster and the set up and tear down became smoother. While time prevented the full range of operating procedures being tested, the Squadron at Endex felt well practised, tired, cold and in need of a bath (in other words the perfect exercise). Only one question remained at the end of the exercise: Where were you Division?

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

GOODBYE MALCOLM

On 3 December 1990 the Corps Officers' Mess at Catterick Garrison formally said goodbye to **Malcolm Stephenson. Malcolm** has served the Mess and its members with dedication for the past 30 years. He joined the Mess in January 1960 as a temporary batman and over the years gained steady promotion. In July 1982 he was appointed Chief Steward 1, a position which he held until he left in December. **Malcolm** saw many changes, amongst these the departure of the School of Signals, the amalgamation of the Regiments and, finally the policy of contracting out, which caused his redundancy. The last of the old staff, **Malcolm's** departure represents the inevitable (in the drive towards cost effectiveness) end of an era.

The many donations received enabled **Brig Roberts OBE** to present **Malcolm** with a silver Jimmy and a cheque. The Commander, on behalf of many officers of the Corps, thanked **Malcolm** for all he has done. **Maj John Barrett**, on behalf of the School of Signals, then presented **Malcolm** with a print.

Brig Roberts with Malcolm Stephenson

AND JEFF

Mr Jeff Hunter, who has worked on the Mess Accounts for the past two years, was also thanked for his work on 3 December 1990. **Jeff** joined the Civil Service in 1968 and has, except for an 18 month period, served ever since. He has had various jobs including ones at 40 Sqn RCT and 11 Sig Regt. **Jeff** was presented with a filofax. The Mess wish him well in his new job in the 8 Sig Regt Movements' Office.

Lt Col Hunt, PMC, thanking Jeff Hunter

DUKE OF EDINBURGH GOLD AWARD
by Pte Robyn Smart

I was first introduced to this Award as long ago as 1988 and I was horrified when I discovered how much work and effort had to be made in order to gain an Award.

Various sections had to be completed including Community Service, Physical Activity, Adventure Training and Skills Training. I thought that all this would definitely take a good few years to complete, but I wasn't going to give up on any of the activities.

The Community Service section had to be completed over 18 months and my work in the Sea Cadet Corps which, included voluntary work for the Royal British Legion and old people in my home town of Warrington, helped to cover this section.

For the Sporting Section I was already a keen canoeist, so continued working hard with the British Canoe Union and gained more qualifications.

The most difficult section of all was Adventure Training where various training weekends had to be covered in the very wet area of Snowdonia. This training all went towards the final expedition which lasted five days and a distance of 65 miles was covered over the rugged area of the Welsh mountains—lots of blisters and even more sheep. The final section to be completed was the Skill Section and for this I participated in learning advanced sailing skills, care of boats and, various seamanship tasks.

With all the projects completed after much hard work, determination and lots of patience, I finally received my Invitation to the Award Ceremony held at St James' Palace on 26 February 1991, where I came face to face with HRH the Duke of Edinburgh!

Pte Smart at work in her trade of Tele Tech (Systems)

NEW TRADES FOR WRAC

The first WRAC Tele Op (Radio) tradeswomen have qualified at 8 Sig Regt. **Ptes Michelle Barden,** 21 from Eastbourne; **Karen Duffy,** 19

OR 761 BR
Left to Right: SSgt Lewington (Comd C Tp), Pte Duffy, Sig Howells, Pte Barden, Sig Bradley, Pte Robertson, Sig Thatcher, Sgt Clark (Cse Tutor) and Lt Col Young (Comd TTS)

from Dundee; and **Tracy Robertson**, 22 from Morpeth, completed their trade training on 19 December. They joined OR761BR after basic training at Guildford, on 24 September, with 14 lads.

Throughout the course they proved themselves very competent in all aspects of their trade. They competed on equal terms with all other members and did especially well during the three weeks on exercise in Schemes Tp. They were looked after by **Cpls Frank Jackson, Phil Jarvis** and **Andy Mackie**.

After completion of driving courses they will join 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. OR761BR set such a high standard that future mixed Tele Op (Radio) courses have a hard act to follow.

We wish **Ptes Barden, Duffy** and **Robertson** the best of luck in their chosen careers.

Pte Barden tuning a TURF for a sloping wire antenna

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THE FIRST STEP
by a recent, young double amputee

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TTS/SERGEANTS' MESS CORPS MUSEUM FUND RAISING
By WO2 (YofS) P. J. M. Jarvis

All was going well at the Mess Meeting, people all around me were being press ganged into committees when the bombshell hit me, I was to be the Project Warrant Officer for six months in order to raise £4,000 for the museum fund. In a state of shock I dragged myself to the bar to seek consolation. The next day together with the rest of the committee I pondered over our burden. How to extort, scrounge or 'swindle' £4,000 out of the Regiment. We immediately started a weekly meat raffle which went well for a month or two raising £400 before the BSE or mad instructor disease scare killed it off. Sale of tickets in Engineering Wing doubled the other two Wings due to sterling work from **SSgt Brian Appleyard**. The next opportunity to raise funds was the Old Comrades Weekend. We organised four stalls to rake in money, firstly a Bratwurst stall run by **SSgt Dave** (If I see another Bratwurst I'm volunteering for the Falklands) **Norman** and his wife which at one stage had a queue of 30 waiting to buy bratties and raised over £150. A Treasure Island stall run by **Al Childs** and his wife made over £50. Due to inclement weather our Ice Cream stall run by **Sgts Pete** (Mr Softy) **Cavill** and **Ian** (Choc ice) **McWhirter** only managed to raise £30. A raffle run by **Sgt Eric Calvert** with prizes kindly donated by Radio Rentals raised over £750. On the Saturday evening, a levy of 2p a pint on ale raised £500. **WO2 (RQMS) Sammy Stevenson** managed to raise £200 by auctioning a brick (yes house type). The brick bought by the Aberdeen Branch of the Royal Signals Association will be mounted with a brass plaque and displayed in the entrance to the new museum. A team from the Sergeants' Mess was entered for the Cleveland and Great North Runs and sponsorship of £250 was 'bled' from the Regiment. Well done **SSgt (YofS) Williams** on breaking his PB and raising £100 in sponsorship. It was now becoming difficult to get even more money out of people so a new approach was called for. We resorted to the Duck Race. **Col Riddlington,** CO 8 Sig Regt kindly agreed to release 4,000 plastic ducks on the Swale and the RSM, **WO1 John Mullender** selected those who should pick them up again. £1,200 was raised for the fund and £100 for Muscular Dystrophy. **Sgt Tony** (I can sell coal to Newcastle) **Churchward** organised a hamper raffle which raised the £85 required to bring the total raised to £4,000. May I take this opportunity to thank the Committee for their sterling work.

JIMMY'S REFURBISHED SHOP

At a cost of some £25,000 the Naafi refurbished its shop in Vimy Barracks. The new shop was opened on 7 January by **Mrs Pam Ridlington** in the presence of the District Area and Shop Manager, **Mr Sid Robson.** The shop serves the Regiment and takings are said to be around £10,000 per week! The PRI, with the aid of Delta Tp, provided a rent-a-crowd with some money to spend!

EXERCISE DELTA FLOAT

The end of November is not traditionally the ideal time to go off-shore sailing in UK coastal waters, even as far south as Cornwall!

However, **Capt Shelagh Macleod** managed to convince four members of Delta Tp that sailing around the Falmouth area for a week was a worthwhile experience. Ex Delta Float was soon under way. **Sig Danny Daddow, Lee Thommen, Dave Honeywill** and **Pollitt,** all novice sailors, were soon getting to grips with warps, sheets and tacking, in spite of the cold.

The weather was dry and the little wind provided unexpectedly good conditions. The heavy seas however, resulted in most of the crew deciding that the worst thing about sailing was sea sickness!

After a few days sailing off the coast around Falmouth, the sense of adventure took over and we set off on a passage to Fowey. The lack of wind, resulted in a normal five hour sail taking over eight hours to complete, and a night entrance and buoy pick-up added to the excitement.

The next day the sail back to Falmouth was a lot faster, a good run and more importantly back in time for a Friday night out in Redruth—who said there was nothing to do in Cornwall?

Truro was the next place to visit. Thank goodness for a rising tide and helpful locals else being stuck in the mud outside Tesco's could have lasted a lot longer!

The week soon came to an end and off we went back to Catterick. Everyone had learned something new and, hopefully, another opportunity to go sailing will soon arise. But remember the sea sickness tablets next time!

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

NCO TRAINING WING
THE RECEIVING END
by an Anonymous Member of RSDCC 255

How do you ruin someone's Christmas? Nominate them for a Detachment Commanders' Course starting in January.

Twenty-two of us had a less than carefree festive period and duly reported in at reception at the Helles Health Farm on 6 January. After being shown our sparse but adequate accommodation, we received the first of many 'talk to's' by the amiable, smiling Green Coats. Feelings of trepidation were quickly dispelled only to be replaced by stark fear.

The initial BFT was conducted in a near 'White Out', common in these parts, and the few amongst us that had taken part in the odd langlauf were at a distinct advantage. Intake tests safely negotiated and up the severe learning curve for the remainder of week one. Death by viewfoil must be the most severe punishment known to man; the mental pain brought about by this means of persuasion has been developed into a fine art in NCO Training Wing.

The second week saw the first of a stream of written exams, punctuated by the odd stroll on 'Gods Acre!'. The continuous pounding of feet accompanied by the ear splitting words of command up and down the corridor of an evening, made the art of private study exceptionally difficult. The fun aspect, however, continued unabated; guided tours, at a somewhat hurried pace, around the pleasant rural setting that makes up Catterick Training Area with the odd break in the Helles Leisure Centre under the gentle and understanding ministrations of **LCpl Paul Meredith.**

Week three and 19 of us left. We were now allocated to our sections for the remainder of the course. Section 1 under the auspices of **Sgt Tony** (Blaneys) **Slaney** and Section 2 under the eagle eye of **Sgt Eric** (The Viking) **Strefford.** Wednesday saw us deploying on Ex Shakedown, which we were led to believe was a nature ramble to study the fauna and flora of the North Yorkshire Moors; how naive can one be? The flora certainly came in handy when attempting to blend into the surrounding countryside, as for the fauna! Well, all other living creatures appeared to have more sense than to be out and about in those conditions.

A more than welcome weekend and a chance to dry out and re-pack our kit prior to the final week. Ex Hermes Challenge—the battle camp, to confirm that all had been imparted and the opportunity for us to prove our worth in a command situation. Funnily enough, the NBC aspect had taken on a completely different perspective during the course and a great deal of interest was evident from everyone (I wonder why). The highlight of the week had to be the section in defence range where **LCpl** 'Taff' **Robins** of 264 Sig Sqn stated his claim for Mr Popularity 1991 by leading the section through a raging stream, doing the leopard crawl, to occupy their defensive positions.

Endex, and I never thought I would feel elated to see the main gates of the Depot Regiment. Eighteen completed the course and all felt that much wiser and confident for having done so. The end of course function saw **Cpl Richardson** of 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt receive the top student award from **Capt Rick Licence** and **Sgt Tony Slaney** lifting the inter section shield on behalf of 1 Section. Our thanks to all the 'Green Coats' of Helles Health Farm for their warmth and hospitality over the four weeks and no offence meant, but it's a Cosmos holiday next time!

Detachment Commanders Course 255
7 January 1991-1 February 1991
Fourth Row (L to R): LCpls Fogg, Robins, Fowler, Shuck, Marlowe, Smith and Reynolds
Third Row (L to R): LCpls Cordery, Herron, Cpl Maclean, LCpls McIntyre, Cowlard and Cpl Richardson
Second Row (L to R): LCpl Whitty, Cpl McConachie, LCpls Blurton, Wood, Cpls Brown and Heath
Front Row (L to R): Sgt A. V. Slaney, Sgt E. T. Strefford, WO2 (SSM) Chapman, Capt R. A. Licence, Sgt A. Terry and LCpl P. Meredith

AN ODE TO A RSDCC INSTRUCTOR

You'll see him in the morning
You'll see him in the night
You'll see him in your guntrench
He'll give you such a fright.

You can hear his voice from far away
there's no mistaking it
It's full of Irish blarney
and a touch of subtle wit.

He'll tell you about the things he's done
and the things he's oft times seen
I've even heard the rumour
he's related to the Queen.

He often pulls up a sandbag
You can hear that lantern creak
but most of his war stories
are told with tongue in cheek.

He sends you out on patrol
and then he'll disappear
then when you think it's safe to rest
he'll suddenly appear.

Now who is this man I talk of
with Irish wit that's canny
If you haven't guessed by now my boys
His name, it rhymes with NAAFI.

Anon

3 SQUADRON
IRON TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd **Lt P. Cubbin**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Cauldwell**, Tp Cpls **Cpls Brown, Shiels, Wallace**

Second term finished off with a Games Night against Kohima Tp. It was a good night, with the competition being decided by a Pool Match, Tp Comd and Tp Sgt Iron against Tp Comd and Tp Sgt Kohima. The line up was; **Lt** 'Mole' **Cubbin** and **Sgt** 'Yogi' **Cauldwell** vs **Lt** 'Boy' **Youngson** and **Sgt** 'Pouch Master' **Edminson**. The game went down to a black ball pressure shot, which **Sgt** 'Yogi' **Cauldwell** slotted away. (Hurricane Higgins look out!)

The third term programme looks very good with the SA80 Rifle being introduced, two weeks in the field, a week battle shooting and a week's skiing being just some of the things to look forward to.

The term started off with the Juniors having a 'Bart Simpson' haircut look-a-like Competition. The first three places going to: **JLdr** 'Elephant Man' **Connors, JLdr** 'Zippy' **Baber** and **JLdr** 'Luke' **Grierson**. Their prize? An extra visit to the barber.

The first Inter Troop Competition of the term was the Log Race, probably the hardest competition physically during the course. Iron Troop won this very convincingly with all three sections winning their race. Section 2 having the fastest time of the day. Well done Iron Tp, only two more to catch up!

Congratulations go to **JLdr** 'Enoch' **Powell** and **JLdr** 'Vic' **James** for being selected to play for the Army U19s Rugby Team.

BATTLEAXE TROOP

Tp Comd **Lt P. A. Smith**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Robinson**, Tp Cpls **Cpls Giles, Leyland, Moore**

Battleaxe Tp have made steady progress throughout the term and have been extremely enthusiastic in their training. We are confident of winning the inter-troop competition; however, this has suffered a slight set back with losing the swimming competition to Ulster Tp. However, with half of the Squadron Rugby Team in the Troop we should at least win the Rugby.

The first term ended with a week of end of term reports, troop party, and the long awaited promotions parade. Junior Leaders: **Bremner, Callander, Jenkinson** and **Rawbone** were all promoted to JLCpl. We then had a combined Battleaxe/Ulster Tp party, the cabaret was provided by a Hypnotist, which a few members of the Troop would rather forget.

We have got a very busy term ahead of us with Ex Second Venture (Military Training Exercise) skiing in Scotland, Troop range week and Troop Summer Camp at Scarborough.

Finally I would like to say thank you to **Cpl Terry** 'Press Ups' **Shiels** for all his hard work in the last term, as he has now gone over to Iron Tp. Also congratulations to **Cpl Monty Moore** and his wife **Angie** on the birth of their baby boy, **Simon**.

Iron Tp extending their lead over Kohima Tp (in background)

CATERING STAFF

The Master Chef **WWO2 Phyl Norris**, who has been with the Regiment for four years, retires from the Army shortly, she will be replaced by **WO2 Mick Dance** from 8 Sig Regt. Like most Units we have provided Chefs to Op Granby, namely **Cpl Pete Palmer** and **Pte Micky Tomlinson**. We wish them both a safe return.

Our one and only WRAC Pte, **Maxine Moore**, has rejoined us from Northern Ireland where she spent a very successful six months attached to 1st Battalion The Gordon Highlanders.

13 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

RHQ PERSONALITIES

CO **Lt Col A. M. Wallace**
2IC **Maj G. R. Elliot MBE**

Adjt **Capt M. Griffiths**, AAdjt **Lt J. Collis**, RSM **WO1 (RSM) Dobson**, Trg YofS **WO1 (YofS) McMahon**, Chief Clerk **WO2 (ORQMS) Armitage.**

13 Sig Regt are the new Corps BAOR Orienteering champions. The competition took place over 8/9 November and was organised by **Maj Pat MacCulloch** and controlled by **Sgt Phil Mathews**, both of HQ Sqn. With four regular team members either organising, detached or on leave, the eight man squad was not at its strongest. Led by **Capt Phil Brown**, a recent arrival and veteran of the severe SW District league in UK, everyone ran consistently over both days to stave off the closest contenders, 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

The first day, the individual cross country event held at RAF Bruggen, saw some very notable performances.

Capt Phil Brown finished the same course in 79 minutes only a few seconds behind and runner up to the new Corps BAOR individual champion, **SSgt Rose** of 22 Sig Regt. By the end of day one, the team had established a lead of 18 minutes over 3 ADSR with 4 ADSR and 22 Sig Regt just behind them. There was no room for complacency on day two of the competition.

The relay event took place at Arsbeck ranges on a bright but bitterly cold day. Major Unit teams had to divide their eight nominated runners from day one into two relay teams of four. The times of both of these teams would then be added to the day one time to form an overall competition time. Any one member getting disqualified at this stage would disqualify the team. For this reason cautionary tactics were required. Despite an excellent first leg run by **Sgt Paul Edon**, by the half way stage 3 ADSR had a six minute lead. Confident runs by **WO2 Alan Geddes** and **SSgt Mark Finch** reduced this lead to three minutes leaving the glory runs to **Capts John Lugg** and **Phil Brown**. Given the advantage from day one, the growing mood of confidence turned to delight as both runners finished well in the lead four minutes ahead of 3 ADSR to end over 22 minutes ahead over both days and clear winners.

The Orienteering Team

COMMS TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd **Maj R. W. Mansfield MBE**
YofS **SSgt P. Barrett**
Tp Sgt **Sgt D. Piggott, Sgts P. Garside, P. McSorley, WSgt S. Connery, WCpl E. Wilson.**

ANNUAL BOWLING/POOL COMPETITION

Once again the Troop held its Inter Shift Bowling (Kegel Bahn) and Individual Pool Competitions, which again proved to be a very good night out. In the bowling last year's winners D Shift, stumbled badly and went out in the first rounds, leaving the way clear for the ever popular day shirkers Troop administrators team to cruise through and win the competition with little opposition.

Winning team: **Maj Rod Mansfield, SSgt Paul Barrett, Sgt Dave Piggot, Cpl Nige Goodwin** and **WLCpl Tracey Gooding.**

In the Pool Competition last year's winner **Cpl Nige Goodwin** managed to reach the final again after some narrow escapes, his opponent **Cpl Roy Hallam** had a similar route to the final. The stage was set. Could **Nige** retain the title? Nail biting stuff, a black ball game, the result a new Troop champion, well done **Roy**, nice try **Nige**.

Cpl Evans receives the Troop Plaque from the Troop Comd

FAREWELL

On the same evening the Troop bade a fond farewell to **Cpl Carol Evans**, one of the Troops longest serving members. All the best to you and your husband **Carol** in your new postings.

CONGRATULATIONS

Finally, congratulations to **Cpl Steve** and **Mrs Holdcroft, LCpl** and **Mrs Phil Robson** on the birth of their sons.

ALPHA TROOP
INTER TROOP FIVE-A-SIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

It was back to business for Alpha Tp to endeavour to regain the trophy that Bravo Tp had stolen some six months earlier. We were grateful for the excellent facilities kindly put at our disposal again by the town of Wassenberg.

The first match saw us beat Bravo Tp 1—0 with a penalty from team capt, **LCpl Gaz Campbell**.

Next match was against a strong looking Charlie Tp side, however goals from **LCpl Benno Benson** and again **Gaz Campbell** saw us triumph 2—0.

Next to fall were Comms Tp, who were heavily punished by Alpha Tp, the final score 7—0. Four goals from **LCpl 'Gravy' Browning**, two from **Benno** and one from **LCpl** The Cat **McKinna**. With **Sgt Knight** ruining our 100 per cent defensive record by letting in an easy goal.

Into the semi final against SHQ Tp. **Benno Benson** did an excellent job marking SHQ's BAOR centre forward **Cpl Craig Shrives** out of the game. A square ball from **Sgt Shane Knight** saw **LCpl Browning** hit a well placed shot wide of the goalkeeper for the only goal of the match.

The final between Alpha and Charlie Tp was a one sided affair with Charlie Tp's goal coming under constant attacks. Goals from **Browning, Knight, Campbell** and **Benson**, with a late consolation goal from Charlie Tp saw the final finish 4—1 in Alpha Tp's favour. The event being enjoyable for all. A well organised event which saw Alpha Tp regain the trophy.

H TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd **Capt R. S. Appleton**
SSM **WO2 M. A. Wright-Jones**
FofS **SSgt M. Drake**, M Chef **Sgt Grant.**

BAND CONCERT

After receiving a tip that the Corps staff band might be available for a short while during a tour of BAOR, the Tp Comd booked them to visit the Troop.

The problem with Dannenberg is that the locals expanded on 3 October to include several thousand more Germans and so a venue was required which could comfortably seat 400 people. The trademark of Dannenberg is the friendship and cooperation that the Troop enjoys with the Stadt and, as ever, they were more than happy to assist us and gave us the free use of the Realschule Halle for the evening.

Sgt Snowy **Snowball** stepped backwards and volunteered to take on one of the, now famous, projects from the OC's office and set about advertising and selling tickets in and around the town. The Troop voted to donate all of the profits from the evening to the 'Lebenshilfe', a local charity which provides a workshop for mentally and handicapped people.

The staff band marched smartly into the hall to begin the evening's entertainment, a varied programme. The 'Scarlet' and 'Gold' introduction of marching music gave way to 'Mercury' who received a tremendous ovation for their melody of blues.

The balance between formal military music and light hearted fun was just right. With audience participation in such old favourites as old MacDonald's Farm and the well known trombone solo. Director of music, **Capt David Wall** and his musicians enjoyed the occasion as much as every one else present. The staff band was thanked by the Burgermeister of Dannenberg, **Herr Predoehl** and urged to play again in the town as soon as possible. In addition to providing a superb evening of military music the Troop raised a total of DM 795 which will provide much needed equipment for the Lebenshilfe workshop.

Capt Bert Appleton presenting the cheque to Herr Wolf-Ederhard Grasshaff

14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 23

FUNCTIONS AND ENTERTAINMENT

The Families Information Centre is organising a range of trips and outings. The latest enterprise has been a Wives' and Childrens' Sunday Lunch. It was a great party. A great deal of the praise for its success must be firmly placed at the door of the Master Chef and his staff, who provided a very comprehensive menu, which looked and tasted excellent.

STADT CELLE

The Stadt is taking an interest in the needs of our families during these trying times and they have generously organised a day at the local indoor sports hall where Op Granby wives and their children may use, without charge, followed by 'cafe und kuchen' for all concerned. More to follow. Well done Stadt Celle.

EXERCISE PLAYFUL HORSE 2

Ex Playful Horse 2 in November was a visit to the French Commando Training Centre, L'Entrainement du Commando, at Briesach, on the Rhine near Freiburg. Thirty six members of the Regiment took part in what proved to be one of the most exciting and demanding 'exercises' most of us have experienced. The reason for the visit was to attend the French commando course, and if possible qualify for the 'Commando Entrainement' badge. It turned out to be a great prelude to preparing to go elsewhere.

The 36 lucky volunteers were formed into a Platoon, which in turn became part of an English company, make up of the 14 Sig Regt (EW) Platoon, and two other Platoons from 3 LI in Sennelager. As they were short of officers **2Lt Richard Spencer** found himself commanding one of their Platoons. The French course system is markedly different from our own, and we soon realised that we were expected to administer ourselves. Three companies made up the complete course, the other two being Fench. (One had a Platoon of German paratroopers, and the other a Section of US infantry.) These companies were about 150 strong, but only about 10 from each actually did the course. The remainder were there to provide the admin back-up. Our company had about 100 on the course, with an admin staff of six!

We arrived at Briesach in good time to settle into our accommodation. Officers and SNCOs were then taken off for what was laughingly known as the 'chicken' test. This turned out to be a quick flip round some of the more frightening parts of the aerial obstacle courses. Officers and Seniors therefore had the chance to 'chicken out' without getting embarrassed in front of their Platoons/ Sections. In the event, no one took advantage of this opportunity, although there were several close calls!

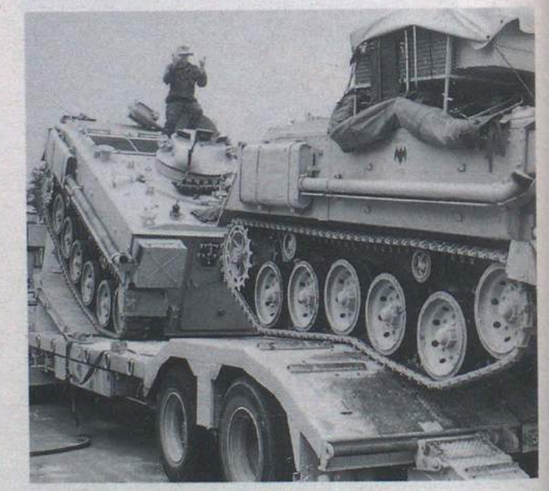
The course proper started the following morning with a set of physical tests to ensure that students were up to a minimum standard of fitness. These, we found, were not too demanding. These tests were an 8km speed march, with weapon and bergen (8kg in the bergen, and no webbing) to be completed in one hour, followed by 25 sit ups, 17 press ups, 3 heaves to the chest (with the palms of your hands pointing away from you), and a 5m rope climb, using arms only. This was indeed the minimum standard necessary for the course, as the next two weeks proved. A lot of time was spent hanging off steel wires high in the air, jumping from tree to tree (also high in the air!), crossing water obstacles (including the Rhine) using a variety of techniques from boats to single rope, and hand to hand combat. Also included were practical lessons on explosives, and 'Vie en Campagne', which can be roughly translated as 'Living in the Field'. This was a mixture of combat survival techniques, and tactics used on commando style raids.

The course was run in a manner which many of us found odd to begin with. The instructors did not shout, rant and rave at students as we would expect on this type of course. They taught their subjects, using very well structured lessons, and it was then left to the chain of command within the Company, Section or Platoon to see that everyone understood and put the necessary effort in. It was also left to the Platoon commanders to get their Platoon to the right place at the right time with the correct equipment. This was not easy to begin with, as all instruction, including the written training programme, was in French. However, with a lot of help from three French Canadian soldiers attached to us, we managed.

The final phase of the course was a three day raid exercise. Unfortunately events elsewhere in the world intervened, and we were recalled to Celle so could not take part. However, the Commandant of the Centre awarded the 'Commando Entrainement' certificate and badge to all who had successfully completed the course up to the day of departure.

It was an experience that none of us will forget, and our thanks go to all who made it possible. These include the cadre staff at the Centre Entrainement, and to the staff at 21 Liaison Headquarters in Baden for their help and assistance in getting us the places on the course.

The Installation Team in location



Concentrated Off-Loading

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTORS IN SAUDI ARABIA

Tax Free Salary

Cable and Wireless, the worldwide telecommunications group, has established a nationwide telecommunications network for the Saudi National Guard. Training is an integral and important part of the project at the National Guard's new and superbly equipped training school where theoretical and practical telecommunication skills are taught.

Great emphasis is placed on the importance of producing good, effective, teaching materials, and we have immediate vacancies for the following skilled personnel:

Senior Technical Instructor

Tax Free Salary in excess of £18,000 pa.

to teach Military Skills and Operating Procedures to Saudi Arabian National Guard Signal Corps Officers, at Primary, Basic and Advanced levels.

The successful applicant will have served at least fifteen years in the Royal Signals and will have completed his service as either a Yeoman of Signals in Warrant Officer rank or a Traffic Officer in commissioned rank. A large portion of his military career will have involved working in, and possibly being in charge of, a training unit's exercise troop.

Knowledge of "state-of-the-art" developments in radio communications is essential and detailed knowledge of Trunk Radio Communications is desirable.
Ref: 1038/TW.

Technical Instructors

Tax Free Salary in excess of £17,500 pa.

to instruct small groups of National Guard Technicians. The successful applicants must have at least five years relevant experience including a minimum of two years formal teaching. Qualification to HND/HNC or equivalent level (Artificer Telecommunications (REME), Foreman of Signals (Royal Signals), Radio Artificer (RN), Chief Technician (RAF) would be ideal). Knowledge of "state-of-the-art" equipment developments in one or more of the following fields to Technician level is also required:

- STATIC RADIO:– HF Microwave (including Tropospheric Scatter)
- MOBILE RADIO:– Tactical
- TERMINAL EQUIPMENT

Ref: 1199/TW.

We are offering renewable contracts of approximately 12 months duration excluding leave on either bachelor status with free board and lodging or married accompanied status in free furnished apartments. The contract includes generous leave with all air fares provided. Ninety per cent of fees at the local British School are paid for up to two children. Salaries are paid tax-free, based on the exchange rate SR6.5 = £1. Applicants should have a valid British Passport and a UK driving licence. Previous experience of the Middle East would be an advantage.

If you are leaving the services in the near future please send full details, quoting appropriate reference number and giving a daytime telephone number, to: The Recruitment Officer, SANGCOM Project, Cable and Wireless, plc., New Mercury House, 26 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4UQ, or telephone 071-315 5041 (24 hour Answerphone) for an application form.

Cable and Wireless plc
THE WORLD TELEPHONE COMPANY

16 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC — **Maj Jim Harris**
2IC — **Capt Pete Doherty MBE**

SSM **WO2 Babs Davis WRAC**, SQMS **SSgt Mal Talbot**, OC O Tp **Lt Bob Waller.**

SPORTS NEWS

The Squadron had a reasonable amount of success towards the end of last year. The Chief of Staff's Cup Competition was concluded with the final discipline. The cross country, won by ourselves. Having previously won two events, namely basketball and cricket, this placed us fourth overall against stiff opposition. The Football Team, under new management now that **Capt Jeff Downey** has gone to 12 Bde continues to go from strength to strength, under the watchful eye of **WO2 Ian Atherton**. Many thanks to **Jeff** for his endeavours. We hope we may win a trophy or two this season.

The girls team quickly put their disappointment in not qualifying in the netball behind them and acquitted themselves extremely well in the BAOR Women's Services Basketball, finishing runners up and qualifying for the UK Finals in 1991.

Runners up in the Womens BAOR Basketball

MUSEUM FUND

Like the rest of the Corps the Squadron has been doing its bit. A number of fund raising activities over the year realised the grand sum of over DM 3,000 and this does not include other contributions in the form of raffle ticket purchases.

VISITS

Our small RAF contingent was pleased to receive a visit from Deputy Commander RAF(G) **Air Vice Marshal P. J. Harding**. Not to be outdone the WRAC were delighted to welcome Commander WRAC (BAOR) **Col M. S. Wing**.

WSgt Pomeroy conducts commander WRAC BAOR around Telephone House

ARCHIBALD CUP

The soccer season came a little early to Krefeld as the Regiment played host to the Archibald Cup. It is a soccer competition held each year since 1982 and was the brainchild of **General Archibald** commander of 43 Sig Comd (VG) at that time.

The tournament is competed for by teams representing the United States, Great Britain, Canada, France and Germany. All the teams except the Canadians are communication units which adds a little interest to the occasion. Sadly, the Germans were unable to compete this year and so in order to keep the competition keenly contested a second regimental side was formed.

Of course it was **General Archibald**'s intention that the competition would also provide opportunity for friendships to be formed and this is still the objective.

The Reception Social held on the Friday night saw language barriers quickly dismantled and soccer and the recently held World Cup were of course very much on the conversational agenda.

Club Captain and Barman **Cpl Micky Mann** flapped, to say the least, as he saw his weekend stock slowly but surely disappearing.

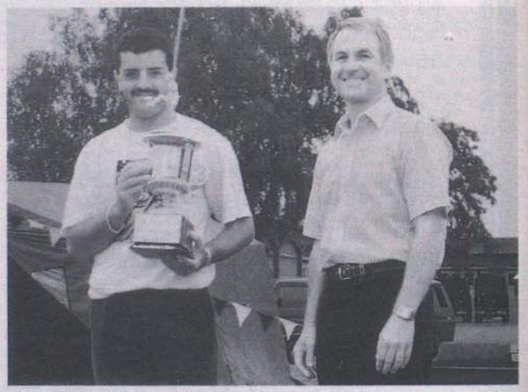
The opening game saw the French playing against the Regiment which the French won 2—0. The next game saw the American team aquit itself well against a strong and skilful Canadian side. The Canadians proved too strong for their North American neighbours by 5—0.

Match three saw the Regiment 'B' team play the quick and agile French. The 'B' team played well and surprised the French by their resilience and guile with **Capt Pete Doherty** holding together the back four and **RSM Butch Maycock** creating havoc up front. The RSM scored the only goal conceded by the French over the entire weekend.

Saturday night and the traditional Archibald 'Thrash' together with an All Ranks disco and barbecue turned out to be a celebration of some magnitude.

The final day of the competition saw fine encounters, especially by the Canadians, who defeated the Regiment 'A' team 1—0. The Regiment 'B' team had a fine match against the USA with **Maj Tim Bushell** (Regtl 2IC) making a guest appearance on the wing.

A tremendous weekend was concluded with 4 Sig Gp, **Col P. E. A. Chaddock**, presenting the Coveted Trophy to the French Captain. The French will host the 1991 competition.



Col P. E. A. Chaddock Comd 4 Sig Gp presents the Archibald Cup to the French Captain

EXERCISE LIONESS SUCCESS II
by Lt M. M. Watson WRAC

Ex Lioness Success II was the CO, 16 Sig Regt JNCO Cadre Course. There were 21 lucky candidates for this ten day extravaganza, and four eager members of the DS champing at the bit ready for the off. The Training Wing had produced their usual well designed programme under the guidance of **Capt Nick Caleb** and **WO2 Barry Spiers**. The girls from Krefeld, Rheindahlen and Bielefeld were given a taste of what was to come by doing a BFT within two hours of arriving.

The course covered all aspects of military training with the usual First Aid, NBC and weapon training slots with military law, methods of instruction and oral orders with the added excitement of command tasks and log runs. The oral orders proved to be a great builder of confidence, particularly when a certain member of the DS arrived during the "Execution General Outline" with **Col M. S. Wing**, Commander WRAC BAOR and Berlin.

The field exercise was a suitable crescendo. Haltern training area produced the weather ordered by **WO2 Spiers**, starting with rain, sleet and snow, nicely rounding off the freezing fog and strong winds. (The sun did shine but the course were all immersed in sleeping bags in the back of a four tonner on the way back to Krefeld and no one noticed . . . I wonder why?)

The girls competently handled such diverse subjects as the close quarter battle range, ambush recces, ambushes and particularly realistic 'sim cas' (ably performed by the course 'sickies'—there was no escape!). Safely back in Krefeld with the end of the course in sight, the square received the biggest battering of its life since resurfacing. **Pte Campbell** excelled at taking the parade and Commander Rear Combat Zone, **Brig R. M. Bullock** was suitably impressed. The success of the parade and the impeccable display of drill clearly showed the team spirit and pride of the girls.

Back Row: LCpl Tettersell, Ptes Mercer, Wright, Howells, LCpls Burdon, Houston, Sykes, Ptes Lawrence, Motson, Cocks and LCpl Cooper
Centre Row: Ptes Ireland, Upson, Yule, Whitfield, Campbell, Baggaley, Jones, LCpl Pearson, Ptes Farragher and LCpl Stroudley
Front Row: SSgt Fluck, Lt Watson, WO2 Spiers and Cpl Dean

Left to Right: Commander RCZ Brig R. M. Bullock, Cpl (Dixi) Dean, WLCpl Cooper and WPte Lawrence

21 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

VISIT OF ADJUTANT GENERAL

The Adjutant General, **Gen Sir David Ramsbotham**, visited the Regiment on Tuesday 29 January. After being met by the CO, **Lt Col Ham**, and the RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Ashwell**, the General was given a brief on the Regiments' diverse role in Op Granby by the Ops Officer, **Capt Dave Wright**.

However, the main aim of the visit was to meet wives of personnel deployed on Op Granby and see the facilities provided for them in the Regiments' Families Information Centre (FIC). The CO escorted the General to the FIC where the Families Officer, **Capt Les Wood**, briefed him. The FIC is a focal point for the Granby wives where they collect mail, are able to seek advice or just have a coffee and a chat. The centre is run by **SSgt Geordie Bincliffe**, ably assisted by **Sgt Dave Bunt, Sig Vince Prince, Mike Bulman** and **Bagsy Bagnall**.

After the FIC the General accompanied by **Brig D. L. Burden** (ACOS G1 HQ BAOR) and **Brig R. M. Bullock**, (Comd (BR) RCZ), went to the Beaufighter Rooms where they met a cross section of the Granby wives. **Mrs Valerie Ham**, wife of the CO, introduced the General to **Mrs Jane Hickling** and **Mrs Rose Chaloner** whose husbands are with the Support Helicopter Force and HQ BFME respectively. The General then took tea with the wives spending some considerable time talking to them and listening to their concerns and anxieties.

The Adjutant General talking to Mrs Valerie Ham, Mrs Jane Hickling and Mrs Chris Ashwell whilst ACOS G1 listens attentively

1 SQUADRON
TRUNK NODE COMMANDING
EXPLOITS OF A NEW 'SUBBY'
by 2Lt M. F. Staples

Perhaps the quickest and most entertaining way for seniors and soldiers to get to know their new vibrant Troop Commander is to deploy rapidly on operations. As any new 'Subby' will tell you, the ordeal of joining your first Troop is quite bad enough, without having to pretend you know exactly what's going on after you have been given five minutes notice to move.

The first week began in a civilised fashion, with general introductions and niceties. The first encounter with your new 'Staffie', in my case **SSgt Ken Kennedy**, is an awesome experience. His thoughts are not particularly endearing or generous and he is undoubtedly weighing you up and rapidly reaching the conclusion that you are a complete and utter idiot. You hope you may win him over eventually, and prove your worth both to him and the Troop. That opportunity arose for me in my second week. We were told to deploy to the Munster area to provide static comms for Op Granby. Everything went smoothly, and I felt, in my position, it was far better to sit back and take 'it' all in. I must say at this point, untimely and prying questions when your TN is about to deploy is not a good idea. Be warned, you are sure to incur wrath if you do. It is adviseable to

save them for a more convenient, calmer occasion, preferably not first thing in the morning. Our deployment began one dark evening, and it was to take us until the early hours of the morning to reach our location. I was leading the first packet, and my SSgt the second. Needless to say, the second packet arrived first.

The location turned out to be a monument on an exposed hill-top with a small copse in which to hide our Node-home. This was easier said than done. It took a good hour to position each vehicle. By the time first light had crept upon us, the entire place was resembling some form of slurry pit. The time came for me to practise all those skills that had been beaten into us at Blandford. For the first 36 hours Node Command was, if anything—interesting. With the help of **Sgt Paul Wickham** and **Sgt Paul Choules**, tempers remained calm, if a little 'frayed'. It is at these critical moments that you know that any illusions that your new Troop may have had of you when you first arrived, have been completely shattered.

I eventually crawled into my tent feeling tired, but satisfied that I had at least learnt a great deal on this first deployment. I was most grateful to the 'Siggie' who had kindly put up my '9 × 9' during the small dark hours of the morning, until I was rudely awakened by the sound of my tent flying through the air and landing in the branches of a near-by tree, during an almighty gale that we were experiencing. Needless to say, I was not so grateful to this 'Siggie' who had decided that the guy-ropes should remain redundant.

On its way to the tree however, the tent had landed on the head of **Sig 'Johno' Johnston**, who found himself completely incapacitated by laughter, at the sight of his new Troop Commander running in her long-johns trying to retrieve the tent. All I can say is 'Thank Goodness for long-johns'.

Five days later we were told to pack up and go home. It became clear to me that the fastest, best and most thorough way of getting to know your job, seniors and soldiers, is to deploy rapidly and under pressure, out in the field. You find out for example, who needs to be woken up at 0300 hrs in order for you to speak to them at 0800 hrs—allowing at least five hours and a dozen cups of caffiene for them to speak to you without removing your head. Those who seem to need a 21-gun salute to make them crawl from those nice cosy Army sleeping bags. And of course, those who feel that the verb 'to wash' only applies to the minority not the majority.

It is not easy for anyone joining a new Troop, but with good seniors and soldiers, a pair of eyes and ears, your task becomes very much less daunting, and is actually loads of fun. If all else fails—just learn to make a good cup of coffee.

2Lt Staples Trunk Node Commander conducting a recce for the node home!

2 SQUADRON

Op Granby has also had its effect on 2 Sqn. Some members deployed on phase 1 to reinforce 4 Sqn; some more joined them on Op Granby 1.5 to form a Support Helicopter enhancement and still more were sent to reinforce 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. Our thoughts are with them and we look forward to their safe return (although we are dreading being subjected to their war stories).

The by-word for the remaining 50 odd members of the Squadron has been to continue training for possible Granby deployment and our continuing role in support of Harrier flying operations in NW Europe. 'Normality Rules'; well it would do if it wasn't for Op you know what.

Ex Ice Breaker is the Traditional January Sqn Comd work up exercise to blow away the Christmas cobwebs. This year the Squadron deployed only two Flying Sites as everyone else was either in the Gulf or training to go there, including the Sqn Comd, **Maj** 'Mad' **Adam Ewell**, although like the proverbial penny we've got him back. The acting Sqn Comd **Capt** (Billy Boots) **Hearn** concentrated on trialling the new sleeping system while **SSM** (get your cam cream on) **Whiting** and **Sgt** (Ancient Alec) **Hamilton** got on with running the exercise. Talking of cam cream **LCpls Jones** and **Kemley** were reluctant to marr their smooth white faces and earned an 0200 hrs guard to give them time to think about it. Some novel map reading techniques were displayed by **Sig** (Bullet) **Pilling** on route 58 but he was in good company as the SQMS also took a detour. Individual and detachment skills steadily improved and by endex most of the Radio Ops could operate a Triffid and most of the Lineys could find the end of a cable (if there was a 10 pack there). After such a rare 'dry' exercise the new Squadron tea bar was christened with a few cans.

We have said farewell to **LCpl** (now Mr) **Jim Duncan** and **Sig** (now Mr) **Bob Parry**, we wish them luck in Civvy Street. **Cpl** (now Sgt) **Max Wright** has left for 3 Div. **Cpl** (still Cpl) **Robbie Chivers** has left for his T1 at Catterick and **Cpl** (Robbo) **Robertson** has been sent to raise morale in 28 Sig Regt (they'll find out what we mean when they meet him!). **SSgt (YofS) Terry McHugh** has left to explore the London Underground and join the HAC (V) on well earned promotion; we wish him and **Angie** all the best.

The Squadron Sports teams have continued the tradition of defeating the RAF with the football team being the only surviving Army team in the station league. **Capt** 'Donkey' **Hearn** has proved that the only thing, other than a map, that you must never give an officer is the ball in front of an open goal.

3 SQUADRON
H TROOP (RAF BRUGGEN)
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**Capt Len Carr**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Keith Perkins**

Maint Sgt **Sgt Tim Nicholas**, Projects Sgt **Sgt Steve Brealey**, I/C Techs **Sgt Bill Stadius**, MT NCO **WLCpl Karen Daniel**, Tp Clerk **Mrs Lucy Headley**.

We've got staying power! As most people have recently heard, RAF Wildenrath along with Gutersloh will be closing down. We are sure the RAFG Golf Course at Bruggen has nothing to do with it.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Recent arrivals include: **SSgt Keith Perkins** from Hong Kong, **Sgt Tim Nicholas** from Cyprus, **Cpl George Henry** from Gibraltar, **Cpl Jock Stenhouse** from Cyprus, **LCpl Steve Crook** from HQ Sqn 21 Sig Regt, **LCpl Karen Daniel** from UKLF, **LCpl Andy Jones** from 28 Sig Regt, **Sig Jelly Aston, Cope, Kenyon, King, Little, MacDonald, Setchfield** from Factory, **Sig Moore** from Cyprus and **Sig Wilkinson** from RAFG Systems.

DEPARTURES

Cpl Billy McKeegan to Belize, **LCpls Taddy Tadman** to civvy street and **Sig John Gill** to 262 Sig Sqn.

And all since June 1990. Didn't we do well!

Good luck and thanks.

28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) BFPO 35

EXERCISE SOMBRERO BACKSTOP

Planning for this major adventure training expedition began in January 1990. The location was chosen by **Lt Debs Wadsworth** who spent many hours throwing darts at an atlas in the Foxtrot Tp office. Finally one hit: Mexico here we come!

Much more work was to follow before we took off from Brize Norton, the RAF kept everybody guessing right up to the last minute. **SSgt Angie Warnes** fell at the first hurdle; having procured visas for everyone else, she forgot her own. Despite much frantic telephoning, she had to follow on a week later.

The main body finally touched down at Belize 'international' airport on 21 November and were welcomed by our advance party, **Sgt Martin Bamford**. Any thoughts of blue Caribbean skies were quashed as we were greeted by drizzly rain in Airport Camp. It was, however, very hot which helped to raise morale after a 10 hour flight.

We departed on an epic bus journey rather early on Friday morning. It was nice of the Brigadier to get everyone out of bed to see us off. The ride on a 'Batty Bus' to Chetumal followed by eight hours in the bus station there was a taste of things to come! The Mexican bus drivers' test must involve overtaking uphill whilst approaching a blind bend—the back seats are very popular. Eventually we reached our first destination, Puebla late on Saturday afternoon.

The first objective was the extinct volcano Malinche, 14,656ft. It took another day to reach our first base camp which was high on the northern slopes at 3,000m. **Lt Debs Wadsworth**, assisted by **Capt Ali Mann** also had a chance to practise her Spanish and bartering techniques when we were initially delivered to the wrong place.

At 0400 hrs the summit attempt began, led by **Cpl Sean Morgan**. Some immediately felt the effects of the altitude, **Capt Julian Bunce** narrowly missing **Cpl** (now Sgt) **Alf White** as he decided that his breakfast was unnecessary. Initially the route led along a good track but soon branched off into the trees. It was still dark at this stage. As we crossed the tree line at first light, we could see the whole volcano before us. There was still a long way to go.

Climbing the loose scree slope at 13,000ft was exceptionally hard work. This led to the summit ridge and suddenly we could see the top. One person was overcome by the altitude but the rest pushed on for our goal. At 1130 we arrived and between gasps of breath could enjoy the fantastic views. **Cpl Sean Morgan** posed on some nearby rock pinnacles while the all important summit photographs were taken.

A rapid descent followed and we were back at our base that evening for a well earned beer. From there we moved on to Jalapa to tackle our second peak, Cofre de Perote. This involved more epic bus rides and we were becoming very familiar with bus stations. Incidentially, did **Cpl 'Fish' Herring** really see a Mexican kangaroo?

The climb up Cofre de Perote began in more bright sunshine but the clouds were moving ominously fast. Warm clothes and waterproofs were soon required. After Malinche the summit was rather disappointing—visibility was about 10m and the top was covered with assorted radio equipment. It became known as 'grotty Perote'. Here ended the walking phase and the expedition returned to Airport Camp in Belize, using yet more buses. **LCpl Rick Davey** also learnt not to eat from street vendors.

SSgt Angie Warnes now rejoined in time for two days R & R before the canoeing began. **Sgt Martin Bamford** had been busy scrounging boats from the most unlikely sources including the Belizean Defence Force. Repairing them became a REME task for **LCpl John Lamont** and **Cfn Vince Wells** from our LAD.

For this phase we were lucky to borrow vehicles from the PRI of the Logistic Battalion. Six canoes fitted easily onto the landrover roof but 10 bodies into the minibus was more difficult. The drive north encountered torrential rain and many unsignposted 'topes' (sleeping policemen) which helped to keep both drivers and passengers awake.

Once on the water it rapidly became obvious who had attended the basic canoeing before we left Krefeld. Notable river inspectors included **Sig George Crawford** and especially **Cpl Alf White**. How does he hold his breath so long when upside down? The frequent rain meant the canoeing was very demanding particularly the waterfalls at Aqua Azul. Most were daunted but not **Cpl Chris Hall** who showed considerable courage in joining the experts for a memorable paddle. Others had enough problems walking up the bank.

From Palenque we moved to the coast for some sea canoeing. The surf proved quite sufficient to overturn everybody including the instructors. Even **Capt Julian Bunce** was seen briefly to inspect the marine life! Offshore canoeing proved less popular particularly if your canoe is leaking badly as **LCpl Rick Davey** discovered.

On the last morning the expedition hired a boat and guide and went out snorkelling on the reef. Scrambled egg for breakfast is not recommended, however as our leader demonstrated.

Back in Belize three people were forced to stay an extra week because of problems with the flights. At least **Cpl Alf White** finally managed to learn to eskimo roll. It was a fascinating and educational expedition and all who took part would like to thank the Corps for its very generous sponsorship.

The Summit of Malinche

The party pose at Aqua Azul

HANDOVER OF RSM

WO1 (RSM) Bob O'Hara handed over to **WO1 (RSM) Trev Jones** on 25 January 1991. **RSM O'Hara** was dined out in style by both the Corporals' and Sergeants' Messes being received into the Officers Mess late on Saturday night. We wish him, his wife **Maureen** and son **Paul** all the best for the future, commencing at 4 Armd Div.

The RSMs hand over

RHQ

Maj Hugh Goodman has left on promotion to the School of Signals. We wish him and his wife **Monica** the very best. **Maj Ian Grant** has taken over and is already grappling with establishment and other problems. **Capt Julian Bunce** was summoned back from Ex Sombrero Backstop to become Adjutant in place of **Capt Chris Richards** who went to join **Sig Steve Brown** in the Gulf. Good luck to you both.

Otherwise it remains business as usual back here with a very full exercise programme. The Chief Clerk **WO2 (ORQMS) Chris Martin** presides over the Orderly Room team when not away playing hockey or windsurfing. Rumour has it he may even have applied for an advanced skiing course! He is ably assisted by **Sgt John Salvesen** who has the unenviable task of attempting to supervise **LCpl Andy Brown, Sig Paul Mason** and **Ian Hambly**.

Inside the Ops room the little and large show continues with **WO1 (FofS) Colin Turner** and **WO1 (YofS) Andy Baron**. They are able assistants (or is it the other way round?) to **Capts Stuart Macrostie** and **Jack Cowen**. One must not forget the Secure Room team of **SSgt Angie Warnes** and **Cpl Mark Allen** who beaver away behind closed doors, or so they would have everyone believe.

Down the corridor is the UAO and Pay Office which is usually far too busy telling the rest of us how busy they are to actually do any work. With a team like this you could rule the world!

The Chief Clerk. Out Tray is empty, In Tray is full!

The workers: Sig Ian Hambly, Cpl Mark Allen (at photocopier), Sig Paul Mason

2 SQUADRON
OSCAR TROOP
EXERCISE CANARY CAPER 1/91

We got the feeling that an exercise was imminent when the 2IC sent his combats to the dry cleaners. We went off with our NATO Allies and set up the complex in the German barracks in Essen. We were, as usual, out to prove 2 Sqn never lose communication—well, hardly ever! On the odd occasion when we do, the fault can always be found with the Germans, Dutch, Belgians, Americans or failing everyone else, it's bound to be 1 Sqn!

To everyone's surprise communication was established very quickly allowing **WO2 (YofS) 'Di' Jones** to get back to his crossword, whilst **Cpl Smale** kept the whole of NATO busy with his one message! The power det had an excellent exercise, **LCpl** 'Taff' **Carr** and **Sig Frankie Greenwood** kept the kettles boiling in DCO's for **Sig Mark Lamont** to keep the overworked SNCOs going with a constant supply to tea.

With the Admin area policed by **Sig Waite** and the cooking supervised by **Pte Andrea Amos, Sgt Mark Thomas** was able to catch up on his sleep. The return to camp went very well with only the MT Sgt breaking down!

HELLOS AND FAREWELLS

The Troop welcomes **Cpls Al Keeps**, Jock **Gunn** and **LCpl Max Smedley**.

We say farewell to **Cpl** 'Groucho' **Walters** and congratulations on promotion, **Cpl** 'Snip' **Smith, LCpl Bedborough** and 'Shark' **Finn**.

PAPA TROOP

Some members of the Troop volunteered to do Ammo Guards (after finding out there were some 'claims' to be had).

SNOW QUEEN

Two members of the Troop **Lt Jayne Bell**, IC Snow Queen and **LCpl Pete Raku** an instructor are now based at the Snow Queen Hut.

PROMOTION

Congratulations to **Cpl Alfie White** on promotion to Sgt and posting to Belize. We wish him well.

ARRIVALS

We would like to welcome the following to the Troop: **Cpls Chris Bywaters, Pom Pomeroy** and **Sig Ritchie Raw**.

THOSE LEAVING

The following have escaped Papa Tp's grasp. So it's goodbye to: **Lt Jayne Bell** on promotion to Captain to NITAT UK, **Cpl Grinnell** to 30 Sig Regt, **Cpl Trev** (PTI) **Harrison** to 35 Sig Regt (V), **Sig Chris Pinnock** to 8 Sig Regt and **LCpl Jock Barrie, Sig Gary Steed** and **Blakey** to NI.

LOVELY NEWS

A typical Techs diary for a week ie: **Cpl Freak**.

Monday 4 February: I should be a Sgt, I work very hard.

Tuesday 5 February: Oh no! PT again, but good news, I got promoted. I am a Sgt.

Wednesday 6 February: No hangover, wife has my wallet.

Thursday 7 February: 1130 hrs wife has baby, I am a daddy.

Friday 8 February: Do not wake me. On leave.

Congratulations to **Sgt** and **Mrs Freak** on the birth of your daughter **Kelly Elizabeth**. Best wishes for the future from the lads.

SUPPORT SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd **Maj Peter Robinson**
2IC **Capt Paul Messenger RPC**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Joe Harris,** SQMS **SSgt Dave Clark**.

1990 produced some notable achievements. **Capt Paul Messenger RPC** won the RCZ individual rifle shooting. The BFT 2 Inter Troop Competition was won by Support Alpha with some excellent performances. **LCpl Steve Towers** was first overall in 7 min 15 sec and the Adjutant, **Capt Chris Richards** was second in 7 min 20 sec. Other outstanding performances came from the RSM and SSM. Support Bravo won the Regimental Inter Troop Cross Country Competition to further embarrass the Sabre Squadrons.

Support Squadron continues to be the busiest in the Regiment—just count the number of sports afternoons the SSM manages these days. To men as skilled as these, however, keeping the Regiment fed, clothed, administered and technically sound is not a problem.

TM TROOP
COMING AND GOINGS

We have said goodbye to the following recently—**Cpl Andy Garlick** and his wife **Jackie** and **Cpls Sean Cook, Mick Cameron** and **Mick Simcock** to Catterick on T1. **Cpl John (Davva) Daveron** to 259 Sig Sqn to join our old boss **Capt John Phillips. SSgt Tony Lucas** to 16 Sig Regt (not more football) we offer him congratulations on his marriage to **Michelle**.

ARRIVALS

We would like to wish our new boss **Capt Bob Morley** and his family a happy tour in TM Tp.

TROOP ACTIVITIES

Capt John Phillips got some new cycling equipment for his birthday and so in late summer/early autumn Mike Tp took to the cycling paths of the Krefeld area. During the summer we paid a visit to SHAPE to see the types of equipment in use there. We visited many communications areas in the SHAPE area including a satellite ground station. All were of much interest and all too soon it was time to return to St Tonis. We would like to thank **Lt Col R. Saville** for allowing us to see so many interesting and varied systems, and **WO1 (RSM) C. Greig** for looking after us.

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30 Sig Regt
Blandford Camp

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES
OC Sqn — **Capt Tony Burgin**
OC A & B Tps — **Lt Simon Payne**
Ops **WO2 (FofS) Terry Inman, SSgt (YofS) Keith Emmerson,** SSM **Sgt Tim Hopkins,** Spearhead **Cpl Mal Maloney,** Det Comd **Cpl Andy Lane.**

The bulk of the Squadron returned from Saudi Arabia just prior to Christmas, and took well deserved leave. **Capt Tony Burgin** took on the demanding role of OC Sqn, while **SSgt Dougie Wright** barely had time to say hello again to his wife before leading 24 members of the Squadron back south.

WO2 (FofS) Terry Inman and **SSgt (YofS) Keith Emmerson**—the famous 'Ops without a cause' have survived the shock of having no equipment to play with remarkably well, and have entertained themselves inventing new ways to bodge RACAL's 522 HF stations.

The Squadron welcomes **Lt Simon Payne,** just returned from a strenuous tour in Belize. We also welcome **Sgt Martin Henley** who takes over as SQMS from **Sgt** 'Civvy' **Flagg.**

Congratulations go to **LCpl Dutch Swain** and his wife **Nicola** on the birth of their third son **Philip.** A special mention also goes to **Sgt Tim Hopkins** who has progressed from Troop Cpl to SSM in 10 months. A 'profitable war'.

Sig 'Can I have a real job please' **Phillips** is thoroughly enjoying his new found role as Squadron Clerk, while **Cpls Andy Lane** and **Mal Maloney** have resigned themselves to the realities of Spearhead (again), for the foreseeable future.

The outbreak of hostilities in Saudi Arabia has also meant that some of our Squadron are reinforcing Commcens around the country. The few of us left here wait patiently for that special interview which precedes a sun-drenched holiday in the sand. Our thoughts are with our friends and comrades in Saudi Arabia, and we wish them all a speedy and safe return.

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON
TM Troop by Sgt Lewenden

SSgt (FofS) Garry Annetts is armed with two German Shepherd Dogs. Does he need protection? We were expecting to have loads of people spare after roulements returned from the Gulf but, alas, other commitments have taken their roll. **Sgt Bob Buckingham** and his likely lads, **Cpls Les Dawson, Dave O'Shea** and **Tony Vince** are off back to top up their tans in the desert.

Farewell to **WO2 (FofS) John Scully** (going all the way to the School) and to **WO2 Derek Payne;** also our adieus go to **Cpls Ken Hughes** and **Wayne Pinhorn.** We actually also said goodbye (and drank his contribution!) to **Cpl Bernie Bernard** but luckily his posting was cancelled the same day! So we'll be able to do it all again sometime.

We have a couple of new members in the Troop. Welcomes are extended to **Cpls John Martin** and **Ray King** and a special mention to **LCpl Dan Owens.** He is an ex-Dog Handler from the RAVC and has been drafted in to assist the FofS with his pack!

250 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON
GURKHAS IN THE GULF

The first Gurkha soldiers flew to Saudi Arabia on 13 October 1990 and, to date a Queen's Gurkha Officer (QGO), **Lt Karnasher Tamang,** and 25 soldiers have been deployed to the Gulf in various communication detachments in Riyadh, Seeb, Dhahran and Bahrain using equipment which is not only new to them, but to others too. A further 12 soldiers from Queen's Gurkha Signals have also been deployed on various communication tasks.

'W' TROOP ON ARCTIC EXERCISE

After a week's pre-training in Bulford Camp, one Queen's Gurkha Officer, **Lt Dorje Tamang** and 15 soldiers flew to Norway on 29 January. They are attached to 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) for Ex Hard Fall, an Arctic exercise.

SQN COMD

The Sqn Comd is **Maj A. P. R. Roberts, Maj N. D. Couch,** is at RMCS Shrivenham.

SOCIAL EVENT

Bournemouth Centre Concert in aid of the Gurkha Welfare Appeal was held on 17 November 1990. The following represented the Squadron: **Capt (GCO) Lilbahadur Gurung, Lt (QGO) Dorje Tamang, Cpl Mankaji Gurung** and **Sig Gopalkrishna Rai.**

FAREWELL

250 Gurkha Sig Sqn bade farewell to the outgoing CO 30 Sig Regt, **Lt Col G. N. Donaldson OBE** on 21 December 1990. **Lt Col Donaldson** was deployed to the Gulf before handing over command to **Lt Col S. J. Kidner.**

A farewell party was held in the Jubilee Hall where the CO was received by SQGO **Capt (QGO) Mohandahadur Thapa** who also took the opportunity of introducing him to two Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officers (QGOOs), **Capt (QGO) Sukbahadur Rai** 10 GR and **Capt (QGO) Padambahadur Gurung** 6 GR, who were invited to join the farewell.

During the party the OC, **Maj N. D. Couch,** made a short speech while the SQGO **Capt (QGO) Mohanbahadur Thapa** expressed his thanks and presented a Kothimora Kukri to the CO and silver brooch to his Memsaheb on behalf of the Squadron. This presentation ceremony was followed by a traditional Kukri Dance that came as a surprise to the outgoing CO.

The CO enjoying 'Jhyaure Nauch' with the OC and SQGO

31 Sig Regt (V)
Hammersmith

1991 started early for the officers and seniors with their Annual Management Training weekend which was held at a very wet Crowborough Camp on 5/6 January.

On Saturday morning the YO's bundled up in their waterproofs were packed off in the sheeting rain to take part in a TEWT, the SNCOs got very involved with Command Tasks whilst the rest of the officers sat in huddles discussing things of great importance such as the training programme for Wathgill 91 which appeared, to the great concern of OC 83 **Maj John Ruske,** one long party.

The theme for the Saturday evening social was very aptly—French. Freely flowing French wine with the meal which consisted of garlic cooked in a variety of different ways which was eaten with great relish by all the chunnel workers, onion sellers and French 'ladies' who turned up.

WO2 Graham Brain, started the games early by bowling bread rolls and the games night carried on until long after midnight and all too soon it was Sunday morning. We all settled down in comfy chairs to listen to a well known golf enthusiast **Lt Col Lionel French** who gave a farewell message and concluded with the sobering thought that he 'would be watching us'! **RSM Tom Ferry**—who was, unfortunately, in good voice—then marched us all outside. We were all wondering what a 'French Farewell' was when suddenly there was a great fanfare of music and a golfing trolley sped past with a 'French' Colonel waving madly at us. The trolley was last seen speeding up the M3—without a red flag. We wish him well in his new job and would like to thank the support team—**Ann,** for all her hard work and enthusiasm.

Well, strike me down, it's Maj Stephen Galpin, RSM Tom Ferry and RQ George Cook

BURNS NIGHT

Once again Burns night proved to be one of the highlights of the social calendar and was held in a splendidly decked out drill hall at Southfields. The Scottish dancing practices held earlier in the month proved invaluable for Adjt **Capt** 'Nappy' **McNeil** who managed to dance on everyone's toes! The Master of Ceremonies **Capt George Devine** stunned everyone with his recital of Tam O'Shanter and **Lt Col Conrad Graham** gave a very Scottish rendering of Ode to the Haggis. Just one question remains unanswered—what is in the lethal recipe of Atholbrose as mixed by **Capt Jim Adam?**

NEWS FROM 83 SQUADRON
by Capt Sally Shepherd
CONGRATULATIONS TO

LCpl James Sanderson on winning the Ron Dart trophy for the soldier/NCO who made the biggest contribution to the Squadron during the last year; PSAO **Capt George Devine** who managed to get the shield engraved in advance and managed to keep it a secret; **Cpl Donna Malcolm** who is now in charge of Squadron recruiting and some very forward planning; **Sig Mike Godfrey** who, in the light of his latest landrover manoeuvre, is due to take his first driving lesson in the very near future; **Cpl Chris Duddy** for obtaining his B1 driver electrician ticket; **SSgt John Hickey** for keeping everyone amused during the command tasks on the management weekend; **Cpl Cheryl Dunning** who, after becoming a Regimental Medical Assistant, managed to fail two visiting majors on their First Aid bounty test for

Now where is the haggis? ponders Capt George Denne

not measuring up to her high standards; and last but no means least; **Pte Jeanette Martin** and **Sig Mark Davies** who finally got married. Well done.

WELCOME TO:

2Lt Julia Mullins and **OCdt Melinda Roberts** both from Northumberland UOTC; and welcome back to **Lt Richard Wyatt** who was sent back to the UK as his company couldn't afford the phone bill!

47 SQN
by Capt Steve Potter

The Squadron held a party in aid of underprivileged children throughout the Harrow area. A number of people put a lot of hard work into what turned out to be a very successful event. Thanks also to **Sgt Dave Able** who as usual, cheered up a lot of young minds with his unusual act, unshaven face and strange laugh—all in a day's work.

The first exercise this year was 'Mux about' which saw us heading off to Aldershot in order to prove that we can do what we said we can do and communicate. A good reminder that using somebody else's generator is not like using your own—power? What power? . . . Having our sister trunk node's Mux in place of ours was a novelty, to say the least but, all worked well in the end and proved what we knew all along—that it would all work well in the end.

The next exercise was held in the Midlands and took the form of a CPX for the officers and a DTg ex for the Data Tgs. Unfortunately, 47's annual bun fight on the skiing slopes also started on the same weekend so many of the Squadron were off to chilly climes.

By the time this is printed our erstwhile PSI **Sgt Snow** will have left for his new posting up north and will be missed by all—the Squadron sends its warm wishes for future success, whilst welcoming **SSgt Brummy Cox** who is moving over from being PSI B Troop.

41 SQN
by 2Lt Sahra Rabenda

On the same day that hostilities broke out in the Gulf 41 Sig Sqn (V) were preparing for Ex Mux-About, the first Regimental exercise of the New Year. The mission was to test the compatibility of the equipment and although 41 Sig Sqn had often proved the worth of its two Access Nodes (N & K) and HF det, the crux of this exercise was whether it could function just as successfully when 'Muxed-About' with the assets of the other Nodes. The answer was a resounding yes! and mission seemingly impossible became mission accomplished.

All-round performances came from **LCpl Mick Sinclair** and **Sig**

Clarke of 'N' Troop, who as HGV drivers started by getting their Troop to the area and roaming the area for their 'Muxed-About' vehicles got tricked into doing guard. Several hours later **LCpl Mick Sinclair** could be seen along with **Cpl Ian MacKay** in the Radio Relay vehicle, introducing **Pte North**, a Radio Op formerly of The Queens Regt (V), to the task in hand.

On the other side of the arena **LCpl Karen Scarborough** in her Mux took full advantage of a lull in the proceedings to work with such enthusiasm as to cause a few headaches for some, but well deserved praise for initiative from her Squadron Commander.

Meanwhile, **LCpl Steve Shanahan** lineman/tech/HGV/morale boost, and **Sig Levy** were being kept busy making sure that the two new Signalmen, **Sig MacKenzie** and **Robertson**, who had passed out from recruits the previous Wednesday—with a little help from the visiting Mayor, were learning all they could from this, their first exercise.

In the switchboard vehicle **Pte Mandy Terrill** was, as usual, polite and competent no matter what the time of night or day but I am sure, everyone would agree that the stars of the weekend were **FofS Henry Taylor** and **Sgt Martin Crabb** who should be awarded 'Jim'll Fix It' badges for outstanding performances beyond the call of duty.

PARACHUTING
by Capt George Devine

83 Sqn waved farewell to their Admin Officer **Capt George Devine** who sighed and said he didn't want to go off to Cyprus with the Blue Helmets but he felt that someone should go to keep the young parachutists in line. It seems he failed in that task, and in fact when 'down town' was mentioned he and **Capt Glen Harwood** were first on the transport for the fleshpots of Larnaca or Ayia Napa. **Capt Devine** returned to London sporting an unseasonal tan and another limp as he had managed to injure himself on the first jump of the Cyprus Championships. All the preparation jumps had gone well and the 'Mercury Blue' team of **Capt Glen Harwood, WO2 Alan Delahay, LCpl Jock Simpson** and **Capt Devine** were expecting to do well. However it was not to be as the injury kept him on the ground for most of the competition. He said he hated having to lie and sunbathe while the rest of the team tumbled around the sky but he stuck manfully to the task of getting 'done brown'. However he was always available for advice if you managed to wake him and would give unstintingly of his time in return for a few brandy sours. It's good to know that such dedication still exists. Meantime he can be spotted in Foggy London Town dreaming of warmer climes and planning his next trip.

Capt George Devine 1½ miles above Dhekelia with Larnaca in the background

LONDIST CUP 90/91

The Football Officer **Maj John Robson** entered the Squadron in the London District TA Cup. He had high hopes of going one better than last year when the Squadron were runners-up in the competition.

The first game was a warm-up match against the Royal School of Music at Kneller Hall. This proved to be a very competitive game with no side being able to assert any dominance early on, however the youth and fitness of the Kneller Hall team proved to be the match winning ingredient with the School of Music winning 3—1, however we discovered we had a goalkeeper in **SSgt Gordon Hitchen**.

At the end of August, the draw for the first round matches was made and the Squadron was lucky enough to get a bye into the second round. By this time the squad members were beginning to raise their fitness levels.

Our next opponents were 873 Mov Lt Sqn RE who were highly regarded but unfortunately the Engineers, due to commitments, could not field a team and therefore we were into the next round, this time against 289 Cdo Bty RA from Woolwich.

This game proved to be the hard game we had expected, with the Commandos getting on top early on, but with some good defending and more acrobatics from our goalkeeper we went in at half time 1—0 ahead through a penalty by **LCpl Ian Marshall**. In the second half we began to dominate with some good play by the mid-field, in particular **SSgt Bob Snow, Sgt Neil Holcombe** and **Cpl Lenny Sutherland**. Further goals by **LCpl Ian Marshall** and **SSgt Bob Snow** saw the Squadron into the final by 3—1 with a late breakaway goal, as consolation for the Gunners, just before the final whistle.

The final was to be a re-run of last year's game against 265 Sig Sqn at Burton Court, Chelsea. All the lads were looking forward to getting revenge for the defeat in last year's match. The game got underway and was played at a very fast pace and it soon became clear that it was going to be a survival of the fittest with very few clear chances being created. Both defences seemed to be on top and when either team did manage a shot at goal, the goalkeepers were equal to it. After a thrilling and hard fought 90 minutes, the score remained at 0—0 and due to bad light, extra time could not be played. It was therefore penalties were to decide the outcome. Once again the Squadron had to settle for the runners-up medals as 265 Sig Sqn won 4—2 on penalties. We are hoping it will be third time lucky next year.

Rear (L to R): Sgts John-Charles, Allan, SSgts Bowlby, Hitchen, Smith and Cpl Sutheland
Front (L to R): WO2 Cook, SSgts Cox, Snow, Sgt Holcombe (Capt), LCpls Marshall and Spence
Absent on duty SSgts Mills, Rees and Sgt Howard

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V)
Glasgow

In 1991 we hope to send members to exotic places, such as, Belgium, Kenya and West Germany.

CONGRATULATORY

The Regiment congratulates **SSgt Joe Sharma** on the award of the BEM in the New Year Honours List 1991. A tremendous achievement, well done!

FAREWELL/WELCOME

We say farewell to **Sgt Andy Smith** and his family and wish them all the best for their tour in the Province—replacement Sgt **Steve Slaney** and his family have settled down firmly in Glasgow. A belated welcome to **Sgt Stu Allister** who is well intrenched and enjoying Glaswegian culture and hospitality! **Sgt Phil Skene** has departed to the sunnier climate of Cyprus. We also welcome the following new officers into the Mess: **2Lts Alan Moore, Jill Burgess, Cathy Crosbie, Capts George Taylor** and **David Andrews.**

51 (HIGHLAND) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj Saddiq Ahmed**
2IC — **Capt Gary Findlay**
PSAO **Capt Robert Greenhowe MBE**, SSM **WO2 Brian Innes**, AO **Mr Arnie West**.

The withdrawal of HDRS equipments has been something of a disappointment following some 'hands on' experience during Ex Bright Fire. Nevertheless, training has continued apace concentrating on all aspects of military and trade training, and our exercise programme has been tailored, whenever possible, to reinforce this.

EXERCISE ASHFIELD MILL

Devised by **Lt John Mackie**, Ex Ashfield Mill was based on Drip Camp, Stirling. Planned to be entirely flexible, the exercise was a mobile communications treasure hunt within Central Region. The Squadron was deployed in teams of four, in land-rovers, equipped with Pegasus 914 and PRC 320. Each team member rotated in turn to be team-leader, driver, navigator and radio-operator.

After briefing and map marking, teams departed to answer the set questions in any order and by any means to control. Marks were preferentially awarded, from highest to lowest, by reporting on HF, VHF or in person. In addition, built into the plan was the stipulation to replenish with rations and fuel. In order to exercise the SHQ echelon, **Cpl Ivan Sutherland** was mobile in a 4 tonner, accompanied by **Cfn Graeme Wood** in a land-rover.

Thus in order to gain maximum points, the teams had to answer all the questions, keep up on the net to discover where echelon was, arrange an RV for replenishment ensuring they didn't run out of fuel, and report their answers to control in the shortest possible time.

The team led by **Cpl Bill McKenzie** won outright by a large margin. On the same weekend, the Squadron helped 2IC **Capt George Findlay** celebrate his birthday. I daren't tell how old he is, but when the candle-bedecked cake appeared, the room felt as it a welder was firing up a thermic lance! To round off matters the Squadron visited Bannockburn, scene of another successful wee exercise, and historic Stirling Castle—RHQ of the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders.

Many thanks to **Lt John Mackie** and controlling staff for a superb exercise.

EXERCISE TARTAN HERO

A 51 (Highland) Brigade exercise, manning Bde Hq and four TAORs went well with Comms up to its normal high standards.

ARRIVALS

Capt Robert Greenhowe MBE. After 30 odd years service with the Gordon Highlanders, latterly as Major QM, **Bob** arrived to fill our PSAO appointment. Busily setting up home in Cults with his wife **Larraine** and sons **Geoffrey** and **Douglas, Bob** is an avid caravanner. Welcome aboard! We also welcome **2Lt Katherine Crosbie** on transfer from Aberdeen University OTC; **Kate** is a primary school teacher in central Aberdeen.

DEPARTURES

Capt Robert Esson. After 22 years in the Royal Military Police, **Bob** left regular service as WO1 (RSM). He came to 51 Sqn as PSAO in 1973 and served for a further 17 years. A keen sportsman all his life **Bob** was actively involved in football which he refereed at the highest level, latterly as Chairman for the Army Referees Committee in Scotland. Best remembered for rather droll humour **Bob**'s service to the Squadron remains as a yardstick of his integrity for others to follow. We wish you **Bob** and **Muriel** the best possible good fortune in your retirement.

Farewell also to **LCpl Ian Lovie** whose civilian employment has taken him to Grangemouth. **LCpl Lorraine Summers** on transfer to the Royal Engineers TA. **Pte Katrina** 'Debbie' **Reynolds** who since passing RCB is off to RMA Sandhurst. Best wishes and good luck to all for the future. Lastly but certainly not least, goodbye also to the DII/R234s affectionately known as Conrad 1. At long last gone to the big workshop in the sky. Interested readers may inspect one in the Corps Museum, Blandford.

CONGRATULATORY

LCpl Morag McIntosh wed **Steven O'Neill** (ex 15 Para). **LCpl Linda Nobel** wed **Cpl Bill McKenzie** (both 51 Sqn).

Lts Roddy Sutherland and Danny Robertson writing home to their mums whilst on a weekend exercise

2Lt Danny Robertson and his merry men of 514 Tp

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

WINTER WARMERS

With the dawn of the New Year work started in earnest throughout the Regiment to meet the various challenges and commitments. **Capt Ian Dudding** the Adjutant was at particular pains to point out that he had spent his Christmas break formulating the various programmes and planning instructions for the Regimental Tattoo due to take place at Drayton Manor Park during May this year. Like the good Adjutant that he is he has ensured that his pain will be equally spread around the Regiment for this important event. Not to be outdone the Trg Maj, **Maj Lance Byrne** has released his fourth (unabridged) edition of the annual training programme just to keep us on our toes—he is clearly set on maintaining the standards and momentum achieved last year and leave no option for change!

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

As a TA Regiment we are all very conscious of events in the Gulf and the extra responsibility it has placed on our regular counterparts and other TA units directly involved in the conflict. It is therefore reassuring to note that a large number of Regimental personnel from all Squadrons have volunteered for specialist tasks in support of regular units and a number have also volunteered for short service engagements. This clearly displays a general feeling of support and readiness to assist at every level which is very evident throughout the Territorial Army.

Some of our proud volunteers

OFFICER TRAINING

During the weekend 19/20 January the Regiment's junior officers began their preparatory training for the forthcoming promotion examination and spent most of the weekend locked away in classrooms receiving intensive instruction in Admin in the Field and in Barracks, MML, TA Regulations, Security and a variety of other subjects designed to give the young officer a broad based knowledge on both regimental and operational procedures and to enhance their skills in barracks and in the field. The written promotion examination was held during Ex Dry Run/Paper Chase an 11 Sig Bde (V) CPX in which the officers were also given practical instruction in Command Post and Watchkeeping procedures. The practical examination takes place in April.

OFFICERS' MESS

On Saturday 16 February a Ladies Dinner Night was held at Seabroke House to celebrate the Dining In of our new Honorary Colonel **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB, MBE** and **Mrs Alexander** and we look forward to his tenure of appointment. Guests at the Dinner included Comd 11 Sig Bde, **Brig Conrad Garton**, Deputy Secretary West Midland TAVRA, **Col Dennis Kane** and COS Western District, **Col Alan Thompson**. A special welcome into the Officers' Mess was also extended to **Lt Mick O'Hare** and wife **Maria** and **Lt Ian McSherry** and wife **Marie**. As most of us know **Mick O'Hare** and **Ian McSherry** served the Regiment as regular soldiers as RSM and MTWO respectively and are congratulated on obtaining their TA commission. **Mick** joins 48 Sqn as its Trg Offr whilst **Ian** assumes the appointment of QM (Gen).

SERGEANTS' MESS

The Mess has welcomed **Sgt Jill Simpson** of 48 Sqn on promotion and the new LAD NRPS **Sgt Bryan Pitt**. We also extend a belated welcome to the LAD PSI **SSgt Andy Hunt**. Congratulations also to **Sgt Geoff Robinson** of 58 Sqn on being awarded the Sergeants' Mess Cup for the best overall contribution during 1990 by a SNCO and to **WO2 Len Madden** on his promotion and appointment as SSM HQ Sqn. Finally the Sergeants' Mess and all members of 48 Sqn send their best wishes to **WO2 'H' Sterry** and wish him a speedy recovery from his unexpected illness.

THE DRAPES OF WRATH

It will be 'curtains' if anyone dares mention curtains to the QM (Tech), **Capt Rod Gladwin** again—following a fire inspection it was observed that the magnificent silk like curtains that were used to transform the Cateswell House TA Centre Drill Hall into a Banqueting Hall were not fire resistant and needed fire proofing before they could be used again. Recovering from the initial shock of this daunting task the QM pulled himself together quickly and set about it. Despite best endeavours the project was beset with problems. After many set backs the drapes were brought to the required standard and are now in use again. There is however no truth in the rumour that the QM has been nicknamed 'Curtain Rod', though he has disposed of all photographic evidence!

EMPLOYERS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS PRESENTATION

On Saturday 16 February members of 89 Sig Sqn hosted an Employers and Community Leaders Presentation at Seabroke House, Rugby. The Drill Hall was transformed into a simulated field location and consisted of a variety of static displays designed to show the visitors what life in the TA is really like. The aim was to thank local employers for their continued support, let them know the kind of training their employees undertake in the TA and the considerable benefits that can be achieved through training in producing a more motivated and disciplined workforce. Also to encourage further recruitment into the TA especially from all walks of life. Employers and Community Leaders were briefed on the role of the Squadron by the Sqn Comd, **Maj Pat Bannigan** and received additional entertaining briefings by **Lt Liz Hyde** and **Cpl Joe Roper**, the latter managing to convince the audience that he was speaking on behalf of the PM.

Following the briefing our guests were treated to a grand tour of the TA Centre where they were shown various trade and military training activities in progress including a field cookery demonstration. They were also given an opportunity to shoot on the miniature range. Visitors included **Maj Bill Young** and **WO2 Harry McGowan** who were former members of 'P' Battery 268 Field Regiment RA TA, a forerunner of 89 Sig Sqn and which was located on the site of Seabroke House. As a note of interest the original Gun Sheds still stand and are now used as Troop Garages. During the reorganisation of the TA in 1967 P Battery, 319 Sig Sqn and 3 Sqn 48 Sig Regt TA amalgamated to form 89 Sig Sqn (V). To preserve this historical link **Maj Young** and **WO2 McGowan** presented the Squadron with a magnificent print depicting a Royal Artillery Battle scene in World War 2. This is now on proud display in the Squadron's Main Reception area. The presentation was a considerable success which ended with a curry lunch in the Squadron Officers' Mess.

Maj Young and WO2 McGowan presenting the RA print to OC 89 Sqn

36 Sig Regt (V)
Ilford

We said goodbye to **Lt Col C. P. Conlon** in December and wish both him and **Jan** all good wishes for their future in Blandford. We warmly welcome **Lt Col Douglas McLay** and his wife **Krystal**; we hope his command will be happy and rewarding. Any hope that 45 Sqn may have of preferential treatment is squashed, despite the large numbers of their ex-officers appearing at RHQ.

December also saw the award of Clasps to Efficiency Medals to **WO2 John Cousins REME, WO2 Mick Stone** and **Sgt Kenny Hunt**. Congratulations to them all.

Sgt Kenny Hunt, WO2 John Cousins REME and WO2 Mick Stone after their presentations of Clasps of Efficiency Medals by Lt Col C. P. Conlon

QM DEPT ON THE MOVE
MOHAMMED VERSUS MOUNTAIN

Almost 23 years ago the then potential **Sig Pat O'Shea** was told 'Don't worry about this 'ere Wanstead TA Centre, we will be moving soon!' In the second week of January 1991 the now **Sgt Pat O'Shea** (Clothing Store) was still finding it hard to believe that the move of TACs had actually taken place after all that time.

For the past year all talk and activity has been about the change of centres, and now that we're firmly ensconced in Ilford the enormity of the task still to be done is hitting home. **Capt Jim Coffey** worries the life out of the RQ **WO2 Gordon Shelley** who in turn takes it out on **SSgt Bill King** (NRPS) but the workload still falls on the stalwart civilian staff, **Bill Law** and **Derek Tye**. A special mention must be made of our attached 'old boy', **SSgt John Larley** who, even in his last six months, is still pulling out all the stops.

RHQ AND HQ SQN

RHQ has reason for optimism in 1991. The first training night of the year was held in our brand new TAC at Gordon Fields. Ilford, after frenzied activity by **Capt Jim Coffey** and all hands. Whilst sorry to see the fate of the TAC at Wanstead, our purpose built present from TAVRA is really quite something. The RSM duly christened the WO and SNCO Mess on 24 January with a splendid party, to which all Squadrons were invited. **Sgt Dave Lock** still can't believe his luck at being given the biggest office in the TAC. We know recruiting is going well, but really . . .

54 SQUADRON

The Squadron took part in the usual end of year weekend activity, this year taking place at Norwich TA Centre. It normally covers range classification and bounty tests.

The weather, as usual was cold and foul, and spirits were only being kept on a high by the thought of the BFT that was to follow.

The following is a list of acknowledgements, without whose help the weekend would not have been the success that it was: **SSgt Frank Sharp BEM** for procuring sufficient food from the caterers to have fed twice the number. **Sgt Steve Honeyman** PSI Norwich for his help in preparing the Norwich TA Centre, not normally accustomed to such a large influx. **Capt George Lile**, PSAO Cambridge for just being there and for **Lt Wesley Blewett** who, once again, stole the show with his impeccable 'waiting on' technique.

It was also the occasion for saying goodbye to two members, firstly to **Maj Malcolm Touchin** Sqn Comd 54 Sqn who has been in the driving seat for the past three years; he is taking up an appointment with 12 Sig Bde in the New Year. **Maj Touchin** was presented with two gifts from the Squadron, namely a framed copy print of the Thames and its upper reaches taken from a 100 year old drawing, and secondly a framed picture of a Kellogs Cornflake packet, as this will be the last time he will receive his regular breakfast cereal in bed. Secondly to **Sgt Dickie Wright**, 707 Tp, who retires after 14 years service with the Squadron serving in both the Norwich and Cambridge TA Centres.

54 Sqn had something to celebrate. **SSgt (SQMS) Frank Sharp** was presented with his BEM by **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook**, SOinC in Cambridge. **Maj Malcolm Touchin** received the Clasp to his TD. The Regiment wishes **Malcolm** all the best for his sojourn at 12 Sig Bde HQ and welcomes **Maj William Brown** in his place at the helm of 54 Sqn.

Maj Malcolm Touchin and SSgt Frank Sharp with the SOinC

(Photo by Courtesy Cambridge Newspapers Ltd)

37 Sig Regt (V)
Bristol

REGIMENTAL X-COUNTRY

The Third Annual Regimental Cross Country Competition took place at Chepstow, Gwent on Sunday 28 October 1990. The weather was reasonably kind and the course was fairly flat. This year we welcomed a lot of new young faces and of course the old ones were still going strong (well done **Fred**).

There were encouraging performances from **Sig Mark Symonds** 67 Sig Sqn (V), shortly followed by **Sig Dave Gresswell** 57 Sig Sqn (V) and **Sig Guy Sparey** 57 Sig Sqn (V). Also, the ladies competition introduced new members with good efforts from **Cpl Linda Reeve** and **Pte Coreen Brown** both of 57 Sig Sqn (V), together with a good team run from the 67 Sig Sqn (V) ladies.

The overall competition was once again won by 57 Sig Sqn/LAD who remain undefeated since the competition began.

Maj John Reed presents the Regimental Team Winners Shield to Cpl Bernie Roberts of 57 Sig Sqn (V)

57 Sig Sqn (V)/LAD Winning team

CHEQUES

Cheques forwarded to RHQ should be marked 'for the attention of the Chief Accountant'. They should not be loosely enclosed with *Wire* notes or photographs.

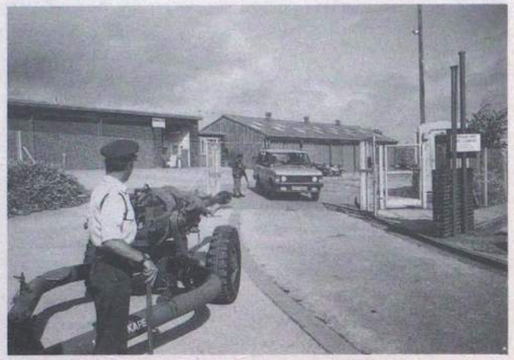
38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

RHQ SHEFFIELD
PERSONALITIES

CO — **Lt Col P. W. Acda TD**
2IC — **Maj D. B. Wing TD**

Trg Maj **Maj R. P. Etherton**, Adjt **Capt J. Hindle**, QM **Capt K. E. Russell**, RSM **WO1 P. F. Budden**, RQMS **WO2 D. Coker**, ORSQMS **SSgt D. Paterson**.

What with the ongoing Op Granby training for our permanent staff, PRE and the Regimental Stocktaking we have all had our minds concentrated. **WO1 (RSM) Phil Budden** especially, has had his hands full with the increased security, but with the assistance of **LCpl 'Webbo' Taylor** has had no problem encouraging everybody to show ID once they had spotted the deterrent just inside the gate. Thanks to the 1 RHA KAPE team for the loan.



The RSM in the safest place whilst LCpl 'Webbo' Taylor checks ID

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Goodbye and thanks to **Cpl 'Taff' Jones** and family good luck in Bristol and hullo to **Cpl Trevor Harrison** and family from 28 Sig Regt, we hope you enjoy your stay.

STOP PRESS

Congratulations to newly promoted **WO2 Brenda Cox**.

46 (DERBYSHIRE) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
SHQ DERBY
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj R. Lingard**
PSAO — **Capt C. S. Webb**

Ops Officer **Maj R. Toft TD**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) R. Ward**, SQMS **SSgt Landsborough**, SPSI **SSgt Reynolds**.

1991 was ushered in with a change of command. Sadly, the Squadron has waved farewell to **Maj David Etherton**. He has been with the Squadron for over five eventful years, which had seen him move from OC Leicester Det to Sqn Comd and marrying **Capt Anne Etherton** (nee **Stenning**) on the way. His ebullient character and subtle sense of humour could always be relied upon to raise the lowest of spirits during the darkest hours of any exercise. Thank you, **David**, your contribution to the Squadron has been immeasurable and will be sorely missed.

Our new OC **Maj Rod Lingard**, discovered that his first task was to completely re-organise the training year to meet the financial cuts imposed on us. Ever an optimist, he joked that things could only get better. Our pragmatc PSAO, **Capt Cliff Webb**, has so far refrained from curbing this optimism.

The stork has made a visit to Derby. Congratulations to **Cpl Daryl Fletcher** and **WLCpl Lisa Fletcher** on the arrival of their baby.

The events in the Gulf affect us all. None more so than **Capt Cliff Webb** and **Barbara**, whose son, **Christopher**, is serving with the Corps in Saudi Arabia. Also involved are **Sgt Jane Atherley** and **Cpl Alex Jackowska**, who have been deployed full time at the Leicester Commcen.

This year has brought a reshuffle of personnel. **Capt John Stirlin** has given up as Ops Offr and now will be OC of our Leicester Det in

The new Sqn Comd 46 Sig Sqn (V) Maj Rod Lingard

place of **Capt Anne Etherton**, who is being transferred to RARO. **Maj Ron Toft** has returned to the fold after a tour at RHQ in Sheffield. He is bringing his immense technical knowledge to the post of Ops Offr. Another good 'capture' is that of **Lt David Tomlinson** from 87 Sqn, who will be OC Derby Tps. We also have three 'newish' officer cadets in **Fred Nilsson, John Reddington** and **Phil Howard**, who will become 'Gaffas' from some lucky Troops.

SSgt Thelma Ward has been prised away from 54 Bde Tp and is now IC Trade Training. Her reservoir of military knowledge and her experience makes her the ideal candidate for the job.

LEICESTER DETACHMENT

The story of the year must be that **Pte Ian Hayes** has passed his Cook B2 exam. Perhaps now we can say prayers before we eat, instead of after!

Congratulations go to **Sgt Richard Millett** who, against stiff competition has been provisionally selected for a two weeks attachment with the US National Guard. It is difficult to know whether those looking green about the gills are suffering from **Pte Ian Hayes'** new recipes, or are simply jealous of **Sgt Millett**.

Congratulations, too, for **Sgt Penny Burns** who won the Derrick Sivell Award for the Best Young Sergeant of the Year. Obviously, her long holiday in Australia did her the world of good. The rest of us now avidly watch all the Aussie soaps to see if it will help us match her standards of excellence.

Pte Julie Moulson has proved that perseverance pays; she has finally passed her test! Well done **Julie**.

It is always sad to say farewell to Squadron members. Losing **Capt Anne Etherton** to RARO means losing the best map reader in the Squadron (dare I say it—the Regiment!). Best wishes for the future. Another big loss to the Squadron is **Sgt Dave Baker**. In his younger days he was one of the finest shots in the Regiment and was often the mainstay of winning Squadron teams at REGSAAM. A fine soldier and tradesman, who led by example, he will be a great loss and hard to replace.

Finally, a mention to **Cpl 'Snowy' Snow**. He is the PEC of the Junior Ranks' Club and has organised many memorable 'do's'. The latest was an all Ranks Disco on 5 January. **Cpl Merv Ovenden** thought it was in honour of Portsmouth winning 5—0 in the Cup that day. Make the most of it **Merv**, it may be another 10 years before they get through the third round again! Also at the Disco was **Capt Sally Reading** who is now 2IC HQ Sqn—but just can't stay away from us.

64 (SHEFFIELD) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

64 Sqn gathered momentum and participated in the mixed team in NE District's annual Devils Leap/Maidens Scurry competition. An exhilarating weekend, full of assault courses, section attacks, NBC, first aid and command tasks which tested all relentlessly. The only Signal Regiment represented within this infantryman's competition, both teams did well. Notably worthy of comment was the success of the female teams winning the command tasks above all other OTC participants. Credit for this must surely go to the enthusiasm and encouragement shown by all members but especially by **Sgt Travis** and **Cpl Alton**. Both teams seemed to have perfected their 'Admin in the Field' techniques not going short of food or becoming too cold in adverse weather conditions. The male team consisted of **2Lt W. Carr, Cpls Marsden, Wragg, Grant, Sig Jackson, Helliwell, LCpl Hawley, Sig Burditt** and **Wilson**. The female team **2Lt Boulton, Sgts Travis, Bullas, Cpls Bilton, Watters, Walker, Cliff, Alton, Ptes Smith** and **Plant**.

Sqn Comd **Maj David Rigley** had a good stores board this year and thanks to the unbridled effort put in at Troop level and the meticulous scrutiny of **SSgt Dave Burton** throughout the year.

Finally, congratulations go to **2Lt Steven Lee-Jones** for winning the Silver Spur, given to the best subaltern in the Regiment annually at Scarborough.

87 (NOTTINGHAM) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
PERSONALITIES

OC — **Maj M. Petty**
2IC — **Capt F. Atkins**

PSAO **Capt D. Shakespeare**, SSM **WO2 Piechota**, SQMS **SSgt J. Wade**, SPSI **SSgt T. Jenkins**, PSI(T) **Sgt M. Daniel**.

OFFICERS' MESS

Capt Dee Allen survived two annual camps with the ACF, Lancashire and Lincolnshire, to take the 2 Bde prize as top student on the Lt-Capt promotion exams. **2Lt Alison Burn** has passed out in first place on her commissioning course, and was awarded the Sandhurst cane.

Sgt Andrew Bullock became **2Lt Andrew Bullock** and has settled in as Troop Commander, Mould Tp. The Sergeants' Mess was further denuded when **Sgt Kay Budworth** became **OCdt Budworth**. **Lts Mary Hall** and **David Tomlinson** passed their Capts promotion exams and are now awaiting their call to glory, whilst **OCdt Caroline Adnitt** successfully completed RCB and is now showing her mettle at Sandhurst.

Lt David Tomlinson and **Andrew Bullock** showed their culinary expertise by preparing and serving a superb supper when the CO **Lt Col Paul Acda** paid an informal visit to the Squadron. We look forward to the next supper which is being hosted by **2Lt Alison Burn**.

Finally, **Lt Ruth Robinson** passed her first year accountancy examinations and has lost that worried expression at last.

SPORTS

On the Badminton scene **Sgt Terry Freeman** our Pay supremo joined with **Sig Stewart Nesbitt** to capture the Regimental mixed doubles prize whilst the Devils Leap Team **2Lt Andrew Bullock, Rob Carraher, Mark Cotton, Stewart Nesbitt, Phil Jones, Sean Roe, Paul Randall, Craig Toft, Phil Hale** and **Andy Paton** trained hard to sharpen their fitness and military skills. This paid off when they beat the Regimental Cambrian March Team (which had gained a bronze medal in Cambria) to register a notable success.

Fitness appears to be the in-thing with every member of the Squadron passing their BFT to claim the Tickle Trophy.

SOCIAL

The JRC Committee under the Chairmanship of **LCpl Phil Jones** has ensured that no one gets bored at 87 with a programme of Discos, Quiz nights and Fund-raising events. Several hundred pounds have been raised for Cancer Research which is this year's sponsored charity.

Our two tame PSIs **SSgt Trev Jenkins** and **Sgt Mark Daniel** joined in the spirit of things and organised and controlled a sponsored day on the assault course for 185 Boots personnel which raised £3,000 for the **Thomas** Appeal. **Thomas Cottingham** is a three year old boy who suffers from a rare form of leukemia.

Our final note is to say a big hi to **Sgt Julie Marvin** who has volunteered for Op Granby and is now serving at Aldershot. We know she will do a great job and wish her well.

71 Sig Regt (V)
Bexleyheath

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

We welcome our new CO **Lt Col D. B. Jones** and bid a fond farewell to **Lt Col A. P. Verey**.

FAREWELL PARADE

History was made at Longmoor Training Camp at 1400 hrs on 24 November 1990 when, for the first time in our Regiment's history, we were able to parade the four Guidons together in an excellent farewell parade to our CO **Lt Col A. P. Verey**.

With only one rehearsal it must be said that the parade passed off without visible fault; the Regimental Marching party deserves credit for an excellent turnout.

Marching party eyes right

The CO addressing the parade

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News from Squadrons

JCUFI
BFPO 655

UHQ
Unit Comd — **Maj Neil Fisher**
2IC — **Flt Lt Toby Clack**
USM **WO2 Taff Carr**, Chief Clerk **Sgt Steve James**, UQMS **Sgt Paul Hilton**, Ord Rm Cpl **Cpl Paddy Doidge**.

October 1990 saw two changeovers in UHQ namely **Maj Craig McColville** handed over the reins to **Maj Neil Fisher** and **WO2 (USM) Dave Smy** handed over the 'stick' to **WO2 (USM) Taff Carr**.

Maj Neil Fisher signs for the Unit from Maj Craig McColville

Whose stick is it anyway?

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
The Remembrance Day Service was held on Mount Pleasant Peak on Sunday 11 November 1990 conducted by **Padre Tony Fletcher RAF, Maj Mike Forge, Lt Jim Barry, SSgts Joe Baker** and, **Chris Griffin** and **LCpl Simon Cockton** (both Army Air Corps) were especially remembered by Corps personnel who attended.

A TROOP
Alpha Tp is commanded by **Flt Lt John Renshaw RAF** and consists largely of RAF personnel with the exception of the Joint Ops Centre Radcon which is staffed by Royal Signals Operators led by **Sgt Roy Messenger**. The majority of the Corps element is based in the Mount Pleasant area, the two three man detachments are manned by the 'Mountain Men', namely **LCpl Gaz Skelton, Sig Craig Field** and **Sig Andy Stephenson** at one location and **Cpl Paddy Whelan, LCpl Phil Lane** and **Jason Locrose** at the other. It is of note that **Cpl Whelan** is currently on his seventh four month tour of the Falklands Islands and his sixth on the same mountain; he evidently likes the life!

Another far flung detachment of Radcon is the South Georgia 'Signal's Shack' run by **Sgt** 'Smike' **Hitchens** and crewed by **Cpl** 'Mudders' **Mudway, LCpl 'Taff' Webber** and **Sig Steve Clayton**. Their's is the most southerly Corps detachment in the world. The photograph shows the Signals shack in between the Antarctic Survey masts at King Edwards Point.

South Georgia

B TROOP
Bravo Tp is a truly tri-service organisation providing two commcens and commanded by **Capt Garth Pickersgill**. Whilst en route to South Georgia aboard an RN Frigate he passed a small group of islands—the Pickersgill Islands, named after **Lt Richard Pickersgill RN** who had sailed with Captain Cook when he discovered South Georgia in 1775. This prompted him to enquire whether there was a family connection. He discovered that his namesake's career was cut short. In the 1770's he was cashiered for 'conduct unbecoming of an officer'. Our **Capt Pickersgill** has not told us of any connection between the families!

Capt Pickersgill

C TROOP
Tp Comd — **Capt Tony Sarginson**
Mr Marconi — **John Nicol**
FofS — **WO2 (FofS) Dave Pickard**

Capt Tony Sarginson is the boss. He also played in the Unit team. One game, against the team from HMS *Danae* got him a mention in the local press who described him as 'old, but cunning'.

Our long-term JCUFI member and FI comms specialist is **Mr John Nicol** who can always be seen giving his advice (and money) to the NAAFI wagon whenever it appears on the scene. Always at hand, **John** will only travel by Bristows helicopters to any of our FITS sites and is believed to have shares in the company.

Our other long-term member is **WO2 (FofS) Dave Pickard**. He recently completed 15 months in situ accompanied by his wife **Myra** and sons **Simon** and **Andrew**. He does an excellent job keeping Syscon in hiding when they hear that he's on his way to his office.

Charlie Tp

FITS/POWER SECTION
SSgt Steve Graham, Sgts Ian Goodson, Tony Black, Cpls Bob McCormick, Sy Hunt, Billy Redman, Andy Riglar, Bob Duffield, LCpls Russ Oldfield, Mick Gill, Sig 'Yorkie' Coates, Das Wright, Storeperson **Cpl 'Charlie' Charlton** and 'Fitz'—The Cat.

There has been a big changeover in the FITS/Power Section. We have said farewell to **Sgt Wal Waller** and **Cpls Edd Edgar** and **Mick Darlow**. **Sig Gaz Stewart** has also left. Farewell also to **LCpl Mick O'Neil** and **Sig Tony Snailham**. Best wishes lads; see you next time around. Our hello's go to **Cpls Charlie Charlton, Andy Riglar** (now Sgt). **Cpls Bob Duffield** and **Bob McCormick**, the latter has volunteered to do heli-bids (Desk bound) something to do with a fear of flying, and finally **LCpl Russ Oldfield** and **Sig Des Wright**; welcome to the 'Death Star'.

LINE SECTION
Line Section is based at MPA in the Falklands. Recently the Section has taken part in numerous activities, one of those being the JCUFI Fun Run, the lads ran the five mile course dressed in a caterpillar suit. Leading the Section was **Sgt Geoff Gardner** followed closely by **Sig Iain Reynolds, John Buttle, Simon Jervis, Chris Pengelly, Giz Findley, Tony Garcia, LCpl Danny Cain** and **Cpl Bob Crossley**. It was awarded first prize in the Fancy Dress competition. The Section has also been involved in many sporting activities including the Station Five-a-Side Football Competition, the Inter Service road race won by the Army and in which gold medals were awarded to **Sig Tony Garcia** and **Kevin Dale. Cpl Mick McEwan** and **LCpls 'Evo' Evans** and **Andy Jones** represented the Unit at Rugby.

ARRIVALS
The Section welcomes all new arrivals who include **Sgt Tony Sartorious, LCpl Phil Gash** and **Sig Eddy McVeigh, Steve Bagully** and **Paul Roberts.**

DEPARTURES
Line Section bade farewell to **Sig Giz Findley** who brings to an end the manning of the Section by Linemen, also to **Sig Kevin Dale** to whom we wish the best of luck on his Potential Officers course. Finally to **Sgt Geoff Gardner** we wish a speedy recovery in Woolwich along with **Cpl Al Armstrong**, with commiserations to **Cpl Mick McEwan** on his slightly lengthened tour taking over as IC Section.

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.

NORTHAG Air Support Radio Sqn
BFPO 18

PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd	**Maj P. J. Hryhoruk**
2IC	**Lt J. Verwoerd RNLA**

SSM **WO2 R. Bruce**, YofS **WO2 R. W. Marshall**, SQMS **HFW J. Schoenmackers GEA**, OC Comms Tp **SSgt J. Gray**, IC Wksps **SSgt P. Taylor**, CC **Sgt P. O'Brien**, MT Sgt **Sgt P. M. Arnold**, SQMS (UK) **Cpl D. Fitton**.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

A large turnover of personnel recently. Arrivals being **Cpl Dave Fitton** who takes over as SQMS (UK), **Soldiers Smit, Konings, Van Ratingen, Dingen, Van Buuren** and **Lauman** swell the Dutch ranks. **SU Kranz, Gefs Hess, Kruse** and **Schunke** into the German Inflight. **LCpl Mark 'Henei' Richards** and wife **Sue** are congratulated on the arrival of their son **Maxime Elliott Jordan**. Well done!

January saw the departure of **Cpl** (now Sgt) **Steve Howard** and wife **Annie** for 30 Sig Regt. Best wishes to them both. Also leaving **Kpls Marcel Schoenmakers** and **Adriaan Elias, Soldiers Edwin Van Eck** and **Paul Van der Heijde, Gefs Christian Terbille, Holger Lessmann** and **Christoph Burchard** and **Kpl Ronny Cools** who all return to civi street. **SU Heiko Handt** returns to his parent Unit 840 Fm Bn in Essen.

Hello and goodbye to **SU Cornelius 'Richard Kimble' Waschto** of the German Inflight wherever he is?

EXERCISE WINTER RELIC 1991

Ex Winter Relic, the Northag ASRS/JOC Maastricht equivalent to Ex Snow Queen, started early on Sunday 6 January with a 10 hour road journey to Bavaria (Reit Im Winkl). Road conditions were excellent and traffic light, coupled with bright winter sunshine the journey was extremely pleasant though tiring. On arrival at our rather modest ski hut we were met by our German SQMS **(Hfw 'Sepp' Schoenmackers)** who provided a guided tour of the facilities and made apologies for the lack of a swimming pool.

Monday morning dawned with great expectations, ski instructors were duly introduced, the 'experienced' departed for the slopes, and the 'enthusiastic novices' blindly followed their ski teacher to the nursery areas. Language was not a problem, but the introduction of a completely alien vocabulary of ski terms provided the novices with some interesting and amusing challenges. (What is 'locker?'). Meanwhile back at the Alpen Hut, the 'experienced' were quickly finding their own limitations when faced with the horror of the first black slope. Intact at the end of the day and lubricated by the odd Weisenbier exaggerated stories were exchanged in abundance.

At the end of the first week new skills had been acquired and ability confirmed in the form of a slalom race, **Gef Mark Redeker, Gef Hans Kramer** and **SSgt Jim Gray** took the first three places in the advanced group whilst **WO2 (YofS) Bob Marshall, SU Ralph Erlewien,** and **Adj Willie Verjans** stole the prizes in the novices.

The weekend also provided an opportunity to visit Munchen or spectate at the World Downhill and Slalom Championships at Kitzbhul.

Recharged with enthusiasm after the break, the second week commenced with fresh snow and clear weather. The ideal conditions allowed the more experienced skiers to introduce the novices to the Steinplatte. ('A foretaste of the terrain for summer camp?') **Ralph Erlewein, Roel van Ratingen** and **Bob Marshall** managing a variety of difficult slopes.

The highlight of the week was the evening spent at the Rosenalmhutte hosted in typical Bavarian fashion. The torchlight trip back to the valley by sledge, provided riotous amusement for all concerned.

The exercise over we returned promptly to Tongeren.

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd	**Maj I. Foxley**
2IC	**Capt R. P. Wilson**
RSM	**WO2 W. J. Haslam**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We bid a warm welcome to the new Sqn Comd **Maj Ian Foxley** and his wife **Emma** and to the new RSM **WO1 (RSM) Billy Haslam** and his wife **Pat**, may their time with the Squadron be a happy one.

With all arrivals there are departures and over the past month we have bidden farewell to the Sqn Comd **Maj Mark Edwards** and his wife **Erica** who reluctantly leave the Brigade for a more lucrative posting with 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt. We thank them both for their efforts while they have been with the Squadron and wish them all the best for the future.

We also bid farewell to our RSM **WO1 (RSM) Willie Granitza** who was dined out by the Officers, Warrant Officers and SNCOs on 11 January. It was a memorable occasion, a superb dinner, and a fitting farewell. After the speeches and to the complete surprise of the RSM, and the majority of those in attendance, he was asked to stand to attention while his citation was read out for the award of his LS & GC medal, which he was very delighted to receive.

Willie leaves the army after 22 years service and hopes to keep in close touch as a member of the TA. We thank him for all he has done for the Squadron and wish him and his wife **Glynis** all the best for the future.

Capt 'Jonathon' Turner presents Maj Mark Edwards with his farewell gift

The end of an era, the OC Maj Mark Edwards bids farewell to the RSM, WO1 (RSM) 'Willie' Granitza

UKLF SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

On 5 January members of the Squadron Alpine and Nordic teams set off for Alpbach, Austria for the pre-competition training camp.

For the next week under the eagle eyes of **Capt Ian Duncan REME** and **SSgt Eddie Grattidge BEM** both teams were put through a stringent training programme to prepare them for the competition. Both teams had very little or no race experience but were soon introduced to ruts, jumps and the infamous downhill at speed.

The snow was excellent, if not slightly icy, for the Alpine team. The Nordic team however had to travel to Pertisau to find adequate training areas.

LCpl Garth Ford deserves a mention for his performance in the local Mr and Miss Ski Bunny competition on being voted third—well done (there were more than three in the competition!).

On 13 January we all moved to Galtur to begin the races, Despite the situation in the Gulf all unit teams were well represented. The Nordic team, **Capt Ian Duncan, Sgt Chris Hamill, LCpls Steve Lynch, Garth Ford** and **Jeff Wright** were up against some strong experienced teams. However, they managed to win the Minor Units Nordic Challenge Cup. In the Military Patrol Race the team obtained the second highest shooting score out of all 4 Div, UKLF and RM teams taking place.

The Alpine team, **2Lt Greg Wilson, SSgt Eddie Grattidge, Sig 'Gaz' Christie, Ginge Duncan** and **Paul Springett**, after a well contested competition, were just beaten into second place by an experienced Staff College team. The team however won the Downhill event convincingly and rumours of certain members screaming 'airborne' as they took off the jump at Mach One were circulating after the event. In the Slalom and Giant Slalom some good times were obtained, with **SSgt Eddie Grattidge** finishing in the top 50 in both events.

2Lt Greg Wilson did spend some time on the course despite crashing into the woods. The catchphrase for the exercise was, 'Do bears live in the woods?—No, the boss is already there!'.

On the Alpine rest day, the Alpine team entered the 15km Langlauf race resulting in the Squadron taking both the 15km 1st Alpine Officer and Soldier trophies, **2Lt Greg Wilson** and **Sig Gaz Christie** respectively.

The teams returned to Aldershot on 24 January.

To **LCpl Jeff Wright,** who broke his wrist on day two of skiing, we hope it soon mends.

Alpine Team

CROSS COUNTRY AND ORIENTEERING

Owing to courses, exercises etc our strongest runners have yet to run as a team. Despite this they retain joint runners-up spot; we aim to improve on this over the remaining four races.

On the Orienteering front the team continues to produce good results and at present lead the SE District orienteering league. With more people taking up the sport this year looks very promising. In the Royal Signals Championships held in Scarborough in November 1990, the team, consisting of **Capt Fred Bancroft, WO2 Steve Clarke** and **Andy Hotchkiss, Sgts Nick Preston** and **Chris Hamill** and **Cpl Robbo Robson**, produced fine runs to take the runners up spot for the second year running. Next year we aim to be at the front so the challenge is on.

19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209 Sig Sqn) Colchester

SQUADRON TEAM

Sqn Comd	**Maj Gordon James**
2IC	**Capt Patrick Evans**

AO Capt Adrienne Winchester, QM **Capt Bob Lockwood,** Comms Tp Comd **2Lt Dan Taylor,** RSM **WO1 Tomlinson,** RQMS **WO2 Jackson,** YofS **WO2 (YofS) Little,** FofS **WO2 (FofS) Cooper,** Chief Clk **SSgt (ORQMS) Windus.**

Despite the needs of the Gulf there are still some 'Desert Dodgers' remaining in Colchester, and no doubt those of you sunning yourselves on the sand will be happy to know that there are now more guard duties flying around than 'buckshees' in the QM's stores. In fact **2Lt Dan Taylor** is no longer in command of a Troop but, more accurately, a detachment. No doubt this is why **SSgt Derek Deegan** has now chosen to go on leave followed by more courses after that.

Capt Bob Lockwood recently had the honour of receiving his MBE from **HM The Queen** at Buckingham Palace. The Squadron offers its warmest congratulations to him on his award. We also wish him and **Joan** all the very best in 28 Sig Regt where he takes up the appointment of QM. They will both be missed, especially **Bob** by the Squadron football team.

Capt Bob Lockwood after receiving his MBE from HM The Queen

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT STUDY DAY

2Lt Dan Taylor was recently tasked to organise a Study Day on the Rules of Engagement—an appropriate theme given that 'stagging on' is becoming a frequent pastime here in Goojerat Barracks. The day proved both enjoyable and instructive, even managing to teach some of the old hands a thing or two. Even **Sig** 'Pinkie' **Pink** eventually learned that firearms are not used as a first resort.

NEW ARRIVALS

Welcome to **Sig** 'Pinkie' **Pink, Dave Harding** and **Mark Wyllie** who all arrived together from AA Coll Harrogate and whose names have already been corrupted by **SSgt Derek Deegan**! May all your tours be good ones.

229 Sig Sqn
BFPO 45

THE DISBANDMENT OF BERLIN HEADQUARTERS AND SIGNAL REGIMENT

A Disbandment Parade was held in the London Block, Stadium Barracks, Berlin to mark the disbandment of Berlin HQ and Sig Regt on Thursday 31 January 1991.

29 Sig Regt was originally formed to provide the communications required to support the EOKA emergency in Cyprus but was disbanded afterwards. It was reformed on 1 September 1983 in Berlin from 229 Sig Sqn and the Berlin Garrison Administration Unit. On 31 January 1988 the Regiment was given a new role, integrated with the British Sector HQ and re-named Berlin Headquarters and Signal Regiment.

The Regiment has had a unique role in Berlin, providing, in partnership with the Berlin Tels Office of 4 Sig Gp, all the external communications from 'Fortress Berlin' to the West. It also provided both static and field communications for the Berlin Infantry Brigade with the French and American Brigades and for Allied Staff Berlin and HQ Berlin British Sector.

In addition the Unit administered all these HQs, ably supported by a large number of dependants and locally employed civilians who seeded the football pitches, cut hair, cleaned offices, cooked meals, typed, ran the telephone exchange and so on for the British Army in Stadium Barracks. Their loyalty and support over many years is beyond value.

Berlin HQ and Sig Regt provided the backbone for the many high profile functions in Berlin. In particular, Allied Parades, Queen's Birthday Parade Receptions, Tattoos, World Polo Competitions and the Bandanza relied heavily on the Regiment's QM, the expert ground staff, the public address detachment and the catering staff. Every staff officer in the three HQs received pay support, a dry cleaning service, his domestic assistant was provided and paid, his quarter maintained and his car BFG'd. Many people, both military and civilians, can be justly proud of their role over the years.

Berlin HQ and Sig Regt parade for the last time in the London Block of Stadium Barracks, Berlin

Maj Gen J. O. C. Alexander inspects 1 Sqn with Maj M. A. Little

Herr Horst Dohm, the Borough Mayor of Wilmersdorf commended the Regiment on its work in Berlin. The Unit had possessed the Freedom of Wilmersdorf and he had great pleasure in awarding Freedom Scrolls to the successor Unit. The Regiment marched off parade in slow time to 'Auld Lang Syne' played by the Band of the 1st Bn The Light Infantry.

Maj Gen Alexander presented the Mayor of Wilmersdorf with an engraved tankard. **Herr Dohm** later presented the new commanders with splendid, cobalt blue, porcelain plates patterned with the Wilmersdorf coat-of-arms. Afterwards the newly formed Units celebrated with their families and friends in the Kuppelsaal.

The Disbandment Parade was commanded by **Lt Col Mike Collins** the outgoing Commanding Officer who departs for the School of Signals in Blandford. His Regiment and his many friends in Berlin wish him and his wife **Christine** every success in the future.

The Inspecting Officer was **Maj Gen J. O. C. Alexander OBE** who thanked the CO and the Regiment for their loyal service in Berlin. He accepted the flag from the CO for safekeeping and then presented new flags to **Maj Alan Dutton MBE** 16/5L who will now command the Berlin Garrison Administration Unit, and to **Maj Max Little** who now commands 229 (Berlin) Sig Sqn.

Herr Horst Dohm, Mayor of Wilmersdorf presents plates to OC 229 (Berlin) Sig Sqn and OC Berlin Garrison Admin Unit

238 (London) Sig Sqn
Chelsea Barracks

RADIO/MT TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd — **Capt Max Knobel**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt 'JB' Bragg**
T Det Sgt **Sgt Steve Matthews**, MT Sgt **Sgt Joy Harrison.**

The lads would like to wish **Capt Max Knobel, Cpls Brummie Seaton, Ian Campbell, LCpl Dave Chambers** and their families all the best, as they make the big leap into civvy street. Also congratulations go to **Sgt JB Bragg** on his promotion to SSgt.

PRE, Battle Camp and ceremonial parades will soon be with us, so training has commenced with **WO2 (RQMS) Rod Pylee** to keep them on their toes.

Life in MT Tp has been busy with a big change round of the fleet. We now have the pleasure of driving H Reg Ford Fiestas, which run on unleaded fuel.

Finally we would like to congratulate **LCpl Eric** and **Helen Head** on the birth of their son. 'Well done'.

OSCAR TROOP

On the sporting front the Troop had a good if not expected, win in the Squadron .22 Shooting Competition organised by the Training Wing. Well done to **Cpls** (Tony) **Lynch,** (Norrie) **Small, LCpl** (Andy) **Jennings** and **Sig** (Brendan) **Alston.**

Again we have experienced a large turnover of personnel. A notable departure was **WO2** (Tommy) **Baldwin** to 3 Armd Div on promotion to WO1. We all wish him well. His replacement is **WO2 (YofS) Copestake** from School of Signals. We hope he and his family enjoy their time in London.

254 Sig Sqn (UNFICYP)
BFPO 567

SHQ
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj F. T. Riley**
2IC — **Capt P. J. Watt**
SSM **WO2 W. Henderson**, SQMS **SSgt D. Forbes**, CC **Sgt A. B. Rose**, Stores Acct **Sgt R. Clatworthy**, FSO Clk **Mr C. Wilkinson**, Typist **Mrs S. Hiscock.**

It was with regret that the Squadron said farewell to **Mrs Jean McGhie** the FSO Clerk. She has done a sterling job with the UNFICYP telephone account and within the orderly room. We wish her all the best in Washington and welcome **Mr Chris Wilkinson** transferred from the HQ.

Congratulations go to **WO2 (YofS) Dougie Mac Taggart** and **AWO2 Giles Whitford** on their success on recent promotion boards.

SUPPORT REGIMENT ORIENTEERING

The annual Support Regiment Orienteering Competition was hosted by the Squadron on the UN Protected area in Nicosia. Competition was fierce, especially between ourselves and the UNFICYP REME Wksps. The team however had been training hard and managed to take first place—well done lads!

SUPPORT REGIMENT FOOTBALL

The only trophy that has evaded the Squadron to date was, yet again, within our reach. Despite being drawn into a tough league we were confident, that under **WO2 (SSM) W. Henderson**'s expert training we were in with a chance. The team made it to the final with three straight wins. The final was to be a rematch of the opening game against HQ Sqn. Unfortunately a win was not on the cards with the Squadron going down 1—3, but the highlight being a 30 yard goal from **Sig Bruce Thornton.** Well done to all that played—maybe next time.

TECH AND LINE TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd — **WO2 (FofS) G. Whiteford**
Tp Sgt — **Sgt P. Skene**
Tech Sgt **Sgt S. Norris**, Line Sgt's **Sgts P. Jennings, P. Norrie, S. Bryant.**

A warm welcome to **Sgts Phil Skene, Taff Bryant** his wife **Kerry** and newly born son **Joshua, Cpls Alan Durand** and **Paul Coxford** and **LCpl Steve Bancroft.** Enjoy your tour with UN. Fond farewells to **Sgt Pete Edge, Cpls Kingsford-Smith** and **Greg Hagel.** All the best for the future.

COMMCEN TROOP
PERSONALITIES

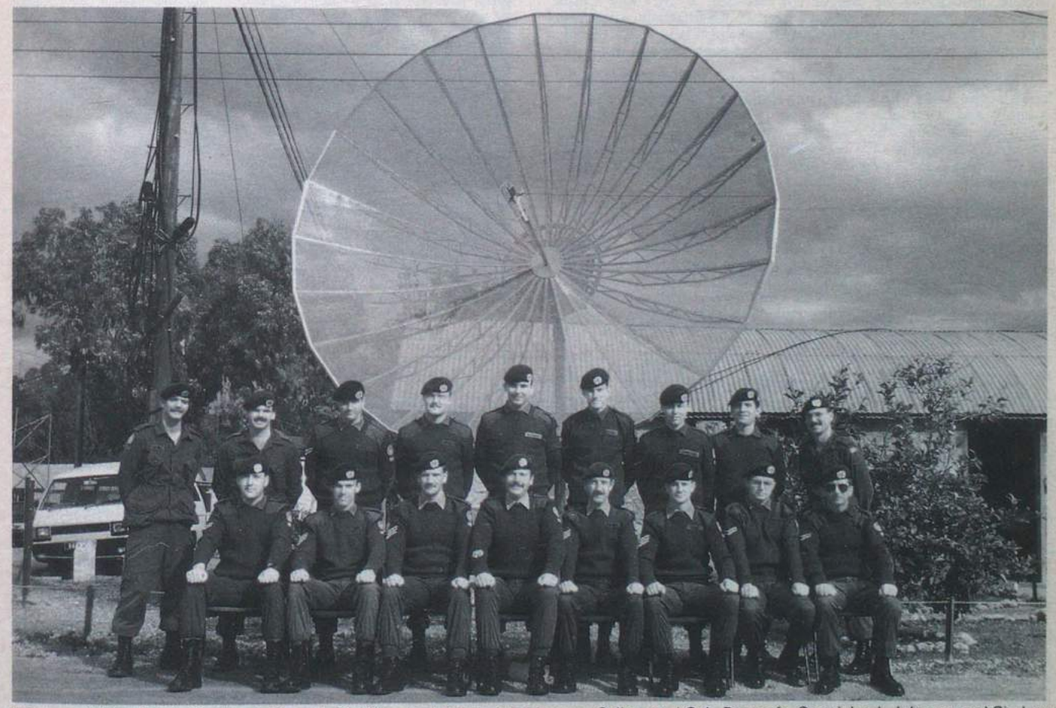
Tp Comd — **WO2 (YofS) D. Mac Taggart**
Tp Sgt — **Sgt L. Thornton-Granville**
Crypto **Cpl M. Hodds**, A Shift Cpl **Cpl D. Betts**, B Shift Cpl **Cpl J. Ker**, C Shift Cpl **Cpl W. English.**

ARRIVAL

The Troop welcomes **Cpl Geordie English, LCpl Nige Howard, Sig Mark May, Taff Lean, Smudge Smith** and **Woody Wood.**

DEPARTURES

Fond farewells to: **Cpl Ginge Purves, Sig Steff Carroll, Gidge**



Front row (left to right): Sig Hagel, Durand, Cpl Kingsford-Smith, Sig Mesmer, Galloway, LCpls Bancroft, Carmichael, Johnson and Sig Lowe
Back row (left to right): Sgts Bryant, Edge, Skene, WO2 (FofS) Whiteford, Sgts Jennings, Binnie, Cpls Coxford and Helm

Gibben, Dusty Miller, Doobs Rodgers, Ritchie Warren and **Tom Wiffen.**

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to 'Geordie' **English** on his forthcoming marriage to **Ali Edwards.** Also to **Doobs Rodgers** and his wife on the birth of their baby daughter.

RADIO TROOP PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**Capt Mike Purcell** (Canadian Signals)
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Mick Halford**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Larry Will**

ARRIVALS

The Troop welcomes its new members: **Sgt Larry Will, MCpls Belanger, Bill Tremblay, Cpls Gagnon, Macfarlane, Sig MacLeod, Harvey** and **Fazackerley.**

DEPARTURES

Farewell and good luck to: **Sgt Gerry Gervais, MCpls Gilles Beaupre, Jim Kelly, Cpl Walters, LCpls** 'Tooth' **Byrne, Davies-Morris** and **Sig Paul Parsons.**

Capt Mike Purcell has now returned to Canada and his indoor ice rink (his house was recently flooded by a burst pipe!).

His replacement **Lt Wood** just had time to draw his UN kit before starting his first job, leading the Squadron team in the Regimental Mil Skills Competition.

Recent highlights include the Troop Dine-out of **Cpl Walters** who managed to write off the SO (Tels) UN issue car just before his tour ended.

Also newly arrived **Sgt Larry Will**'s Armadillo Skin cowboys boots are causing a sensation amongst the fashion conscious SNCO's he claims they are worn by everyone in Canada!

259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Friday 30 November 1990 saw **Maj Lynn Relph** hand over the reins to **Maj Jim Dryburgh**. This marked the end of a 'first' in Royal Signals history for we believe 259 Sig Sqn is the only Corps independent regular Unit to have been commanded by a woman. **Lynn**, we know, leaves us reluctantly to take up a post in the Signals Directorate. We send her our best wishes and hope she has a successful tour.

The Squadron extends its warmest welcome to **Maj Jim Dryburgh** and his wife **Aleks** who join us from Catterick Camp. We wish them a happy and memorable stay in Cyprus. For the wit who made the comment, on seeing the photograph of the handing over, 'did he travel by telephone box?' The answer is no; travel was by courtesy of the Royal Air Force. Given the delays involved however the telephone box might have been quicker!

SQUADRON PHOTOGRAPH

Everyone knows how difficult a task it is to get the Squadron together at any one time. When the 2IC got wind of plans to make a farewell presentation to **Maj Lynn Relph** he was heard to remark 'good idea, let's have a Squadron photograph at the same time'. 'No problem' came the reply from **WO2 Tim Wallis.** However despite the pressures caused by Op Granby and other projects almost all the Squadron turned out from Troodos, Akrotiri and Episkopi. This massed gathering bore witness to a presentation of ceramic figurines by **Sig Prout** to **Maj Relph.**

Sig Prout presenting Maj Lynn Relph with a set of ceramic figurines—Squadron members look on

Squadron Photograph Episkopi—November 1990

Maj Lynn Relph shown welcoming her successor Maj Jim Dryburgh to 259 Sig Sqn

NEWS FROM TROOPS

HQ TROOP

Due to a recent minor reorganisation, bringing SHQ under our wing, Troop personalities are now:-

Comd HQ Tp/QM/MTO	**Maj Ron Collins**
Tp Sgt/MT Sgt	**Sgt Chris Geelan**

SHQ

Sqn Comd	**Maj Jim Dryburgh**
2IC	**Capt Mike Kennedy**

SSM **WO2 Tim Wallis**, Chief Clerk **SSgt Neil March**, Clerk **LCpl Andy Callaghan.**

QM's

SQMS	**SSgt 'Walt' Kerr**

Acct **Sgt Pete Brooker, LCpl Ian Sutton**, SWS **Sgt Ken Phillips, LCpl Mark Greg.**

MT

Cpl 'Bish' Bishop, Sig Al Northcott.

RADIO SECTION

Sgt Steve Harrison (sometimes Trg SNCO), **Cpl Allan Payne, LCpls Paul Marston, Adam Furniss, Sig Tony Haley.**

Ex members might like to know we still have our civilians working for us. I'm sure you will remember all your friends: **Mr John Matthew**, Sqn Clk; **Mrs Litsa Anastasiou**, Typist; **Mr George Vakis**, SWS Storeman; **Mr Michael Evangelos**, Storeman/Labourer; **Mr Savvas Agathokleous**, Driver and **Mr Pambos Kouzis**, Driver.

MOUNTAIN TROOP PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**Lt Nick Walker**
FofS	**SSgt Dave Alexander**

RR SNCOs **Sgts Chris Ballin, Chambers**, TE SNCOs **Sgts Tony Taylor, Tony Quinn.**

Listeners to BFBS 2 will have gathered that we are submerged in snow. These should be happy days for with road conditions severe enough to restrict the movement of traffic. Our lookouts would have a better than evens chance of picking up the Squadron Commander before he arrives on his 'spot' visits. A curse on helicopters!

Weather conditions bad or otherwise doesn't stop 'comings and goings' and we have said farewell to **Sgt John Bennett,** his wife **Sarah** and son **Carl,** who leave us and the Army. Good luck **John!**

Welcome to **Sgt Tony Taylor** all the way up from Episkopi, we hope your tour with Mountain Tp is a pleasant one.

Recent months have been marked with success for the Troop, with a resounding victory in the Sqn Comd's Cup. We have managed to keep the trophy away from the RAF for another year with one event still to be played—easy!

Two of our members are to be congratulated on representing the Army in their respective sports. **Cpl Ian Binks** helping to win the water polo and tie for first place in the Inter Service swimming. Well done **Binksy! LCpl Brennan** also shone in the Inter Service volleyball with the team finishing second.

A passing mention to **SSgt (FofS) Alexander** who on a recent course in Italy had his briefcase stolen. After the fastest 100m this year the culprit managed to evade capture. Unlucky **Dave!**

AIRFIELD TROOP PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**Capt Tim Craven**
FofS	**WO2 Terry Waites**

Tp SSgt **SSgt Nick Phillips**, CRISP **SSgt George Myerscough**, Exchange **Sgt Tony Pinsent**, Systems **Sgt Alan Piper**, Projects **Sgt Ken John.**

HAILS AND FAREWELLS

We welcome the following new arrivals to Akrotiri: **Cpl Bob Davis** and his wife **Carol, Cpl Matt Helm**, currently wearing a 'Blue Beret', **LCpl Neil Swithenbank** and his wife **Sue** and most recently **Sig Tony Hind** fresh from the factory.

During the current busy period at RAF Akrotiri we have said farewell and good luck to **Cpl Jock Stenhouse** and his wife **Rhona** to 21 Sig Regt, **Sig Rappo Rapson** and **Sharon** to 13 Sig Regt, **Sig Gascoigne** to 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, **Sig** 'Hammy' **Hamilton** to civvy street, **Sig** 'Taff' **Lougher** to 633 Sig Tp and **Sig** DeDe **Watts** to 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn.

SQUADRON RUGBY

After **Sig** 'Taff' **Morris** broke his collar bone in a pre-season 'friendly' and **Cpl** 'Smiler' **Jones** suffered a sickening knee injury from **Sig** 'I don't play sport anymore' **Pickles** during a troop 'Kissball' game, it looked as if the resurrected Squadron Rugby team was in for a rough ride. However, after a narrow defeat by 12 SU and a comprehensive pounding by a strong 3 Queen's side, the stalwarts **FofS Terry Waites, Cpls** 'Dai' **Treeby** and **Sig** 'Taff' **Lougher,** supported by a determined and enthusiastic bunch of ex-lounge-lizards including **Sig Tony Haley, LCpl Paul Marsden** and **Sgt Tim Commyns,** played a series of impressive games which all resulted in victory. At the end of the year 259 Sig Sqn was top of the WSBA Minor Units League. We are back!

'Shouldn't we close the cockpits before take off?' Seriously the picture shows LCpl Mat Mattson, Sgt Pip Piper and Sig Dee Dee Watts completing line condition tests on a Tele brief

— News from Troops —

NATO FSS
Shetland

It was at the 12th hour of the 12th day of the 12th month that NATO FSS Saxa Vord ceased operation, for 28 years ACE High Saxa Vord (USVZ to those in the know) has been a key part of the NATO integrated communication system and the closure of the station is the first of the chain of UK stations to disappear. The station commander RAF Saxa Vord, Sqn Ldr **Brian Gregson**, switched off the power to the equipments at midday 12 December 1990, the equipment which has worked without any major problems, for 24 hours a day, every day of the year since its installation on 17 September 1962.

The station was originally manned by RAF personnel from 91 Sig Unit but due to an inter service agreement in 1968 it was taken over by Royal Signals.

It is located within the confines of RAF Saxa Vord's operations site which is on Unst, the Northern most island of Shetland, and overlooks the Muckle Flugga Lighthouse, the most northerly inhabited point in the UK . . . yes, it is a desolate place, famous for clean air, which normally travels at 40mph plus. The highest recorded wind speed in the UK was recorded at Saxa Vord a few years ago, measured 172mph before the anemometer (wind speed indicator) was blown away. When the winds are low the sea and loch fishing takes precedence, closely followed by bird watching, of the feathered kind.

At the close, the site was manned by **SSgt Brian Johnston** (Station Chief), **Sgts Sean McHale-Smith, Iain Bannigan, Jim Richardson** and **Neil Fisher** all of whom have been scattered to the four winds.

Everyone at the station was sad to see yet another 'cushy' posting disappear especially **Iain Bannigan** who has spent five years here dodging a Ptarmigan tour. But Royal Signals has left its mark on Unst which the locals will remember for years to come.

On the occasion of the Closedown
Back Row: Sgts Fisher, McHale-Smith, Flt Lt Davies OC Eng, Sqn Ldr Neal Senior Eng Officer, Flt Lt Chambers OC Eng, Sgts Bannigan and Sgt Richardson

In the foreground: Sqn Ldr Gregson and SSgt Johnston

602 Sig Tp (SC)
Bicester

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The OC **Capt Nigel Gill** left for RMCS Shrivenham and Staff College in February. Taking over the reins is **Capt Hugh Mullan** from Berlin. This is no new thing for these two officers, **Capt Mullan** took over from **Capt Gill** in Berlin a year ago! **SSgt Mark Schofield** arrived from 39 Sig Regt (SC) (V) in January to take over Troop SSgt vice **SSgt Paul Chandler**. He is currently on his resettlement course prior to going into the big wide world.

ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS

The AOF consists of ex-members of the Unit who meet from time to time for a few drinks and the chance to meet old friends and reminisce about how it was in their day. The annual meeting usually involves a subsidised dinner with relatively cheap accommodation nearby.

If any ex-Troop member would like further details they should contact: **Pat Grattan**, 1-3 Herbert Grove, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2AT. Tel: (0702) 466602.

Finally, where were you back in 1956 when the Troop was first formed? It was made up as a training Unit with national servicemen under the command of **Maj D. W. S. Sutherland MM** (ex Black Watch). The title of this newly formed Unit was No 1 Special Communications Signal Tp. If you served in this Unit or in 602 Sig Tp (SC) since, any brief notes giving names of personalities, major developments or deployments during your tour would be gratefully received. All information should be passed to the Yeoman, **WO2 (YofS) John Arkley**. Once everything is collated, the information may possibly be published.

662 Sig Tp
BFPO 58

PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**Capt Nick Naylor**
2IC/AO	**Lt Kim Thurlow WRAC**

SSM **WO2 Dale Ikin**, OC Maint Sec **WO1 (FofS) Peter Martin**, OC Comms Sec **WO2 (YofS) Chris Rogan**, SQMS **SSgt John Williams**, Chief Clerk **Sgt Steve Gorman**, Sgt Comd FSS Cape Greco **SSgt John Smith**

PRESENTATION OF LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS

On Friday 25 January **Lt Col Michael Portman** 15/19H, the acting Dhekelia Garrison Commander, presented LS & GC medals to three SNCOs from the Troop.

Sgts A. K. Sparks, C. R. Bough, Lt Col M. Portman 15/19H, Cpl Tiny Watson of 33 SU RAF and SSgt D. Watson

With the agreement of **Sqn Ldr Bob Allen**, the Comd of 33 SU RAF, **SSgt Des Watson's** wife, **Cpl Tiny Watson** of 33 SU, received her award at the same ceremony. How's that for Joint Service co-operation!

After the ceremony all the recipients posed with the Garrison Commander before the more serious celebrations commenced.

COMMUNICATION SECTION
Sgt Dave Porteous

We've had quite a few changes in our small section over these last few months, with the departure of **LCpl Steve Appleton** transferring to the Royal Engineers, **LCpl Rod Helps** posted to 22 Sig Regt, **Sig Vinny Hewitt** posted to 28 Sig Regt and **LCpl Nige Kerr** off to 4 Div. We welcome as replacements, **Cpl Kev Murphy** and **LCpl Tom Rothera**. Our congratulations go out to **LCpl Rick Hogan** and his wife **Chris** on the birth of their daughter **Cali**.

ACTIVITIES

The section has had a successful sporting year winning the Inter-troop swimming, football and volleyball. We also won the first prize in the All Island Charity Raft Race for both the overall prize and the best designed raft. Thanks to the Tele Mechs who insist on challenging us at various sports for crates of beer! Keep challenging lads!

COMMCEN PERSONALITIES
Sgt Annette Williams
Cpl Andy Maynard
Cpl Jacky Berry, Cpl Jill Mackay, Pte Renet Davies, Pte Tanya Smallridge, Pte Kati Murphy

DEPARTURES

Farewell to **LCpl Fern White** off to 8 Sig Regt for her B1 Upgrading course then a posting to 1 Sqn 16 Sig Regt. Good luck and don't forget the alarm clock! Also to **Cpl Andy Maynard** soon to go to sunny Krefeld along with his wife **Karen** and young son **Graeme**.

EVENTS

Probably the most notable event will be the forthcoming marriage of **Pte Tanya Smallridge** to **Spr Daz Ayres** of 62 (Cyp) Sp Sqn RE. **Tanya** is almost the last singly (WRAC) in 662 Sig Tp.

All ex 262/662 (handbags) will be shocked to hear that the Commcen is now on full 24hr operating. Well it did take a war to clinch that. Since operating on 24hrs, **Andy** had been spotted on shift (working) or so he wants us to believe. He says, 'It all came flooding back to me'.

The tourist trade is much depleted—the Strip is like a ghost town, maybe we'll get a spot on Napa Beach this summer.

LATEST FROM THE NEWTS RFC
Sgt John Garhard

Well, the season started really well with a tour to Episkopi. Then it was down to the serious stuff in the Minor Units League, which commenced with three wins and one defeat. We are now playing friendlies only. (Was there every such a thing in rugby?)

The turnover in the club was increased; we say goodbye to **Boltsy, Taffy Skinner, Roy Ward, Mick Senior, Dusty Miller** and finally little **Dean Whitworth**.

New members are **Dale Ikin, Steve Ellis** and a mention must go to **Paul Luckhurst**, for his exceptional play; he not only baffles the opposition but his own team as well!

If you are serving and have a standing order for THE WIRE please keep us well informed 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.

633 Sig Tp
BFPO 12

PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**Capt I. N. Hunter**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt A. Bird**

Tp FofS **WO2 P. McGiveron**, Tp YofS **WO2 M. Brady**.

With the exception of **FofS Phil** 'I've got longer to do than all of you' **McGiveron**, the members of 633 do a six month tour, consequently, there is a continuous change around of personnel.

Welcomes are extended to the Troop seniors above, and **WO2 McGiveron's** wife **Rose** and son **Ben**. Other SNCOs to arrive were: **Sgts** 'BFBS' **Smart, Cunningham,** 'No 1' **Anderson,** 'No 2' **Anderson** and **Parnell**.

Fond farewells go to: **Lt Simon Payne, SSgt Bill Dyson, Sgts Bob Witherstone, Mick Hodkinson, Mick Dullaghan** and **Martin Bamford**.

LINE SECTION NOTES
by Sig Lee Street

Cpl Wood has left to seek employment in the real world. **LCpl Reynolds** has gone to 259, later to attempt an ACC course. And finally, **Sig Brookes** who is off to 21 Sig Regt. Best wishes go to them all.

New arrivals in the Section are: **Cpl Matthews**, already the Troop pizza eating champ from 21 Sig Regt. **Sig Pope** from 662 Sig Tp, along with his tool box and **Sgt Parnell**.

The anchormen in the Section are: **LCpl Dickson**, recently returned from exercise with 1 Glosters. **Sig Lee Street**, who now owns a corner bed space. **Sig Greg Cunningham**, recently returned from R & R in Orlando. He has announced his engagement to **WCpl Los Moore**; many congratulations from us all.

The Section held a stand manned by **LCpl Matthews** and **Sig Street** for the camp fete. The mechs had a 50pr cable jointing demo, with free instruction to budding joiners. For 50c you could join five pairs. The intake, an incredible $1. Well done.

FofS HO/TO

WO2 (FofS) Phil McGiveron has taken over from **WO2 (FofS) Prince**. Good luck to **Tim, Kay** and family.

Here we can see the Foreman's handover in 'Caribbean' No 1 dress, with one of the last remaining C70s in the background FofS Prince wanted to have a photo taken of one being thrown off the roof, he didn't, just as well they are needed . . . 'somewhere else'

MAYAN RUINS TRIP
by Cpl S. MacKinnon

Once upon a time, when the seniors and telemechs of the Troop had been whisked off to Mexico, the Troop were left at APC, with nowhere to go since the local beer garden/dance hall had lost its licence.

All was not lost since **Cpls** 'Mack' **McKinnon** and **Adam** 'Flash' **Gordon** managed to acquire an RCT Bedford and took the boys to see the local ruins at Altun Ha.

With 'Flash' map reading we were soon lost. Asking the locals proved fruitless; none of us knew the Belizian for Mayan Ruins. Luckily, a passing American tourist knew the way and told us that we were on the wrong Northern Highway (suddenly there were two). After some map rustling and a U-turn, 'Flash' **Gordon** managed to get us to our destination and down went the tailgate.

First off the mark was **Sig** 'chase me' **Seabourne** followed by **Cpl Andy Fenner** and **Sig Darren Whittington.**

It was an interesting day much enjoyed by everyone.

The day was rounded off in the Sunspot club with a barbecue, for which thanks must go to **LCpl Steve Preece.**

TX SITE HAMPTON COURT

Life at 'Hampton Court' has started to get back to normal after being the spotlight of events such as Ex Toucan Blade, the Force Defensive Exercise and the CO's inspection; he was heard to ask 'where is the TX Site anyway?'.

Sgt Baron is still trying to catch a glimpse of TX site's own crocodile, but he has now given it up in favour of getting a better suntan than anyone else.

The FofS, **WO2 Phil McGiveron** visits us regularly and keeps us on our toes.

We congratulate **Cpls Dusty** 'Staublich' **Millar** and **Damien Woolfall** on becoming members of the US Seal Club. Well done lads!

Finally we must say welcome and goodbyes to the 'Hampton Court' crew.

Hello's to **Sgt** 'BFBS' **Smart, Cpls Sandy Ward, Roy Inns, Mark Taylor, Mal Pryke, Gaz Clapham** and **LCpl 'Hoppy' Hopwood.**

Goodbyes to **Sgt Kev Burchell, Sgt Eric Sykes, Cpl Damien** 'Woolfy' **Woolfall, Cpl Jim** 'I know a way to short tour' **McCready** and last but not least **Cpl** 'Dinger' **Bell.**

SYSTEMS

To begin with we say farewell to **Sgt Gardner** who has been replaced by **Sgt** 'Bob' **MacDonald**; farewells also to **Cpls Woolfall** and **Miller.**

The Systems crew was too busy to have a really good time but were able to squeeze in a few things on the social side.

The other outing was to the Cays, where the US Seals were founded. This club was a combination of Sys Techs and Radio Techs, during which, on the journey back by water taxi, **Cpl Littlewood** was introduced to the undersea kingdom several times. The Seals were also responsible for the introduction of an alternative to the boat race, which was an experience for everyone who took part.

Welcomes to the Caribbean paradise go to **Cpls Dermot Ferguson** and **Dave Eyes.**

Finally the Troops best wishes go to **Cpl Jim McCready** and hope you're back on your feet and well again soon, the Sunspot needs you.

VISIT BY MISS WORLD 1990

On 27 November 1990, the Troop was visited by Miss World, otherwise known as Miss G. Tolleson. Too soon it was time for her to leave. However, we did enjoy the visit.

Don't be disappointed!

Matter for publication *must* reach the editor six weeks before the publication date, ie by 15 December for the February issue, 15 February for the April issue, and 15 April for the June issue. These are the latest dates and copy arriving earlier will be helpful.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

Admiral	Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB MBE
Commodore	Col P. J. Pritchard
Vice Commodore	Lt Col C. K. Powell

Rear Commodores: Offshore, Lt Col J. A. Grierson; Dinghies, Lt Col M. J. P. Collins; Windsurfing, Lt Col C. D. McK Kemp

CONTACTS

Yachtmasters: UK; Lt Col A. Davies, Blandford Mil 2344
BAOR; Maj N. J. Cory, Korbecke Mil 257
Cyprus; Maj R. C. T. Cuthbertson, Ayios Nikolaos 7466

Secretaries: General; Maj G. M. Lewis Taylor, Bulford Mil 2308
Dinghy Racing UK; Capt D. C. A. Ellis, Blandford Mil 2489
Dinghy Racing BAOR; Sgt Avey-Hebditch, Korbecke Mil 359
UK Windsurfing; Capt D. J. Gilchrist, Tidworth Mil 2403
BAOR Windsurfing; Capt P. J. Daisey, Korbecke Mil 393

DINGHY RACING PROGRAMME

1991 will be a busy year for Royal Signals dinghy sailing, and the intention of these notes is to allow you to enter the major event dates in your diaries in sufficient time for you to give full support to them.

Please note that, especially at Corps regattas, it is not the absolute level of expertise that is important, but more the level of enthusiasm; it is only by entering these events that the less experienced sailors can improve their racing skills.

If you are a keen racing helm already and wish to be considered for the Corps team, please let the Racing Secretary know as soon as possible to enable team selection to take place.

Closing dates for entry to the Corps regattas are shown in the programme; in all cases the first point of contact is the Racing Secretary. Should he not be available, then please contact the Rear Commodore (Dinghies).

REGATTAS

Seaview Regatta—This will be held at Seaview 4-5 June in Mermaid dayboats, with three crew per boat. Selection for the Triangular Regatta vs RE and RA on 6-7 June will be on the strength of this regatta. Entry fee is £40 per boat, closing date 17 May.

Dinghy Regatta—This will be held at Netley SC on Southampton Water 15-16 July in Bosun Dinghies equipped with spinnakers. Entry fee is £5 per boat, closing date 28 June.

Army Dinghy Regatta—This will also be held at Netley 7-8 September, for further details contact the Racing Secretary nearer the date.

INTER CORPS LEAGUE DINGHY TEAM MATCHES

REME	7 May	Netley
AMS	29 May	Netley
RAOC	12 June	Calvert
INF	19 June	Netley
REME	10 July	Theale
RAPC	17 July	Netley
RA	25 September	Thorney Island
WRAC	9 October	Thorney Island

J24 'CHIEFTAIN'

Those of you who are regular readers of the Yacht Club page will recall the summary in the last issue of 1990's campaign in 'Chieftain', and the improvement shown in performance over the season. These notes are intended to show how we are planning to build on this during the year.

March and April will be the traditional Spring series on Sunday mornings, probably sailed out of Lymington. In the middle of this the yacht and crew will be going to La Trinite in France for the Easter Regatta, in order to get some good large fleet competition before the start of the serious competitions in UK.

These start in May, with the Spring Cup in Christchurch Bay and the Southern Areas off Cowes with an RYA training weekend sandwiched in between.

June is a lay month for the J24s, but in July we are back with another training weekend prior to the European Championships which are being held at Cowes.

August sees yacht and crew going to Abersoch in North Wales for the Northern Areas with the Summer Cup the following weekend at Plymouth. This last at least gets the boats to the right location for the National Championships, which start in the first weekend in September.

The final major event of the season is the Autumn Cup back in Cowes, with a Winter Series on Sunday mornings up to early December at Lymington.

ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB BAOR

THE AIM

The Club exists to give Officers and Soldiers the opportunity to take part in Offshore Sailing. This is achieved by offering our yacht *Quicksilver* for charter and inviting participation in the Royal Signals Sail Training Week (STW).

QUICKSILVER

Quicksilver is a Sadler 34 GRP Sloop based at the British Kiel Yacht Club (BKYC). She is a modern well founded craft ideally suited for Private Charter or Adventurous Training in the Baltic or adjacent waters. She is available for charter with or without a permanent Skipper and has berths for six (including the Skipper).

The Yacht is available from mid April to mid October at an inclusive cost of DM 120 a day (DM 80 a day before 1 May and after 18 September).

For Adventure Training *Quicksilver* qualifies for all the usual grants. In view of Operation Granby it is going to be particularly difficult to fully utilise this splendid asset but all units, whether major or minor, Regular or Territorial Army can and should take advantage of it.

The only firm bookings that have been made so far are: Sunday 26 May to Saturday 8 June; Tuesday 18 June to Tuesday 9 July; Thursday 11 July to Sunday 21 July (STW) and Tuesday 20 August to Saturday 31 August.

SAIL TRAINING WEEK

The STW for 1991 is to take place between 11 and 21 July. This event has been running for many years with great success and is widely acknowledged to be one of the most prestigious of all the STW's run at Kiel.

The exact format for this year is still under discussion but is guaranteed to be interesting, exciting and challenging. Our main difficulty will be, as always, getting enough entries to fill the entire fleet of Halberg-Russey 29s. Those we can not fill we have to sub charter or pay for them regardless.

All units Regular and Territorial Army are cordially invited to take part and although details are not yet finalised it would be a great help if provisional intentions to field an entry could be signalled as soon as possible to the BAOR Yachtmaster.

ROYAL SIGNALS OFFSHORE SAILING COURSE

The highly successful Royal Signals Offshore Sailing Course will take place again this year from Monday 15 April to Sunday 21 April on the Army's new Victoria 34s. Application forms can be obtained from your Unit Sailing Officer or by contacting the course officer **Maj B. H. Rowe** at RHQ Royal Signals, Lond Dist 8333.

WINDSURFING PROGRAMME

We apologise for a number of errors that appeared in the windsurfing programme which was printed in the last issue. Accordingly the complete programme is reproduced again now.

6-7 Apr	Roermond Icebreaker	Roermond
8-9 Apr	R Signals BAOR Championships	Dummersee
29 May-1 Jun	R Signals UK Championships	Browndown
3-5 Jun	BAOR Championships	Dummersee
1-3 Jul	BFG Championships	Dummersee
6-7 Jul	Army Championships	Weymouth (TBC)
27-28 Jul	Joint Services Championships	Rutland Water (TBC)
16-17 Sept	Inter-Corps (BAOR)	Dummersee
2-6 Oct	R Signals Championships	Browndown
14-15 Oct	BAOR Inter-Services	Dummersee
17-18 Oct	BFG Slalom (UK sailors welcome)	Renesse (NL)

for full details and conditions of entry, application may be made through either of the Windsurfing Secretaries.

— Sport —

CYCLING

1991 ARMY CYCLING FESTIVAL

The 11th Army Cycling Festival is to be promoted at Chilwell Station, Nottingham, by Military Works Force from Saturday 20 July to Sunday 28 July 1991 inclusive.

The Festival includes Army Senior and Junior Championships, as well as Inter Corps and Inter Service events.

Road Time Trials along with Road and Track Races are among the types of events being promoted.

The closing date for entries is 14 June 1991, using RTTC or BCF standard forms as appropriate. Entry fees are £3.00 per rider per event. Any rider taking part in six or more events can pay a total fee of £18.00, which will give entry to all races for which you are eligible.

Programme

Sat 20 July — 10m RTT	— Inter Service/Army Junior
Sun 21 July — 50m RTT	— Inter Service/Army Senior
Mon 22 July — 25m 2 up RTT	— Army Junior
Mon 22 July — Track Championships	— Inter Service/Army Senior
Tue 23 July — 10m RTT	— Inter Corps/Army Junior
Wed 24 July — 25m RTT	— Army Senior/Inter Corps & Army Junior
Thu 25 July — Road Races	— Army Senior/Army Junior
Fri 26 July — Criteriums	— Army Senior/Army Junior
Sat 27 July — 25m 3 up RTT	— Army Senior/Army Junior
Sun 28 July — 25m RTT	— Army Inter Corps/Army Junior

Anybody requiring further information about the Festival should contact the Festival Organiser: **Sgt C. Harold RE**, Survey Department, HQ MWF, Chilwell Station, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 5HB.

SKIING

The Corps Nordic Ski Championship took place in Norway between 14 and 19 December. Operational commitments reduced the planned attendance but 22 Sig Regt, 4 Armd Div Sig Regt, AA Coll Harrogate, 200 Sig Sqn and 211 Sig Sqn were able to field teams which were reduced in numbers. Despite these disabilities the Championship was competed for with enthusiasm.

The Corps was fortunate to be able to hold the camp and the Championship at the World Cup Biathlon Centre at Austlid near Skei—a venue used by the national squads and the Royal Engineers, whose teams are all national team members. To heighten competition and provide a bigger field the Corps and RE championships were run concurrently and members of the British Junior Biathlon Team also competed.

The first race was the Nordic 10km in which all teams took part. **LCpl Harland** (22 Sig Regt) scored a fine victory, beating all comers, including the national squad. **LCpl George** (22 Sig Regt) achieved 12th place and was the first novice. Results: first 22 Sig Regt, second 4 Armd Div Sig Regt and third AAC Harrogate.

Race 2 was the short sprint relay (4 × 5km). Thanks to the doyen of Corps Nordic Skiing, **Sgt Bob Anderson** who spent most of the night constructing the course. Twelve teams competed, the mass start was spectacular and the racing quite excellent, characterised by many lunges of desperation in the changeover box as skiers completed their leg of a taxing course. Results: first 22 Sig Regt 'A', second 22 Sig Regt 'B' and third AA Coll Harrogate.

Race 3: the 15km Nordic race, a one loop course characterised by steep climbs and tight technical descents. A good testing course for experienced skiers and, an interesting experience for the others, with many high speed spills being recorded.

Race 4: the Biathlon, three 2.5km skiing loops combined with a prone and standing shoot at the one third and two third points respectively. This proved to be a demanding race, with steep ascents leading to the range which quickened the pulse and breathing, thus making shooting, particularly in the standing position, extremely difficult. This race showed the strength of 22 Sig Regt which gained the top five places in the individual competition. In the team event, 22 Sig Regt was first; 4 Armd Div second and 211 Sig Sqn were third.

The Corps ski camp is now firmly established as an annual event and one which, with Unit support, should go from strength to strength. It is only by sending our up and coming young skiers to train and compete that potential talent can be spotted and developed. Our aim should be to break the Sappers and Gunners dominance of the Army nordic skiing scene. With commitment and support we can achieve it.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal GCVO

President: The Master of Signals

Chairman and Treasurer: Major General P. D. Alexander CB, MBE

General Secretary: Colonel A. N. de Bretton-Gordon — **Assistant Secretary: Major G. Schofield MBE**

Welfare Secretary: Mrs P. J. Haw — **Administrative Officer: Mr M. R. Drain**

Association Office, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Tel Military System: London District 8245. STD 071 414 8245 Welfare Secretary (direct line) 071 630 0801.

BRIGHTON BRANCH

A year has passed since I assumed the role of secretary, at the AGM which, unfortunately was not very well attended, (only 25 members paraded at Dyke Road). We elected two new Vice Presidents and a full committee; Vice Presidents **Edward Keith** and **Eric White**.

Both **Edward** and **Eric** have served the committee as Treasurer and Chairman, **Edward** for some 10 years before he moved to Wales, **Eric** for five years before he moved to Cornwall, I feel there must be a message there somewhere—was it all too much? They both worked hard for the Branch and we are pleased to be able to honour them in this way.

COMMITTEE

Chairman:	**Maj I. Cobbold**
Vice Chairman:	**J. Barber**
Secretary:	**D. Tupper**
Treasurer:	**Mrs J. Powell**
Social Secretary:	**B. T. Vardy**
Committee:	**J. Chinchen, G. Cogger, M. Feather** and **R. J. Bailey**.

We say thank you to **Dave Dixon** and **John Lovelock** for all the hard work they have done over the past two years; enjoy your rest don't think you've escaped forever; also thank you to **Rene** and **Joy** whom I'm sure, have breathed a sigh of relief that they won't have to make sandwiches at short notice for a while!

We welcome two new members **Brian** (Mr Telecom) **Vardy** and **Bob Bailey**, both have served before so we presume **Carol** and **Jane** have been warned. As you will have noticed **Brian** has taken on the role of Social Secretary, a position which we were unable to fill last year. He has lots of ideas, so make sure you support him, if you have any special requests do let him know on (0273) 509121. **Bob** is also very involved in the Social scene at American Express where he works as a Software Specialist so he will be looking for support.

Our meeting on Friday 1 March is to be a video evening, courtesy of **John Barber**. I am sure he will put a lot of effort into selecting various clips to show us, so do come along, food will be provided as usual—I'm cooking the sausage rolls and I do them myself.

The meeting on Friday 5 April, will be our Annual Cheese and Wine evening, **Brian** and **Trudie** will be doing the honours again, no one else would take it on after the super spread we had last year.

May looks set to be a Whist Drive unless you want anything else.

We are organising a coach to the Royal Tournament this year for a Saturday Matinee performance, those interested should contact **Brian Vardy**, cost in the region of £12 per head including entrance ticket and all transport.

The Annual outing to Blandford is Sunday 19 May and we will be hiring a coach as usual. We pick up at St Peter's Church and then points West along the A27, so if you cannot get to Brighton but would like to come, we can usually work something out.

Catterick this year is the weekend 28-30 June 1991. The bi-Annual Freedom march is due to be held this year on Friday 28 and accommodation will be provided on the Friday night (but not food). We do need to know if you would like to go because of arranging transport.

Last month's 50 Club was won by Vice President **Derry Powell** and the annual prize of £100 was won by **Gordon Holloway**.

Last, but by no means least we welcome two new members, **Maj Alan Rudd** of Worthing who is an ex member of London Branch; he is also a member of the British Legion and the Burma Star Association. Also **Bill Mackenzie** of Middleton-on-Sea who served with the Corps from 1946-56.

CAMBRIDGE BRANCH

Forty members of the Cambridge Branch held a Burns Night Supper in the Officers Mess at the TA Centre in Cambridge recently.

The traditional Haggis was prepared by the master Chef of 36 Sig Regt (V) **WO2 Bill Vodrey** and served by four young members of 54 (EA) Sig Sqn (V). It was piped in and addressed by the Branch Chairman, **Col Derek Latchford**. Guests included **Maj Malcolm Touchin** TD late of 54 (EA) Sig Sqn (V) who has recently been posted to HQ 12 Sig Bde (V) and **Maj** and **Mrs Smith** from 254 Field Ambulance (V), who share the TA Centre with 54 Sqn.

The meal was concluded by the PSAO **Maj George Lile** reading Burns' 'Auld Lang Syne'.

18 DIVISIONAL SIGNALS

Potted history by Cpl S. F. Ruffels, Company Clerk

The Unit was apparently formed from a nucleus of regular and TA personnel at Enfield, Middlesex in late 1939. Some of the TA portion were very young soldiers who were too young to go with their parent Unit (the 54th Div Sigs (TA)) to the BEF. The 54th were based pre-war at Stratford, East London. Among these young soldiers were **Bob Shimmen** (who became the Unit draughtsman), **Reg Amor** (Driver I/C), 'Titch' **Horsfall** (cook), **John Weaver** (DR) and **Bert Pearson** (clerk).

Among original officers and NCOs were **Lt Col B. G. Rowley, Capt Murphy, Lt Denis Hayes, CSM Phillips, CQMS 'Chowsy' Fouracre** and **Sgt J. Chick** (Ord Room Sgt). This information was provided by **Bob Shimmen**.

The Unit was completed by five monthly intakes of young recruits from civvy street commencing in January 1940, of which the writer of this article was one. Before the final intake in May the Unit moved from Enfield to Redgrave Hall, Botesdale, Suffolk. Such was the urgency of matters just before and after Dunkirk, it would first do basic army training and then technical training, all done 'in the field' and not at the usual base Signal Training Establishments.

In July 1940 the Unit moved to the Wroxham and Rackheath Park areas, near Norwich, and later to Melrose, Scotland, for field exercises. By this time **Capt** (later Brig) **F. R. W. Jameson** ('Jammy'), DSO and bar, MC and two bars from WW1, had joined the Unit, along with **Capt J. M.** ('Pip') **Perry**, while the Unit was still in the UK the RSM was **RSM Birchall**, known to one and all as 'Guts and Gaiters'.

In April 1941, the Unit ceased to be the 18th Div Sigs, and was given the code-name 'O Div Sigs' when it embarked at Liverpool on the MV *Reina Del Pacifico* for the Middle East. After it left a second 18th Div Sigs was formed, which subsequently went with the 18th Division to Singapore in 1942 and, sadly, into captivity.

After calls at Freetown and Durban (where it disembarked for a fortnight and trans-shipped to the large Dutch liner *Nieuw Amsterdam*, the newly-named 'O Div Sigs' finally arrived at Suez on 22 June 1941 (the day Hitler invaded Russia).

After disembarkation it transferred to Mena Camp, just outside Cairo alongside the Pyramids, where it acclimatised, took delivery of its vehicles and trained in desert conditions. In July 1941, the Unit moved up through Palestine to join the three brigades of the 6th British Division (the 14th, 16th and 23rd Brigades), now becoming the 6th Div Sigs, at an area just south of Damascus. This was at the tail end of the Syrian Campaign. After the Armistice with the Vichy French, and a spell in Damascus, the Division was deployed in the Baalbeck, Homs and Aleppo areas.

It was at about this time that the then **Capt R. F. Gandy** (nicknamed 'Mahatma') joined the Unit. Some of the senior NCOs at this time were **RSM Neal** (later to become Lt then Capt (TMO) with the Unit), **CSM Fouracre, CSM J.** 'Darky' **Dawes, CQMS Smith, Sgt F. Lilley** (later RSM of the Unit), **Sgt D. Herberts** (later CSM 1 Coy), **Sgts Sam** 'Tiger' **Howell** and **Sgt Brian Tagg** (Line Section), **Sgts Reg Camp, J. Campbell, J. Plant** (OWLs)), and DR **Sgts Jack Myers** (later Capt) and **D. Maguire**.

In August 1941, Churchill acceded to demands by the Australian Government and agreed that the Australian troops besieged in Tobruk should be relieved and the 6th Division was chosen to take their place in the fortress. This operation was started in September and successfully competed within a month. It was a hazardous operation as all relieving troops and much of the ammunition and supplies for

the fortress were ferried in by destroyers, and the Aussies brought out. All this had to be done on moonless nights, and the latter half of the trip from Alexandria to Tobruk was known as 'Bomb Alley' because of the risk of attack from the German Stuka Dive Bombers. On arrival at Tobruk, troops had to scramble ashore over some of the numerous wrecks that littered the harbour, and for this reason had to wear plimsols with their ammo boots tied around their necks to increase agility and avoid clatter which would give the game away to 'Jerry', who would shell the harbour if he thought anything was going on.

Whilst in the Siege, the identity of the Unit was again changed when the 6th Division was re-numbered to the 70th Division. There was a 6th *Australian* Division under the same command, so possibly it was done to avoid confusion.

The 70th Div Sigs acquitted itself well in the Siege of Tobruk and the Line Section won a DCM (**Sgt Jones**), and two MMs (one to **Sig Stan Lobb** from Truro). **Jones** was actually captured along with **Sig Clem Primmett** and **Jacky Brown**. **Jones** escaped and made it back to our lines, but sadly **Primmett** died whilst in captivity in Italy. It is thought that the Officer i/c the Line Section also got the MC. These awards were made for their sterling work in keeping the lines open in the famous 'Corridor' which the fortress troops established between themselves and the relieving 8th Army. Some 'A' Section operators also had a 'hairy' time in the same fluid situation. All ranks had to put up with shelling from both German artillery and from their long range guns like the famous Bardia Bill. Stukas and ME 109s from the nearby German airfield of El Adem also made life difficult. To counteract this everyone lived in dugouts, which were flea and rat ridden. These were the Jerboas (kangaroo rats) which were fairly friendly little creatures and the origin of the term 'Desert Rats'. Food was a constant diet of Bully Beef, Biscuits and Ascorbic tablets, with occasional bread and captured Italian jam and anchovies (tinned). The tablets were in lieu of fresh vegetables. The water was desalinated sea water.

The Siege ended on 8 December 1941 when Rommel temporarily pulled out of Cyrenaica, and the Unit was evacuated in 10 ton trucks around Christmas 1941 to Kassassine, Egypt, where we were deloused, re-equiped and sent on a short leave to Cairo.

Instead of going back to the Western Desert with the 8th Army, the 70th Div was despatched to the Far East and set sail in February 1942 on the SS *Ile De France* bound, apparently, for Rangoon. With the rapid advance of the Japanese, these plans were altered and two brigades and Div HQ went to India and one brigade (the 16th) to Ceylon. After a spell at Ahmednagar, near Bombay, the Unit moved by road in its own transport to Ranchi, Bihar, where it stayed for a year training and exercising over a wide area, waiting for any possible Japanese move across the Bay of Bengal.

Personnel who joined the Unit during the Ranchi period were **Lt Col S. C. Cadogan, Maj G. D. T. Harris, Capt Peter Crauford, Capt P. C. B. 'Nellie' Wallis** as Adjt, **Sgt Ray Campbell**, and a young signaller, **Sig W. R. Partridge** who, later played a large part in keeping 18th Div Sigs Reunion Association going.

In 1943, the 70th Division (with the 16th Brigade restored to it from Ceylon) was taken over by **Gen Orde Wingate** to become the major part of the British element in the Second Chindit Expedition, and after a stay in Bangalore, the Unit moved to Gwalior for jungle training. Here troops were greeted by the Maharajah with garlands, ceremonial elephants, and a special showing in the local cinema of a Greta Garbo film.

In the latter part of 1943 the Unit moved to Sylhet, and then in 1944 to Imphal in Assam to begin the serious business of providing the signals to keep in touch with the columns and landing strips of the 2nd Chindit Expedition and was now 'Special Force Signals'.

After Burma, the Unit moved to the hill station of Shillong for rest and recuperation in 1944, prior to the majority of its personnel being repatriated to the UK arriving home in April 1945 exactly four years after leaving.

Those left behind were re-formed to become the 34th Indian Corps Signals and went to Malaya at the time of the Japanese surrender, where **Lt Col Reg Gandy** took the surrender at Kuala Lumpur.

After the war, the 18th Div Signals Reunion Association was formed and in 1949 held its first annual dinner with a large attendance. The President and driving force in those days was **Brig Jameson**. This much decorated WW1 hero was a real character and quite fearless. When in Tobruk he was the only one who slept in a tent, and the tale goes (possibly apocryphal) that he used to get his driver, a splendidly staunch fellow aptly named **Bert Death** (pronounced Deeth), to drive him up to the front line and wait there for him while he marched up and down (recceing the position) while **Bert** sweated it out waiting for 'Jerry' to take pot shots at them. Needless to say, '**Jammy**' died in bed at home in Oxted, Surrey, at a goodly age.

Reg Gandy took over '**Jammy**'s' mantle as President and proved a popular and inspiring holder of the office until he died in 1988. **Reg** was President of his local British Legion branch, but his family were particularly pleased that four of his old comrades, **Cols S. C. Cadogan** and **Nigel Pidsley**, full **Cpl Ruffels** and full **Sig Bill Partridge**, attended his funeral. These days that modest, but witty solicitor from Finchley, **Peter Crauford**, fills the shoes of '**Jammy**' and **Reg**, assisted by **Bill Partridge** and **Bill Secular**, and between them lay on the annual dinner at the Victory Services Club, Marble Arch, every March.

Should any ex-member of the Unit who reads this article like to find out more about the Association, please contact Hon Sec **W. R. Partridge**, 22 Kingsmead, Smallfield, Horley, Surrey RH6 9QR. Attendance at reunions is down these days, but stalwarts who have attended recent dinners are **Nigel Pidsley, Peter Crauford,** 'Boy' **Bamford, Col Fairman, Jack Myers, John Weaver, Bob Humble, Joe Sargeant, Norman Orbell, Frank Lovell, Jack Beasley, Alan 'Ticker' Coombs, Jim Halling, Noel Hodson, Doug Blackwell, Bill Partridge, Bill Secular, Chas Frost, Bob Shimmen** and **Stan Ruffels.**

Before ending this article, mention must be made of a group of Unit members who did more than most to keep up the Unit's morale over the long years from 1940 to 1945. Among the ranks of OWLs, Linemen, Drivers i/c, etc were talented musicians, both amateur and professional, some eight in all.

From playing as individuals in camp and, on troopship they progressed to become the unit band and, eventually became the backbone of the officially sponsored 'Chindit Roadshow'. As such they broadcast on All-India Radio and even made a record in Calcutta. Salutes therefore to **Gerry Kirkham, Bob Trussler, Bob Kirner, Les Smith, Ken Moore** (then a BBC Symphony Orchestra violinist and still playing today), **Reg Amor, Bobby Elson** and **Archie Horn.**

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during January 1991:-

RSA 56 Div OCA Branch	£ 555.00
Officers Club 42 Sig Regt	£ 150.00
A. E. Roberts	£ 116.00
N. H. Chadwick	£ 50.00
David Chappell—CAF	£ 50.00
Sir Peter Scott	£ 25.00
M. Kennedy	£ 24.66
J. E. Neale	£ 20.00
A. D. Eraut	£ 15.00
R. M. A. Jones	£ 12.50
Miss D. M. Abbey	£ 10.25
In memory of Lt Col T. G. Chambers	£ 10.00
Mrs M. H. Lea	£ 10.00
L. C. Hall	£ 10.00
A. R. Carter	£ 10.00
J. O. Buchanan	£ 10.00
Certa Cito Lodge	£ 10.00
P. M. Sparling	£ 13.00
	£1,101.41

The following donations were gratefully received during February 1991:-

Met Police Detective Training School	£ 63.80
J. H. Thom	£ 50.00
Lincoln Branch RSA	£ 50.00
In memory of Maj J. A. G. Stokoe	£ 38.00
In memory of Lt Col T. G. Chambers	£ 24.11
P. M. Sparling	£ 13.00
L. S. Palmer	£ 10.00
In memory of Maj F. Ashford	£ 10.00
In memory of Capt D. Crow	£ 10.00
G. W. Cook	£ 7.66
	£296.77

REUNIONS

ASSOCIATION REUNIONS 1991

Association Reunions in 1991 will take place at:-

Blandford 19 May 1991
Catterick 29/30 June 1991

(The Freedom of Richmond celebrations will be held on 28 June 1991.)

Application forms from members who do not belong to a Branch of the Association are available on demand to RHQ towards the end of February.

THE ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY SANDHURST, 250TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION, TUESDAY 6 AUGUST 1991

As part of the celebration to mark the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the Royal Military Academy, it is proposed to hold a reunion of former Officer and Gentlemen Cadets of Sandhurst, Mons and Woolwich. The reunion will take place at Sandhurst on Tuesday 6 August 1991.

For further details please contact: **Capt Sally Morris** WRAC, Academy Headquarter, RMAS, Camberley, Surrey GU15 4PQ.

56 DIV (CITY OF LONDON SIGNALS) OCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held at 31 Sig Regt (V), 190 Hammersmith Road, London W6 7DL, on Sunday 14 April 1991 at 1100 hrs, for 1130 hrs by kind permission of the CO.

A Curry Lunch, (with a buffet as an alternative) will follow the meeting, at which members' families and friends will be welcome. The price will be £5 per head. Bar facilities will be available.

4 (INDIAN) CORPS SIGNALS

The 43rd annual reunion dinner will be held at the Victory Services Club, London W2 on Friday 26 April 1991. Anyone who served with the unit and wishes to attend should contact **Ted Marsh**, 30 Blakes Way, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN23 6EW. Tel: (0323) 411346.

602 SIGNAL TROOP (SC) ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS

The reunion will be held on the weekend 20/21 April 1991 at the Westcliff Hotel, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 7QW. Tel: (0702) 345247.

Anyone who has served with 602 Sig Tp (SC) past or present, serving or retired who wishes to attend will be most welcome. For hotel reservations (over night stay and breakfast) please contact the Westcliff Hotel direct advising them that you will be with the 602 AOF party to take advantage of the discount offer. To reserve your seat(s) for the dinner, at £14.00 per head, or for further information please contact **Pat Gratten**, 1-3 Herbert Grove, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2AT. Tel: (0702) 466602.

DENBURY NEWTON ABBOT JUNIOR LEADERS REUNION

The Triennial Reunion in and around Newton Abbot will take place on 27 and 28 September 1991.

The programme will cover Friday evening and all day Saturday.

The reunion will be on much the same lines as 1988 when approximately 100 attended and this may well be the last reunion under the present system so it is hoped that all the regular attenders and some new ones will be able to make the dates.

Any enquiries in the meantime to **Sam Ward**, 56 Seymour Road, Newton Abbot, South Devon. Tel: (0626) 52101 or daytime (0392) 51056.

EX BOYS (254) REUNION—1991

Following the successful reunion in Catterick last year, it has been decided to hold another gathering in 1991.

The reunion will be held in the: Commodore Hotel (part of the Balmoral Group), in Scarborough, over the period 4-6 October 1991.

The hotel caters for 80 guests, and if we have 60, the hotel is ours lock, stock and barrel! If we get beyond 80, they have a sister hotel for the extra accommodation needed.

Accommodation is en-suite with colour TV, tea and coffee making facilities. There are two lounges, bar, dance floor and dining room. Music would be available on the Saturday night. The cost for all that: £46 per head (Friday Dinner-Sunday Breakfast inclusive). A cheque for £10 deposit per person is essential—balance to be paid at the hotel.

Applications to **George Severs**, 22 Dallington Close, Burhill Road, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey KT12 4JG or telephone (0932) 221635.

TRUCIAL OMAN SCOUTS

There is to be a Trucial Oman Scout's reunion in London on 26 October. This year, all ranks welcome. If you served with this force or the UDF please ring **Mr T. J. Ward** (0634) 404528 for details.

CAN YOU HELP

264 SIGNAL SQUADRON AND 63 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

We are interested in contacting all former members of 63 (V) and 264 Sig Sqns, who may be interested in attending a reunion during the summer of 1991. Please write to The Signals Reunion, c/o The Occupier, PO Box 1227, London SW3 4SN.

DO YOU LIVE IN THE GLASGOW AREA?

If you reside in the Glasgow area and are interested in forming an Association Branch please write to Commanding Officer, 32 Sig Regt (V), 21 Jardine Street, Glasgow G20 6JT.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Mrs J. Mills (nee **Moore**) would like to get in touch with school friends when her father was stationed in Lippstadt with 22 Sig Regt between 1976 and 1979. **Michelle Annis** (daughter of **Sgt Annis**) and **Debbie Throup** whose father was ACC attached to 22 Sig Regt. Anyone knowing present whereabouts please write to **Mrs Mills**, 36B St Catherines, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1BG.

SIG KENNETH EDWARD HENRY BIRCH

Mrs L. C. Cherry would like to get in touch with **Sig Birch** whom she knew whilst stationed at Chester Castle during 1939-41. Anyone knowing his present whereabouts kindly write to Assistant Regimental Secretary at RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD.

SSGT GORDON NIXON

SSgt Gordon Nixon who served in Catterick in 1969 is asked to get in touch with the Regimental Secretary, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD.

SIG E. T. P. COMLEY

Sig E. T. P. Comley served in 27 Tele Op Section Palestine Command Signals, Jerusalem from September 1944, and afterwards in Benghazi when 615 Tele Op Section Cyrenaica Area Signals was formed, where he remained until December 1946. He would very much like to get in touch with his former CO, **Lt Taylor**. If you are able to help please write to him at Chesswood, 16 Hawthorn Road, Godalming, Surrey GU7 2NE.

LETTERS

From: Capt A. E. Keenan

Dear Sir,

I would be very grateful if I could use the medium of *The Wire* to thank all those who visited, or who sent letters to, my late wife **Joyce** during her illness and also to thank all those who kindly attended her funeral at Winterborne Houghton on 2 January 1991.

Yours faithfully,
A. E. Keenan

'Merrydown'
Winterborne Houghton
Blandford
Dorset DT11 0PE

From: ex WO1 (RSM) R. A. Lawry

Dear Sir,

I noted, with interest, in *The Wire,* of the demise of 227 Sig Sqn AFCENT, in particular its short history.

I was one of the first members to be posted there in 2 December 1948. The Signal Centre and offices were in the Cour Henri Quatre part of the Palace of Fontainebleau but, we didn't live there. At first some of us were in the Chateau Fougeres on the edge of town, others were in various hotels in the town. Meals were supplied in one of the hotels. We later moved to barracks in the town.

I enclose a photograph of the Troop taken in 1950.

My son-in-law **Sgt H. K. Copestake** (yes that family again) is serving with AFCENT (Erwin) now UKSU(FE).

Yours faithfully
Ron Lawry

15 Volis Hill
Kingston St Mary
Taunton
Somerset TA2 8HS

WESTERN EUROPE SIGNAL TROOP 1950

Back Row, L to R: Sig Jimmy Guy, Sig McGrath, Cpl Tony Holmes* (later TOT), Sig Aird, LCpl Griffin, Cpl Price, LCpl Buchanan, Sig Evans, Potter, Gray, Cfn Boocock, Sig Dobson and Baker*

Middle Row: Cpl Davies, LCpl Flynn, Sig Frost, LCpl Johnny Dove*, Sig Tex Morgan*, Brown, Fred Ashton*, Smith, LCpl Ron Lawry*, Sig Davies and Cpl Wright

Front Row: Cpls Tich Cardinal, Ball, Sgts Dag Stevens*, Ball, WO1 Fry, Capt J. McD Glass, Sgts Dennis Carnell, Bell, Cpls Frank Oddy, Bill Lodge and Maloney

* 254 Ex-Boys
Sig Den North* missing

DEATHS

Anderson—Maj (Retd) R. C. Anderson—died 3 March 1991.
Collins—Maj E. C. Collins—died 4 March 1991.
Copeland—Brig R. H. Copeland—served 1925-54—died 18 January 1991.
Denholm-Young—Col C. P. S. Denholm-Young OBE—served 1927-1950—died 22 February 1991.
Ferguson—WO2 D. MacFerguson—served 1963-75—died January 1991.
Gladwell—R. Gladwell—died 6 January 1991.
Ingram—Maj C. P. Ingram—died 8 March 1991.
Nixon—Sig S. L. Nixon—served 1986-1991—died 21 February 1991.
Stokoe—Maj J. A. G. Stokoe—served 1927-67—died 4 February 1991.
Weir—Lt Col W. C. Weir—died 19 January 1991.

OBITUARIES

Ashford—Maj R. F. C. Ashford. Fred Ashford joined 'F' Company (Boys) in 1928 and left in 1932 to serve in 1st Divisional Signals at Aldershot. Between 1935 and 1966 he served throughout the world in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Tientsin, Salisbury, Huddersfield, North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Egypt, India, Ceylon Burma, Siam, Chester, Singapore and Newton Abbot. He was commissioned in 1954 and his remaining postings were in UK and Germany. **Fred** took early retirement in 1966 due to ill health. He died on 18 January and is survived by his widow **Brenda**, two sons and two daughters.

King—WO1 Harold King TA died 14 December 1990, aged 73 years.

Harold served with the 5th Bn Wiltshire Regiment during World War 2 as a Signal Sergeant. He was wounded on Hill 112 in front of Caen but later rejoined the battalion. He was demobilised in March 1946.

He enlisted into the Territorial Army, in the Corps, in 1/20 Army Signal Regiment in Hall Green, Birmingham (a forerunner of 35 Sig Regt (V)) in October 1947. He left in 1963 having been a warrant officer since 1951. He was a member of Royal Signals Association from 1963.

A dedicated soldier, a fine leader and a very respected person. He is sadly missed by us all—his family, his regiment, Old Comrades and his many friends.

Maidment—WO1 K. Maidment—It is with much regret that we report the death of **Keith Maidment** on 9 January 1991 aged 58 years, after a long courageous fight against illness. He served in the Corps from 1952-1974 and his last posting was RSM at 13 Sig Regt in Germany.

He saw service in BAOR, Malta, France and Cyprus. A thoughtful and reliable man who set very high standards in his personal and family life. A loyal, diligent and intelligent man who will always be loved and greatly missed by family and friends.

He leaves a widow, **Rose**, two daughters and a son. His son is a Lance Corporal in the Corps and is currently serving in 632 Sig Tp.

Stiller—Dennis Stiller, who died on 11 December 1990, joined 92 Sig Regt AER as a Technician in 1965. In 1967 during the reorganisation of the Reserve Army he transferred to 39 Sig Regt (V) and continued serving with that Regiment until 1977. Following service with the RAF in the immediate post-war years he became a Ministry of Defence Instructional Officer and served with Royal Signals in Catterick, in that appointment, until his retirement in 1979 due to ill health. **Dennis** will be known to many thousands of technicians who passed through his hands during their training, particularly in radio principles and equipment. He was a respected and popular instructor who had many friends in Richmond and Leyburn districts, and in Dundee which was his TA Headquarters. He was a member of the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society with the call sign G4UWV. His early death at the age of 62 following increasing disability and periods of hospitalisation borne with cheerfulness and dignity is a great loss to his friends and colleagues.

Sivell—Capt D. S. Sivell. Derrick joined the TA at Rotherham in 1951 having completed his National Service in the Corps. He served until 1983 when he finished as WO1 TA with 38 Sig Regt (V). During this time he qualified for his TAEM and TAVR EM with Clasp.

On leaving the TA he served with the ACF where he was commissioned and then went on to serve with the HSF. After retirement from his civilian job with British Steel he worked with SSAFA for 18 months. **Derrick** died on 23 January after a short illness. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Our sincere sympathies go to his wife **Joan** and to his family.

Stokoe—Maj J. A. G. Stokoe. Gordon joined the Corps as a Boy Soldier in F Coy, Catterick, in 1927. Trained as a Despatch Rider and Fitter he spent much of his pre-War service in India, entering the War in Egypt with 1st Indian Divisional Signals. He saw service in both the Middle East and Italy before the end of the war. After the war he served in Harrogate as RSM of the Cypher School before returning to the Middle East. After commissioning as a Quartermaster he saw service with the Junior leaders in Beverley and Newton Abbot, in Hong Kong, as Quartermaster of 11 Sig Regt and completed his service in 1967 in Hanover. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in recognition of 40 years service. He retired to York.

Gordon died on 4 February. Our sincere condolences go to **Elsie** his wife, and to his sons **Col John Stokoe** serving in HQ BAOR and **Lt Andrew Stokoe** serving in 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

Tillman—ASgt A. Tillam—who served in the Corps from 1938-1946 died on 22 February 1991 after a short illness, aged 72 years. He served in North Africa and with 4th Indian Div Sigs. We send our condolences to his widow.

Capt Yahaya bin Haji Omar MBE

Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE writes to inform us of the death of **'Jimmy Yahaya'**, who served as a locally enlisted soldier and officer in Royal Signals in Singapore and Malaya—up to the British withdrawal from Singapore in 1971.

Capt Jimmy Yahaya was the senior Malay rank in 18 Sig Regt during my time as CO. He was one of the most loyal, likeable and hard working Malays I have met. He was a father figure to the Malay soldiers in the Regiment and had their welfare genuinely at heart. His role as advisor on Malay and religious affairs was also an important factor in the smooth running of a Regiment of such diverse backgrounds. For his work, he was awarded the MBE.

His daughter, **Zaiton**, who is studying at Brussels University, writes:

'He was very proud of his army life, and frequently talked of his experiences. In fact, he never stopped telling us about his British friends.'

I am sure I speak for all who knew him, that we were very proud of him and his achievements. Indeed, it may be worth reminding readers of *The Wire* that a portrait of **Jimmy Yahaya**, painted by **SSgt Abu Hassan**, now hangs in the Corps Museum at Blandford.

Jimmy Yahaya rose through the ranks of the locally enlisted soldiers, and served in both 18 and 19 Sig Regts, before becoming Malay RSM and subsequently Malay Captain of 18th. It would be nice to hear from others who knew him in order that a true appreciation of the man and his career can be made.

All will wish to join me in sending our sincere sympathy to his widow **Zaineb** and their daughters, **Zainon, Zaiton** and **Zarina**.

AN INVITATION

From: WO1 RSM C. A. Maycock

Dear Sir,

Every year on Remembrance Day, 16 Sig Regt hold a Ceremony of Remembrance at Rheinberg Military Cemetery.

There are two Royal Signals soldiers interred in the cemetery, **Sig J. Bennie** and **L. Stark**.

If any relatives or comrades of these soldiers wish to visit the graves, the Regiment would be more than happy to arrange it. Initial contact can be made through the Regimental Sergeant Major.

Yours sincerely,
C. A. Maycock (RSM)

16 Signal Regiment
BFPO 35

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: (071) 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.

Corps Goods Available from the Museum Shop, Blandford, Dorset DT11 8RH

Any telephone enquiries to Blandford Military (0258 452581) Ext 2248.

	UK £
Blazer Badge	7.85
Blazer Buttons—large	1.75
small	1.65
New Belt, Italian leather, reversible Brown/Black engraved with Corps badge	13.25
Bookmark	0.55
Brooch, white with gold Corps badge	3.05
Cap badge	2.50
Car badge, 2" × 2", silver badge on enamelled Corps colours	4.75
Clip board with Corps Crest	3.00
Cocktail mat set, six, blue acrylic with Corps badge	10.90
New Coasters, leather, set of 4, with Corps Crest	2.40
Corps badge, on foil, framed and glazed, 11" × 9"	6.25
Corps Records and Cassettes—Information Sheet Available	6.05
New Credit card holder, leather, with Corps Crest	3.45
Crystal Engraved with Corps badge	
Brandy Glass	9.60 ea
Brandy Glass, Cut Crystal	15.25 ea
Sherry Glass	7.25 ea
Whisky Glass	8.25 ea
Whisky Glass, Cut Crystal	15.25 ea
Wine Goblet	9.00 ea
Decanters, Plain	50.60
Decanters, Cut Crystal	55.00
Bud Vase with engraved Corps Crest	19.00
New gilt oval Cufflinks, engraved with Corps badge	14.25
New Deskblotter, leather, with Corps Crest	15.00
Hipflasks	14.50
11½" Jimmy, cast bronze, height including plinth	58.00
Keyrings, Bullet	1.25
Leather	0.50
Corps (enamelled Corps badge with leather tag)	1.60
Corps Badge	1.25
Ladies Marcasite Brooch	26.00
New Ladies Scarf, Dark Blue with White Jimmy in one corner	10.50
Lapel badge (Association Members only)	2.20
New Medal Holder	2.00
Medal Print	4.50
Mug, white china with Corps badge in blue	2.25
Pendants, white with gold Corps badge	4.20
New Pennant, embroidered Corps badge with gold trimming	27.50
New Presentation Pennant on Metal Stand	15.00
Postcard Set	2.00

Prints:	Unsigned	Signed
Frontier Ambush	10.00	16.00
Smith George Cross	10.00	16.00
Palace Guard	10.00	16.00
Imphal Road	10.00	16.00
Dhofar Incident	10.00	16.00
Catterick Parade 1987	10.00	16.00

Statuette, Royal Signals Officer in full dress	58.00
New Statuette, Royal Signals Soldier with SA 80 Rifle	58.00
Silver Plated Teaspoons with Corps Crest	2.70
Sticker, Corps badge on Corps colours, good quality — Large	0.45
Medium	0.45
Small	0.40
Stick pin, 9 carat gold, Corps badge, can be used as brooch/tie pin	65.00
Stick pin, sterling silver Corps badge, as above	17.20
New Sports/Leisure Wear, Excellent Quality, various sizes/colours	
Sweat Shirts with embroidered Corps badge	13.75
Sport Shirts with embroidered Corps badge	13.20
V/Neck Sweater with embroidered Corps badge	15.40
Table mat set, six, blue acrylic with Corps badge	30.60
Table mat, large 15" × 11½", blue acrylic with Corps badge	9.60
Tankard, 1pt, Polished pewter, lightweight with Corps badge	15.25
Tankard, ½pt, Polished pewter, with Corps badge	12.25
New Tea towel Blue Signals Design on White Background	2.75
Thimble, Bone China with Corps badge, Gift Boxed	2.70
Tie, Corps colours in polyester, 3" width	5.50
Tie, Corps colours in Pure Silk, 3" width	10.95
Umbrella, golf size, Corps colours	14.30
Wall plaque, 'Royal Corps of Signals', shield, 6" × 7"	12.10
Watch strap, Corps colours, nylon	1.40

Prices shown include VAT at 15%. Invoices sent after 1 April 1991 will reflect the increased charge of VAT at 17½%

OVERSEAS ORDERS WILL BE LESS VAT.
BULK ORDERS FROM PRIs WILL ATTRACT A DISCOUNT

Remittances with order, payable to Royal Signals Corps Fund please

Enjoy a visit to this fascinating exhibition

- Military vehicles and motorcycles.
- Early wireless equipment.
- Uniforms, badges and medals.
- The Queen's Gurkha Signal display.
- A horse drawn cable laying wagon.
- Clandestine radio equipment from World War II.

The museum contains items dealing with the history of army communications dating from the Crimean War to the Falkland Islands Campaign of 1982, as well as the history of the Royal Engineer (Signal Service) and the Royal Corps of Signals.

The display contains early telegraphic and radio equipment dating from the South African War, World War I, the campaigns on the North-West Frontier of India, and World War II. There are many colourful uniforms on display as well as the only surviving example of the horse drawn cable laying wagon. An 8th Army Armoured Command Vehicle is on display, and there are a number of examples of military motor cycles used by the Despatch Riders of the Corps. An airborne communications jeep is also on show.

Admission: FREE.
Opening hours: Monday to Friday 0830 - 1700 hours.
Weekends - by appointment.

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BLANDFORD CAMP, DORSET

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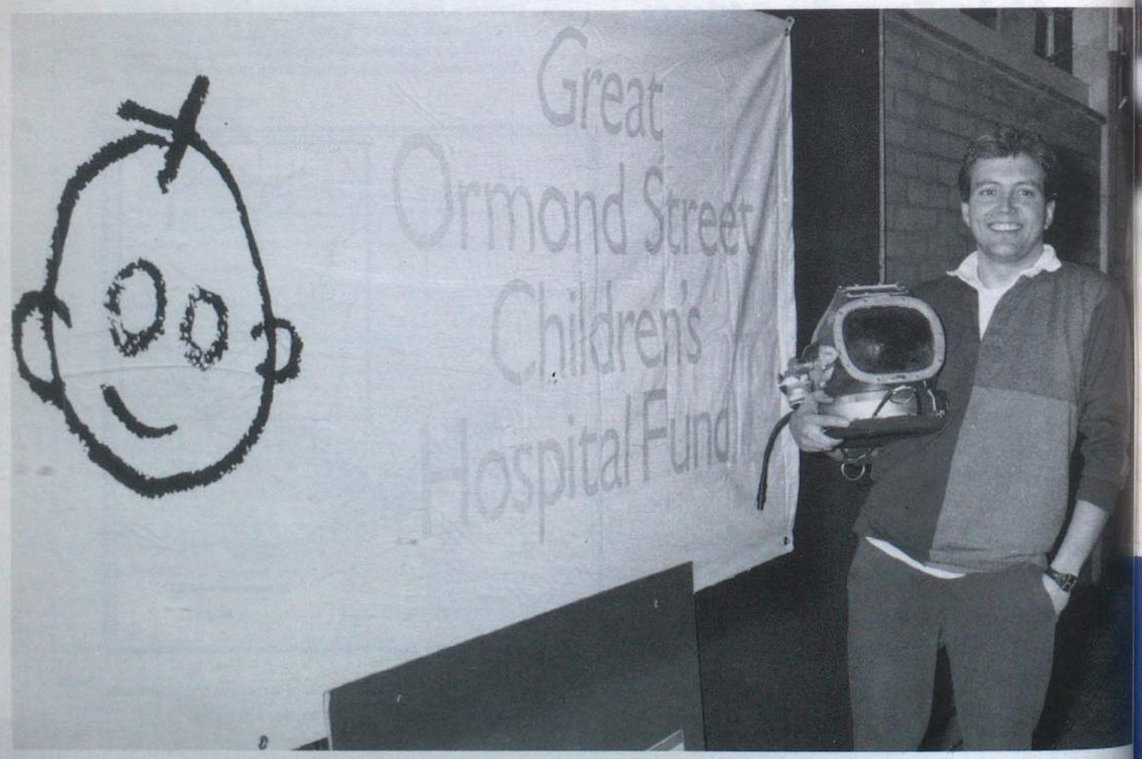

THE wire

The Royal Signals Magazine

June 1991

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING IN SATELLITE TV INSTALLATION

Leaving the army? Looking for a prosperous new career?
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Want to be your own boss and build a team; or qualify to work with fast growing national and regional companies? Satellite TV is still expanding rapidly in the UK and Europe across three main fronts:

- the popular fixed dish markets for receiving TV from the ASTRA satellite
- the motorised dish market — more sophisticated equipment tunes to all the different satellites and so receives even more new TV and radio channels from Europe and America
- communal dish installations in hotels and blocks of flats (SMATV). Communal satellite TV is being sponsored by the newly formed BRITISH SKY BROADCASTING (from the recent merger betwen SKY and BSB), local authorities and the large number of new Cable TV operators (who need to secure subscribers now, even before the cable network is completed).

BRITISH SKY BROADCASTING must connect millions more homes over the next two years to achieve its audience target. Large sums of money are being pumped into advertising campaigns and free installation schemes but there is still a critical shortage of qualified installers.

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The Wire

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Editor Lt Col M. Q. M. Greaves
Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs

The Wire is a member of the Association of Service Newspapers

NORTHERN IRELAND AWARDS

We warmly congratulate those named below, whose awards and mentions were announced during May 1991, for service in Northern Ireland.

MBE
Lieutenant C. Davey
Warrant Officer Class 2 A. Middleton

BEM
Staff Sergeant K. J. Bailey
Sergeant V. E. McNaught

ROYAL SIGNALS INSTITUTION SILVER MEDAL
SSGT (FOFS) A. G. WOOLASTON

SSgt (FofS) A. G. Woolaston, currently serving with 13 Sig Regt, was awarded the Royal Signals Institution Silver Medal in recognition of his being awarded an 'A' Grade pass on Foreman of Signals Course, Number 57. Such grades are rarely achieved.

Throughout the course he produced work of an exceptionally high standard. The technical excellence and quality of production set an example for others to follow.

During the final project **SSgt Woolaston** led a team which was tasked with meeting an actual operational requirement. In spite of limited resources, the team developed an equipment which the instructional staff consider to be the best ever produced by a Foreman of Signals course.

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OUR COVER PICTURES

Our front cover shows Her Majesty The Queen presenting 2Lt R. K. Orr with the Queen's Medal at the Sovereign's Parade at RMA Sandhurst on 12 April 1991. The Queen's Medal is awarded to the cadet who achieves the best overall results in Military and practical assessments. *Photo courtesy 'Soldier' magazine*
Our back cover shows JLCpl C. S. A. Huntington, Iron Troop, 11 Sig Regt, abseiling.

— From our "In" Tray —

THE TENTH POST INDEPENDENCE REUNION OF THE INDIAN CORPS OF SIGNALS

by Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE DL, Master of Signals

An invitation from the Signal Officer in Chief of The Indian Signal Corps inviting the Signal Officer in Chief (Army) to attend the 10th Reunion arrived in London during the Christmas/New Year's break. With Op Granby and Options for Change both in full swing I was invited to represent the Corps at the reunion celebrations in Jabalpur from 14-17 February to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of Indian Signals.

With reunions at Catterick and Blandford on an annual basis, it came as something of a surprise to observe that only 10 reunions of The Indian Corps of Signals have taken place since Independence on 15 August 1947, but then India is a large country. The second surprise was to find that Indian Signals was celebrating its 80th Anniversary in a year when The Royal Corps of Signals is only 71 years' old.

The first reunion of pensioners of The Indian Signal Corps was held in Rawalpindi in March 1931. In 1961, **Maj Gen R. J. Moberly CB OBE KStJ**, Colonel Commandant, led a party of five to the fourth reunion and 50th Anniversary and reported in the March 1961 *Wire* as follows:

'It was in 1911 that the first four Divisional Signal Companies were formed within The Corps of Sappers and Miners, but entirely separate from that Corps for enrolment, enlistment and discharge of Indian personnel. Thus, there has been an Indian Army Signal Service for 80 years (50 in 1961) although complete separation from the Sappers and Miners did not take place until after World War I when The Indian Signal Corps was formed.'

Thus, The Royal Corps of Signals and The Indian Signal Corps were both formed in 1920.

In 1986 after careful preparation, **Maj Gen Badcock** as Master of Signals, **Maj Gen Alexander** as Signal Officer in Chief and **Maj Gen Horsfield** as President of The Indian Signals Association led a party from that Association to join in the 75th Anniversary celebrations at Jabalpur. **Gen Badcock** wrote a detailed account of the visit in the May 1986 issue of *The Wire*. It is a full and well illustrated article and is well worth rereading for those who wish to appreciate the scale, the content and the ambience of a reunion lasting several days and full of exciting events. I am conscious that the Chairman of the Association and the Editor are keen to keep *The Wire* to a size we can afford to print and distribute so I will content myself by highlighting a few points that made the occasion impressive and, for me, so memorable.

The Indian Signal Corps all rank strength is just under 100,000. 1st Signal Training Centre (1 STC) at Jabalpur, comprising a Depot Regiment, a Military Training Regiment and three Technical Training Regiments reminded me of Catterick in the days of National Service. There is a 2nd STC of similar size at Goa. 2 STC was well represented at the sporting events as were the various regional commands. We arrived in Jabalpur in time for the Corps athletics championships on 14 February. The competition was particularly good and the champions were 1 STC, the hosts, with 2 STC runners up. Everyone was now assembled for the reunion. It is a long time since I saw quite so many people attending and taking part in a military extravaganza and it was very impressive.

The opening ceremony was a colourful singing and dancing 'welcome' involving many wives and children all beautifully dressed in Corps coloured costumes and singing songs composed by members of the singing group, extolling their pride in belonging to the Corps. The standard of presentation was very high. After an interval, there followed a Guard of Honour, Wreath Laying and an Attestation Parade. I was privileged to be asked to lay a wreath at The War Memorial. In the early evening we were given an impressive Massed Band Display, a DR Display by The Dare Devils, keen to match and better any feat by The White Helmets—I saw 39 people on seven motor cycles—and finally a Tattoo of traditional dancing with many regional variations. A guest night attended by the Chief of Army Staff brought 15 February to a fitting close.

The sixteenth dawned early with a magnificent Ceremonial Parade held before the heat of the day at 0745 hrs. Later in the morning, there was an impressive para drop led by a senior officer jumping his way into the record books at an age not far short of mine! There were several sticks of eight or nine paratroopers all trying to emulate The Blue Helmets and it was impressive jumping on a very warm but not windless day. An afternoon hockey match of very high standard was followed in the early evening by a sound and light spectacle, dramatising the progress of Signal Communications from the earliest days of drums and smoke to the high speed, secure, reliable communications of today. It portrayed their Corps history in light and sound and was very well produced.

An all rank evening of social eating, dancing, singing and relaxed enjoyment brought the second day to a close and Sunday, the final day, arrived with the main event, a closing ceremony, scheduled for late morning. Prior to this, we were all free to attend an equipment presentation; a typical wives sponsored assortment of bazaar tables, the Museum was open and The Corps of Signals Boys Hostel at Jabalpur was also open.

The closing ceremony was as impressive as the opening one with the singing, dancing and colours quite beautiful. I was asked to speak and I offered my congratulations and admiration for all that my hosts had achieved both historically over the years and more locally over the magnificently organised reunion. Their hospitality had been generous beyond measure.

So much for the reunion; what about the visit by someone who had never been to India and had never served with or alongside the Indian Corps of Signals. I could not have been made more welcome and found it easy to establish a rapport with everyone that I met. I had a day of acclimatisation in New Delhi and at a special welcoming party in the evening met the retired former Colonels Commandant and their wives who were to travel to Jabalpur with me on the overnight train. **Gen Horsfield** had set up this introduction and had briefed me comprehensively before I left. From the moment I met them all I was a member of the family and they in turn introduced me to many other people during the 24 hour train journey to Jabalpur. I met and talked to a lot of people but spent much of the time listening and being gently educated about India and its history, ancient and modern. In stark contrast to so much intolerance being portrayed in so many parts of the world at present, I found my companions to be spiritually tolerant and philosophically understanding of the many problems facing them and the world. We had, of course, much more in common than I imagined for we had been groomed in similar ways but I also had the privilege of having three young ADCs in New Delhi, Jabalpur and Agra and I found them no different.

On the way back to New Delhi from Jabalpur I was met off the train at Agra by the Commander of 50 (Independant) Para Signal Company and after a refreshing shower and breakfast, was taken by my ADC, a **Lt V 'Kris' Krishnan** to see the Taj Mahal, the Itma Daula and Sikandra tombs, and the ancient city of Fateh Pur Sikri. What an experience it was—some people have all the luck don't they! We drove back to New Delhi, with my ADC judging my arrival to the second, for a rapid change and final farewell dinner with the Signal Officer in Chief and many of the friends I had made. In the light of a scheduled 0530 hrs departure home our conversation centred on our own 75th Anniversary Celebrations in 1995. Some told me that they wished to make private visits to the UK to join in the fun.

Final thoughts? We need to look to our laurels. We pride ourselves, and rightly so, on our professionalism. I saw professionalism wherever I looked in Jabalpur and The Indian Signal Corps has the size to maintain competition and keep standards high. We also need to find ways to continue the association between our two Corps despite the increasing age of all who served in India and with the Indian Signals. We have a natural affinity with our colleagues in The Indian Corps of Signals.

FROM: LT COL J. E. F. KIRBY
CO 1 DIV HQ & SIG REGT

It has been my privilege to command this Regiment during the Operation. The Regiment grew to meet Royal Signals commitments and we are indisputably the largest Regiment in the Gulf — some statistics:-

— 2,100 Royal Signal Capbadged.
— Over 3,000 Officers and Soldiers including staff.
— 1,350 vehicles and 520 trailers.
— 200 armoured vehicles.

It has been very difficult for me to visit all the different detachments and also to carry out my staff job as Commander Communications. Since the staff arrived at Christmas, my main effort has been spent working with them so that we got the communication planning right. In the final analysis, if the plans were well made I would be minimising the risk to Royal Signals assets deployed in support of the operation.

What did we all get up to? I am well aware that we all saw only our own part of the operation; let me give you a feel for the involvement of the Regiment:-

RHQ and Echelon
1 Sqn—Ptarmigan
2 Sqn—Div Altn A
3 Sqn—Ptarmigan based on 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
7 Sqn—Ptarmigan based on 7 Sig Reg
14 Sqn—Tactical EW Sqn from 14 Sig Regt
21 Sqn—SH Sig Sqn from 21 Sig Regt
22 Sqn—Rear Headquarters
201 Sig Sqn—Div Altn B
204 Sig Sqn—4 Armd Bde Sig Sqn
207 Sig Sqn—7 Armd Bde Sig Sqn

How have we done?

One of the reasons that I have asked to speak to you today is to tell a representative group of the Regiment that our combined efforts during the Operation have been outstandingly successful. From the initial deployment of 7 Armd Bde Fwd HQ into the desert on 20 October, through the deployment of the Ptarmigan system without which our Division would have been unable to meet its deployment deadlines. Remember that throughout the Operation, and even now, our Trunk Nodes have supplied vital communication; at one time Ptarmigan spread in an unbroken chain from Dhahran on the coast to 7 Corps HQ to the West of Taa Ray, a distance of 540 km. The two teams in Div Main became so skilled at moving that it took them only 45 minutes to provide a working HQ for the Staff, Div Main has changed command no less than 28 times, seven of them during Op Desert Sabre. Div Rear has also provided a dramatically more flexible HQ for its staff than they receive in BAOR.

During the 100 hours of that dramatic pursuit across Iraq and Kuwait we were very stretched indeed. These were tremendous achievements that will become more apparent to us when we go back to Germany and tell our friends what we got up to. Putting six Ptarmigan trunk nodes through the breach under the Tactical Control of the two brigades was the first operational deployment of Ptarmigan into a battle zone. We took risks which I knew could have meant the loss of some of the soft skinned assets, and also some of our soldiers. These risks are unavoidable in war and you have all come to terms, during this operation, with the uncertainty that is our lot as soldiers. Communications worked very well indeed and you may return to your units with pride. Should anyone suggest to you that our operation was a walkover and that we did not have to fight hard, remember that it was only the daring of the plan that took the Iraqi's totally by surprise, a Division advancing for 280 km in 100 hours is a remarkable achievement and whilst we did so we cut off five divisional headquarters from their brigades and a Corps HQ from its divisions. Remember that we left many Iraqis to our south in their trenches and think of how vulnerable Trunk Node 061 was when it took over 50 prisoners (the first UK POWs of the war)—If those Iraqis could see the trunk node and decide to surrender there, then an aggressive force could have done a lot of damage. Having seen this war from the Divisional Headquarters let me assure you that we have just taken part in one of the most daring operations in history. That we won so easily is in no small part due to the excellent communications and flexible and fast moving headquarters provided by Royal Signals over the past months. Those of you who served in the Ptarmigan trunk nodes have taken the system to war for the first time; you have done it with style. Those of you in the rebro clusters at both division and brigade can be proud of your part in the battle—the division was commanded on combat net radio for most of the advance. We also supported the Support Helicopters and provided tactical EW support for the Division. I would like to commend those who have, with great patience, worked with the Staff in the various Headquarters. I am also most grateful for the support given by soldiers in Echelon and the non-Royal Signals capbadged members of our team who integrated so well into the Regiment.

I am proud to have been the commanding officer of such a professional, hard working, loyal and uncomplaining team of soldiers. This has been a great Royal Signals team ably supported by those from other Corps and Regiments without whom this operation would not have been possible. Go back to your units with pride, you have served your Country, your Corps and the 1st (UK) Armoured Division with great distinction. Well Done.

'THE BREACH'

From: 2Lt Gunning

The ground operations was for us, as for most of the British contingent in the Gulf, a brief and extremely hectic stampede towards Kuwait. Thankfully we managed to come through the conflict without a single injury, despite our rapid movements, with all but one vehicle intact. After repeated exercises to practise the breach crossing we found ourselves rapidly approaching 'G' day with little time to complete the final preparations prior to our long awaited advance.

SAN 637 was the first to move north to provide additional Ptarmigan access for the Artillery positioned along the border. Step-up departed shortly afterwards, positioning itself slightly south of the border. Once in position the remainder of the Headquarters was free to move through the breach and beyond. Once inside Iraq with a firm foothold established, our axis of advance swung to the east in the trail of the now distant Brigades which were racing toward Kuwait. The advance through the breach proved to be a long and slow move which **Foreman Gigg Plumb** decided to make slightly more exciting by driving over an anti-personnel mine. Thankfully no damage was caused and it was some time before the crew realised what had happened; they thought they had merely driven over a large bump.

After six days we found ourselves positioned just west of the Basra road and to the north west of Kuwait city and thinking of our forthcoming return home. Our workload has now decreased considerably and we are at some liberty to enjoy the warm weather. Our first days in our new location are still quite restricted until the area had been fully cleared of mines and debris. **Sapper** 'Charlie' **Brown**'s skills were put to use restoring power to vital installations within the city itself, whilst his fellow powermen, under the watchful eye of **Cpl Paul Cross**, continue to attract as much dirt as possible in their never ending efforts to maintain the best generator state in the Division. Many of the wartime restrictions are now being lifted. The most noticeable is being able to use headlights when driving at night. This brought a sigh of relief from **LCpl John Kelly** who had successfully mastered the art of filling large holes in the ground with a 432. Volleyball courts and football pitches have now been constructed along with a running circuit for the more energetic among us. The nearby ranges have provided the opportunity to fire the multitude of captured Iraqi weapons. Captured Iraqi vehicles were also brought to the location to give everyone a chance to drive vehicles which have, until now, been nothing more than photographs in a recognition lecture. After driving the T55, a tank specifically designed for 3 ft midgets with two inch legs, the 2S1 (a self propelled amphibious howitzer) and the BMP the Iraqi's unwillingness to fight comes as no surprise.

Life is not all fun in the sun however, as the vehicles are fully checked and repaired before their return journey, areas inspected, physical training periods re-instated and drill periods conducted. Our new telephone link via the civilian exchange at Portishead provides a welcome, although expensive, opportunity to speak briefly to loved ones, whilst the phone booth itself attracts some very peculiar glances from passers-by.

The final note must be to congratulate all members of the Squadron for a job well done. For such a large group from such a variety of units within BAOR to have been assembled and trained so quickly, to form a new headquarters was a significant achievement and their efforts have been a credit to the Corps. We now find ourselves counting the days before our return to the land of grass, rain, comfort and, most of all, a well earned beer.

AN EXPERIENCE FROM THE GULF

FROM: SGT HITMAN GURUNG 'DHAHRAN'

As the United Nations deadline approached, the date 15 January 1991 became the overriding subject of everyone's thought. When ever you spoke to somebody the main topic of conversation was the deadline. People grew less optimistic as time passed, but nevertheless kept the thought of a withdrawal alive.

Now the deadline had passed not only was there no sign of a withdrawal of Iraqi Troops but also no sign of a change in Iraqi foreign policy.

On 17 January 1991, at 0340 hrs Saudi time a guard knocked on my door and informed me that the Allied Forces had launched a massive air attack on Iraq (Baghdad). I was very excited to hear that news, it was so good that I still cannot express my feelings. Soon after the news I went out of my room thinking that I might see some fighter planes in the sky, but there was none to be seen at that particular time.

Hours passed and there was not any sign of retaliation from Iraq. We thought that the Iraq forces could already have been totally destroyed.

Hours after the air raid on Baghdad, Iraq launched its first scud missile on Israel, and we became more aware that they might launch a missile towards us (Saudi Arabia).

Early morning some 24 hours after the air raid on Iraq the air raid sirens sounded in Saudi Arabia. We put on our NBC IPE and sometime later there were three very loud explosions at intervals of one minute. We did not know what it was because we had not heard anything like these before. A few minutes later there was an even louder explosion. It was really horrendous. We felt the houses we were in shaken. It felt like something is landing on top of your head. We did not know what was happening.

The next day on our daily intelligence briefing we found out that the first explosion was the patriot anti-missile missile launch, and the second explosion was the break-up of a scud after being intercepted by the patriot.

Since then we have heard these sounds quite often, but we now know what it is. Everytime the siren goes and a patriot is launched we wait for the second explosions. It has become a part of life.

Before the war we feared the scud missile, but now the patriot system has shown itself to be reliable we now feel ourselves in a safe place.

One thing I will miss when I go back to Blandford will be the explosion of patriot anti-missile missile signifying the interception of a scud.

FROM: 7 SQN

7 Sqn, based on 1 Sqn 7 Sig Regt, consisted also of two 16 Sig Regt Trunk Nodes, soldiers from all the squadrons at 7 Regt, and a group of SCRA Central operators from 16 and 22 Sig Regts.

Our Advance Party arrived in the Port of Al Jubayl on 16 December 1990 to conduct rapid recces of the local area and to pave the way for the Main Body. Initially we were accommodated in a transit camp called Archiroden which proved to be ideal for what was to be an extremely short acclimatisation. During this period of activity, orders were received to deploy . . . on Christmas Day!

Our destination was the Divisional Concentration Area approximately 100km to our north and our first taste of desert living. After an incredibly early start, all vehicles arrived to a surprisingly cold and breezy 'desert' peninsula. That evening we all sat down to an excellent dinner with all the trimmings taken so much for granted at home (naturally less the 'Herforder', plonk and brandy sauce). A special vote of thanks must be given to the chefs together with the OSC Admin staff who made what could have been a depressing day, into an extremely memorable one; thank you everyone.

Shortly after the New Year we were given our first operational locations to which to deploy, and release all those Ptarmigan trunk assets which had been deployed on Op Granby 1. This was a particularly busy time when every element of the Division conducted some form of work up training, movement drills or range practices within our OSC area.

Before the operation, the start of which had become known as 'G' Day, Troops within 7 Sqn were thrown to the four winds. All tasks were equally vital to ensure the success of the overall plan, despite the static nature of some trunk nodes. A brief resumé of 'troops to task' is shown below:-

— OSC 135, together with Trunk Nodes 021 and 031, went through the breach, in support of 4th and 7th Armd Bdes.
— Trunk Node 022 anchored the Ptarmigan system by providing satellite communications to CBFME at Riyadh and HQ FMA at Al Jubayl.
— Trunk Node 023 provided essential 'real air' communications in support of AS(H) based in King Khalid's Military City.
— Trunk Node 024 remained in Al Jubayl and provided communications for HQ FMA, all logistic units in the port area, Brigade Rear Parties and satellite communications.
— Trunk Node 035 was absorbed into the area system and remained with OSC 133 throughout.
— Centrals were deployed individually to all corners of the battlefield.

Ptarmigan in the advance was something new, certainly challenging when tasked to follow armoured vehicles into the 'unknown', slightly daunting (understatement!).

OSC 135 led an assortment of six trunk nodes, including 021 and 031 through the breach positions along with lead elements of HQ 4 and 7 Armd Bde. Much detailed planning took place, with day and night rehearsals to fine tune the plan. Lessons were learnt and adjustments made to ensure the initial stages of G Day were successful.

Three trunk nodes were under tactical control of 4 Armd Bde (021, 031, 041) and three in support of 7 Armd Bde (012, 043, 053). New orders were received while formed up in the Staging Area just prior to negotiating the breach; little enemy resistance had been experienced and therefore 7 Bde was to exploit beyond its original objectives. After rapid regrouping, Trunk Nodes 031 and 041 joined 7 Bde Group and off we went. In hindsight, crossing the breach was an anti climax, although I am sure we all breathed a sigh of relief!

Throughout 'G+1' trunk nodes were dropped off en route. At one stage approximately 60 soft-skinned 'B' vehicles trundled through the desert in pursuit of 7 Armd Bde. Beyond the M109's in battle formation (firing), Warrior, Challenger and American Bradley armoured vehicles lined up ready to advance giving a seemingly surrealistic view of the battlefield.

By nightfall OSC 135 had co-located with Trunk Node 012 some 5km behind Bde HQ. Nearby, batteries of MLRS and M109's shelling Iraqi positions provided sufficient incentive to dig shell-scrapes and fire trenches in excess of normal standards . . .

In the days that followed, the other OSC's and trunk nodes moved in support of the Division, striding towards Kuwait. Just hours before a firm ceasefire was announced we entered Kuwait to take over the centre 'slice', with OSC 133 to our east and OSC 131 remaining in Iraq supporting the logistic tail.

At the time of writing the Divisional Recovery Plan is working extremely well, with OSC 135 in the Port Area running Ptarmigan for Saudi and Kuwait while the Division returns to BAOR. It is hoped that in our next submission you will hear the stories of 'Roland' and 'Big Vern'.

I would like to leave you with an adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's 'The Return' (Verse 1):

Peace is declared an' I return
To Herford, but not the same;
Things 'ave transpired which made me learn
The size and meanin' of the game.
I did no more than others did
I don't know where the change began.
I started as an average kid
I finished as a thinkin' man.

OSC 135 (hard fwd)(Comms), white and long haired, just after the start of the air war

NOTES FROM THE ARMY PERSONNEL SELECTION GROUP (APSG)

Who are we? Two Officers, and two Sergeant clerks from the Corps and one civilian clerk work for a department called APSG which is part of the Directorate of Army Recruiting within MOD.

Where are we located? We are split between two locations—one officer and his clerk are located in Sutton Coldfield, in what many people will remember as the Army Personnel Selection Centre (now closed), and the remainder are in Training Group Royal Signals, located in Helles Barracks.

PERSONALITIES

The SPSO (Senior Personnel Selection Officer) is **Maj Ron Fletcher** who served in the Corps for 37 years, in BAOR twice, Malaya twice, Hong Kong twice, with intervening tours in Cyprus and UK. On his retirement in July after six years in the post he will be succeeded by **Maj John Bonnett** at present an Instructor in the Army School of Recruiting. He will not leave the building!

The PSO (Personnel Selection Officer) **Capt Colin Miller** has spent the last three years as PSO and is due to retire after 30 years service. His replacement will be **Capt John Wallace BEM** from AA Coll Harrogate, where he has been 2IC Bradley Sqn. He is already interviewing potential Corps tradesmen.

The Clerks are **Sgt Colin Claypole** who was recently awarded the MSM after 31 years service in the Corps. He has held this appointment for the past 13 years during which time he has been involved in the administration and the selection of more than 11,000 men—more than the total other rank strength of the Corps.

Debbie McCallan (Debs) has been clerical assistant to the PSO for the last seven years. She leaves shortly on well deserved promotion to AO.

Sgt Steve Piggins, the youngster of the organisation, has only 15 years service under his belt, and has held the appointment of clerk to the SPSO since November 1989.

Finally the Corps element of APSG all wish **Maj Ron Fletcher** and **Capt Colin Miller** all the best in retirement.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES

Three members of the Corps, **Sgt A. (Alan) Higgins, Sig P. (Paul) Brown** and **J. (Jim) Strouts** all from 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt, represented the Combined Services in the International Kentish Cup Competition and the Inter Service Championships against the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force.

Two other members of the Regiment, were on duty in the Army sides which played in the Inter Service Championships. **LCpl A. (Alan) Robinson** played in the Army side which drew 1—1 with the Royal Navy at Portsmouth, and **Cpl A. McWilliam** was reserve goalkeeper for both matches.

Sgt Higgins, the Army Team Captain, was voted 'Army Footballer of the Year Season 1990/91' an honour last won by the now retired **Sgt A. (Sandy) Brown** who also captained the Army and the Corps side.

Sgt Alan Higgins with his Footballer of the Year trophy

THE EDITOR

It is with great sadness that we have to say farewell to The Editor on his retirement, 9 May. **Ted Andrews** has contributed a great deal during his six year tenure and his energy and innovative skill has made *The Wire* the envy of other Corps and Regiments. His sensitive control, attention to detail and wide experience has made the house magazine of the Corps a popular and enjoyable read. It is much appreciated by members of the Corps family, our affiliated Corps and Regiments and members of the public.

The thoroughly professional image of *The Wire* is a reflection of his imagination and drive and there has been a marked improvement in all aspects during his editorship. Production of a bimonthly magazine is no easy task and requires constant monitoring and encouragement to meet tight deadlines. Contributions need to be on time and many authors have learned that The Editor means business. At the same time, he realises that there are extenuating circumstances and has acted accordingly with sympathy and understanding. It is true to say that all contributors know where they stand and The Editor fully justifies his firm but fair reputation.

Ted Andrews retires in the knowledge that he has achieved a great deal for the Corps and has done much to enhance its reputation in the Army and elsewhere. He has our gratitude for all his hard work, wise counsel and for his friendship. We, and I am sure the Corps at large, wish him and **Jackie** a peaceful and happy retirement and look forward to meeting them in the future.

AN EDITOR SIGNS OFF

When I joined RHQ in April of 1985 I said that I looked forward with enthusiasm to editing *The Wire* and that I was sure that contributors would continue to bombard the Editor with material for publication. I have not been disappointed and I have enjoyed the job enormously. People have been kind, helpful and very constructive in supporting *The Wire*, and I am deeply grateful.

Circumstances have now imposed a tighter discipline on the selection of material for publication and on the way in which we produce *The Wire*. The result is a leaner magazine but I do not think that this has detracted in any way from its quality which depends ultimately upon those who contribute articles and unit notes.

I have no doubt that my successor will continue to receive the support and consideration which has made my spell in the Editor's chair so rewarding and enjoyable and I am sure that all of us, contributors and Editors alike, will continue to strive to make *The Wire* a magazine worthy of our Corps.

Finally I list a few of the howlers that have lightened my days as an Editor. These have been collected over the last five years so no one need feel in the least anxious that he or she is among the authors. Abismally, Appauling, Assents—in climbing, Baited—waiting with ... breath, Champerone—chaperone, Denisons—the denizens, Faultered, Hard Corps, Knashing—of teeth!, Lushous, Misnoma, Peels—of laughter!, Persuation, Phenomenum, Proffisied—prophesied, Raising—as in razing to the ground!, Rostas—duty and leave, Sort after.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF THE CORPS

The 75th Anniversary of the formation of Royal Signals will occur in 1995. The Corps Committee considered the matter in 1990, and decided that the occasion should be celebrated in a fitting way. Although there will be opportunities throughout the year to mark the anniversary, it is intended that a number of functions will be held in London in the period 17-25 June 1995. The chief feature of this will be a Festival in the Albert Hall on Saturday 24 June 1995 involving both the serving and retired Corps.

It is hoped that it will be possible to exercise, during the year, the Freedom of all the towns and cities, which have been granted to units of the Corps. It is also hoped to produce a number of commemorative items for sale, and this is being handled by the Royal Signals Institution. Other ideas to enhance the occasion are also being considered.

The Corps Committee has invited a small working group to plan and co-ordinate the 1995 events, and this is now being led by **Maj Gen P. R. Davies**.

Although 1995 is still some way off, it has been necessary to book some dates well ahead. It is already clear that the normal pattern of Corps annual events will be different in 1995, because of the activities planned for mid-June. The dates for the Royal Signals Association reunions, the Officers Luncheon at Blandford, and possibly other events, are all likely to change in 1995.

MEDALS OF THE LATE CAPT H. R. STEELE

Mrs Agnes Steele, the widow of Capt Harry Steele presenting his medals to Brig A. G. Truluck, Comd School of Signals, for the Corps Museum on 19 April. Capt Steele's medals will be displayed in the Museum's medal gallery next to those won by his brother the late Capt P. W. Steele. Also present at this occasion was Mrs Laura Gardiner, Maj E. C. West-Watson, Lt Col T. A. Howard and Maj D. P. Gardiner, Winchester Branch.

Capt Steele's obituary appeared in the October 1990 issue of *The Wire*

OFFICERS' CORPS DINNER IN SCOTLAND

The Corps Dinner in Scotland will take place in Glasgow at The Western Club on Friday September 27 1991, at 1900 hrs for 1930 hrs. A Pay Bar will be open before and after dinner.

Dress: Highland Evening Wear or Dinner Jacket. No decorations.

All Royal Signals Officers, regular or volunteer, serving or retired are eligible to attend. WRAC Officers who are serving or have served with Royal Signals are also eligible to attend.

The cost of the dinner is £13.50 including wine at table. Cheques should be made payable to Royal Signals Corps Fund.

Application for tickets should be made to Corps Dinner Scotland Secretary, Royal Signals Manning and Record Office, Kentigern House, 65 Brown Street, Glasgow G2 8EX. Telephone: 041 224 2350.

Places at dinner are limited so applications will be dealt with on a first come, first served, basis. Early application is therefore recommended and applications will not be considered after 8 August 1991. Tickets and administrative details will be sent out in the second half of August.

Persons wishing to obtain overnight accommodation in Glasgow may obtain details from The Greater Glasgow Tourist Board, 35-39 Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2ER. Telephone: 041 204 4400.

ROYAL SIGNALS INSTITUTION AWARDS

The Princess Mary Medal shall be regarded as a rare honour to be awarded to mark an achievement, contribution or service of the highest order which is considered manifestly to have enhanced the performance, reputation or status of Royal Signals.

The Master of Signals Award is given to mark the formal recognition by the Corps of special contributions or services by individuals or corporate bodies to the Corps, or, exceptionally to any part of it, where such recognition cannot properly be accommodated within the terms of award for the Princess Mary or Institution Silver Medals.

The very nature of this award precludes any formal direction or criteria on which it shall be made. Nonetheless, the Master of Signals Award shall be considered a rare and prestigious award and due account of this must be taken in the consideration of a nomination by the originator and in the processing of the nomination.

The Institution Silver Medal shall be regarded as a rare award to mark the attainment of an outstanding professional achievement in the Corps. An exceptional performance on the following courses may also qualify:-

(a) The Royal Signals Officer's Telecommunications Engineering Management Course
(b) The Foreman of Signals Course
(c) The Yeoman of Signals Course

The Awards. The form of the Master of Signals Award on each occasion will be recommended by the Selection Committee. The other awards are silver medals.

Nominations are to be submitted through the Royal Signals chain of command to the Deputy Signal Officer in Chief for the serving Corps, or through the Royal Signals Association to the Chairman for the retired Corps, using the format below, and then to Regimental Headquarters by mid August for consideration by the Awards Committee and the information of the Council of the Royal Signals Institution at its October meeting. The final selection for awards will be made by the Corps Selection Committee comprising the Master of Signals, the Signal Officer in Chief, the Representative Colonel Commandant and co-opted members as required.

Presentation. A full citation is to be prepared and the presentation made at a suitable Corps function for the Princess Mary Medal and the Master's Award. The Institution Medal is to be presented at an appropriate occasion, to be decided by the senior Royal Signals officer in the theatre or command. These awards confer Honorary Membership of the Institution upon the recipients.

Records. The Secretary of the Institution maintains the record of recipients' names and PB11 or Royal Signals M and RO will arrange the annotation of personal records.

Nomination for the Princess Mary Medal*
Master of Signals Award*
Institution Silver Medal*

1. Rank and Name .....
2. Event/Course .....
3. Citation .....
   .....
4. Comments
   a. Commander Communications/Association Branches* .....
   b. DSOinC/Chairman of the Royal Signals Association* .....
5. Institution Awards Committee Recommendation .....
   .....
6. Selection Committee Decision .....
   .....

*Delete where inapplicable

RHQ TELEPHONE NUMBERS

	London Dist	DDI-STD
Regimental Colonel	8333	071-414-8333
SO2 (Recruiting)	8444	071-414-8444
Regimental Secretary	8240	071-414-8240
Asst Regtl Secretary	8241	071-414-8241
Main Office RHQ	8242	071-414-8242
Fax—RHQ	8243	071-414-8243
Welfare Office	8244	071-414-8244
Welfare Office (Direct Line)	—	071-630-0801
Association Office	8245	071-414-8245
Editor's Office	8246	071-414-8246
Accountant	8239	071-414-8239
Accounts Office	8247/8	071-414-8247/8

NOTICES

CORPS DATES

Please make a note in your diary of the following events in 1991.
Saturday 15 June—Corps Officers Luncheon, Blandford.
Friday 28 June—Freedom of Richmond Parade.
Saturday/Sunday 29/30 June—Catterick RSA reunion.
Sunday 30 June—Corps Officers luncheon—Catterick.
Friday 27 September—Corps Dinner in Scotland.
Thursday 28 November—London RSI Lecture, International Press Centre.
Tuesday 17 December—Corps Carol Service in London affiliated Church.
Further details will be published nearer the dates.

CORPS LUNCHEON IN THE NORTH

The first ever Corps Luncheon in the North will be held in The Royal Signals Officers' Mess in Catterick at the end of The Association Reunion on Sunday 30 June. The cost will be £10.50 to subscribing members to Corps Funds. Any Officers anxious to attend who will not be at the Reunion are asked to contact RHQ—071 414 8241/2.

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 9 July 1991.

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.

A VERY PLEASANT DAY OUT TO BENEFIT THE CORPS BENEVOLENT FUND

Maj (Retd) R. H. Blizard writes to invite you to visit his garden which will be open to the public under the National Gardens Scheme on Sunday 2 June and 30 June and 4 August from 2-5.30 pm. Light refreshments are available and there will be plants for sale. Admission 75p, children 25p—NO DOGS. Proceeds benefit a variety of charities but 25% of takings will be donated to the Corps Benevolent Fund. This garden has been opened to the public since 1981 and our Fund has benefited by £35 approx each year. The garden is at Sea Close, Cannogate Road, Hythe, Kent. (The garden featured in Southern TV 'That's Gardening' programme on 17 May.)

FOR SALE

Set of six Corps Buttons and four cuff buttons 'stay-brite'—worn once only and Corps Blazer badge—all perfect condition. Will accept fair offer. Please contact: Miss C. E. Catton, 18 Kenwood Drive, Copthorne, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY3 8SY. Telephone (0743) 242406.

Mounted miniature medals comprising 1939-45 Star, Africa Star (8th) Italy Star, France and Germany, Defence and War Medal. Brand new. Bids to Regimental Secretary, RHQ Royal Signals. All proceeds to Benevolent Fund.

SITUATIONS VACANT

MOD CIVILIAN VACANCIES

Applications are invited from ex-military personnel and their families wishing to join the MOD civilian staff. Vacancies continually arise in Central London and Outer London for Patrolmen, Storekeepers, Communications and Electrical Technicians, Drivers, Clerical and other posts.

Interested parties should contact: **Steve Morgans** or **Peter Ashton** on 081-854 2242 Ext: 3574.

WANTED

(Dead or Alive) Pair of size 10 Wellington Boots. Offers to RHQ please. Reasonable reward!

ROYAL SIGNALS GOLFING SOCIETY CHANGE OF HONORARY SECRETARY

Capt Len Yates assumed the appointment of Honorary Secretary from the 1 March 1991. His address and contact telephone numbers are: 93 (East Lancashire) Sig Sqn (V), The Barracks, Canterbury Street, Blackburn, Lancashire BB2 2HS. Telephone: Blackburn Mil 8027 (Fax: 8053), STD (0254) 262444.

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

OUR ADVICE is free and does not commit you to any action: we only ask that any arrangements you decide to make be made through us. It is based on over 42 years of examining clients' problems, analysing them and advising on them. It is not delivered by persuasive salesmen, but is given in writing for you to study at your leisure.

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– Movements –

OFFICERS

APRIL 1991

Name	*United to which posted*
Lt Col C. J. Burton	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt Col A. T. B. Kimber	School of Signals
Lt Col M. K. Stretch	AA Coll Harrogate
Lt Col J. A. Wraith	11 Sig Regt
Maj J. F. Burnage	55 Sig Sqn (V)
Maj R. J. Courtney	11 Sig Regt
Maj R. C. Etheridge	School of Signals
Maj R. P. Etherton	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj C. B. Greig	DSS(A)
Maj S. Law	HQ 2 Sig Bde
Maj W. A. Locke	38 Sig Regt (V)
Maj E. K. Mitchell	HQ LSG
Maj R. J. G. Rumford	HQ W Dist
Maj S. J. Smith	HQ 11 Sig Bde (V)
Maj Q. Vigurs	8 Sig Regt
Capt S. J. Ardagh-Walter	11 Sig Regt
Capt J. F. Calvert	School of Signals
Capt J. T. Cowen	8 Sig Regt
Capt T. R. Craven	37 Sig Regt (V)
Capt D. A. Dunbar	16 Sig Regt
Capt A. J. Duncan	AAC Centre
Capt D. A. Gruncell	Sangcom
Capt L. D. McCourt	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt M. T. Nevill	14 Sig Regt
Capt J. E. Richardson	HQ 11 Armd Bde
Capt L. Rix	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt P. Stephenson	HQ Trg Gp
Capt G. M. Whelan	39 Sig Regt (V)
Lt A. J. Clewlow	13 Sig Regt

OFFICERS

MAY 1991

Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col R. Baxter	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt Col A. J. Raper	Staff College
Maj C. B. Greig	MOD DSS(A)
Maj R. A. James	ACDS (OR) Land Systems
Maj J. R. S. Ovenden	School of Signals
Maj H. A. Ross	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt P. G. Cross	School of Signals
Capt B. T. Dearman	School of Signals
Capt M. V. Ledwards	16 Sig Regt
Capt L. Rix	662 Sig Tp
Capt A. Weaver	9 Sig Regt
Lt K. A. Francis	11 Sig Regt
Lt A. I. M. Gordon	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt J. C. Leader	AA Coll Harrogate
Lt B. M. Perks	8 Sig Regt
Lt I. A. Walton	9 Sig Regt

WOs and SNCOs

APRIL 1991

Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 C. J. Edler	11 Sig Regt
WO2 K. J. Leighton	39 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 J. P. McCaffery	229 Sig Sqn
WO2 (FofS) R. J. Walton	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt C. E. Abbott	251 Sig Sqn
SSgt J. G. Bincliffe	38 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (FofS) M. J. Case	AA Coll Harrogate
SSgt S. Cleary	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
SSgt S. Croot	AA Coll Harrogate
SSgt (FofS) J. H. Martin	22 Sig Regt
SSgt G. McGowan	RSDT
SSgt J. F. Millar	QG Sig Regt
SSgt W. R. Neish	14 Sig Regt
SSgt M. R. Tait	71 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt P. D. Ashworth	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt I. F. Bannigan	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt M. Baxter	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt M. V. F. Baxter	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt A. M. Downs	HQ 4 Sig Gp
Sgt T. Edwards	7 Sig Regt
Sgt A. R. Finch	21 Sig Regt
Sgt S. W. Frampton	8 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Gear	22 Sig Regt
Sgt B. J. Geddis	35 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt R. Guiney	Depot Tp
Sgt I. Hunt	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. L. Huthart	28 Sig Regt
Sgt M. A. J. Inman	30 Sig Regt
Sgt S. James	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt L. Jarvis	15 Sig Regt
Sgt A. C. Jenno	School of Signals
Sgt W. P. G. Kelly	ACIO Dumfries
Sgt I. J. Lee	22 Sig Regt
Sgt A. Mann	16 Sig Regt
Sgt W. McCann	Depot Tp
Sgt P. McDonald	School of Signals
Sgt W. P. Ratcliffe	22 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Reid	16 Sig Regt
Sgt D. M. Rennison	7 Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Richards	JSSU
Sgt J. D. Richardson	28 Sig Regt
Sgt A. J. Riglar	15 Sig Regt
Sgt D. G. Robertson	8 Sig Regt
Sgt K. Robinson	633 Sig Tp
Sgt M. Senior	11 Sig Regt
Sgt M. C. Sibley	JSSU
Sgt J. W. Smith	8 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Stephen	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt P. A. Szczesiak	7 Sig Regt
Sgt S. J. Vaughan	13 Sig Regt
Sgt L. S. Waite	1 Glosters
Sgt B. F. Walker	School of Signals
Sgt K. G. Wosika	16 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Wray	8 Sig Regt
Sgt G. H. Young	16 Sig Regt
ASgt S. A. Croft	28 Sig Regt
ASgt R. J. Dillett	15 CTT (Arborfield)
ASgt G. S. Little	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt R. F. J. Petschi	JACIG
ASgt D. L. Poole	602 Sig Tp
ASgt K. Walters	7 Sig Regt

MAY 1991

WO2 D. W. Bradshaw	37 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 G. Duffy	13 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) K. F. Pywell	HQ 2 Sig Bde
SSgt T. Broomfield	8 Sig Regt
SSgt S. E. Hatfield	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt L. M. Thornton-Granville	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt K. C. Truby	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
SSgt R. A. Wilson	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt C. R. Avey-Hebditch	8 Sig Regt
Sgt A. Bailey	DEF ADP Trg Centre
Sgt P. M. Barr	8 Sig Regt
Sgt M. A. Blakeley	RAF Mount Pleasant
Sgt M. K. Brown	238 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. M. Buckingham	30 Sig Regt
Sgt A. P. Chesters	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt K. P. Curtin	28 Sig Regt
Sgt R. C. Davies	8 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Dickson	JCUFI
Sgt R. Emblen	ACIO Leicester
Sgt G. W. Exton	39 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt P. A. Gardner	9 Sig Regt
Sgt P. J. Harris	ACIO Manchester
Sgt M. S. Holden	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt M. C. Hoodles	HQ AFCENT
Sgt R. Horne	13 Sig Regt
Sgt A. M. Johnson	8 Sig Regt
Sgt W. B. Jones	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. F. Linck	15 Sig Regt
Sgt I. A. Makin	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt M. Meaden	7 Sig Regt
Sgt M. O. Murphy	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt V. A. Nixon	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt B. Postings	ACIO Bradford
Sgt W. G. Pritchard	QG Sig Regt
Sgt B. V. Roberts	28 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Ryall	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt P. J. Searle	Depot Tp
Sgt F. T. Walker	13 Sig Regt
ASgt J. D. Harvey	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASgt A. R. N. Jenson	13 Sig Regt
ASgt A. C. Painter	HQ AFNORTH
ASgt W. M. Pollitt	14 Sig Regt
ASgt M. J. Wynn	28 Sig Regt

If you are serving and have a standing order for THE WIRE please keep us well informed 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.

MOVING?

Have you told RHQ? Your *Wire* will be sent to your old address unless you tell us of a change.

REPORT FROM ULSTER

XV

15 Sig Regt
BFPO 801

VISIT OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE PRINCESS ROYAL GCVO

On 28 February the Regiment was honoured by a surprise visit of the Colonel-in-Chief. In concert with this visit the Regiment was also fortunate enough to be hosting the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE**—the planned events for this visit providing an excellent basis for the Princess Royal's impromptu programme.

Immediately after arrival the Colonel-in-Chief was met by **Brig M. D. Jackson MBE**, Comd 39 Inf Bde, and introduced to the Master and the CO, **Lt Col G. M. S. Shipley**. The COs elder daughter then presented the Princess Royal with a posy.

The first event was in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess where **SSgt Keech** was presented with his BEM by **Her Royal Highness**. Mess members and their wives were presented to **Her Royal Highness** before she left for lunch in the Officers' Mess where **Her Royal Highness** met the GOC, **Lt Gen Sir John Wilsey**.

After lunch **Her Royal Highness** met the Regiment in the Airhall and spent 40 minutes speaking to as many people as possible.

HRH The Princess Royal GCVO, Brig M. D. Jackson, The Master of Signals Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle and CO 15 Sig Regt, Lt Col G. M. S. Shipley at the start of the visit

VISIT OF THE MASTER OF SIGNALS

The Master of Signals visited on 28 February and 1 March 1991 and he visited 3 and 39 Inf Bde Sig Sqns as well as HQ Sqn and 233 Sig Sqn.

VISIT OF THE SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF

To end a very busy two weeks of visits the Regiment hosted a visit by the SOinC, **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook**, to the Province over the period 5-7 March 1991. The SOinC visited most of the Corps units in Northern Ireland. During his visit to the Regiment he presented a Commander British Forces Cyprus Commendation to **SSgt T. Anderson** and LS & GC Medals to **Sgt N. Dixon** and **Cpl N. T. G. Patrick**.

Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook with the medal recipients and their families

MEETING ON THE MAINLAND
TRIP IN THE SNOW

During the blizzard conditions in the UK many members of the Regiment found themselves stuck on the mainland for long periods. Indeed one of the Squadrons had so many people at Birmingham that they almost set up shop there! One of the poor unfortunates was **Capt D. J. Luckett** who has written the following few lines . . .

Let's fly via Birmingham
Great Idea
Nice breakfast on Birmingham European Airways
Yes very
Pleasant meeting!
Quite enjoyed it myself, pity we missed lunch
Looks like we beat the snow
Hope so
We will have done well if we take off in this snow
Ladies and Gentlemen, this is the Captain speaking, I regret to inform you . . .
. . . This lounge is getting crowded
What do you mean 'The airport's closed'?
Well, if you are paying I suppose the hotel is okay
Bus or Taxi?
Let's try the bus
Snow's heavy now
Very
No bus?
No bus!
Taxi?
Taxi
Big queue this
Yes, very, I hope that there is more than one taxi running
Is it really two hours that we have been stood here?
Yes
Nice hotel
Yes, but look at the booking-in queue
Is it really two hours that we have been stood here?
Yes
Nice room
Very, I like the trouser press
Bar?
Bar
What do you mean it is shut?
Bed?
Bed
I'll book the early call, 0500 hrs the airline said
Yes goodnight
What, already! Has the snow stopped?
Bus or taxi?
Bus
Bus?
Bus
We were supposed to be there by 0600 hrs
No bus?
No bus, lots of snow though!
Very pretty
Are we going to let those Germans jump the queue?
No, I'll remind them we are two nil up
What do you mean 'The airports' closed'?
Breakfast?
Breakfast
Midday?
Midday
Hell!
What about lunch
Good idea
Wait a minute, they are calling us to the departure lounge
How long before we leave do you think?
Not long
Give lunch a miss then
Yes
Was that the second flight to Glasgow that got away?
Yes
Was that Jersey Airlines arrival from Belfast Harbour?
Think so
Was that the Belfast harbour flight leaving?
'fraid so
Hells bells!
Shall we go for tea?
No, we'll have dinner on the flight
At last
What do you mean 'by bus'?
Oh! Over to the aircraft, thought for a moment the Irish Sea had frozen over!
What do you mean 'In alphabetical order'?
County Antrim first (joke)
How many pieces of luggage unaccounted for?
Unload them ALL?
Glad we haven't got any luggage, at least we don't have to get off
Glad that is sorted out, pity about the luggage that's not on the flight
Nice smooth take off
Yes, I'm looking forward to dinner
What do you mean there has been some confusion at Birmingham?
Oh—with the catering
Breakfast! What, again, oh well—pass the marmalade . . .

COMMS BRANCH

Life goes on in the Headquarters at the normal panic pace leading up to Easter. **LCpls Abbie Hilton** and **Chris** 'Josie' **Wells** have recently both had things to smile about. **LCpl Abbie Hilton** is off having a nice 10 day's rest at WRAC Training Centre Guildford, on her Corporals course (it should all be over by now!) and **LCpl Josie Wells** who, after catching something exotic, is off with no less than 21 days sick leave! Get well soon **Chris**, as we all miss you and your PT session like mad. Some people have all the luck.

233 SIG SQN

Those of you who have had the honour of serving in the Squadron and fondly reminisce over your time in the Province will, through numerous articles in *The Wire*, be aware that it became part of 15 Sig Regt on 1 February 1990. During the following year of operational duty various changes have taken place and this article will describe where the Squadron stands now.

It now comprises of three Troops, with the SHQ newly established in the Medway Block. The loss of COMMCEN Tp to the newly formed Sp Sqn on 2 April 1991 was a sad occasion for the Squadron but was a considerable gain for the newly formed one.

The current management is:-

Sqn Comd	**Maj I. W. R. Seraph**
2IC	**Capt M. G. Billingham**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) J. Williams**

'While the Chief's away, the mice will play!' LCpls Abbie Hilton and Josie Wells relax for quiet moment, safe in the knowledge the Chief Clerk, SSgt Pete Callary, is on leave on the mainland

I TROOP

Tp Comd	**Capt K. L. Osterburg**
2IC	**WO1 (YofS) C. D. Pugh**

Tp SSgt **SSgt G. R. Dodd**, FofS **SSgt (FofS) M. C. Milne**, Sys Mgr (Whisky Sect) **WO2 A. J. Byrne**, Sys Mgr (Victor Sect) **SSgt M. Brooks.**

TECH TROOP

Tp Comd	**Capt P. Leach**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) N. J. Griffiths**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt R. E. Maddison**

ROMEO TROOP

Tp Comd	**WO1 (YofS) S. J. Whytock**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) B. White**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt K. M. Turley**

Other changes will occur as new bodies are posted in. The Sqn 2IC will soon take command of Romeo Tp and the Tp YofS will become a SSgt. It is planned that the post of SQMS will be established. In Tech Tp an Installation Section, with both the radio and line sections under command now carries out all SWS project work. And amidst a plethora of minor works services to accommodate the reorganisation, Romeo Tp will be rebuilt.

After some 18 months of turbulence the Squadron is now settling down. Anyone who is posted to it can be assured of a very worthwhile and interesting role.

INDIA TROOP
by SSgt Gary Dodd

Whisky section are now well settled in their new working area. Meanwhile Victor section is preparing to join them. The hardware has arrived, like a delivery from Zanussi, and the contractors are busy installing it.

The troop has been quite active on the sporting scene. In a football match, organised by **WO2 Tony Byrne**, the Troop beat Tech Tp by four goals to two. The scorers were **WO2 Tony Byrne, Cpl Norm Ritchie, Sig Kev Robertson** and **Ian Harper**.

Cpl Dave Welsh organised a basketball competition. Teams were raised from Whisky section, Victor section and the Troop seniors. After an excellent afternoon the seniors, superbly led by **WO1 Chris Pugh**, emerged undefeated with Whisky taking second place.

Not to be out-done **Sig Ian Harper** organised a volleyball competition. Once again the seniors proved too strong by finally beating Whisky section two games to one in the deciding match.

It just goes to show 'There's many a good tune played on an old(er) fiddle'.

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LETTER FROM ARMAGH

SHQ PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj Andrew Johnstone**
2IC — **Capt Duncan McAllister**

QM **Maj 'Wally' Lockwood**, AO **Capt Brian Tock RAOC**, OC Comms **Capt Simon Gregory**, RSM **WO1 (RSM) Bill Heelan BEM**, FofS **WO2 (FofS) Bob Walton BEM**, YofS **WO2 (YofS) Bill Jackson**, ORSQMS **SSgt (ORSQMS) Neil Bartlett**.

The unsung heroes of 'Ops and Admin control' continue the bitter struggle in the search for excellence, the outstanding events of the period are recorded:

5 January—**Capt Gregory** attempts cougar brief unaided. 23 January—Squadron Rugby Team lose a match. 16 February—**FofS Bob Walton** clocks up 10,000 flying hours! 28 February—The AO regains his world 'Course attendance' record—but still isn't invited to a function. 1 March—**SSgt Neil Bartlett** attends a NIRTT course. 25 March—RSM makes funny joke (well almost!).

CONGRATULATIONS

Births—**SSgt Neil Bartlett** and **Sue**—a son **Grant. SSgt Andy Fullwood** and **Paula**—a daughter **Abigail**.

Promotions: **SSgts Neil** and **Andy** on selection to WO2. **Sig** 'Diver' **Chapman** to LCpl. **FofS Bob Walton** on promotion to WO1.

DEPARTURES/ARRIVALS

The Squadron bids farewell to **Cpl Brian Smith** who leaves us on promotion to Sgt; Congratulations.

Welcome to **Cpl Keith Townsin, Ptes Donna Hill** and **Samantha Dawson.**

ORDERLY ROOM NEWS

Life in Armagh goes on (and on, and on, and on . . .). **SSgt Bartlett** continues to strive for new and dizzy heights in his recruitment spree. The Ministy of Defence should be fully aware of his attempts to tempt and tease those intent on 'hanging up their green socks' to sign on the dotted line and re-commit.

Capt Brian Tock RAOC continues to add to Pampas Fields 208-210 (Courses Attended) in his personal record. Is 'Basic Golf' really in your Job Description' Sir? **Sgt Mark Bryson** shovels through the never-ending pile of claims that the Squadron produces. **LCpl Tom** 'But I finish at 5!' **Hill** keeps himself busy with requests for courses, leave and sports afternoons, with **LCpl Pete Chapman** wheeling and dealing on movements.

Pte 'Flash' **Dawson** educates herself in Registry Dealings and **Miss Alison Patterson** spends her days de-cyphering drafts. Does the Chief Clerk have to be so security conscious, writing and talking in BATCO?

SHQ Team
(L to R): Cpl Keith Townsin, SSgt (ORSQMS) Neil Bartlett, WPte Donna Hill, Capt Brian Tock RAOC and LCpl Pete Chapman

LCpl Scouse Dixon caught defying the Sqn Comd's no-bull policy

THE MASTER OF SIGNALS VISIT

The Master of Signals **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE DL** visited the unit in early March. The time flew by but that didn't prevent the Master from meeting and chatting to virtually every soldier in the Squadron including **Sig Gary Love**, who has been very ill for the past six months. We are very pleased to say that **Gary** is now well on the road to recovery and hopes to return to duty in June. He thoroughly enjoyed his chat with the Master, whom he quite rightly described as a 'Gentleman', a sentiment shared by us all.

Meanwhile, back in Comms Tp, the workers have been keeping themselves busy in the many Rorke's Drifts of the Brigade. Having heard fabulous stories of gold-filled claims-forms even Syscon and the Commcen have been getting out in the shape of **LCpl John Collins, Sig Jayce Malcolm** and **UJ Upjohn**. Even Staff **Nige Sloane** got out. But this was a nought to the YofS actually deploying—mind, it did take the SOinC, Comd Comms and a hospitalised Foreman **Walton** to get him out of the camp gates.

On the arrivals front we welcome **Sig** 'Ricker' **Rees, Gaz Steed, Gascoigne** and **Gwynford Thomas**. All normal folks except for young **Gwynford** who collects rulers and issues coffee on a one sachet to one person per night basis. A special welcome to **Cpl Nobby Noble** who was reprieved at the last moment from a move to 30 Sig Regt on the grounds of his being a good tradesman—the general feeling is that the AO wouldn't pay for the flight home after **Cpl Noble's** car was stolen whilst he was out shopping for a car alarm.

Our only farewell goes to a future RSM—**Cpl Al Hanlon** who has gone to the great coveralls shed in Herford. Best wishes from all.

Congratulations also to **Sig Scouse Dixon** and **Lee Barlow** on their promotions to LCpl. **LCpl Dixon** likes to think it was on merit.

Socially things have been very busy—the SOinC, and the Master of Signals came and asked pertinent questions and tested our bluffing qualities.

The more successful hockey team
Back Row (L to R): Cpl Andy Arbuckle, SSgt Nige Sloane, Cpls Mark Hanson, Steve Gant, LCpls Terry Moreton and Mac McGowan
Front Row (L to R): Sig Billy Campbell, Capt Bob Cownie, WO1 (RSM) Bill Heelan, Maj Nigel Knights-Johnson (Padre) and Sig Jason Malcolm

EXERCISE SPARTAN HIKE 91

Ex Spartan Hike 91 was the name given to the joint UKLF/4 Armd Div Skiing Championships, held in Galtur, Austria between 13 and 23 January 1991, to which 3 Inf Bde Sig Sqn sent a team consisting of: Team Captain—**Sgt John Farnell**, Organiser—**Sgt Nick Hawkins, Cpl Dave Fowler, LCpl Jase Werner** and **Sig Fred Gee.**

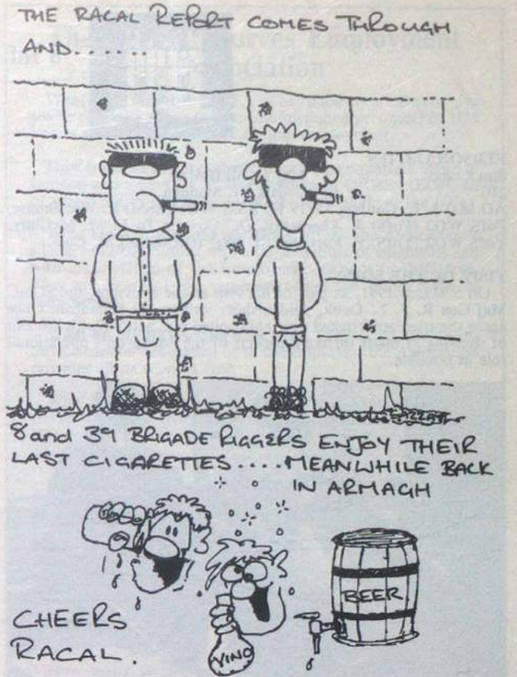
The team was selected not so much on skiing ability, more on the ground of being able to spare £530 in January. Many thanks to the Sqn Comd for donating the £300 which covered the teams lift tickets. The reason the cost of the exercise was so high is that we used a civil travel agency.

We left NI on the evening of 10 January and spent an interesting night at Gatwick, continuing on to Zurich the next morning, where we were met by our Rep **Julia** who looked after us for our stay in Galtur. We then boarded a coach for a three hour drive to our hotel in Austria, which in fact took almost seven hours.

On arrival at the hotel Flucthorn we were met by friendly staff and introduced to excellent four course meals, which became the envy of quite a few teams, especially the lads from 5 AB Bde with whom we shared gate keeping duties.

We had one day to regain our ski-legs, which was done mainly in white-out conditions, then into the seeding races, where **Sgt John Farnell** was quickly identified as the star of the team. Then it was in to the races proper, starting with the team GS. The weather was excellent—blue skies, sunny, if a bit cold but, what do you expect in January in Austria.

The only accident was when **Sig Fred Gee** fell and suffered concussion and spent two days in hospital. Overall, we didn't come first or last, just nicely in the middle. **Sgt John Farnell** was selected to go forward to the Army Team but due to operational commitments was unable to do so. **Sgt** 'Trapper' **Hawkins** upheld his reputation, **LCpl Jase Werner** and **Sig Fred Gee** discovered what people don't wear in an Austrian sauna, and **Cpl Dave Fowler** got jiffed to write these notes. A good time was had by all, and we look forward to competing again.



By Sig Gascoigne

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PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd	**Maj D. McDowall**
2IC	**Capt I. G. Standen**

AO **Maj J. L. Godfrey** 15/19 H, RSM **WO1 (RSM) P. Whitehouse**, FofS **WO2 (FofS) J. Abernethy**, OC Comms Tp **Lt M. McGinty**, YofS **WO2 (YofS) P. Forryan**, CC **SSgt (ORSQMS) M. Cole**.

VISIT OF THE SOINC

On 5 March 1991, as part of his visit to the Province, the SOinC **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook**, paid a short visit to the Squadron. Once again the tried and trusted visit plan rolled into action; with the aim of showing as many different aspects of the Squadron's operational role as possible.

The SOinC with LCpl Tighe, 2IC on right

Following an initial brief from the Sqn Comd the Ops/Plans team (2IC/YofS/FofS) updated the SOinC on the current operational situation within the Bde TAOR. From there it was on to SYSCON where he met **Sgt Tony Scoins** the SYSCON Supervisor, **LCpl Paul Tighe**, the duty operator, and **LCpl Andy Buckle** who explained the role of the SYSCON. The SOinC must have been impressed as he gave **LCpl Buckle** his second tape on the spot! The next stage of the visit was to the Tech Workshops where he was shown around by **WO2 (FofS) Jim Abernethy**. The SOinC was introduced to **SSgt Mick Gaylard**, the Hill Top Site Manager, and then to a Bde Area Repair Team (BART). The team consisted of **Sgts Andy Forbes** and **Steve Maycock**, both resplendent in their new Goretex rigging jackets, who briefed the SOinC on the finer points of being on BART (Long hours, RUC meals etc)! Before leaving the workshop there was an opportunity for the SOinC to speak to the Duty Line Team, **Cpl Taff Thomas** and **LCpl Terry Brice**.

The SOinC meets Sgts Forbes and Maycock. Sqn Comd in centre

Next it was on to SHQ to meet the Chief Clerk, **SSgt Mick Cole**, and his crew, this was followed by lunch in the Squadron bar, The Waterside Inn. Here the SOinC was able to meet a large cross section of the Squadron.

After lunch the next stage a visit to the unit fitness room where **Sig Bob Goldsmith**, one of the Squadron's numerous AIPTs, demonstrated the equipment. During this part of the visit a simulated mortar attack was staged, complete with some very realistic casualties. When the alarm sounded everyone moved outside where OC Comms Troop, **Lt Mike McGinty**, ably assisted by the ubiquitous **Sgt Maycock**, briefed the SOinC on the mortar drills, whilst other members of the Troop carried out First Aid on the 'casualties'. From here it was on to the finale, in which the SQMS, **CSgt 'Titch' Varney**, and the MT Section provided a demonstration of vehicle anti-ambush drills that would have taught Bodie and Doyle a thing or two!

Thus ended yet another VIP visit to the Squadron, leaving us to put away our scripts and return to the daily routine, until the next time!

THE NEWS FROM SHQ
by Cpl Marty Briody

The BTNILO **SSgt Bickerstaffe** moved into the stationery store, and the stationery store became a stationery cupboard much to the dismay of the ORC **Cpl Marty Briody** who did most of the humping and dumping. Hopefully we are settled for a while, but who knows! On the sporting front, we are looking forward to the Mercury Cup, with representatives from SHQ in all four teams, and hope to make up for last year's disappointments. SHQ recently celebrated the wedding of our Movements Clerk **LCpl Danny Cockram**. Unfortunately we were not all able to attend, (although most of the Squadron was invited) because he had omitted to put all our names on the list! Best of luck to **LCpl Cockram** and his wife **Cheryl** in 16 Sig Regt. We say hello to **LCpl Steve Upsall** and his wife **Isabel** from 211 Sig Sqn in Minden and wish them a happy and successful tour with the unit. No entry could be complete without mentioning the Chief Clerk **SSgt Mick Cole** who is holidaying in the UK at the moment, we know he can't wait to get back. Until next time bye for now from Derry.

TECH WORKSHOPS
TROOP PERSONALITIES

Tp SSgt	**SSgt Mick 'Gunny' Gaylard**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Andy 'Jason' Forbes**
Tp Heli-Tele	**Sgt Phil 'Paddy' McMullan**

FAREWELLS AND HELLOS

We say farewell to **Sgt Dave Kidd** and **Cpl Ingledew**, who have gone to civilian life, and welcome to the Province **Cpl Steve Ruxton, Cpl Stu Tough** and the baby of the workshops **LCpl Tony Maggi**.

TROOP NEWS

LCpl Tony Maggi arrived in the Squadron two months ago and joined the Tech Wkshps; welcome to the sharp end.

The inclusion of **Cpl Stu Tough's** smiling face has certainly brightened up the workshops. On the athletic side congratulations to **Cpl Phil Darlington** who has been picked for the British Marathon Squad. Well done **Phil**!

Finally with the increasing workload of the larger TAOR, it is good to report that all the techs and riggers have "attacked" it with the professionalism expected of them.

SYSCON

Well it has come to the time to say farewells and hello. Firstly we say goodbye to **Sgt** 'Scrunge' **Scoins**, our illustrious leader for the past two years, and wish him and his wife **Joan** all the best in Germany. Also goodbye to **Cpl Andy** 'Chuck' **Buckle** and wife **Julie** and little one on way (and not forgetting Buster), and to **Cpl Tony** 'Bungalow' **Bennett** who has left SYSCON for 'very special sneaky Comms Trials Team'.

It's welcome to **LCpl McGregor** and **Mrs McGregor** and to **Sig Frayling** who have joined SYSCON team from late Rover Group; hope you like it in the office.

LINE AND RIGGING

IC	Sgt Maycock
IC Line	Cpl Taff Thomas
IC Rigging	**Cpl Neil Roome**, Dog WLCpl Nebi.

Cpl Thomas and LCpl Brice discuss the finer points of being in Line Section with the SOinC

For the past few months the Rigging Section has been tasked with the re-rigging of over 48 of the Brigades mast-towers, it will keep it occupied for some months to come.

This is being carried out at a fast and furious pace with all personnel working flat out.

Cpl Neil 'Big Boy' **Roome** is leading the way with **Cpl Dave** (Ex QM) **McCulloch, LCpls Mac** 'Botcher' **McDonald, Sig Brian** 'Wobbly' **White, Delbert** 'Mouth' **Wilkens.**

Our first major task was re-rigging one of our city SF bases, which took over 150 man hours on the tower with 25 antenna and 40 coaxials being re-rigged overnight, each one accompanied by the vibrant tones of 'below' screaming out over the area.

Another major event that has taken place was assessing the work (rigging) to be carried out on one of our isolated sites.

This was done on a stormy, wet day where every kind of bad weather was encountered. The assessment went to plan with **SSgt Mick Gaylard**, our only available Radio Tech, moving around the radio room in what can be only described as 'mattress assessment'. Meanwhile the workers **SSgt Chic McCue** carefully guided by **Sgt Steve Maycock**, climbed the mast with considerable help from a 65 mph wind.

With all tasks completed in record time the two wet ones and the warm dry one awaited transportation back to Londonderry. This was kindly supplied by the RAF in the form of a Wessex which, as we found out, could only fly on its side in a zig zag fashion.

The Line Section has also had its workload increased with many of the SF bases being completely rewired. The major task, however, was to rip out all communications equipment at two of our PVCPs, which have now been completely removed. **Cpl** 'Taff' **Thomas** was actually seen at the top of a telegraph pole 'working' whilst **LCpl** 'Higgy' **Hignett** was, as usual, holding the ladders whilst **LCpl Terry Brice** did the supervising.

Finally we would like to congratulate **LCpl Brian** 'Wobbly' **White** on his well deserved promotion to LCpl and to welcome **Sig Steve** 'Mega' **Watts** to the Squadron.

MT

The Troop showed its worth in the New Year, solidly preparing for the February PRE whilst remaining fully operational. We managed an average of 65,000 miles per month on the road. Manpower is still a problem, an example of this resulting in **Cpl Dave** 'Choggie' **Ellitson** putting his overalls on and preparing vehicles alone most of the time! The dedication shown by the Troop resulted in a high grading PRE.

The Troop says farewell to **LCpl Neil** 'Taff' **Greenway**, good luck in civvy street **Neil** and **Heather; LCpl Terry Rogers** to 16 Sig Regt and **Sig Christopher Parton** Cyprus bound. Welcome **Cpl Steven** 'Scouse' **Naylor** and his family, not forgetting the chocolate poodle and **Cpl Karl Chapman** and his family on his second tour in Derry, (unlucky).

The Regular Forces Employment Association

What is the aim of the RFEA? The Association exists to give advice on resettlement to non-commissioned personnel of HM Forces and to assist them in finding employment.

How is the RFEA organised? It has a headquarters office in London and a network of 40 Employment Officers (EOs), all of whom are ex-Regulars, in Branches throughout the UK.

What kinds of jobs can the RFEA offer? The Association's EOs are in close contact with a large number of employers and with local offices of the Employment Service in their area. They are aware of job vacancies across the whole range of employment.

What do the RFEA's services cost? There is no cost to the serviceman/servicewomen or to the employer; the Association provides all its services free.

Who is eligible for the RFEA's service? Anyone who has served with good character in the non-commissioned ranks of HM Forces for a minimum of three years or less in the case of medical discharges.

How long may an ex-Regular use the RFEA's facilities after discharge? Provided that he/she retains his/her good character he/she can return to the RFEA at any time during his/her working life and the Association will have an obligation to help him/her.

Where do the RFEA's funds come from? The Association is a registered charity, receiving 80% of its finance as an annual grant from MOD and the remainder from Service benevolent funds.

How many service personnel does the RFEA help? The Association helps and advises almost 10,500 servicemen and women each year, and is successful in placing about half of them in employment.

How can a serviceman/servicewomen make contact with the RFEA? Following the final resettlement interview, a copy of Form ES828 is sent to the EO in serviceman's/servicewomen's future home area, who will then write inviting him/her to arrange an interview. Personnel are also invited to make contact with their local RFEA office before this, if convenient, eg during a visit home on leave. Those who attend a Final Resettlement Board will find that EO from the RFEA office serving their Unit is a member of the board.

Further information can be obtained from the Association's Head Office at 25 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2LN. Tel: 071-637 3918.

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj Neal Yeoell**
2IC — **Capt Stuart Hodges**

AO **Capt Peter Anthony QGM QUEENS**, Comms Tp **Capt Matt Fensom**, ARSM **WO2 Ray Spencer**, FofS **WO2 Paul Thomas Peter**, YofS **WO2 Brian Colvin**, RQMS **WO2 Bob Rack**, Chief Clerk **SSgt Charlie Foster**.

HANDOVER/TAKEOVER

On Thursday 21 February the Squadron held a parade to say farewell to **Maj Steve Johns** who takes up a new post as DCOS with HQ Trg Bde at Catterick. We wish **Maj Johns** and his wife **Nicole** all the best for the future and hope they enjoy their stay in Catterick.

We welcome **Maj Neal Yeoell** and wife **Diana**, all the way from Comms Branch HQNI and hope they enjoy their tour in the Squadron.

Maj Neal Yeoell *(left)* receives the Squadron pennant from Maj Steve Johns

LS & GC PRESENTATION

On 7 March **Sgt** Scouse **Shield** was presented with the LS & GC Medal by the SOinC, **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook**.

The presentation took place in 39 Inf Bde Sergeants' Mess and was followed by a buffet and celebration drinks. Congratulations to **Sgt Shield** on his achievement.

The award of LS & GC to Sgt Shield
L to R: Sgt Scouse Shield, WO2 (ARSM) Ray Spencer, SOinC, Maj Neal Yeoell and Mrs Julie Shield

SHQ TROOP

The MT bids farewell to **WO2 Ian James** who has recently departed for the sharp end in Armagh. There's no reason to believe however, that his new role won't fit in with his caving exploits. We should also congratulate **WPte Pat Ladner** on her recent promotion and posting to 1 Black Watch. I don't know where we've gone wrong but I suppose it will sort itself out. **LCpl 'Rev's' Rovira** has recently passed his HAZMAT Instructor's Course. He still can't understand it but claims the regulations are changing next year so he'll have to return on another course.

In the RQMS Dept the RQ, **WO2 Bob Rack** is on leave, busy preparing his house in Bradford for his eventual retirement. Speaking of retirement, **Sgt John Brown's** demob date is fast approaching. **Sgt Brown** is a keen horticulturalist—he never stops talking about gardening leave. **LCpl Gary Hanna** has successfully completed his B1. Obviously the shock was too much for his Peugeot 205 and its engine blew up to celebrate! **Cpl Tony Foat** has just won the departmental record for the longest time out of uniform—apparently green doesn't match his eyes. **Cpl Chris Begg** has just returned from visiting his boss in Coventry. Apparently he's been sent there for doing a rather unusual decorating job on the walls of his house! And finally a quick word for the RAOC rep, **Sgt Gary Copley** who is so overworked but still has to write *The Wire* notes!

COMMS TROOP

Firstly a few welcomes. **SSgt Bob Banner** on promotion from 11 Sig Regt, **Cpl Dave Green** also on promotion, **Cpl Tom Stewart** RPC from 8 Inf Bde Sig Sqn and **LCpl Jimmy Lee** RCT all the way from the MT.

Farewell and thanks go to **Cpl Wilf Williams** RCT who is off to the MT, **Cpl Geordie Payne** RPC who goes to Antrim and **LCpl Mav Marvel** who leaves us for 656 Sig Tp. Also many congratulations to **Cpl Geordie Payne** and **Vanessa** on the occasion of their recent marriage. We all wish you every happiness for the future.

NEWS FROM THE SHOP FLOOR . . .

. . . Well, **LCpl Geordie Aspery**, as well as appearing with **Capt Matt 'PBF' Fensom** in the recent Amateur Dramatics Extravaganza as a 'worker' (a total contradiction) has also managed to get on a quick unofficial holiday. It was an escape and evasion exercise with the CCF in Scotland, followed by five days skiing. Oh how arduous that must have been! Meanwhile the rest of us have been working! **LCpl Jim Heron** RCT has recently returned from his B1. Now he's qualified to first parade a vehicle and maybe even give driving lessons. However, it's probably best that we keep **LCpl Martin Maloney** away from the Squadron vehicles as he has problems judging distances . . . or was it the sun that got in his eyes! **LCpl 'Braz' Brazier** has finally decided to get married and the Troop is looking forward to a good stag night in June . . . it's about time he bought a drink or two! **LCpl Scott Ovenstone** RCT is obviously under pressure at the moment and is sure that only the drivers get spammed for all the extra jobs going. It's a hard life being a truckie. **Sig 'Stotty' Stott** is on his final few weeks with the colours and for some unknown reason has suddenly stopped drinking and started a fitness campaign—it's beyond us! **LCpl Shaun Curry**, recently back from his holiday in Swanage, has just taken his B1 entrance and is confident of a pass. He wasn't so confident about his boxing ability as he withdrew from the Army Prelims as he couldn't make the weight. Obviously Swanage was extremely good training. And finally a welcome back to **LCpl Mark Tweats** who, after being away on his Crypto course, is now fully refreshed to get back into his fitness programme . . . along with a few others!

TM TROOP

Hellos and goodbyes are in order once again for the Troop. Our warmest welcomes go out to **SSgt Stu Piddock** who takes over as the Tels SNCO. New to the Riggers is **LCpl 'Traffs' Trafford** and his wife **Anita**. Last but not least is **LCpl 'Tubbs' Turbitt** who has just successfully (so he tells us) completed his T3 at 8 Sig Regt. Rumour also has it he will be able to solder D type connectors before he leaves the Province!

On the goodbyes, side of life we lose **SSgt Mick Couston** to AFCENT also **Sig 'Stig' Richards** and **LCpl 'Big John' Roberts** are now in sunnier climes, namely Civ Div.

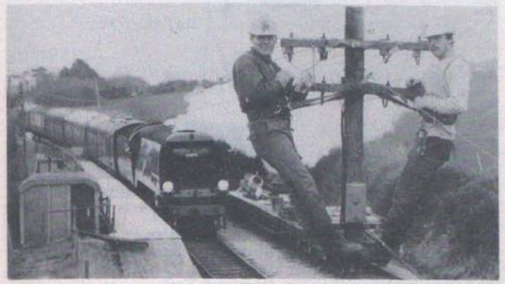
We would also like to take this opportunity to say goodbye to AVO Ser No 054700, which is somewhere in the province (we think).

EXERCISE TOPHAM HATT III

Ex participants: **Capts Matt 'Timothy Potter' Fensom, Stu Hodges, Sgts Frank Roberts, Steve Simpson, Ian Thompson, Bob Low, Cpls Rab Graham, 'Fozzie' Foreman, 'Rabs' Rabbetts, 'Kaffa' Townsend, Chris Law ACC, Frank Nevens, 'Ginge' Woodworth, 'Shuggy' Hughes, LCpls Shaun Curry, Rab 'Chuff Chuff' Brooks, Gaz Hales, 'Lewey' Lewis, Sig Jimmy Watson, 'Billy' Barlow, Lee Hilligenn** and **WPte 'Charlie' Howarth.**

Those of you who are avid readers of this magazine will probably be familiar with the name 'Topham Hatt'. Well Topham Hatt III took place in March with the aims of furthering the work we had already undertaken for the Swanage Steam Railway.

It was a very wet Monday when 15 of us flew into RAF Lyneham from Northern Ireland. After being met by **Sig Lee Hilligen** (kindly loaned by 244 Sig Sqn) we jumped into our covert arctic 4 tonner (again kindly loaned by 244 Sig Sqn) for the three hour journey to Swanage.



Sig Stoker and Cpl Kaffa Townsend testing an overhead cable on the Purbeck Line. Passing Herston Halt below them is the 120 ton Battle of Britain class Bullied Pacific steam loco built in 1948

The following day came initial briefings and details of 'troops to tasks'. A great deal of the work to be undertaken was purely manual as the majority of the communications orientated work had been completed on previous exercises. However, this didn't detract from the enthusiasm of all involved—or so I'm told.

The exercise personnel were, broadly speaking, split into three different teams at the following locations:

CORFE CASTLE

The Corfe Castle team were the hole diggers. They had to install ¼ mile of signal rodding. This involved digging 80 holes and lining up 80 stools on which the rodding was placed. In addition two ¼ ton compensators also had to be installed. Not too difficult a job you may think—well it wouldn't have been except for **Stu** the Civvy or **Stu**, 'Mr quarter of an inch'. Whilst it was appreciated that accuracy is important the continued movement of the stools, 'a quarter up, a quarter down, a quarter left, a quarter right, no another quarter up—yes nearly—no a quarter down'—was more than even soldiers from Northern Ireland could handle.

It was a welcome relief that their frustration could be released in digging holes through solid rock rather than using parts of **Stu's** anatomy for football practice.

By the end of the week it was an exasperated, grey haired team that finally pulled the signal lever and a quarter of a mile out of Corfe Castle station the points moved. The week hadn't been without its disasters. **LCpl Gaz Hales** had managed to break half a dozen picks and had difficulty keeping on his feet. So too did **Sig 'Billy' Barlow** who was accused of never doing any work, along with **LCpl Rab 'Choo Choo' Brooks** who re-lived his childhood dreams by driving **Betsy** the diesel/steam loco. That left only **Cpl Rab Graham** to do any work—and he had toothache!

NURSERY ROAD BRIDGE

The Nursery Road team started the week clearing a 300m stretch of bank of shrubs and trees which were prone to igniting in the summer months. It was a slow and tedious job which was not helped much by the rain during the early part of the exercise. **Capt Matt Fensom** soon found the easy job and spent most of his time using the strimmer or driving the minibus. Having shown so much expertise at clearing shrubbery part of the team was promoted and moved on to step building. Under the excellent leadership of **LCpl Shaun 'Mooseman' Curry** the building project only took three days to complete. It would have been quicker but small distractions such as filming for a new series of 'Wildlife on One' by the exercise Commander and **Sgt Bob Lowe** insisting on working to rule slowed things down a little.

A job well done—the ¼ mile long length of point rodding at Corfe Castle nears completion
R to L: Capt Stuart Hodges, LCpl Rab Brooks, Sgt Steve Simpson RCT, Cpl Rab Graham and LCpl Gaz Hales

HERSTON BANK

Herston Bank was described as a stores complex, a grand title indeed. However, it looked like a junk yard. The task ahead of the Herston Bank team was to turn it back into a stores complex. Work started in earnest on day one with the building of steps and renovating the store hut (which was later renamed the Bat Cave). As the weather wasn't doing anyone any favours the Bat Cave was a welcome shelter with its roaring fire. It was here that the Bat Cave Lonely Hearts Club Band was formed and with the help of plastic tubing, a bow saw and a kettle performed a stonking version of 'Strangers in the Night'. The rest of the week was dedicated to hard work. Concreting, path building, painting fencing, telegraph pole erecting and occasional bursts of pyromania from **Cpl Kaffa Townsend**. One thing that did concern us was **Sgt Frank Roberts'** reaction everytime a helicopter flew over—he'd run and hide in the Bat Cave! Any suggestions as to why?

By day seven Herston Bank was definitely transformed from an overgrown heap of junk into a 'stores complex'.

In addition there were many other tasks undertaken including the replacement of sections of overhead cable and the installation of additional phones by **Cpl 'Rabs' Rabbetts** and his trusted team of telemechs.

It wasn't all work however. Leaving the Purbeck aside, two social events dominated the week. Firstly there was the games night against Swanage Royal British Legion Club. It was arranged by **Sgt Frank Roberts** and **George Loudon** (ex Corps) and proved to be a great success. The usual games such as pool, darts and snooker were played although **Cpl Shuggy Hughes** favourite was 'shove ha'penny'. The result was announced as a draw although to be honest the Legion thrashed us.

There was no such cover up during the football match against the local U16 side. Under the stalwart captaincy of **Sig Stevie Stoker** the team got off to a less than brilliant start with two own goals scored by **LCpl Rab Brooks**—excellent goals . . . just into the wrong net! To the delight of the crowd **Cpl Shuggy Hughes** pulled one back closely followed by a greater header from **Sig 'Billy the Fish' Barlow**. By half time it was 7—2 to Swanage and time to sack our goalie!

Scoring was not so high in the second half but **Cpl Rab Graham** must get a mention for his superb shot early on in the half which got us our third and last goal. By full time it was 9—3 and time for a beer!

All in all a fun and very successful exercise enjoyed by all. We're hoping to do it again later on in the year as there is still plenty of work to be carried out on the Railway.

Sig Lee 'Billy' Barlow carrying out repairs as a passenger train bound for Harman's Cross passes

All photos courtesy of Andrew P. M. Wright

2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt York

PRESENTATION OF BEM

Our photograph shows **Cpl** (now Mr) **M. J. Whelan** being congratulated by the CO **Lt Col S. G. Hughes** after receiving his BEM from the GOC 2 Inf Div, **Maj Gen H. M. Rose CBE QGM. Cpl Whelan** was awarded the medal in the Queens Birthday Honours last year for valuable service and devotion to duty in relation to his work in the Falkland Islands.

The CO congratulating Cpl Whelan

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **LCpls Si Link, Rab Grice, John McNally, Steve Young** and **Paddy Bickerstaffe** on gaining their promotion.

A warm welcome to **Sig Arnott, Myles, Holden** and **Thomas** who join us from Catterick; to **Cpl Matthews** and his wife **Jeanette** from 14 Sig Regt and to **WPte Tracey Robertson** who has the doubtful privilege of being the first female in the Troop. We hope you all enjoy your time in York.

EAGLE TROOP
EXERCISE JOINT KEY

The first major exercise to test the Multinational Airmobile Division HQ took place in February. The move to Hull passed without serious incident, despite **LCpl Rab Grice** trying to make a break for freedom. The CO's Work Up Exercise went well and valuable lessons were learnt. The Regimental basketball team managed to join us for the main part of the exercise, despite the best efforts of **Cpls Winter** and **Crook** to miss the plane!

The helicopters remained scarce and when they were available the weather was too bad to fly. (We seem to have heard that before somewhere!) 'Fly Forward Troop' became known as 'Drive Forward Troop'.

When we heard that the only time we were to use helicopters was to return to Main HQ we realised that others must be involved—move forward slowly but withdraw fast!

Cpls Holmes and Winter hoping to bluff Comd Comms BAOR outside the Airmobile SASMC

Fly Forward, Sideways and Backwards

The Troop wishes to send its very best wishes to **LCpl 'Geordie' Robinson** who was posted to Northern Ireland and to **Cpl Paddy Whelan** who leaves the Army after 22 year service. We wish him all the best in his 'yuppie' flat in downtown York.

REGIMENTAL BASKETBALL

The Regimental Basketball team (the Imphal Globe Trotters) has had a very successful season. It finished third in the UKLF Major Unit Competition and can be summarised as follows:

17 January 1991	
Group 5 Final	
v 8 Sig Regt	Won 56—42
Zone B Finals	
v RSA Larkhill	Won 76—43
v 15 Sig Regt	Won 64—42
v 13/18 Hussars	Won 67—38
v 8 Sig Regt	Won 82—62
14 February 1991	
UKLF Finals	
v 39 Engr Regt	Lost
v 8 Sig Regt	Won

The following warriors are to be congratulated on their achievements: **Lt Grant, Sgt Donally, Cpls Crook, McWilliam, Sloan, Winter, LCpls Doherty, Fell, Roberston, Whitty** and **Sig Brown.**

REGIMENTAL CADRE COURSE
by LCpls Tim Knowles

Lt Col S. G. Hughes the CO, tasked the Training Wing with the creation of a Cadre Course designed to foster leadership potential.

The course commenced with an address from the CO who stressed the importance of both maintaining and improving high professional standards. He also high-lighted the pitfalls of complacency.

On our arrival at Wathgill Camp **Capt Bizley** and **SSgt McMillan** greeted us and, after dropping our kit, we were taken for a gentle stroll over the picturesque hills of North Yorkshire!

Over the next eight days instruction in Fieldcraft, NBC and numerous other subjects, was interspersed with various tests. Running consecutively with this main programme were section competitions which soon helped to reduce the numbers—due to injury and, in some cases, Regimental sporting commitments. Tension ran high!

The last three days were spent as a platoon exercise, which included an NBC phase, where many of us saw the SPAL Liquid Airburst Simulator in action for the first time. After the final attack and march back to Wathgill, we handed the camp back and returned to York.

The last day of the course included a stretcher race in full IPE in front of the CO. Then everyone moved to the Corporals' Mess for drinks and prizegiving. **Lt Col Hughes** presented the prize for the 'Best Section' to Section 4 and the prize for the 'Best Student' to **Sig Knowles** (now **LCpl Knowles**!). Most of the participants enjoyed the course and definitely felt that they gained a lot from it. They were also appreciative of the hard work that all members of the Regimental Training Wing had put into the course.

VIKING TROOP

Tp Comd	**2Lt Andy Parsons**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Billy Watts**

The Troop has been busy with RSIT, PRE, and exercise in BAOR and the Regimental Cadre Course.

In February the Troop took its place in the deployment to Germany.

First stop was a terrible location, only four toilets and two showers! Still, at least we fared better than Roman Tp—their portaloos did not even arrive. (If anyone has a 'Jock' dictionary—we could do with it to understand **LCpl Reid**.

15 INF BDE SIG TP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**Capt Dave Hix**
2IC Tp	**2Lt Tim Wood**

Tp YofS **SSgt (YofS) Taff Williams**, Tp SSgt **SSgt Andy Snaith.**

ARRIVALS

Welcome to **Sgt Scouse Evans**, who moved over from Mike Tp, **LCpl Rocky Ramharak**, from the School of Signals and **Sig Peter Parker** from 4 Div.

DEPARTURES

Capt David Hix will be in the Gulf for a few months. **LCpls Andy Murdoch** and **Stevie Pope** are both on attachments to the Falklands. No sign of any postcards . . . yet. Has anyone seen **LCpl Geordie Crawford?** He went skiing in November!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Cpl Tich Maidment** on collecting his second stripe.

The Troop has completed two minor exercises, Ex Spring Merlin and Merlin Madrigal recently. Both passed without incident with the exception of the redesign of the front of the line rover and a stretch of fencing. On the sporting front **SSgt Andy Snaith** is now successfully running the 2nd XI Football team which is soon to play the NE Dist Cup Final. The Regimental Rugby Team is also in the District Cup Final and the Troop reps are **Capt David Hix** and **Cpl Keith Graham**. The Regimental Hockey Team is eagerly supported by **LCpl Laurie Askin** and **Sig Stevie Peters. LCpl Al Richards** is making good use of his TR&A qualification and has been away, instructing all and sundry on various climbs around the country.

We look forward to Ex Summer Tide and Flying Falcon, both to be held in the UK.

2 SQUADRON
SHQ
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd	**Maj A. J. Rock**
2IC	**Capt R. J. Duffy**

Ops Offr **Capt M. Hanson**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) D. Payne**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) R. Clair**, FofS **SSgt (FofS) Baldwin**, YofS **SSgt (YofS) K. Sirr**, Trg SNCO **Sgt G. Hunter**, MT SNCO **Sgt I. Goodson.**

The SHQ element has undergone change, **SSgt Bob Clair** scuttled back to the sanctuary of his store after a double-hatted stint as SSM/SQMS. He was relieved by the arrival of **WO2 (SSM) Derek Payne** from 30 Sig Regt to whom we wish a pleasant tour in York.

Other changes are **Capt Walker** the Ops Offr; although still in the fold, has moved to 656 Sig Tp in Lippstadt. His post has now been filled by **Capt Hanson** who moved his hockey kit down the corridor from 1 Sqn. The long suffering Sqn Clerk left for the big wide world, so we wish 'Mr Arfur' **Daly** all the best and his replacement, **LCpl 'Micky' Rooney** good luck, because he will need it!

FALCON TROOP

Tp Comd	**Lt Grant Hume**
Tp SSgt	**Jon Duckworth**

Tp Sgts **Stu Conway** and **H. Glean**, NCO IC MT **Cpl Trav Travis**, NCO Line **Cpls Brian Fulton, Bez Beswick**, Power Sect **Cpl Charlie Brown**, Tp Stores **Cpls Daz Williamson, Roland.**

The majority of the Troop effort has been directed towards the Multinational Airmobile Division (MNAD) Trial. This has involved a number of study days and visits. Fortunately, monotony was obviated by the Staff not arriving at the same conclusion twice, thus enabling us to try a variety of formats. This is, after all, what trials are all about. One theme that kept cropping up was 'flexibility'; we have now adopted the 'big top' look which, when urban cam is added and the right weather conditions prevail, the Troop is able to fly the complex into the desired Corps area. This should save the MOD a fortune in ferry fares and Falcon Tp should gain an entry in the record books!

EXERCISE SPRING TIDE

Ex Spring Tide was the first major deployment to BAOR for the MNAD trial and also the first for eight months or so. This reminded some just how 'narrow' North Sea Ferries are!

BAOR, as you can image, was deserted in February (no pun intended). Due to the semi static nature of the trial **Cpl Brian Fulton** felt the need of a daily sitrep, some of his quotes follow.

Falcon Troop Top Ten
Complied by Gallop (Give All Linesmen Lots Of Pay!)

One Day We'll Fly Away	Eagle Tp
Flight of the navigator	**Lt Hume**
We're on the road to nowhere	**Sig McIntosh**
I Did it My Way	**Lt Hume**
Making My Mind Up	Div Staff
Wiggle It, Just a Little Bit	Techs
We Don't Talk Anymore	**SSgt Duckworth** and **LCpl Bowman**
A Spaceman Came Travelling	**Sig Craig Knights**
We Don't Talk Anymore	Div Staff/Anybody
3am Eternal	**Sig** Fac **Farrell**'s Extras!

FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

Best wishes to **LCpl Geordie Paterson** and **Cpl John Davies** on their postings and welcome to **Sig Faz Farrell** and **John Heywood.** Also welcome back to **Sig Dave Berry, LCpl Tony Rosen** and **Cpl Dave Cooke.**

DANIEL SCOTT APPEAL

Although the Squadron has been busy with the Trial there was still time to look after our own. Young **Daniel Scott,** the son of **Scotty** and **Angela,** required an urgent heart operation. First the Squadron, then the Regiment, took up the cause and a campaign organised by **Capt Ray Duffy** was launched. With the aid of various fund raising projects and TV and Radio coverage the £6,000 target was reached in under a week! Further donations took the total to £9,000, the surplus going to a heart surgery fund. This outstanding achievement could not have been carried out without the generosity and support of everyone concerned.

RHQ

Deployment on Ex Joint Key went without too many problems.

We said farewell to the Adjt, **Capt Peter Holliday**, who leaves on secondment to 7 GR. Good luck to him from P Coy (he will need it!). In his place we welcome **Capt Ivan Hooper.**

CONGRATULATIONS

Cpl Graham Lamberton REME has been chosen to referee the TA Football Cup Final in Aldershot on 21 April. He has also been recommended for Army Referee of the Year award—results awaited!

Sgt Alan Higgins is nominated Army Footballer of the Year. Many congratulations.

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T. FROST (Saddlers)
SOUTH PARADE, BAWTRY
DONCASTER, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 114

Our members have now returned from Op Granby. Nearly all our flights arrived at Hannover. Consequently, reception parties and the MT have enjoyed many a happy hour on the A2 Autobahn. The Troops are now preparing for Ex Flying Falcon.

VISITS

The Regiment has hosted a number of visits in recent months. **HRH The Princess Royal**, our Colonel in Chief visited Regimental wives at Munster and Werl whose husbands were on Op Granby.

HRH The Princess Royal with the wives at Werl

The CO and Mrs Cook look on as HRH The Princess Royal shares a joke with wives of Granby servicemen

MOVING?

Have you told RHQ? Your *Wire* will be sent to your old address unless you tell us of a change.

Comd Soest Garrison, **Brig C. L. Elliott MBE** presented Long Service Medals and lunched in the Sergeants' Mess during his visit. The **Rt Hon Alan Clark MP**, Minister of State for Defence Procurement visited the Regiment at 24 hours notice and spoke to soldiers in the Regimental restaurant.

The Garrison Commander, CO and recipients of the LS & GC Medal with their wives
From Left: LCpl Billy Kidd, SSgt Collins REME and WO2 (SSM) Pete Rixon

1 SQUADRON

PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj Rod Thomas**
2IC — **Capt Steve Jones**

SSM **WO2 Bob McMahon**, TN 043 **Lt Jim Clare**, **SSgt 'Stacks' Stachini**, TN 053 **2Lt David Naden**, **SSgt Brian Smallman**, TN 063 **Lt Neil Selby**, **SSgt Tom Wandless**, SCRA Tp **SSgt 'Oggy' Ogburn**.

The CO **Lt Col J. R. B. Cook** and the RSM **WO1 (RSM) D. Thomas** attended the 40th anniversary lunch of the 3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club held at the Victory Services Club in London. Sadly the Veterans may not be visiting the Regiment this year so the CO's address at the lunch was received with particular interest.

TN 043

Report by Lt J. A. Clare

The anticipated crossing of the breach was very exciting. The day we were all waiting for finally arrived albeit six hours early and we began the move North, closer to Iraq. The night was turned into day with the artillery fire further ahead. The Gunners were obviously busy: 'Give 'em Hell boys' was the general feeling throughout. The breach itself was an anticlimax but we couldn't fail to chuckle at the sign 'Welcome to occupied Iraq courtesy of the Big Red One' referring to the US 1 Inf Div whose task it was to secure the Breach.

We drove on further into Iraq; bodies, burnt out tanks and destroyed enemy positions were all that lay before us. We finally got to the FUP and the Node was given its destination. We moved off trying to keep up with the armour, and failing miserably. We eventually reached our location with less than half the Node who were still struggling in the sand. However, thanks to the efforts of **SSgt Stachini** they soon caught up. The Node then provided communication for 7 and 4 Armd Bdes in the initial phase of the operation. As they moved forward, we saw the whole of the force pass by. It came as no surprise to us that the Allies were going through and winning with very few casualties. Two days later the Node was catapulted into Kuwait, which was full of obvious enemy strongholds; deserted of course. We took our own share of prisoners who gave themselves up only too willingly.

Kuwait City was out of bounds but we did manage to fly over it in helicopters. The precision bombing that we had heard so much about was very evident from the air as we flew over airfields whose runways were untouched, but had had their bunkers destroyed. The air was acrid and full of smoke. The glare from the oil fires turned the night into day and the smoke turned the day into night. It was a thoroughly confusing phenomenon.

At the cessation of hostilities, we played a good deal of sport and returned to regular PT in the morning. On our trips into Kuwait City, the kids treated us like true heroes; we felt quite proud. Days turned into weeks as our return date was forever subject to change. We finally dropped communications early in April and moved back to Al Jubayl via Khafji. Al Jubayl and Camp 4 was true civilisation after three and a half months in the desert. We phoned home, showered, slept and generally enjoyed ourselves. On a trip to the American Recreation Centre, Trunk Node 043 took on the US Marine Corps to a deadly game of water rugby which saw plenty of bruises on both sides: and we thought the conflict was over!

Shopping in Al-Khober confirmed **SSgt Stachini** as the best Troop haggler and he was soon known to the local Arabs as 'McTavish the tight fisted Jock'. Gold, toys and t-shirts were bought here. We boarded the 747 home (Kuwaiti Airlines) in great anticipation. Home at last! I'm sure we'll all be missing the 'crisis in the gulf' ere long.

Sgt Cox making sure Lt Jim Clare gets the point

Sig Haselhurst phones home!

2 SQUADRON

During the last few weeks we have been welcoming back our 'heroes' from the Gulf. The SSM has ordered that all desert combats are to be dyed green and black ASAP and that all soldiers with a suntan are to wear white foundation until the rest of us get our summer suntan. We would also like to welcome back **Lt Pete Turner** and **SSgt Bruce Payne** from Ex Snowqueen and the same rules about suntans apply.

The Squadron also welcomes its new 2IC, **Capt Gordon Elliott** and his wife **Alison**.

The rest of the Squadron has continued to carry out the rear party duties with smiles on their faces and has even managed to participate in a March and Shoot competition.

202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 16

PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj P. Gillespie**
2IC — **Capt M. Baines**

Ops Trg **Capt D. Kenyon**, SSM Families Officer **WO2 J. Brooks**, FofS **SSgt S. Gill**, CClk **Sgt P. Wicks**, SQMS **SSgt S. Mitchell**.

Yes, yes, yes we still do exist, well at least the rear party has survived Op Granby.

Seventy two members of the Squadron were deployed to the Gulf, mainly with 204 (4 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn. They deployed in December but have now returned. Everyone returned unscathed and we welcome them back to sunny Germany.

WIVES CLUB

The wives club has been very busy over the last few months; family lunches, bingo evenings, trips and bowling nights amongst other things have been on the menu. Thanks to all the wives who have both supported and helped with these events but particularly **Gina Brooks** who has been at the helm throughout.

REAR PARTY SPORT

The rear party has managed two football matches both against 656 Sig Tp and came out 4—2 up on aggregate. The highlight of the army match was the first and probably last soccer goal by **Capt Dave Kenyon**, stick to rugby boss. Thanks to **SSgt Martin Hoy** and his lads.

HELLO'S AND GOODBYES

We would like to say hello to the following new members, Sqn Comd **Maj Pete Gillespie**, **SSgt (FofS) Steve Gill** and his family, **Cpl Fitzpatrick** and wife, **LCpl Oz Hulland** and **Karen**, **Sgt Archer** and **Allison**, **LCpl Stu Hodgson** and **Mrs Hodgson**, **Cpl Joyce** and **Andrea**.

FAREWELLS

To **Maj Jo Fletcher** and **Jenni** who has handed over command of the Squadron to **Maj Pete Gillespie**. Sighs of relief, due to the fact daylight can now be seen through the windows. (Possibly the 52 seater caravan has moved location.) From all ranks, many thanks and best of luck in your future post as OIC Windsurfing BAOR.

To **SSgt (FofS) John Martin** and **Lynn** and the girls on his posting to 22 Sig Regt.

To **Cpl Jock** 'No Dice' **Castle** on his departure to 21 Sig Regt: come back with the football strip Jock.

Finally farewell, and congratulations to **LCpl Keith Lines**, on his selection for promotion to Corporal and his posting to 1 ASDR.

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SETTING NEW HIGH STANDARDS IN DISTANCE EDUCATION

4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

1 SQUADRON
Sqn Comd — **Maj Elaine Newnham**
2IC — **Capt Ken Jones**
SSM **WO2 Alf Ramsey**, SQMS **SSgt Jim Pickles**, YofS **SSgt Phil Jones**, FofS **WO2 Smiley Edmonds**.

February went by in a whirl of exercises, notably the fast-moving, action packed 2 Div/4 Div Air Mobile exercise which certainly practised both OSC's in the art of diplomacy and quick thinking. To counter the post-exercise blues the Squadron was enlivened by a hectic vehicle and equipment 'up to scratch' programme.

February also saw the grand reformation of the Division's fourth trunk node, on command of 'the powers that be'. The Squadron would like to welcome Jaguar Tp (TN 074) which has certainly managed to make its mark in a positive way even in its infancy. As to garage space—well may the best node win.

SHQ TROOP
Tp Comd — **SSgt Jim McLachlan**
Power NCO — **Cpl Peter Stidwell**
MT Cpl **Cpl Steve Wardle RCT**

Now for a few lines from the forgotten troop. Congratulations to **LCpls Jim Gray** and **Jobby Jobson** on their newly acquired first stripes and we wish them in their new postings. A round of applause to **Cpl Peter Stidwell** and his wife **Helen** on the birth of their son **Stephen**.

A round up of local news: **Sig McRobbie** has finally accepted defeat in his efforts to leave the Army on his 18th birthday! **Sig** Randy **Randles** continues to think up new career moves to enhance his promotion chances: **Sig Danny Parker** remains unchanged. On a more solemn note, the Troop would like to take this opportunity to wish **Sig Gillie Gillman** a speedy recovery.

CHEETAH TROOP
Tp Comd — **Lt Mark Adams**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt Nige Varley**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Dougie Piper**

We say goodbye, and 'send us a postcard', to **Sig Gaz Bowers** as he limps off to Australia. Good luck to **Cpl Bat Hendry** on his T1—we hope to see him back before too long. **LCpl Ballinger, Sig Everett, Bird, Collison** and **Coombe** turn their backs on Cheetah Tp and join the ranks of the Jaguarites.

A few words about the exercises: Ex Quadriga Herald 1—No one to mention the mushroom factory; Ex Key Panther—Thanks to 22 Sig Regt for the loan of **SSgt Shirley**; Ex Quadriga Herald 2—Thanks to 2 Division for the valuable lessons on static comms during a fast moving air mobile exercise.

KIWI TROOP
Tp Comd — **Lt Mark Hanby**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt Duggie MacDonald**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Kev Falconer**

Farewell to **Lt James Giscombe**, who eventually managed to escape from 4 Div—we hope he has a quieter life in 22 Sig Regt. We welcome **Lt Mark Hanby** who now takes over as OC (front line) Kiwi Tp.

The Troop wishes the best of luck to **Cpl Geordie Ridley, LCpls Gaz Shilton, Jed Halliday** and **Sig Nick Greenwood**, who now form part of Jaguar Tp. Congratulations to **Sig Pete Toms** on his marriage to **Kirsten**. They will shortly be following **Lt Giscombe** to 22 Sig Regt. Finally, welcome back to **Sig Nipper Smith** who returns to reality after a two and a half years.

JAGUAR TROOP
Tp Comd — **2Lt Louise Tomkins**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt Bud Abbott**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Neil Fisher**

Congratulations to all those picked from a cast of 108 to join the ranks of Jaguar Tp—'The Happy Node'. Ex Key Panther/Quadriga Herald 2 was Jaguar Tp's first exercise and first opportunity to prove itself as a worthy adversary in the battle of the trunk nodes 1991. Who was it that won the 'race against time' in the 064/074 swap-over?

2Lt Louise Tomkins arrived mid-exercise to take over the reins from **SSgt Bud Abbott**, who had had the unenviable task of producing a trunk node out of light preservation (and elsewhere) in three days. No mean feat, but if anyone could do it **SSgt Bud** 'don't worry ma'am, I can get hold of that, I have contacts' **Abbott** was the man.

A special welcome to **Sig Everett** who returns from his B1 upgrading to find a new troop and to **LCpl Moss** who has seen the error of his ways in civvy street and returned to Army life.

SSgt Bud Abbott and **LCpl Jed Halliday** dressed up as clowns on Red Nose Day (did anyone notice the difference) and managed to cajole, lure, demand, plead, threaten and forcibly remove 800 DM from the Regiment for Comic Relief.

PANTHER TROOP
Tp Comd — **Lt Andy Williams**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt Kenny Sykes**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Ozzie Lindon**

Congratulations to **Sgt Neil Fisher** on his well deserved promotion, and goodbye as he has turned coat and gone to Jaguar Tp as Recce Sgt. Welcome to **Sgt Ozzie Lindon** who joins the Troop on promotion, as lead scout. We hope that he doesn't lose his way many times (again).

LCpl Will Wilday has just returned from Catterick having been educated on his B1. A fond farewell to **Cpl Bill Medland** who leaves Herford for his final six months in Catterick, and to **Sig Lenny Hendry** who left the Troop and was seen heading for his home plant, where the sky is always green.

2 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES
Sqn Comd — **Maj Nigel Moore**
2IC — **Capt Jon Williams**
SSM **WO2 Duncan Hall**, SQMS **SSgt Mick Baron**, YofS **SSgt Steve Holt**, Trg Sgt **Sgt Steve Townsend**, MT Sgt **Sgt John McGowan**.

Despite a busy period, and the threat of hotter times—yes, it was only a rumour! SHQ Tp has managed to survive a barrage of fast balls from the 'Courtney Ambroses' across at RHQ. Things were so busy that the SQMS **SSgt Mick Baron** was forced to give up a charity bird-watch marathon! **Sgt John McGowan** was even left to run things on his own.

The Troop has enjoyed the fruits of two Regimental Exercises and numerous visits—but enough of that.

FAREWELLS AND HELLOS

We are in the enviable position of saying hello and farewell to someone in one breath, so farewell **SSgt (FofS) Isbell, Cpl Pete Harris** and **LCpl 'Red' Fielding** enjoy life in blighty; we wish you all the very best.

Hellos are extended to **LCpls Christie, Trow** and **Sig Jackson**.

A1 TROOP
PERSONALITIES
Tp Comd — **Lt Tony Picknell**
Tp SSgt — **Sgt Dave Catchpole**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Steve Martin**.

After Op Granby and Non Op Granby came Ex Quadriga Herald and the Troop did its best to get its name into the Guinness Book of Records with a 20 minute teardown and move out of location.

The Troop was then afforded a short break before deployment on Ex Quadriga Herald 2/91. This started, fortunately, with the visit of the Chief of the Defence Staff, and so the pressure began on the tank park only one week before. Never mind, **Cpl** Scouse **Johnston** just loved it and **Cpl Scouse Barker** said absolutely nothing. **LCpl Hammy Hamilton** found out that Panzers turn better without spreader bars in place and **SSgt Slinky Sleeman** decided that next time he will arrange the shifts better between **SSgt Sleeman** and **SSgt Sleeman**. The record was broken with a 15 minute crash out move, exercise losses. Oh yes and don't forget the NBC phase, get in there **Sgt Martin** but where was Mr P?

The Troop would like to announce its sponsorship of **Cpl Woody Wood**, Britain's No 1 on the skeleton bob, well done **Woody**. Welcome back **LCpl Tim Shears**, stag on and hello to **Sig Boucher, Meakin, Bennet, Scott, Ryan, Pearsall, Kates, Williams** and Bradley Recruit Tp all over again. Good luck to those in the Gulf, namely **LCpls Howard** and **Cpl Barker** (good moment to get promoted) and **Sig Cox** and best wishes to **Sig Birchall** in the Falklands. Only one goodbye and that's only to a lesser Troop to **Sig Callow**, you've found the sleepy hollow.

A2 TROOP
PERSONALITIES
Tp Comd — **2Lt Paul Rennie**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt Tony Doherty**
Tp Sgt **Sgt George Coffin**.

The Troop was looking forward to deploying with its 16 ton sledges on Ex Quadriga Herald 1, especially after hearing about 1 Sqn and the problems it was having with its vehicles.

Everyone got what they expected from the exercise, cold and tired. Apart from the usual problems, like broken down vehicles, the Troop had the added responsibility of breaking in their new Troop Comd **(2Lt Rennie)** fresh from Blandford.

With the exercise over, the Troop was able to return to camp to the hectic pace of preparation for Op Granby 2. **Sgt Coffin** disappeared to the UK to his Helicopter Handlers Instructors Course and **SSgt Doherty** was temporarily removed from the Troop to become the SQMS for the Granby deployment.

As could be expected once we were told we were not going to the Gulf the Troop returned to a reasonable size with both Troop seniors back and is now returning to some sort of normality; well, as normal as possible in 4 Div!

Just to prove the outstanding standard of the Fwd HQ, congratulations go to **Sig Harrison** who managed to come top in the JNCOs cadre course.

The Troop welcomes two new faces, one being **2Lt Rennie**, the new Troop Comd and the other bring **Sig Butler** who joins the Troop straight from 11 Sig Regt. The only farewell we have is to **Sig Evans** our only DE who is moving on to 16 Sig Regt.

A3 'PTARMIGAN ENGINEERING INC' TROOP

Another quiet period with little to occupy the Radio Tp! With CMP's, RTP's, Regimental exercises and Sqn operator training, we have actually managed to fill the hours between 0815 hrs and 1630 hrs. (We have also spent a fair proportion of our time filling the hours 0730-0815 hrs and 1630-1930 hrs.)

All this activity has been carried out alongside the mandatory training for the year and all we await is the executive 'go!' to see our efforts come to fruition.

The Troop has run well even with **Sgt Collins** toiling on his RSSSC since early February. **Cpl Andy Harriott** has hung-up his over-used golf-clubs to stand-in as Troop senior until 15 March **Sig** 'Shuggie' **Bain, 'H' Honeywood** and 'Disco' **Briscoe** may not agree, but the overall opinion is that **Cpl Harriott** has done well.

LCpl 'Omar' Passfield has been tearing his hair out sorting out final stores preparation for the vehicles—this may be a ploy to hide the fact that he is going grey . . .

LCpl Tomo Thomas is getting ready for the sun-bathing season by preparing his sun-lounger for any air-exercises that do eventually go ahead.

Cpl Pop Thompson, LCpl Gene Watson, Sig Challiner, Fawcett, 'H' Honeywood, Gray and 'B1' **Reed** are all preparing for sunnier climates in armoured RRBs by passing their ASV driving course.

Everyone is being so flexible that standing-up now presents a real challenge. As a result **Lt Paul King** is considering issuing 12m-masts and bungees to all troop members whenever they are required to parade in a vertical position.

Finally a belated welcome to **Sig** 'B1' **Reed** who arrived from the White Helmets—welcome to the 'Displaced Quadrant'! By the way, no, you can't have a RRB det.

3 SQUADRON
Sqn Comd — **Maj J. S. H. Johnson**
2IC — **Lt R. J. O'Hara**
SSM **WO2 John Sommerville**, SQMS **SSgt Ron Woodger**, FofS **SSgt Mick Minton**.

N TROOP
Tp Comd — **2Lt D. A. Craft**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt K. M. Nicholls**

The Troop says farewell to **Lt Mark Hanby** on his move to 1 Sqn and to **Cpl Michael Weston RCT, LCpl Brian Patterson, Sig Sean Turner, Bullet Parry** and **Dvr Tony Watmough** who are all moving to SHQ Tp within 3 Sqn. Welcome to **2Lt Dave Craft**, who has arrived from the School of Signals and **WPte Michelle Barden**, posted in from 8 Sig Regt. Congratulations to **SSgt Mick Minton** on his selection for promotion and the posting to SHAPE.

Its been a very busy month for the Troop with Ex Quadriga Herald putting everyone through their paces. Then things moved up a gear with the onset of Op Granby 2. Everyone worked long and hard (including rumour control) to get everything up to scratch, ready to go. This was aided by the cancellation of Ex Four Sooth, although **2Lt Dave Craft** did try to get his own exercise organised, much to the amusement of the Troop!

200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 41

A TROOP FAREWELL

On Friday 1 March A Troop personnel said a fond farewell to both **Sgt Steve Cleary**, his wife **Sheena**, their daughter **Lisa** and also recently promoted **Cpl Keith Betts**. The Troop treated itself to a meal in a local restaurant followed by a party in the Squadron Club. All had a good time.

Dinner just before the riot

Stand-by 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn—this is your new SQMS

OP GRANBY—DETS

During the last six months the Squadron sent several of its members to various units on Op Granby.

Our other Desert Rats (who said 'pratts') were **Sgt Mark Richmond, LCpls Toby Fernbank, Lee Hyland, Tony Lee RCT, Sig Gaz Lomas** and **Dvr Danny Read RCT**.

TM TROOP
Tp Comd — **WO1 (FofS) Mick Poland**
Tp Sgt — **Sgt Geordie Merrie**
R&I **Mr Martyn** (have I told you about Borneo) **Smith**.

The Troop gives a warm welcome to **Sgt Chris Rigby RAOC** and his wife **Jeanette**; we hope their stay in Herford is a happy one. **Chris** takes over from **Sgt Dave Germain RAOC** as URS(T) king. **Dave** and his wife **Jeanette** leave for Dulmen with our best wishes for the future.

Congratulations to **LCpl Sandy Sanderson** and his wife **Emma**, we wish them all the happiness for the future. Also to **Cpls Ted Heath** and **Dave Richardson** on passing their 'detties', and letting everyone know about it! The month got off to a flying start with calls of 'get on the bus', 'get off the bus' from the FofS with reference to Op Granby 2. Also **Cpl Bo Pradhan** managed to get all of his personal admin out of the way by mid March, only to be told he is posted to Hong Kong in November, which we are all sure will spark off some

Some of the lads leaving Detmold for the Gulf
Back Row (L to R): Sig Mick Ewen, LCpl Harry Harrison, Cpl Chris Breen and Sig Doug Lacey
Front Row (L to R): Sig Ken Park, Jason Duplock and Lee Copeland

more admin for him to concentrate on in April and May. **Cpl** 'Mr Interesting' **Paul Coxford** is at present on a UN detachment in Cyprus and hopefully he is getting his fair share of the scenery. **LCpl** 'Big Phil' **Rutter** is doing his bit down south, last seen as a prison guard. We always thought he wouldn't make it as a technician.

Meanwhile the troop is being kept on its toes by the war stories of **Mr Martyn Smith** who, as he frequently tells us, once served in special forces.

SOCCER—SO FAR

Despite a degree of turbulence created within the Divisional soccer scene, due to Op Granby, the Senior Brigade Signal Squadron squad has continued its relentless pursuit for glory and medals. At the time of writing the Squadron has won the 4 Armd Div Minor Units League Div Minor Units Challenge Cup. We expect and, have been ordered, to go one better than last year and lift the trophy.

Impressive displays of football have also seen us reach the semi final of the BAOR Minor Units Challenge Cup (the big one). Notable results during our inevitable march to victory in this competition were, after a hard fought contest, an impressive 3—1 home win over 202 Sig Sqn. Also an easier, but sweeter, away win, by the same scoreline, over our arch rivals 211 Sig Sqn. Thank you 211 Sig Sqn for after match hospitality.

Back Row (L to R): Sgt Terry O'Neill, LCpls Paul Ashford, Scouse Netherwood, Dave Taylor, Paddy Calderwood, Cpl Nobby Hall and WO2 (YofS) Wilf Wedge
Front Row (L to R): Sig Mitch Mitchell, Sgt Stu Hamilton, Cpl Jerry Browning, LCpls Digger Dickinson, Dougie Cockburn RPC, Bob Hope RAOC and Jamie Hart.
Absent (in the Gulf): Cpl Chris Breen and Sig Gaz Lomas

REGIMENT MINOR UNITS HOCKEY
200 SIG SQN V 1 CORPS TPS WKSPS REME

We played the final of the 4 Armd Div Minor Units Hockey on 11 March at Bad Salzufeln. The weather conditions were favourable, the only problem was that more than half the team had never played on astro turf before. It did not cause too many problems and within the first 20 minutes **Lt Tony Kirk RAEC** made an excellent stick stop from a short corner which **Capt Alasdair Wild** struck cleanly into the goal.

Back Row (L to R): LCpl Ian Sharpe, Cpl Simon Jarnell, SSgt Bill Smith, LCpl Dave Cairns, Sig Tris Mutton, Lts John King and Clive Cook
Front Row (L to R): Lts Tony Kirk, Bret Appleby, Sgt Mac Singh, Capts Alasdair Wild, Joe Cooper and Sgt Chris Crickmore

The second goal came after **Sgt Chris Crickmore** received a ball at the top of the 'D'. He then beat two players and pushed the ball home. Keeping up the law of averages, another short corner was converted to a goal by **Capt Alasdair Wild**. With three goals to our credit half time was an important opportunity for **Sgt Mac Singh** to bring the team down to earth.

During the first 10 minutes of the second half 1 Corps Troop's Workshops applied greater pressure but, to no avail. The Squadron scored with a ball passed by **Capt Joe Cooper** through the legs of the opposing left half which was received by **Lt Tony Kirk**. His shot was deflected to **Lt Bret Appleby**, who subsequently forced the ball home.

211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 29

FAREWELL VISIT BY THE CO

Lt Col Tony Raper MBE visited the Squadron on 19 March to say farewell and thank the Squadron. After being presented with a Squadron plaque the Colonel left for Herford with our best wishes for the future.

COMD 11 ARMD BDE'S FAREWELL TO THE SQN

Brig Ian MacKay-Dick arrived in Minden in April 1989 and there are few now in the Squadron who were here at that time. During his farewell talk, the Brigadier reflected on the many exercises we have shared together and praised the Squadron for its consistently high performance. He also took a nostalgic look back at the old 'Battleaxe' Division that fought in the Second World War and remarked on the similarity that existed between it's Orbat and the units that presently make up 11 Armd Bde. The Brigadier thanked the Squadron for the support it had given other units and for maintaining essential duties such as guarding the Barracks. He encouraged us to sustain the high degree of vigilance that is crucial to the defeat of terrorism. Before departing, the Brigadier and **Maj Don Steele** exchanged gifts, with the Squadron receiving a Scots Guards plaque. **Brig Ian MacKay-Dick** leaves with the best wishes of all the Brigade Signal Squadron as he goes to his new post in London.

EXERCISE QUADRIGA HERALD 1

This exercise was designed as a Divisional CPX for the period 18-22 February. The Squadron deployed without Brigade staff with AN 644 on the Squadron square and AN 645 at St George's Barracks. Nights were quiet, enlivened only by BFBS. With the Squadron getting a mention, thanks to **LCpl Steve Francis**. The arrival of the Brigade staff brought NBC training. **Sgts Terry Crane** and **Dave** 'Elmo' **Thomas** simulated NBC attack scenarios and lectured on the subsequent decontamination of a Brigade Headquarters.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Squadron welcomes **2Lt Chris Ford** who has just arrived from the School of Signals. The Squadron says farewell to **Sgt Jerry Brown**. Over the last four months he has stood in for **Sgt Andy Pookraj** who was on tour in the Falkland Islands. **Sgt Brown** returns to 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt with our best wishes.

7 Sig Regt
BFPO 15

VISIT OF THE SOinC

The Regiment was very pleased to welcome the SOinC **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook** on an all too brief visit on 28 February. With most of the Regiment deployed in the Gulf it was a very happy coincidence that the SOinC arrived on the day that the ceasefire was declared, and his visit turned into something of a victory celebration! During his tour he was shown the Regimental 'Reduced Maintenance' organisation under the very capable leadership of **Sgt 'Bugsy' Jennings** ably assisted by **SSgt (SQMS) Chris Deary**, followed by a very quick tour of the Regimental Granby Centre where he was met by the Families Officer **Lt Peter Deam** and **WO2 Dave Hollis**, the latter in charge of the Granby Information Centre. That evening the SOinC was Guest of Honour at the Regimental Officers' and Warrant Officers' St David's Day Dinner which was held in the Officers' Mess. Before going into dinner the SOinC was presented with a print of the new Officers' Mess Painting—'Suez Signallers—1956'. As is traditional, the very Welsh Dinner was preceded by the Leek Eating Ceremony which takes the form of a competition between the Officers and Warrant Officers. The RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Mick Bohanan** selected the Adjutant **Capt David Raleigh** and the newest subaltern, **2Lt Nick Deacon** to take part, whilst the CO selected the Supt Clerk, **WO1 (SC) Tom Dean** and the SFA, **WO1 (SQMS) Bob Allison RAPC** to compete for the Warrant Officers. Needless to say the officers won—yet again! The SOinC left the next morning vowing that he never wanted to see another Leek (or seaweed) ever again!

QUARTERMASTER (T) DEPARTMENT
PERSONALITIES

QM	**Capt Mick Nevill**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) John Standen**

SQMS **Sgt Mark Bell**, ET Accounts **Cpl Geordie Scott**, **LCpl Paul Newman**, Vech Accounts **Cpl Stevie Butcher**, Data Base Manager **Sig Dave Pilgrim**, Stationery and R&I **Sig Andy Rosser**, Expense and Dispatch **Sig Andy Clarke**, Receipts and Issues **Sig Stewart Rowles**, Expense and CES Library **Frau Paula Block**, Typist and Filing **Mrs Karen Hudson**.

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

Firstly welcome to the new RQMS **WO2 (RQMS) John Standen** and **Mandy** all the way from sunny Tidworth (who has he upset?) also to **Sgt Mark Bell** and **Iris**, we wish you all a happy and successful tour.

We say farewell to **WO2 (RQMS) Mickey Dunn** and **Marion** off to 14 Sig Regt, enjoy the holiday **Mick**; to **SSgt (SQMS) Ross** and family off to Berlin, **Sgt English** and family to SHAPE and lastly but by no means least **Cpl Reg Purdy** and family to somewhere wetter than Catterick (any guesses). We wish them and their families all the very best for the future.

MONTHLY TROPHY

The Department has recently instituted a small trophy which will be presented on a monthly basis to the department member who drops the biggest clanger. **Sig Pilgrim** has claimed the first month's nomination. Reason: He was found looking for the tyre pressure valve on a 432; keep it up **Dave**.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Sig Clarke** who has recently trade reallocated from Driver Lineman to Stores Accountant, thus completing all his training within the unit. Also congratulations to **Sig Rosser** who has recently passed his B2.

MENTION OF THE MONTH

Sig Rowles the advanced Hyster Dvr Class I.

RM TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**WO2 (SSM) Mac McCluskey**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Chris Deary**

MT Sgt **Sgt Paul Jennings**, MT Cpl **Cpl Brown**, Radio Cpl **Cpl Steve Bretherton**, NCO I/C Geny Bay **Cpl Thomo Thompson**, NCO I/C Stores **Cpl Johnson**, NCO I/C Servicing **LCpl Geordie Bilcliffe**, Provo **Sig Robbie Kirk**, I/C Leave **Sig Steve Simpson**.

The QM(T) Team
Back Row L to R: Sig Pilgrim, Cpl Butcher, Sig Clarke, Cpl Yerkiss, Sig Rowles, Cpls Thompson, Brown, Bretherton, LCpls Newman, Bilcliffe, Sig Kirk, Rosser and Cpl Scott
Front Row L to R: Sgt (SQMS) Bell, SSgt (SQMS) Cambridge, WO2 (RQMS) Standen, Capt Nevill, WO2 (SSM) McCluskey, SSgt (SQMS) Deary and Sgt Jennings

HI's AND GOODBYES

Comings and goings seem to be more frequent in RM Tp than Air Trooping at RAF Gutersloh. Recent shake ups include **WO2 (SSM) Mac McCluskey** and his wife **Sue, Cpl Steve Bretherton** and his wife **Andrea**, formerly of 656 Sig Tp. Both **Mac** and **Steve** are on long loan from 3 Sqn. **Sig Robbie Kirk** and **Steve Simpson** have both returned from detachments. Welcome to you all, have a good stay in RM Tp.

The only goodbye is of **Sig Fids Fidler** posted at very short notice to 30 Sig Regt, farewell and good luck.

EXERCISE MOTORWAY PILE UP

Sig Robbie Kirk recently became the talk of the Regiment, when he moved a Rover a mere six inches and managed to cause a pile up the like of which is rarely seen except on the M25. This included two Rovers, one Bedford, one Peugeot (property of **WO2 (FofS) Mahoney**) and the back end of the Regiments VCP. Not bad **Robbie**.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

Like all the Corps RM Tp was involved in the preparations for Op Granby. Much midnight oil was burned, and lots of elbow grease used to maintain standards; the boys in the Gulf were sure of support from the lads back in Herford.

Everyone mucked in, stagged on and otherwise did their bit. Thanks to you all, and keep it up.

4 SQUADRON
by Sgt Tom Smith

In addition to the need for a high level of security the Squadron still functioned. An internal exercise, Ex Pickfords Revisited designed to test the Squadron's mobility on a move from North to South camp led most Squadron members to imagine it was a morale boosting exercise to enable them to be nearer the RSM and his kind daily greetings! However, it was thought Charlie Tp (MT/Line) were getting too familiar with those who reside in RHQ so were promptly moved (approximately 100m) to a new location which enabled them to adopt 50 canoes and 20 windsurfers. As the novelty wore off and the 'Linies' started eating them, they were promptly moved again—this time 50m to a new location.

When they were finally settled it was then time to pack up and move back to North Camp, under the supervision of **WO2 (SSM) Steve Hilton** and **WO2 (SQMS) Andy Tempest**.

EXERCISE CACTUS END

Ex Cactus End was the first phase of a Northag Sigex directed by Comd NSG. The Regiment was required to provide I (BR) Corps assets in the form of, one Gateway and one ASSC; both with crew. The exercise was hosted by 28 Sig Regt and took place on its parade ground with communications being made via cable rather than UHF radio.

I (BR) Corps vehicles were deployed at 28 Sig Regt under the supervision of **Capt Cowan**, (Ops Offr 28 Sig Regt). We then proceeded to set up our circuits and within hours they had all been checked and were ready to be engineered to the distant end users.

During the first night, there was a slight hitch in liaison with the various crews. While everyone was waiting for their distant end users to engineer to them, the German Radio Relay vehicles crews were in the bar, preparing for the hard week ahead. Eventually the mis-understanding was resolved and by mid-morning on the second day, all voice, Tg, Trunk and TARE circuits were operational.

The exercise went very well, with most circuits relatively trouble-free. Any problems were usually put right quickly, but trying to liaise with the other crews did produce some language difficulties. A Belgian trying to tell a German in English that his patch panel was wired up all wrong proved entertaining for us though we would, undoubtedly, have come up against it had we had to face a similar difficulty.

The crews made the most of their encounter with the Americans. The backs of the American vehicles were like small black-market stalls, with our crews each coming out with a camp cot, a crap hat and a complete set of the latest designer combat suit—in exchange for Norwegian army shirts.

CREW

ASSC—**Sig** 'Tam' **Kinnaird**, 'Chad' **Chadwick, WPtes** 'Angie' **Parker** and 'Peachy' **Baird**. Gateway—**WO2 (FofS) Mahoney, Sgt** 'Kev' **Hayfield** and **Cpl** 'Tash' **Shelly**. Generators—**LCpls** 'Steve' **Shirley RE** and 'Rip Van' **Fryer RE**.

FAREWELLS AND CONGRATULATIONS

Farewell and goodluck to **Kev Hayfield, Jim Smith, Ron Reeves** and their families.

Congratulations to **Robo Robson** on his promotion to LCpl, and a big thank you to all those who have joined 4 Sqn recently; we wish them well in their new Squadrons.

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

TYING THE KNOT

The day: Saturday 23 March
The place: Catterick Garrison
The weather: Guess

All was set for the big day, the guests had arrived from all over the country for the marriage of **SSgt Jimmy Lewington** to **Sgt Gina Cutts. SSgt Jimmy Shiels**, the best man, ensured that the groom was on time. At 1407 hrs (7 mins late!) **Gina** arrived. **Jim Lewington** was heard to be mumbling, 'Charge her, late for parade'. The Padre, **Lt Col Blackburn** RAChD, performed the ceremony. After the formalities of photographing the 'happy couple' were completed it was off to the Sergeants' Mess for the Reception. On arrival the **Lewingtons** were met by a Guard of Honour, 10 soldiers and 1 WRAC from C Troop and 1 WRAC from D Troop. The Guard of Honour did themselves proud by leaving the Mess to return to barracks, not by the direct route but by a tour of honour around camp. As they passed the Mess bar the squad, under **Sig Greg Cropper**'s command, were all in step. 'A first for 3 Squadron?', the impressed RSM enquired.

The wedding feast and speeches soon gave way to more celebrating, **Jimmy** and **Gina** have something in common.

Congratulations and best wishes to **Gina** and **Jim Lewington**.

Jim and Gina cut the cake

The Guard of Honour
L to R: Sig Fox, Myerscough, Watson, Fearon, Maxwell, Pte Henderson, Sig Milby, Pte O'Hara, Sig Roberts, Maskell, Polland and Cropper

DRIVER TRAINING

On 13 March 1991 the last HGV driving test was conducted by 8 Troop ASMT. Driver training on both HGV and light, has taken place at Catterick since the Troop moved from Ripon in 1954. Although HGV driver training has ceased the light vehicle training and testing continues.

LCpl Wendy McTavish of OD820 showing off her well deserved award for outstanding performance in training and passing her final training objective by narrowly outgrinning Sqn Comd 2 Sqn, Maj Jean Dowson. Well done Wendy

Mr Norman Harrison (QTO) hands the pass certificate to Pte 'Andy' Norman, the last soldier/servicewoman to take an HGV test at Catterick. A happy Mr Jim Jones, the instructor, looks on

GULF AMENITIES GIFTS

On 6 February 8 Sig Regt was tasked as the NE Central Collecting point. The RAOC Depot couldn't handle! The QM (Tech) Dept set the wheels in motion to receive gifts for personnel in the Gulf. Parcels were received from all over the North of England.

Schools, especially primary schools, sent parcels addressed to 'A man soldier' or 'A lady soldier'. Contents ranged from toiletries to books and chocolates.

Altogether, the Regiment received approximately 160 pallets (a total weight of about 75 tons) of gifts, all of which had to be checked by a very small staff. Thanks go to **Mr Dirk Bush** who aided by members of D Troop and **LCpl Steve Barker** worked on this mammoth task and soon mastered the art of driving and operating the fork lift truck.

The pallets were loaded on to eight, 16 ton vehicles and a 40ft articulated truck and driven to ASU Ashford for onward transportation to the Gulf.

Included in the parcels were gifts for the Gurkha soldiers. **Lt Col Fred Phillips**, Commander of Co Durham St John's Ambulance Brigade, co-ordinated a collection from people with links with the Gurkhas in the Darlington area. **Sgts Santa Pun** and **Chetra Rai**, both currently stationed at 8 Sig Regt, helped **Lt Col Phillips** to purchase herbs and spices for their countrymen, whose cooking supplies in the Gulf were running low.

RQ Gillett supervising the loading of pallets for the soldiers in the Gulf

RED NOSE DAY

The 15 March saw the 3rd National Red Nose Day swing into action. It just happened to coincide with a CO's Run. 3 Sqn fund raising had swung into action a week early with SA500 deciding that for a small fee, WRAC uniform was suitable for the RSM's Parade. **Pte Kelly** and **Sig Lyon** couldn't quite keep the reindeer outfit together for the 7km but they lasted longer than RY840 who started off, all 13 of them, tied together wearing ponchos, respirators and boots CBH. The Squadron raised over £140.

2 Sqn opted for togas and raised about £80.

TEN PIN BOWLING

After a reasonably successful year in which the Corps came third and fourth in the Inter Corps Championships and the Corps bowlers had good results in the 1990 and 1991 Army Championships, it has been decided to hold more Corps Championships in the interests of competition performance. The venue was GX Superbowl in York, the price approximately £25, the date October/November and the format—handicap. Handicaps worked out from current army and league averages, two thirds the difference between average and 200. Handicaps to be re-rated after six games.

All this depends on response from Corps members. If you think you would like to enter this event please contact the following people.

UK: **Sgt Steve Brennan**, Eng/Sys Section, 8 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire DL9 3PS, Tel: Catterick Military Ext 2603; or **Maj Mike Cost**, 210 Sig Sqn, Gaza Barracks, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire, Tel: Catterick Military Ext 2815. BAOR: **Sgt Mick Watkins**, TM Troop, 4 ADSR, BAOR 15, Tel: Herford Military Ext 2331.

Schemes Tp, with Lt Col Tim Stoddart and Lt Col Phillips

SCHEMES TROOP

We have bade farewell to **Cpl Alisdair Rodgers, SSgt Gorden McGowan, Sgt Pat Sutton, Cpls Phil King** and **Chris Hollingsworth**; we wish them all the best in the future. On a lighter note we welcome **Sgt Padmore, Cpls Black, Watterson, Evans, Creevy** and **Davies** to the Troop and hope they enjoy their time with us.

Congratulations go to **Cpls Tony Flory** and **Mick Marsh** on their recent additions to the family.

The departure of the Tp Comd and **Sgt Pat Sutton** was the signal for a dinner with the ladies and after a postponement (due to heavy snow) **Sgt Titch Howitson** prepared the menu, enough money from **Sgt Dave Owen** Troop treasurer (no my name is not Ebenezer) and wangle the transport for us all to have a cracking night.

WO1 (YofS) Dave Taylor has now taken over 'Command' assisted by **SSgt (FofS) Nigel Johnson. SSgt Nick Terry** (has everybody passed their TSW, BFT and CFT?) is looking harassed. **SSgt Steve Graham,** has returned from his second six month tour in the Falklands, is now looking forward to resettlement and gardening leave some time before April 1992 (some hope!).

The departure of CI Systems Wing, **Lt Col T. McK Stoddart MBE,** gave Schemes Tp the opportunity to lay on something special to mark the occasion.

The troop assembled on the Driver Training Area where **Lt Col Stoddart** and **Lt Col Phillips** (CI designate) were asked to pose for a Troop photograph. After a nostalgic trip around the vehicles, lunch was served. **Lt Col Stoddart**, expecting 24 hour packs and a Hexi Burner, was delighted to find a Mess tent complete with silver and curry lunch laid on (the secret of Schemes Tp is out). The troop DS sat down to an excellent lunch (thanks to **SSgt Nick Terry**) and afterwards made a small presentation to **'Uncle Tom'**. We all wish **'Uncle Tom'** well in retirement as a house husband and on the golf course (may all your putts be tap-ins).

Government Communication Headquarters

Radio Officer

GCHQ requires experienced Radio Officers. If you are coming to the end of your time in the Services and are scheduled for discharge in the next 12 months and are looking for a career which will build on the training you have received, contact GCHQ. We require skilled and motivated staff, with a high sense of purpose, to study our communications across the whole spectrum, from DC to light. To qualify you require a minimum of 2 years recent and relevant radio operating experience. We would prefer you to be capable of reading morse at 20 wpm, but if not, full training will be given at our Training School.

For candidates without experience, you need to hold one of the following qualifications:

BTEC National Diploma (or HNC/HND) in a Telecommunications, Electronics Engineering or similar discipline.City and Guilds 777 (advanced level) or other qualifications incorporating morse skills would be advantageous, but not essential. MRGC or equivalent Radio Operating Certificate.

Age limit for experienced Radio Officers 18-45.
Age limit for candidates who do not possess the full range of skills 18-40.

When your training is completed you can look forward to:

- Good career prospects
- Competitive salaries (reviewed annually)
- Varied work (opportunities for moves within the UK and overseas)
- Generous leave allowance
- Job Security
- Non-contributory Pension Scheme

Training period: Between 29 and 52 weeks (depending on background and experience). **Salary** after training (over 5 years) £13,756-£19,998 with prospects for further promotions. Salaries include an allowance for shift and weekend working.

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GCHQ

SPONSORED 24 HOUR BFT

On Saturday 23 March 20 members of the Regiment took part in a sponsored 24 hour BFT. This did not mean that they had 24 hours to complete a BFT, quite the opposite, the aim was to run and pass as many BFT's as possible in 24 hours. Each one was run under the supervision of a PTI, they commenced on the hour, and had to be completed in accordance with the criteria laid down in the Army Training Directives.

In the beginning . . .
L to R: Sgt Holmes, Cpl Barker, WO2 Davie, WO2 Hogan, Lt Oakes, Ptes Lewis, Parkinson, Sgt Auton, WO2 Wilson, SSgt Hunter, Sgt Storrs, LCpls Eaton, Trenholme, Sig Lowe, Sgt West, LCpls Pettifer, Jolley, Sig Brice and Sgt Garrett

The first BFT started at 0600 hrs and 24 hours later over 200 BFTs had been run between the 20 personnel taking part. As darkness fell there were still three runners going strong who were determined to complete 24 BFTs each. At 0500 hrs on Sunday morning **WO2 (SSM) Dave Wilson, Cpl Tony Barker** and **LCpl Steve Pettifer** completed their 24th BFT. Throughout the night they were aided by some of the other runners who having rested aching feet and limbs came back for more. The event was organised by **WO2 (SSM) Wilson** who would like to thank everyone who helped out on the day and also those people who generously pledged their financial support, their names being too numerous to mention. The money is still being collected and the total amount expected to be raised for charity is approximately £1,500.

24 BFTs later
L to R: LCpl Pettifer, WO2 Wilson and Cpl Barker

THE MERCURY KART CLUB

In the summer of 1989 Training Wing ran a childrens' activities programme which included a highly successful visit to Akrotiri Kart Club. It was intended to provide a similar programme last year but unfortunately, the karts were not available. **Lt Jess Harper**, the Regimental Training Officer, did, however, obtain funds for the purchase of two karts and six helmets. Thus the Mercury Kart Club was born. The karts in the care of **Sgt Dixie Deakin** and **LCpl Martin Evans** of the LAD, were test driven on the parade square where they were quickly flagged down by soldiers keen to have a go. The word spread rapidly and club funds started to grow.

The circuit takes shape

Now a permanent circuit and a club house were needed. Much hard work followed and a circuit, lined with old tyres, of some 250m long, which later grew to 500m, was produced. Members of the Kart Club are easily identifiable; the ones with the bad backs from laying hundreds of old tyres. A club house was acquired by converting an old telephone exchange and enhanced by the artistic talents of **Sig Ziggy Penwarden** it was soon put to good use. The clubhouse is now a comfortable place to retire to after karting. The club is now well established, continuing to gain new members; already four more karts have been purchased bringing the total to six. One of the major aims of the Mercury Kart Club now is to break the RAF domination of karting and to be instrumental in beating them in the Inter Service Championships. The way things are progressing it may well be possible.

Sig Penwarden in action

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

LEADERSHIP WING

Permanent Staff: **Capt Alan Hill, SSgt Bill Jones** and **Cpl Tim Smith.**

The Leadership Wing courses are intended for those soldiers who show potential to develop their talents and become leaders. It is a demanding and intensive course but, also very enjoyable and rewarding.

A Potential Officers Course is also held at the Wing and this is conducted along similar lines. **OCdt Andrew Churchill** writes:-

'Right lads, downstairs in two minutes: Go—pick up the log and follow me'.

It is surprising how theraputic a three mile run can be at 0600 hrs on a day in the middle of January.

Before enlistment, I underwent basic military training which included drill and fieldcraft. After that the really hard work began. This included races with burdens such as the 'floglet', the 'flog' and, the 'floppy'.

As the level of fitness improved we attended lectures, held discussions, appreciations and logical exercises. We discovered that we developed quickly under physical and mental pressure and our leadership qualities came to the fore.

A week's adventure training at Whernside Manor with it's wide variety of activities was thoroughly enjoyable. During this course I learned more about myself than I ever did during my three years of higher education.

BATTLEAXE TROOP
PERSONALITIES
Lt Paul Smith
Sgt Jed Robinson
Cpls Monty Moore, Bob Leyland, Mark Giles.

The spate of bad weather during February saw a planned trip to Sunderland FC cancelled but nothing could stop Exercise Second Venture. Much valued training and experience was gained by the enthusiastic recruits. The final assault, brilliantly planned by **Lt Paul Smith,** was executed with precision and left the enemy, led by **Sgt Vince McNaught**, devastated.

This was followed by a week's Ski Training at Anoch Moore, Fort William, with the Troop staying at the cultural metropolis of Kinlochleaven. Everyone enjoyed the perfect weather for skiing and the skiing of course. Well done to **JLCpl Jenkinson, JLdrs Broadbent, Barker, Warder** and **Phillíben** for being asked to stay on for the Regimental Ski Team selection. A further congratuation goes to **JLdr Barker** on winning the Junior Army Giant Downhill Competition.

Many congratulations to **Cpl Moore** and his wife **Angie** on the birth of their son **Simon,** and to **Cpl Leyland** and his wife **Trudie** on the birth of their daughter **Emma Louise**. Is this a trend to be followed!

3 SQUADRON
KOHIMA TROOP

OC	**Lt S. S. M. Youngson**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt 'Geordie' Edminson**

Tp Cpls **Cpls Tony Brine, Greg Sharp, Keith Williamson.**

Term 3 was a busy one for the Junior Leaders of Kohima Tp and we have also taken part in two more Pass Off Parades as back-up Troop. We should have had sufficient practice for the next parade (our sixth) which will be our Pass Off.

We have had two, one week exercises this term, where we learned how to patrol and live in the field on Ex Second Venture. All the Troop commented on how much effort was needed to put in a good assault.

The exercise over there was no time to relax as we were soon off to Scotland for a week's skiing. Most of the Troop had not skied before, but by the end of the training, despite a few minor injuries, the main damage was to everybody's 'street cred'! All the Troop passed the 3-star award and had made remarkable progress since the first day. All (well most) of the cadre spent the week posing on the slopes, and the Troop all know that one day, **Sgt 'Geordie' Edminson** did *not* ski with his boots on the wrong feet.

With only a day's rest the Troop defence exercise started, and we had the novelty of having to dig our way through two feet of snow first. Live firing followed on the range at Otterburn, where the Troop fired the SA80 rifle for the first time. Most did well, someone has to improve his aim on the CQB!

Sgt Jed Robinson modelling knitwear

Leadership Wing—Scotton Hall

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 15th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION

13 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

RHQ
PERSONALITIES

CO	**Lt Col A. M. Wallace**
2IC	**Maj G. R. Elliot MBE**

Adjt **Capt M. Griffiths,** RSM **WO1 (RSM) Dobson,** Trg YofS **WO1 (YofS) McMahon,** Chief Clerk **WO2 (ORQMS) Armitage.**

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj Pat McCulloch**
2IC	**Capt Paddy Crabtree**

SSM **WO2 Clive Blackburn,** Clerk **Mrs Gill McMahan.**

DINING OUT

On Friday 25 January our Sqn Comd was dined out at a luncheon ably supervised by **Capt Paddy Crabtree** and **WO2 (SSM) Clive Blackburn.**

It was then the turn of the rest of the Squadron to bid **Maj Pat McCulloch** a fond farewell (with the aid of a few satirical sketches) and to thank him for all he has done for the Squadron and the Regiment during his tenure.

He was last seen leaving the Regiment in a makeshift dinghy bearing the legend USS Enterprise.

MT/LAD TROOP

Although nobody from the Troop went to the Gulf we were, nevertheless, very involved in it.

Sgt Tom Hagan and **Cpl Dave McDonald** were detached to the RCT for six weeks, **Cpl McDonald** because he holds an HGV 2 licence, **Sgt Hagan** because when asked if he fancied going to the Gulf misunderstood the question.

The MTWO, **WO2 Tony Lunney** also had his part to play during this busy time, giving the Troop an update each morning.

At this time **Sgt Bob Hick** decided to set up the Troop's Wireless for the Blind appeal, with people making a contribution for having their battery charged or continental headlights fitted etc.

Cpl Kenny Anderson has not been the same since the arrival of his daughter **Hannah,** his usual 16 hours a day sleep, is now down to 12 hours a day!

More work and extra duties finally got to **Cpl 'Tich'** (Tom's mate) **Aves** and he has not been the same since.

TM TROOP

TOT	**Capt Brian Gardner**
FofS 1	**WO1 Tony McMahon**

FofS 2 **SSgt Tony Woolaston,** i/c Radio **SSgt John Kennedy,** i/c TE **SSgt Roger Farmer,** Troop Sgt **Sgt Phil Matthews, Sgt Chris Kitching,** i/c extras **LCpl Russ Fillingham.**

On the sporting front the Troop continues to provide players for both the Regimental and RCZ representative sides. **SSgt John Kennedy** assisted the RCZ representative hockey team to a win in the Inter Divisional Championships, while **Sig Chris Kitching** and **Cpl Ian Wheeler** assisted the RCZ representative Rugby team in losing (by a narrow margin!) to RAF (Germany).

The Troop would also like to welcome the following and wish them every happiness in their tour here. **Capt Brian Gardner** and **Jan, Sgt A. J. Ridley** and **Viv, Sig Mick Cannon, Cpls Sam Graveson, Claire Barnes, LCpls Russ Fillingham, Angie Tulloch, Mr Mark** 'Big Daddy' **Newbury** and **Chris.**

The people moving on include, **Sgts Larry McHale, Rich Carey** and his wife **Vicki** and **Cpl Dave Harrison** and **Marge.** Best of luck to all of you in your new postings.

CROSS COUNTRY 1990/91

This has been a good season for the Regiment.

First the ladies—they take pride of place with a fine third place in the BAOR (WS) XC Championships and third place in the (BR) RCZ/RAF(G) XC league. The leading light was **Sgt Jane Stezaker** placed third overall in BAOR and picked for both the BAOR team v RAF(G) and qualifying for the Army Championships. **Cpl Chris Mahoney** was a big asset to the team.

The men's team, depleted this season, managed third place in the (BR) RCZ XC Championships, fourth place in the BAOR Championships and fourth place in the league. Once again **WO2 (QMSI) Donkin** showed his heels to many a younger runner, being selected for the Army squad v RAF(G) and his Corps. Other regular members of the team have been **Capt Phil Brown, WO2 Alan Geddes, Sgt Paul Edon, LCpl Sloan** and our flying trio **Cpls Mace, Harrison** and 'Chippy' **Clark,** with valuable support from **WO2 John Clark, SSgt Mark Finch** and our young Officers Mess Supervisor **Mr Mick Crilley.**

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj J. G. T. Doherty MBE**

2IC **Capt C. G. Stubbings,** Tfc Offr **Maj R. W. Mansfield MBE,** SSM **WO2 (SSM) J. Clark.**

ALPHA TROOP

Tp Comd	**WO2 Bri Thomson**
Tp Sgt	**Cpl 'Wakey' Wakefield**

The Troop's quest to capture the much coveted Lions Trophy received a slight setback in the basketball section. After starting off well, with a narrow win over Charlie Tp, we suffered defeats at the hands of both Delta and Bravo Tp. We did however finish off with a win over Comms Tp but by this time the damage was done and we ended up in third place overall. This leaves the football part of the competition to play and us praying for a miracle.

As well as the Lions Trophy we are also involved on the Regimental Volleyball competition. If I said that this is not quite the Troop's strongest sport it would be an understatement but we carry on regardless and hope one day to win a game.

We say welcome back to **LCpl Baz Webb** from the Gulf on detachment to 14 Sig Regt. We also welcome **LCpls Chris Alderson** and **Kev Crabb;** also **LCpl Dave Mundy** who joins us from Delta Tp. who joins us from Delta Tp.

Congratulations to **LCpl Ellaway** on the occasion of his marriage to **Emma** on 23 February. All the best to them both.

CHARLIE TROOP

Tp Comd	**WO2 Tom Hannon**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Steve McInally**

The big event took place on 19 January with the marriage of **Cpl Tim Stevens** to **Karen.** It was a 'Charlie Tp affair' and got us off to a good start in 1991. Best wishes to them both.

The Lions (when will it finish?) Trophy should be completed soon. We had high hopes of winning it after winning the Hockey section and being runner's up at volleyball. The Basketball section, however, has been a horror story. We managed to lose all four games. With only the football to play we will have to pull out all the stops to win.

The Troop is staging a comback in the Regimental volleyball competition. After winning the first game we then lost the next two but have got back to winning ways in two games against Bravo Tp. We hope that we will take our accustomed place in the final for the third year running.

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

The Troop welcomes **Cpl Craig** 'Mr Football' **Shrives** and **Cpl Lee Brewer** who have made the long journey from SHQ Tp. From training we welcome **LCpl Danny O'Neill, LCpl Mick Heaton, LCpl Phil Walton** and **LCpl Rob Sturdy** and finally from Delta Tp **LCpl Steve** 'Geordie' **West.**

We have said farewell to **Sgt Joe** and **Mandy Jordan.** Just for once I can guarantee we will not hear **Joe** say 'There's not enough money in Troop funds for a free do!'

DELTA TROOP

The Troop has had its fair share of bosses in the last few months with the departure of **WO2 Marc Sipson** and his family, also **SSgt Steven Shannon** to sunnier climes. A warm welcome to our new boss **WO2 Dave Smy** and family who have moved over from Bravo Tp.

The Troop got off to a good sporting start with successes in Volleyball against their old rival SHQ Tp which it managed to beat, at last! This was the last game played by the old stalwart **WO2 Marc Sipson** before leaving here; he proved the decisive player with his magnificent leaps above the net, to smash the ball home from a great height. Overall good performances from all the players, even **LCpl Willy Rushton** managed to last a whole game.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to **LCpl Dave Levey** and his bride on their marriage in April. **LCpl Neil Howarth** will be treading the same path in August. Best wishes and good luck.

A Squadron exercise at the beginning of May and several social trips during the summer months promises a full programme ahead.

ARRIVALS

WO2 Smy, Cpl Clements, LCpls Cope, Pryor, Marklew, White, Williams and **Merchant.**

DEPARTURES

WO2 Sipson, SSgt Shannon, Cpl White and **LCpl Young.**

1 SQUADRON
H TROOP
EXERCISE ROMAN BUGLE
by Cpl D. Dagnall

The 1 Bn The Royal Green Jackets (1 RGJ) took part in the first phase of an exchange exercise—hosting the Bersaglieri Bn the Elite Mechanised Infantry of the Italian Army in a familiarisation exercise around 1 RGJ's station in Osnabruck.

The second phase saw the Italians as the host unit and although originally open only to Officers and Soldiers of 1 RGJ, the invitation was later extended to all units due to 1 RGJ's commitment on Op Granby. The exercise promised not only a chance to exercise alongside an Infantry unit but also an opportunity to get a late-season sun tan in Mediterranean surroundings. To this end I arrived with full kit, bergen and 'shades' on a wet Sunday on the square of Mercer Barracks, Osnabruck.

The British contingent consisted of a platoon sized nucleus from 1 RGJ and about 10 tank crewman from 4 Royal Tank Regt (4 RTR). As the only Corps soldier in the party, I was something of a novelty. The command element consisted of two officers from 1 RGJ, neither of whom would have seemed out of place in the cast of Blackadder 4, dealing with operational problems as if they were an everyday occurrence.

From Mercer Barracks we undertook the 20 hour journey by luxury coach, arriving at Fiore Barracks in the north Italy town of Pordenone at 1000 hrs on Monday. Our first impressions were of amazement at the state of the barracks—a bit like an older version of Sennelager, but with palm trees. The Barracks were built in the late 19th century and little modernisation has taken place. We were comfortable enough even so.

We awaited dinner. The food consisted of pasta shells, served with a variety of sauces. New to me, but when in Rome . . .!

After receptions by the Battalion and Company Commanders we began our first lesson, weapon training. This featured the standard Italian Rifle, the US M1 Garand (1937) and the MG3 which derived from the German MG42 (1942). The 1 RGJ lads were, of course, SA80 devotees.

In the evening, we set out to discover the town.

We spent the next day on the ranges and it was cold. We threw Italian grenades and went on to a live shoot of the weapons we had covered the previous day, which included a night shoot on the MG3 in the sustained fire role. It was really very impressive, it even impressed the RGJ. Our Platoon Commander, **Lt Maurizio Scardino** took a lot of ribbing from us, but, he knew that we were only joking.

This led, quite naturally, to the field exercise itself, we were divided into four sections, with myself in charge of one of them. The scene was simple, it involved a 32km march into the training area followed by a series of recce patrols, leading to an attack on the enemy's position. The exercise lasted four days and was, as we expected, a success, even though, at times, a touch realistic.

The first week over and the field exercise complete, we spent Saturday and Sunday visiting the towns of Trieste and Venice. This was, undoubtedly, the high point of the exercise.

With a new week we continued our introduction into the Italian Army, attending static demonstrations by both tank and mechanised infantry troops in the garrison area. This was quite informative and quite an eye opener for one not involved with such things.

Our visit coming to an end, the content switched from the military side of things to other aspects of Italian Army life. We saw the large Garrison sports complex, where we witnessed an assault course, visited the Garrison pool and took part in a football match, which we lost!

The exercise ended with the presentation of plaques and souvenirs, a farewell speech by the Battalion Commander and a fanfare from the Battalion's buglers.

After another long coach journey, we arrived back in Germany. It was a hectic 10 days, but a very enjoyable exercise. Whilst I didn't get my suntan I certainly value the experience, the change to make new friends, and would like to express my thanks to all concerned for the opportunity to take part.

3 SQUADRON
SHQ
PERSONALITIES

OC — **Maj Peter Williams**
2IC — **Capt Mick Brighten**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Pete Grainger.**

VISITORS

The arrival of the new Commander Berlin Inf Bde, **Brig D de G Bromhead LVO OBE** has been the highlight together with VIP visits to the Squadron.

FOOTBALL

The season has seen the Squadron's Team enjoy its greatest success for many years. As we took on and beat Major Unit opposition—RAF Gatow and 1 Bn Irish Guards and having played 12 Minor Unit League matches and suffered only two defeats; the Squadron is currently top of the Berlin Minor Units Football League.

3 Sqn Football Team
Back Row: Sgts Gaz Bateman, Paul Dunn, SSgts Chris Gore, Mac McCreedy, Cpl Nobby Clarke, Sgts Bear Kelly and Reg Varney
Front Row: LCpls Bushy Bush, Moxy Leyland, Ron Hurst, Sgts Snowy Snowden, Jock Fraser and 'Killer' Armstrong

HOCKEY

The recession seems to have played havoc with the Berlin Hockey League—although rumour has it heavy snow conditions are possibly to blame! Nevertheless, the Squadron played four matches without defeat before winter set in. A special mention to **SSgt Mick Smart** who has been selected to Umpire the BAOR Minor Units Hockey Final and **WO1 Dave Kent** who represented the Corps in BAOR at the last Inter Corps tournament.

VOLLEYBALL

The Berlin Inf Bde Volleyball Championships were held on Saturday 23 February 1991 with some 12 teams participating (Major and Minor Units). Captained by **WO1 Dave Kent** the Squadron fielded a squad of 11 players of mixed talent. Drawn against 1 Bn Irish Guards and 38 Fd Sqn (RE), in our preliminary league, we encountered few problems. Our quarter final proved equally successful as we played 14 Fd Sqn (RE). However the semi final was a different matter; 62 Mov & Tpt (RCT) was better equipped and some poor handling proved our downfall. An excellent effort—which, for some, was a first.

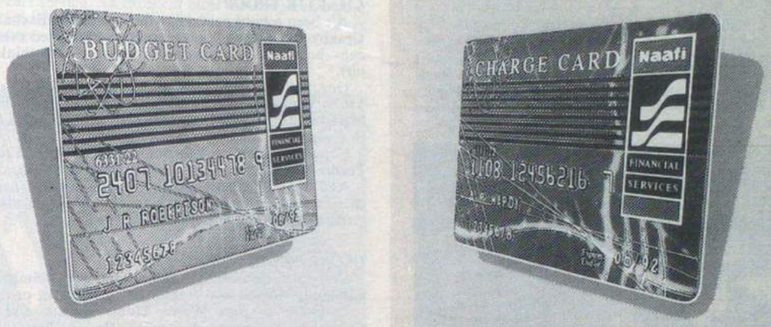
DEPARTURES

Many of the Squadron stalwarts have gone and they will all be missed. Our best wishes go with them and their families. **Capt Gareth Babbs** (old 2IC—tender in years); **Sgt 'Killer' Armstrong** (sunny Cyprus here we come) and **Sgt Garrill** (back to blighty). We welcome **Capt Dougie Kempster** and his family and hope they have a pleasant tour.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Capts Jan Sykes** and to **Mick Brighten** on their recent promotions.

Choice of Credit in a Moment



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16 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

NEW COMMUNICATION CENTRE

The Joint British Forces Germany Communication Centre (JBC Commcen) has been officially opened by **Maj Gen J. O. C. Alexander OBE**, Comd Comms BAOR.

The RAF Commcen Rheindahlen has now closed, with the workload and responsibilities passing to the former HQ BAOR Army Commcen. The Joint BFG Commcen is located in the former Army Commcen and is staffed by Oscar Tp 1 Sqn 16 Sig Regt.

Maj Gen Alexander with senior officers from 4 Sig Gp and the Regiment were conducted on the tour by **Maj Jim Harris** OC 1 Sqn and **Capt Bob Waller** OC Oscar Tp. During the opening ceremony **Maj Gen Alexander** transmitted a signal to the Controller Defence Communications Network informing him of the amalgamation of the two Commcens.

Despite initial teething problems the staff of Oscar Tp has taken Op Granby and the responsibilities of serving the two HQs in their stride.

Whilst the responsibility of providing communications for the staff has passed to the Army, the distribution and acceptance of signals within the main building is the responsibility of the RAF. This is being ably handled by **Flt Lt John Dunlop** and his staff at the Joint Services Distribution Centre.

Capt Bob Waller with Comd Comms BAOR at the opening of the Joint Communication Centre

EXERCISE CROSSBOW

Ex Crossbow is a comprehensive military skills competition of some standing. It spans a four day period and covers the whole spectrum of military abilities from orienteering to bridge building and explosives to patrolling. You name it and it was in there, somewhere.

Owing to 'Op Granby' there was some doubt as to whether or not the competition would take place but take place it did and amongst the 21 teams competing was one women's team from members of 1 and 4 Sqns.

Obviously with just one women's team competing we were bound to be female champions but in true WRAC fashion we were determined to do it in style, and we did by finishing 12th overall leaving nine mens teams strewn in our wake. Well done girls!

Women's Crossbow Champions 1991

1 SQUADRON

Like most Squadron Commanders in Germany **Maj Jim Harris** prompts new arrivals 'to seize this wonderful opportunity whilst serving on the continent to get out and about and see the sights'. Sound in theory but not so easy to put into practice. Being a Squadron with a high preponderance of women who do not possess licences to drive the only way to get around is by public transportation and that can have its limitations. 'Not a problem', says the benevolent Squadron Commander—'take a sizeable chunk of the Squadron's financial assets—find a benevolent car dealer—a couple of instructors prepared to risk all—and a subsidised driving school is born'.

CHARLIE TROOP

It's been a busy period for the Telephone Exchange. Owing to Op Granby the shift and leave rosters were turned every which way you can—but we are not complaining (we like to think we did our little bit).

Our ranks have been somewhat thinned with the departures of: **Cpl Lorna Waud** to Chelsea, **Ptes Hayley Maclean** to Edinburgh, **Debbie Mesham** off to the QA's and **Elspeth Gdanitz** and **LCpl Michelle Lane** to civilian life. Our best wishes to them all.

Congratulations to **LCpls Linda Lawrence, Linda Strachen** and **Trudie Yule** all gaining a well deserved promotion.

And finally a tale of romance as **Pte Mulvey** (nee **Arnold**) decided to tie the knot before her fiancée left for Northern Ireland. The ceremony took place in Osnabruck.

OSCAR TROOP

Congratulations to **SSgt Joseph, Sgt Bernie Smith, LCpls Williams, Gilliland, Motson** and **Hunter** on their recent promotions.

Farewells to **Sgts Watts, Hunt, Inman, Cpl Maclean, LCpls Cascarino, Thornton, Hunter, Sig Reeves, Ptes Cook** and **English.**

A warm welcome to **Sgts Bahado, Richards, Cpls McKay, Floyd** and **Motson**. Congratulations on marriage to **Pte England** (nee **Edwards**) and **Pte Findlater** (nee **Merchant**).

To **Sgts Wilkinson, Carter, LCpls Horsley-Wright, Radley, Sig Pengelly** in the Gulf. Well done, boys, we look forward to seeing you again in the near future.

REGIMENTAL SOCCER

At the beginning of the season we were poised to take BAOR by storm. Having finished the previous season on a high, our prospects looked good. Inclusion in the BAOR Super League coupled with an influx of known talent led us to speculate that a good run in the Army Cup could be on the cards.

As events in the Gulf unfolded the soccer programme was completely thrown into the air. To date we have played only three league matches, which we have won, but made an untimely exit from the Army cup.

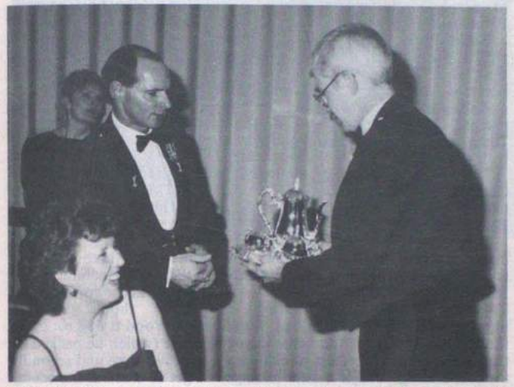
Having cleared the first hurdle by beating 3 Div Tpt Regt 1—0 we bowed out to 28 Sig Regt, of all people, a sad day indeed. Even sadder, our coach and mentor **WO2 John Dyer** got a surprise posting to sunnier parts and leaves the team in mid season. Warmest thanks to **John** for his hard work and devotion to the soccer squad over these past couple of years.

SSgt Steve Owen *(L)* presents WO2 John Dyer with his memento from the Soccer Team

21 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

WO's AND SNCO's LADIES DINNER NIGHT

On Friday 1 March a Ladies Dinner Night was held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess for the purpose of dining out **WO1 (YofS) George McAvoy** on commissioning and **Sgt Peter Searle** on completion of 22 years service. An excellent meal was prepared by the chefs; all who attended had a very enjoyable evening. All Mess members wish **George, Susan, Pete** and **Jan** the very best for the future.



WO1 (RSM) J. J. Ashwell receiving a silver coffee service from WO1 (YofS) G. McAvoy

Sgt Searle receiving his present from WO1 (RSM) J. J. Ashwell

90 YEARS OF UNDETECTED CRIME (BETWEEN THEM)

On 7 March **Brig R. M. Bullock,** Comd (BR) RCZ, presented LS & GC Medals to six members of the Regiment in the Train Bar. The photo shows **Brig Bullock** with the recipients and their wives.

L to R: Sgts Gerrish, Gardner, Harris, McAnulty, Cpls Kemble and Lowe

CHAMPION RCZ SPORTING UNIT 1990

21 Sig Regt was presented with the Crook Shield for sporting achievements in 1990. The Regiment showed its sporting prowess over 18 different sports; becoming RCZ Champions in no less than six (athletics, boxing, swimming, squash, tug of war, cross country) and performed well in all the others.

Brig Bullock presenting the Crook Shield to SSgt Killen (also Army Athletics Team Captain)

RCZ SKI CUP WINNERS 1991

The team was successful in retaining the RCZ Ski Cup. The championships were held at La Grande Bornand, France at the 3 Armd Div meeting.

Two weeks prior to the competition training was undergone at Fulpmes Austria. The event itself was split into three sections: giant slalom, slalom and downhill race. Each event had a timed run with the best four times from the eight members of the team qualifying for the competition. **Capt Frank Kemp** did particularly well in winning the Veterans Cup and **LCpl McCreery** narrowly missed out on the Novices Award.

Brig Bullock, Commander RCZ, presented the RCZ Best Ski Team Trophy 1991.
Pictured from left to right are: Sig McVicar, Capt F. B. Kemp REME, Brig R. M. Bullock, Cpl D. Wards and LCpl P. McCreery

ARMY CATERING CORPS GOLDEN JUBILEE

On 2 March 1991 the Army Catering Corps celebrated its Golden Jubilee. It was decided to celebrate the occasion by presenting each member with an engraved tankard and a bottle of specially brewed beer with a 50th Anniversary label. The presentations were made by the CO **Lt Col H. H. Ham**.

At the end of the ceremony **SSgt Gary Johnson ACC**, on behalf of the ACC, presented **Lt Col Ham, Maj Davies-Stewart** and **WO1 (RSM) Ashwell** with a commemorative glass and beer as a memento of the occasion.

TN 039 IN BERLIN

Our tour of Berlin included all the well known tourist attractions, the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag, Checkpoint-Charlie (that was) and its fascinating museum, and some of the less well known attractions. Some visited the marvellous zoo.

The visit included a visit to the opera house where Nana Mouskuri was singing.

SNOW QUEEN 1991
Report by OCdt R. Whiting

Snow Queen 1991 began for me on 21 February. I saw very little snow until we reached Sonthofen, deep into Bavaria. I was part of a small party from 21 Sig Regt which was staying in the 28 Sig Regt hut between Sonthofen and Fishen.

With the admin completed we passed the evening trying to ascertain the snow conditions for the area, unfortunately our fears were confirmed and the snow was sparse and melting fast.

Nevertheless, early the next morning, we climbed aboard our transport to the Bolderslang mountain. We were thrilled to find that though it was drizzling in the valley there was a veritable snow storm above the middle chairlift section. However, this blizzard lasted only a few hours and it was the only fall of snow we were to see during the exercise.

After two days on a very reasonable set of pistes one group moved to the higher slopes of the Nebelhorn in Obersdorf. Here the slopes were better but, as a result, more crowded.

On the fourth evening it was decided that the Bolderslang was unskiable; so we moved onto the Bolderswang, a 30 minute journey away. Its sheltered slopes provided some excellent, if slightly icy runs, for all abilities, until the sun melted the top layers; skiing then became sluggish and techniques, so painstakingly taught, went to pot. **SSgt 'Ken' Kennedy** even found time to do some Langlauf, he did neglect though to change the skis and only just made it back to the cafe. At least he remembered the important thing, the location of the Gluhwein.

The diminishing snow led to earlier starts and longer coffee breaks, even so all involved had a most enjoyable time. Thanks are due, of course, to the instructor **Craig Crockart**.

2 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj A. A. Ewell**
SSM — **WO2 D. Whiting**

SQMS **SSgt A. Hamilton**, OC E Tp **Capt G. Hearn**, OC F Tp **Capt M. Stapleton**, E Tp SSgt **SSgt S. Barrington**, F Tp SSgt **SSgt T. Petherbridge**.

On the sporting front, despite half the Squadron being away in the Gulf it managed to notch up some notable achievements, reaching the Quarter Finals in the first three Battle of Britain events (vollyball, basketball and table tennis). This gives 2 Sqn second place in the overall competition. At this juncture the Squadron Football Team has reached the semi-final of the station cup. The Regimental Squash Team which included three Squadron members won the RCZ Major Unit Cup.

The following 2 Sqn personnel entered the RCZ annual Military Competition, Ex Crossbow 91: Pl Comd—**Sgt Thomas**, Pl Sgts—**Sgts Gary Foster** and **Andy Brown**, Pl LCpls—'Wheelbrace' **Wood** and **Woodward**, Sig **Castro, Pilling** and **Copp**.

Training was intensive but justified by the results, third out of 22 teams and the first Corps Team. The event lasted three days and covered many interesting tasks including building a Medium Girder Bridge and using 20 lbs of PE which was used to practise route denial. Two more occurrences during 'Crossbow' should not go unmentioned, the first was **LCpl** 'Wheelbrace' **Wood** trying to: make the Wheelnuts smaller and make the wheelbrace (which he packed by the way) larger in an effort to change a Landrover tyre and secondly the fact that **Sgt** 'Ninja' **Foster** managed to get so close to the enemy position during a night recce that he could smell their aftershave.

Congratulations are in order for **Sgts Foster** and **Thomas** on being selected for promotion to SSgt and for the newly promoted **LCpls Blaydon** and **Tatlock**.

K TROOP
UNUSUAL PROMOTION/DEMOTION

Sig Geordie Robson won the honour to be CO for a day while **Sig Bob Menzies** took on the responsibility of the RSM, **Sig Griff Davies** Sqn Comd 3 Sqn and **Sig Nig Penney**, RP Sgt; the present incumbents undertook Signalmen roles within K Troop.

Places and badges and rank were swopped on a very cold morning at K Troop First Works parade, in Hangar 7, taken by **SSgt Kev Fitzpatrick. Sig Robson, Menzies** and **Penney** were whisked to RHQ in the CO's Staff car where **Capt Charlie Miller**, the Adjutant, awaited them; whilst **Lt Col Ham, Maj Whydell** and **WO1 (RSM) Ashwell** were issued with Parka's, shovels and wellies. It was noted that the RSM had no problems reverting to rank and was next seen in the nearest crew room drinking coffee with the faults crew; it was not certain who was leading whom astray!

Under the watchful eye of the Adjutant and acting Chief Clerk, **Sgt Bill Pritchard**, the scenario unfolded for our three intrepid signalmen; a programme of inspections, briefings, an Orders session and various fast balls followed in quick succession. **Sig Penney** will not forget his experience, a female actually got the better of him; many thanks to the support of the girls of 29 Coy WRAC.

At the other end of the Airfield the CO and Sqn Comd 3 Sqn (alias **Sig Ham** and **Whydell**) found themselves at the sharp end. **Cpl Les Crowder** was putting them through their paces down a hole repairing a cable fault. With sub zero temperatures, the ground proved to be quite resilient to their efforts with pick and shovel, but after several hours digging and numerous welcome coffee breaks, sufficient soil had been removed to enable the cable to be joined, by noon a very cold but successful crew returned to Hangar 7.

All participants retired to the Train Bar for lunch where experiences were exchanged; everyone agreed that they had now a better understanding of each others work. The afternoon was spent with a volleyball and indoor football competition between RHQ and K Troop; RHQ Tp was the eventual winner.

Adjt Capt C. Miller explaining a subtle point to Sig ('CO') Robson

Sig Davies was kept busy by SSM 3 Sqn, **WO2 Whittingham, taking** an Orders session with **Sig Tony Tranter** as the defendant, (subsequently remanded for CO's orders) followed by an inspection of ACPO and Starrnet. The morning was rounded off with report writing; he earned his pay that day!

Sig Davies as Sqn Comd 3 Sqn

Sig Menzies (alias RSM) as the TAR'A

Cpl Crowder looks on as Maj Whydell and Lt Col Ham prepare the ground for cable repairs

CONGRATULATIONS
Many congratulations to **Sgt Dave Harris** on the award of his LS & GC.

FAREWELLS
After six years as K Troop clerk a farewell to **Mr Tom Johns** who has been relocated in RHQ, we wish him well in his new appointment. Also to **Sgt Bob Markham** and his wife to civvy street, we wish you all the best. **Cpl Bob Maxted** and wife posted to 259, **LCpl Mathews** to Belize and **Sig Tarr** to NI.

WELCOME
We wish to welcome to K Troop **Sgt Norman Riach** and his wife **Beatrice, Sig Lane, Cheyne** and **Brooke** and hope that you have a good tour in Wildenrath.

L TROOP
PERSONALITIES
Tp Comd — **Capt D. G. Wright**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt T. Hague**
Tp Sgts **Sgts Elliott, Challice,** Tech Wksps **Sgts Kenna, Hayfield.**

COMINGS AND GOINGS
We have recently said goodbye to **Sgt Colin Brown** to 8 Sig Regt and hello to his replacement **Sgt Kev Hayfield** from 7 Sig Regt. Other new arrivals are **LCpl Duncan**, whose feet hardly touched the ground before he was Falklands bound, **Sig Bolts Bolton**, who has already taken over the 'Dog and Bone', and **Sig Bez Lockett** who went on a holiday and has not been seen since.

SPORT
BOXING
Congratulations to **LCpl Phil Gash** on winning the BAOR Heavyweight Boxing Championships. We wish him the best of luck for the Army Championships in April. **LCpl Gash** was last seen heading for 1 Queens for a bit of training; rumour has it that he is going for **Cpl Pete Gruncell**'s record for most days at work in one calendar year.

SQUASH
Under the guidance of **LCpl Mick Lawlor** the Troop did better than last year by actually getting through the first round of the Godde Trophy Squash with a resounding 3—2 win over the RAFP. Unfortunately, in the next round we came up against the much stronger 431 MU team who just managed to beat us 5—0. This left us with plenty of time to concentrate on the basketball.

BASKETBALL
Cpl Paddy Quee spent three weeks putting together a very strong squad which was unlucky to come up against a slightly stronger team in the first round. Quote of the competition came from **Sig** Fudge **MacPhee** who when asked if he wanted a fight replied, 'No, but I know a man who does'.

SOCIAL
The troop held a very enjoyable Quiz Night in February. Needless to say **Sgt Rodney Kenna**'s team won it again. Well done to **Cpl Paddy Quee** for organising a splendid evening and some good 'scoff'.

22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

OP GRANBY—FAMILIES
It was a quiet, frosty morning in Lippstadt when suddenly, a plaintive cry of a Sergeant Major was heard: 'Squadron, Squadronnnn, Shun.'

The usual response to this command is normally a resounding series of thumps. However, on this occasion a single 'crack' was heard as 1 Sqn came to attention . . . all 10 of them. Where were the rest? They had gone to the Gulf. With no Squadron to look after, the Squadron Commander gave the SSM a special mission—unfortunately, not in the Gulf. This was more dangerous, more treacherous than the FMA Sig Sqn. He was posted to HQ Sqn as the Assistant Families Officer. This brave man teamed up with another of HQ Sqn's Special Forces, **Capt Mick Pawlak**. Their mission?—to create a Regimental Families Office.

Their tour of office commenced with a Cheese and Wine party arranged by the Wives Club, to enable the wives to meet their Families Officers. All sorts of minor problems were solved; leave and travel concessions, pay matters, passports and other such everyday matters.

Many excursions were organised. The first was to the Soest Ice Skating Rink, where many wives showed their prowess on skates, although not quite professional standard but certainly proficient enough to make it fun and a rewarding outing.

This venture was swiftly followed up by a shopping trip (spree) to Bielefeld to ensure that any water money saved up in the Gulf was being treated seriously by the wives.

On 12 February we took off for the Bad Lippspringe Wasser Therme, which was paid for by a Paderborn businessman. Three days later many set out for the Munster Zoo. Unfortunately there was a White Out and the animals became the spectators, watching the humans, from their fully winterised abodes, trudging through the snow, getting colder by the minute. It is normally a two hour trip to Munster, however this trip took nearly five hours through heavy blizzards.

Once thawed out there were excursions to the PX at the nearest US Army Base at Geissen, a visit to Ruthen (courtesy of the Mayor), free entrance to the Lippstadt swimming pool, a visit to Paderborn to meet **HRH The Princess of Wales**, a visit to Soest for a civic reception given by the Mayoress and many other functions and visits, not forgetting, the weekly luncheons held in the Regimental Cookhouse Annex for families.

We would like to record our appreciation to the German Civil authorities and the Bundeswehre without whose generosity and kindness we would not have been able to enjoy so many excursions or functions. It enabled us to put our anxieties on one side during troubled days. Also we are extremely grateful to the Lippstadt Reservisten for transport, invitations to social functions and especially for help in running the Lippstadt Marches—not forgetting coffee and cake ventures.

A very big thank you to you all for everything you did for us.

Happy Families—off skating

28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
BFPO 35

SUPPORT SQUADRON
EXERCISE FRAN ARCHER 1/91
Ex Fran Archer is the CO's bi-annual military training exercise. It took place in March in three phases. Despite all ploys to bribe the planning staff little was given away by **WO2 Brian Parkhill** so we had to plan for anything and everything.

PHASE ONE
The Squadron, in its exercise role of Support Group, deployed to a nearby training area, well nearly all—there were those who managed to dream up the usual, and unusual excuses. The lucky ones set up in location and learnt the delights of defensive positions, guards and minor tactics, under the guidance of **WO2 (SSM) Joe Harris**. This was followed by a night orienteering competition. Much to the surprise of the group hierarchy everyone wanted to take part, even the two chefs, **Cpl Mark O'Halloran** and **Pte Michelle Hook**. The results of the event were in Support Group's favour, the outright winner was **Sgt Shane Wright** (a canoeist of some note) and **Sig Tony Garner**. The fastest lady round the 10km course was **Capt Alison Mann**, the Paymaster (another canoeist of even greater note). Everyone returned safely and, in some cases blistered, to the finish. All who took part were congratulated on their map reading abilities although one or two groups did make unplanned visits across the border into Holland.

PHASE TWO
This started with a night move to Haltern and passed without major incident. **Sig Gavin Wallace** now knows how far his Mercedes will or will not go on a tank of fuel. Arriving in location in the early hours gave everyone the chance to test the newly issued sleeping system and for **Sig Neil Wake** to appreciate the reason for the Goretex bag being issued when it rained. The day at Haltern was spent on the ranges being introduced to the SA80 culminating in a night shoot under the instruction of **WO2 Parkhill** and his team. The background activity was provided by a group of Royal Engineers showing us the delights of booby trap devices.

PHASE THREE
After a few hours of very welcome sleep it was off again for the NBC phase. This was the part of the exercise that few looked forward to except perhaps **Capt Julian Bunce**, the Adjutant (another canoeist of considerable note) and his group of fully qualified instructors. The day was passed climbing in and out of protective equipment with everyone learning a great deal. Our two resident NBC minders **Capt Ben Britton** and **Sgt Pady Morrow** were kept busy answering numerous questions. We left very early (a little too early according to the Sqn Comd) and returned to camp but not before **Sig Wallace** learnt even more about his Mercedes—this time wheel changing.

Those who did not take part in the exercise will find out exactly what they missed as they are the first people on the list for Fran Archer 2/91.

2 SQUADRON
PROMOTIONS
Congratulations go to **LCpls Cy Jennings** and **Anderson** on achieving the first rung on the dizzy ladder of promotion. Also to **Sgts** 'Stitch' **Freak** and **Eddie Wareing** who have recently swopped detachments for a desk and a large mess bill!

DETACHMENTS
A mention also for the 20 personnel from the Squadron currently detached in Cyprus, Belize and JCUFI. Despite what you may think, we have not forgotten about you!

FAREWELLS, ARRIVALS AND EVEN MORE RECENT ARRIVALS
The number of people who have either left or arrived are far too many to mention by name but for all those who have gone: best of luck and thanks for your contribution, for all those arrived: welcome, and you will be very surprised how much work there is to be done! Even more recent arrivals are babies for **SSgt Terry** and **Jeanette Oakes** and **Sgt** 'Stitch' and **Julie Freak** who are both experiencing sleepless nights for the first time—congratulations.

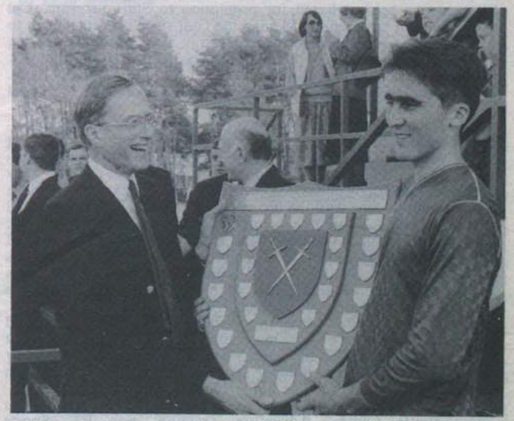
EXERCISE FRAN ARCHER
Communication exercises have ebb and flowed over the last few months but Ex Fran Archer was definitely different. With four moves planned over three days hot route card preparation was the order of the day but congratulations go to **Cpl Alan Keers** (now at the School of Signals) for taking the scenic route on the only route recced before the exercise began. Hide locations are fairly new to 2 Sqn and a lot of relearning had to be done very quickly. It did not take **Sig Matt Walsh** long to discover that urban cam stretched between cab and box body does not constitute a walkway. Next task after settling in was night orienteering. The next move came only four hours later on to Haltern training area where, as ever, it rained. The day however was made interesting not only by firing SA80 but also a comprehensive practical demonstration on booby traps—especially around an office—paper pushers watch out, we now have the knowledge! A grateful four hour's sleep followed a very interesting night shoot and it actually stopped raining for a few mintues. Not long enough, however, for us to remember to pick up **Cpl Geordie Maughan** who was left guarding an empty range!

The early hours of Wednesday meant yet another move and 'as if by magic' the second packet to depart arrived in location first. Well done to **2Lt Donnie Robertson** for keeping his packet together on the unscheduled detour through Essen in the rush hour! After a much prophesied move in and a fairly leisurely breakfast the NBC phase began. Not as nasty as we had all anticipated. A special thanks to the instructors for that, and the sun even shone, what more could one ask? An interesting and informative day and as darkness fell (and almost a full night's sleep beckoned) so did the rain.

STOP PRESS
Congratulations to **LCpl Martin** on his promotion—we were not sure that we would find you in time!

SOCCER
With the emphasis on soccer in BAOR being transferred to 16 Sig Regt, success this season was not predicted by outsiders. However, the team and management were quietly confident that there would be a few surprises. This has been justified with the team reaching the BAOR Cup Final and currently sitting third in the North Rhine League and also waiting to play in two other cup semi-finals. We lost the BAOR Final to our old rivals 28 Amph Engr Regt 2—0, but not before we had given a good account of ourselves.

Success has also brought personal achievement for **Cpls Dave Coleman** and **Paul Storey** and **Sig George Crawford** being, deservedly, selected for the BAOR Representative side.



Cpl Dave Coleman receiving the BAOR Runner-Up Shield from Maj A. Sugdon

30 Sig Regt
Blandford Camp

VISIT OF HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL GCVO

On Wednesday 13 February **HRH The Princess Royal** visited the families of the soldiers serving in the Gulf. Her Royal Highness met the wives and the children at a Coffee Morning and talked to them in a warm and relaxed atmosphere.

Her Royal Highness spoke to everyone present with obvious interest and concern for the families.

The children, meanwhile and without prompting, drew pictures which they later presented to the Princess Royal.

The visit was greatly appreciated by everyone.

HRH The Princess Royal receiving a drawing from Natalia Jones.
L to R: Ennis Vingoe, Natalia Jones and Gwyneth Jones
In the background Sue White and Tracy Anderson

RHQ
by WO2 (ORQMS) Cuckow

In common with many units, the Orderly Room was decimated by calls for Op Granby personnel. The ORS, **Sgt Peter Street** has been in JCUME since taking over from **Sgt John Reeves** in November last. **Sgt Reeves** has been on various courses and briefings before taking up his post in the British Embassy in Riyadh. Congratulations go to both Sergeants on being selected for promotion to Staff Sergeant. **Cpl Chris Hurford** has been out there in the Gulf since his detachment to 633 Sig Tp. **LCpl Paul Edwards** returned in March proudly wearing his well earned tape. **LCpl** 'Diddy' **Didcock** had to fall out the back of a bus to get out of Saudi—he's back after just one month out there. **LCpl** 'Spike' **Brooks** has now replaced Diddy. Spike says he was glad to go to get a rest!

It is a common misconception that rear parties have an easy time—try telling that to **Cpl Jim Seager** who has lost even more hair! **Sig David Wilson, Steve Pratt** and **Simon Buckden** are all recent arrivals in the Orderly Room and must wonder if it is always so chaotic! They have been hit hard by duties, fatigues, area cleaning, extra PT sessions whilst trying to cope with the increase in office admin. They have all managed very well, despite being caught in the crossfire of flak between two Adjutants and two COs. **Capt Steve Felton** has now had enough of 'buck stops here' and is quitting his rear party Adjutant's post to command 640 Sig Tp. **2Lt Emma Welch**, as Asst Adjt, has been discovering the added joys of being Press Officer and the meaning of such perennials as 'Unit Historical Records'.

Maj Trevor Hendren has been wearing well the mantle of 'Comd Rear Party'. He hasn't found much time for 'DIY' in his home, but he has been the calming influence when 'all around are losing their heads'. RSM **WO1** 'Skip' **Redman** served in the Gulf just long enough to qualify for any medals (he hopes!) and to gain more leave.

Roll on normality when we can get down to the real Army—you know—Battle Camps, Adventure Training, Sqn PT, Sports Afternoons et al!

HQ SQN
TM TROOP
by Cpl Laurie Casci

Well, you have absolutely no idea how exciting Blandford has been recently with all these people and kit going back and forth to the Gulf, more people posted in and out and finally all these weekends we worked getting the kit ready prior to deployment.

Sgt John Linck has been in his element with his crushing workload as acting FofS, acting Tp SSgt, Workshop Sgt, uncontested squash champion of TM Tp and happy knowing that he is posted out soon.

Sgt Pete Edge, Cpls Laurie Casci and 'KFS' **Kingsford-Smith** eventually and unhappily returned from Cyprus, well the tourist season was over anyway. Congratulations to **Sgts Guy Lewendon** and **Rus Batley** for passing their Foreman's entrance exam and to **Cpl Josh Mainka** and **LCpl Davie Irwin** on their promotions to Sergeant and Corporal respectively.

Finally to the recent TM Tp squash tournament in which **Cpls Laurie Casci** and **Ian Kingsford-Smith** made a very promising start by knowing how to hold the racquet but were unfortunately slaughtered in subsequent rounds. **Sgt Pete Edge** and **Cpl Dave Irwin** tried to change the rules and use each other instead of the walls and to winner **Sgt John Linck** who won and hasn't let up since:

Anyway, finally to **Cpls John Jolly, Skin Smith** and **Ade Butcher** who have been kept busy teaching people about various pieces of kit and subsequently getting it ready for deployment. All there is to do now is to keep busy until all the kit returns from the Gulf and let the chaos reign.

A big, big happy hello for **Sig Si Lambert** (now on the Regimental Information Team), **Cpl Ray King** (civvy street here I am), **Cpl John Martin** (who was rapidly deployed to the Gulf) and **LCpl** 'Scotty' **Scott** who has finally made the transition from Catterick to Blandford.

Bye to **Cpls Ken Hughes** and **Wayne Pinhorn** who are off to Lisburn and 8 Sig Regt respectively.

MT TROOP
by Cpl Dean Haynes
PERSONALITIES

MTWO	**WO2 D. Ellis**

Tp Sgts **Sgt I Johnson, Sgt N. Dobbins.**

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

The Troop said farewell to **Cpl** 'Scouse' **Naylor** and **LCpl** 'Pop' **Popowicz**. The Troop welcomes **Sgt** 'Dobbo' **Dobbins** and family from 200 Sig Sqn and **Cpl Ian Holmes** from Northern Ireland.

During this busy period, the MT has been clocking up the mileage yet again. Hoping to say goodbye to our Metro, 'The Yellow Peril', but still she stays! Assisting with Op Granby, our civilian staff have been contributing by their hard work to make every task successful. With 'Stalwart' **Mr Bob Christie** as No 1 coach driver!

Meanwhile back in our Details Office—'To be known as the Waiting Room'—**LCpl** 'Pops' **Popowicz** has been running a very efficient Taxi Service for all. Finally congratulations to **LCpl** 'Specky' **Croxon** on his recent promotion.

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Tim Rimell**
2IC	**Capt Tony Burgin**

OC A Tp **Capt Paul Vingoe**, OC B Tp **Lt Simon Payne**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) Stew Campbell**, FofS **WO2 (FofS) Terry Inman**, YofS **SSgt (YofS) Keith Emmerson**, SQMS **Sgt (SQMS) Martyn Henley.**

After the turbulence of Op Granby/Desert Storm the Squadron is in the process of recovering men and equipment. We have, of course, taken on normal commitments, which provided hours of amusement for **Sgt Martyn Henley** as he has the much sought after task of checking all the equipment when it returns and bringing it up to scale for Spearhead deployment. Although it is with great joy that we welcome the safe return of everyone from the Gulf, we must alas say goodbye to **WO2 (SSM) Gerry Knight** and **Dawn** to 22 Sig Regt. He goes on promotion to WO1 (RSM), and **SSgt Dougie Wright** (on promotion to WO2) and **Norma** to 7 Sig Regt. We wish them and their families every success in the future.

2 SQN

The last six months have seen considerable turbulence in 2 Sqn and this state of affairs will continue for at least a few more months, until Op Granby grinds to a halt. The hierarchy have all been involved in the operation in some way and most are now either on leave or about to be posted. Of particular note, we bid farewell to our ex-SSM **WO1 Chris Edler** and his sidekick **SSgt (FofS) Lee Wookey**.

Life here in Blandford for those back off leave is a whirl of duties, social events, PT and even the odd exercise.

JOCOMMEX—HMS *CORNWALL*
by Cpl Nesbitt

After returning from the Gulf and spending the weeks following our leave preparing for our return as Battle Casualty Replacements (BCR) it came as quite a shock to find that the Regiment was still involved with a JOCOMMEX (Joint Communications Exercise). So expecting only a couple of days sailing around Portsmouth I volunteered to exchange with the ship, HMS *Cornwall*. As it turned out the Type 42 Frigate was en route to Lisbon and I was to join the ship there!

After my 'all expenses paid' flight I was met at the airport by one of the ship's Radio Operators and introduced to the Radio Supervisor, who gave me a run down on the activities the ship was to be involved in on its run back to Liverpool. All this was to change!

After a couple of days in Lisbon we set sail, heading for a Force 9 gale. All the matelots seemed to be waiting for me to be sea sick but as it turned out most of them were worse than I was! After the first day at sea it was time to earn my passage and get involved with the JOCOMMEX. It took about half an hour to establish a voice link but problems with kit prevented us from establishing RATT, however this too was soon cured and were able to pass traffic to **Cpl Cressey**'s det back in Blandford. Once established the exercise went well and we were able to manage approx 70% traffic time. About this time the ship was tasked with a towed array patrol. After re-fuelling at Campbeltown, Soctland, she made her way north to the Arctic Circle. We then turned around and after an RV with an FRA for fuel, we made full speed for Plymouth where I disembarked, after spending 19 days on board.

The exercise was thoroughly enjoyable. I expect that my name has gone to the bottom of the pile for the next one!

There was no shortage of volunteers for the next JOCOMMEX and **LCpl Boz Borrill** and **Sig Huzy Hughes** were 'selected'—this time to sail from Hull to Rosyth in HMS *York*. That's the luck of the draw lads! Next JOCOMMEX—an all expenses paid cruise across the Atlantic in HMS *Cumberland*—surprisingly, quite a few volunteers!

250 GURKHA SIG SQN
'W' TROOP ON EXERCISE HARDFALL 91

From 28 January to 18 February 16 Gurkhas led by **Lt (QGO) Dorje Tamang** went on detachment to 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) to take part in Ex Hardfall 91 in Norway. This annually held Winter Exercise was run by 249 Sig Sqn to teach soldiers basic ski and survival techniques in an Arctic environment.

During the exercise we spent six nights in the field living in ridge tents and snow holes and finally practised basic infantry tactics. It also included lecture phases on Arctic safety rules, a 10 and 20km ski race and night skiing.

This was indeed a rare opportunity and a valuable experience for those of us who were fortunate to take part in this arduous course.

Our heartfelt thanks goes to **Maj Paul Oldfield, Capt Alan Hill** and the members of 249 Sig Sqn who helped to make our time in Norway such an interesting and enjoyable one.

31 Sig Regt (V)
Hammersmith

EXERCISE WORTHY WANDER
by Capt Fred Southey

The above event was organised by **Capt Bernie Stevens** RAOC (V) on behalf of The British Army Motoring Association (BAMA) and comprised a drive of 113 miles, starting at the Army Pay Corps HQ at Worthy Down.

31 Sig Regt (V), LAD REME mustered two landrovers for the event, one manned by **Sgt** 'Windy' **Windham** and **Cfn Phil Taylor** (navigator) and the other by **Capt Fred Southey** with **LCpl Dave Morris** navigating.

The starting point at Worthy Down was reached with only one stop for a tea break and no breakdowns, which augured well for the event. The first hiccup occurred when booking in at Rally Control, and it was discovered that both teams had been entered in the Novice Section rather than the beginner section, but since neither rover had got lost on the journey down, they were full of confidence and said it didn't matter! They were issued with their starting numbers, 17 and 20 which meant they were starting at 17 and 20 minutes past 1000 hrs respectively and should finish at around 0400 hrs. What happened to team 20 **(Windy and Phil)** over the next few hours is a mystery since modesty prevented them from singing their own praises, but suffice to say that they returned to Worthy Down on time with a rally card full of check letters, Marshall's signatures and so on. Unfortunately the same cannot be said for **Capt Southey** and **Dave Morris**. They arrived back in daylight, incurred more than a few time penalties, and went straight to sleep.

After breakfast, it was back to Rally Control for the prize giving and it wasn't a complete surprise to find that **Windy** and **Phil** had achieved third prize in their section. Two very nice trophies which will look very smart in the showcase if we can ever get them back. But then came the special award for the 'Spirit of the Rally' and who was called up to receive the award but **Capt Southey** and **Dave Morris**. It seems that a landrover, driven by a team from the Army Air Corps had rolled in a gully and was resting, quite badly damaged and with all four wheels facing the sky, when it was happened upon by the REME. The prospect of a recovery was too much to pass by, so out came the ropes and it was a case of 'lets play Recce Mech'. They got the vehicle upright and hammered it about sufficiently to make it driveable, dusted down the crew and then continued on their merry way. They had obviously lost any chance they may have had of winning an award in their section, but thanks to the AAC who drew it to the attention of the organisers, the spirit of the rally was theirs.

The awards ceremony over, it was back to Southfields, wash down and practice how to say 'oh, it was nothing really' to an admiring audience next drill night.

EXERCISE HARD SELL
by LCpl Shanahan

41 Sig Sqn began its escape and evasion exercise late on Friday evening. The junior ranks were deliberately kept in the dark as to what was to unfold, but upon their arrival at the TA Centre things became clearer. After parading in full combats and CEFO they were whisked away to change in to something a little less comfortable—namely a pair of coveralls, and webbing soon became nothing more than a belt, water bottle and survival tin.

0630 hrs—arrival at Stanford with a little food and even less sleep. A compo breakfast followed by a briefing and at last deployment with nothing more than a grid ref, a map and the knowledge that the enemy was 'out there'. On arrival at the first RV, I as Section Commander, went to meet the friendly agent who had details and timings of the next location.

As we moved off we almost immediately came under enemy threat but managed to evade capture and make it to our next two RV's. It was now getting late and the team looked forward to being given details of the 'safe house', but this was not as 'safe' as we had thought as the enemy was lying in wait when we arrived and the team was blindfolded and taken to the POW area to be interrogated. The next three hours were a mixture of questions and demands often involving repetitive tasks such as standing, sitting and walking around in circles. We all knew what we were allowed to say and not say, and questions were answered by name, rank, date of birth and number or answered with 'I can not answer that question sir'.

After the interrogation we were taken back to our safe house and rest. The exercise was very realistic and at times quite frightening and one which I am sure will be remembered for sometime.

COURAGE TROPHY
by Lt Felicty Bowden—47 Sqn

The Squadron managed to 'muscle-up' two teams again this year; one WRAC and one men's team, led by **Lt Felicty Bowden** and **Capt Mike Lansdown**. After a little persuasion **Cpl Diane Evans** and **Pte Tania Young** joined the team and saved the day, after two members had to drop-out on the Wednesday before the competition.

Cpl Lynn Hammond entertained spectators by doing a belly flop whilst attempting the rope swing on the assault course. Whilst **Cpl Cathy Bassey** and **LCpl Jane Simmonds** showed their expertise at detecting most bombs in the broken vehicle. To their great surprise the girls won the ladies competition and were presented Courage tankards and some beer from the TAVRA Brigadier. Overall the ladies did very well coming in 23rd place, beating 18 other teams. The lads also did very well, coming in 20th out of over 40 teams overall.

The ladies team consisting of **Lt Felicty Bowden, Cpls Cathy Bassey, Lynn Hammond, Diane Evans, LCpl Jane Simmonds, Ptes Shepherd, Neate** and **Young** showed great skill on the cross country landrover driving and towing a vehicle, despite **Pte Shepherd** ripping out the starter motor cable which meant that for the rest of the weekend it had to be bump started.

LONDIST SQUADRON CHAMPIONSHIP
by Lt Felicty Bowden

Two teams entered the LONDIST Squash Championships on 16 March held at HAC City Road. Great effort was put in by both teams with the 'A Team' being awarded second place overall.

Col David Williamson presented plaques to each team, presenting his own team with the winning trophy!

A fun but tiring day was had by all, and most managed to get home in time to catch the England v France Rugby!

Team A—**Capt Slim Cheetam** 41 Sqn, **SSgt Alan Logan** LAD, **Sgt Roy Smith** 83 Sqn. Team B—**Lt Felicty Bowden** 47 Sqn, **PSI Dick Clark** LAD, **LCpl Steve McAuliff** 41 Sqn.

Lt Bowden encouraging the team
L to R: Cpl Lynn Hammond, LCpl Jane Simmonds and Cpl Cathy Bassey

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V)
Glasgow

VISITS

Brig C. A. Brown, Comd 2 Sig Bde visited us at Edinburgh Training Centre on 23 February and joined in on a Scottish Country Dancing evening laid on for his entertainment. We were also visited by The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE DL**, on 6 March who was shown various aspects of our training.

COMBAT CATERER 1991

Many congratulations go to all those who took part in this event at Barry Buddon on 9 March. The Regiment did particularly well and our team consisting of **Cpls Karen Grant, Linda Rennie, Mary McLaughlan** and **LCpl James Devine**, all from HQ Sqn, came away having won the Tappe Trophy for the cookery section. They also come second equal in the shooting of the SA80—first time firing of this weapon for the team, which triumphed over an abundance of infantry teams. **Cpl Mary McLaughlan** is congratulated especially on winning the Scottish Combat Caterer 'Novice Cook' Award.

The Champion Skiers
L to R: Cpl Frances McGoldrick, Sgts Fiona Phimister, Keith Marshall and Cfn Anthony Moore

ALPINE SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS 1991

The Regiment entered two teams in the Ski Championships this year. They had a week at Aviemore training and racing in order to be seeded for the main championships on 16 March. Our 'A' team consisting of **Cpl Frances McGoldrick, Cfn Anthony Moore** and **Sgt Keith Marshall** excelled themselves, walking away with the Collier Cup, presented to the Reserve Army in Scotland Inter-Unit Champions. The team was placed sixth overall in the Regular/Reserve Championship. **Cpl Frances McGoldrick** came 12th overall in the individual giant slalom and **Sgt Fiona Phimister**, from 51 Sqn, was placed fourth in the WRAC Regular/Reserve Championship. Altogether a very successful week for the skiers.

SPOTLIGHT ON 61 (CITY OF EDINBURGH) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
PERSONALITIES

OC **Maj Brian Gilfether MBE**
PSAO **Maj David (Paddy) Henry MBE**
2IC **Capt Janet McClean**, Tfc Offr **Capt Brian Murray**, SSM **WO2 'Cammy' Payn**, PSI **SSgt Bernie Meehan**, SQMS (NRPS) **SSgt Frank Patterson**.

OFFICERS' MESS

We have had a few changes in the Mess over the last few months. We welcome four new Officer Cadets—**Alison Gaunt** who has been with the Squadron for two years and has now become an Officer Cadet, **John McMahon** who transferred from 70 (Essex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn in November and **Philip McGoldrick** and **Gordon McAllister** who have just sat their DAB and gained good passes, together with **Carol-Anne Flockart** and **Iain McCluckie** of 52 Sig Sqn.

Farewells were said in November when we dined out both **Majs Alasdair MacGillivray** and **Tim Straton. Alasdair** has gone to Glasgow and Strathclyde UOTC while **Tim** has gone to take care of the pay at the Edinburgh and Heriot-Watt UOTC.

We did, however, persuade **Tim** to return for our Annual Champagne Supper held in March of this year and organised by **Lt John McCall** and **Maj Paddy Henry. Tim**'s arm didn't have to be twisted too far for him to regain his position as Quiz Master for the evening. The winning team, though by somewhat dubious means, consisted of the Regimental 2IC, **Maj Alan Lapsley TD, 2Lt Liz Scott-Park** from 61 Sig Sqn and various members of HMS *Renown* who would not have missed out on an evening's entertainment.

ADVENTURE TRAINING

52 Sqn organised a successful weekend at Garelochhead in January which involved everything from NBC to bayonet practice and REME Recovery. The weekend included a sports competition at Faslane Sports Centre run by **LCpls Andy Law** and **Donald Moffat**. All this followed by a relaxing swim and sauna—sheer luxury!

Following this a second weekend, also in the Garelochhead and Ardgarten peninsula area, was organised by **Lt John McCall** and **SSgt Ian McKay** from 61 Sqn. The weekend took place in February and was appropriately named 'Ex First Try'. Following team selection everyone was involved in competitions in driving, First Aid, NBC, Map Reading and much emphasis was placed on command tasks. Once again, a trip to the Faslane Sports Centre went down well—altogether an excellent weekend enjoyed by all.

RECRUITING

We have placed a tremendous emphasis on recruitment recently and following **Capt Janet McClean**'s very successful advertisement in a local newspaper, we held an open night in February. A lot of potential recruits attended and as a result we have to date enlisted 14 new recruits into the Squadron.

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

EXERCISE DUFFERS DELIGHT II
PHASE 1—THE STING

Officer Training continued in earnest in early March preparing candidates for the Big 'E' in April. Under the brilliantly deceptive guise of a TEWT Regimental candidates made their way to a Field location near Rugby expecting to undergo a series of simulated examination tests. Lulled into a false sense of security the atmosphere was calm and confident amongst our aspiring leaders and the dismal weather did not dampen their obvious good humour—that is until a cyclonic disturbance in the shape of the Ex Controller, **Maj Pat Bannigan**, announced that the weekend would be fully operational and one or two lucky candidates would be deploying and briefing real troops who were ready and waiting in Rugby TA Centre. The aim was to put them through a real life rehearsal of the actual examination.

PHASE 2—ODE TO A NODE

Camouflage and concealment was superb as most of them promptly disappeared into the background but **Capt David Munson** (ex TA Royal Engineers) looked as if he had been hit by a thunderbolt when he was selected to deploy the troops. He prepared his plan, requisitioned some transport and set off to Rugby! Meanwhile at Rugby a confused Troop Sgt, in the formidable shape of **Sgt Charlie Walker**, decided to deploy the waiting Access Node—you guessed it—the Access Node passed **Capt Munson** (much to his hysterical relief) and a bewildered Ex Controller, and was heading direct to the field location without them!

Hot pursuit followed and **Capt Munson** (who had convinced himself that this was perhaps just another decoy) managed to reach the location before the Node. He then accomplished at least half his task by successfully briefing the Det Comds and positioning the Access Node in its field location, having had to remove an access gate from its hinges to allow all the vehicles through.

Sgt Charlie Walker, ably assisted by **Sgt Dave** (Compo) **Butlin**, decided to complete his day by putting the gate back 'upside down'. They were surprised to discover that they could not secure the gate. The Officer Training weekend was deemed a complete success, nonetheless, as the excellent April promotion examination results have testified.

Det Comds receiving their orders

48 SQUADRON
EXERCISE GOLDEN MAIDEN

After a somewhat slow start in establishing communications in our first location things began to improve and beginning to look good when the order was given to move into an area where we could expect hostile activity. The new location—a rubbish tip—so far—no sign of any enemy activity. That is, not until the first packet started moving into position when up popped **Sgt Baugh** leading his intrepid bunch of gallant (enemy) recruits into an attack on our location. Chaos ensued and the vehicles crashed out, leaving **LCpl Mick Bellaby** all alone until shortly before endex early Sunday morning.

It is with some trepidation that a squadron takes to the field a couple of weeks before its annual vehicle inspection. This Regiment exercise was no exception—a site that looked promising on the Friday night was a mudbath on the Sunday morning which left the vehicles and the squadron members in a condition that defies description. An overworked steam cleaner managed to get them all back to a reasonable condition by Sunday afternoon; the vehicles, in particular, were now ready for inspection. Our Sqn Comd **Maj Derek McConnell**, who hasn't missed an exercise in years, found the lure of Twickenham for the Rugby Grand Slam just too much—he regaled us all with his Sports Report the following morning.

Manoeuvring through the notorious gate access

SQUADRON DINNER NIGHT

Twenty-one Squadron Officers and SNCO's sat down to a special dinner to mark the departure of **Sgt John Bagnall**. After five loyal and dedicated years of service with the Squadron and the Regiment, **John** is moving South to take up a new position with Playmobile. He will be sadly missed; having completed the majority of his Yeoman of Signals training he looked forward to a bright future with the regiment. Our loss will, we are certain, be 31 Sig Regt's gain. We wish him, his wife **Angela** and son **Phillip** a happy and successful future. Guests at the dinner included the CO **Lt Col Brian Foxon, Maj Ivan Armstrong** a former Sqn Comd and **SSgt Rod Shelton-Smith** the Chief Clerk.

FOND FAREWELL AND CONGRATULATIONS

After spending a short time as Sqn 2IC we have had to say farewell to **Capt Suzy Reed** as she takes up the appointment of Tech Adjt SO3 WRAC matters with 143 Inf Bde. We wish her well in her new appointment. Finally congratulations to **LCpls Paddy Keogh** and **Chrissie Castle** on their forthcoming marriage.

They will add their names to an ever increasing number of serving married couples—small wonder they call the TA a family affair.

89 SQUADRON SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

As a result of their success at the SW District Orienteering Championships a team from 89 Sqn ably led by **SSgt Dave Arnot** has once again qualified for the UKLF Championships and the team is to be congratulated on their considerable efforts and achievements so far. In particular special congratulations go to **SSgt Arnot** who received a Gold Medal for the best individual time on the Blue Course—Well done!

39 Sig Regt (V)
City of London

RHQ
PERSONALITIES

CO — **Lt Col Andy Whiddett MBE**
Trg Maj — **Maj Bob Carter**

AO **Maj Robin Macheath**, QM **Capt Gerry Whelan**, RSM **WO1 (RSM) 'Dixie' Dean**, RQMS **WO2 (RQMS) Lee Hodds**, Trg WO **WO2 Keith Leighton**, YofS **SSgt (YofS) Terry Burbidge**, FofS **SSgt (FofS) Steve Hatfield**.

Hello I bet you all thought we had been a victim of 'Options for Change' or were on a secret mission in the Gulf War. Nothing quite so dramatic I'm afraid. We had trouble finding someone who could write, or at least be brought into the 20th century and use a word processor. Anyway we are back in *The Wire* and typing like a thing possessed in order to make the deadline. The Regiment is going through quite a change which involves a new trade structure, new training structure, movement of a Squadron location, a move of RHQ in the near future, musical offices and the filming of 'Brush Strokes' in our Training Centre at Worship Street. These changes are designed to produce a meaner, leaner and more efficient communicating and fighting machine.

HQ SQN

HQ Sqn was reformed on 1 November 1990 with a Sqn Comd and nothing much else. Then in December a 4 ton truck was added (no he didn't have an HGV licence). January came and one or two more bodies were found to keep the Sqn Comd company. **Sgt Jenny Hall** was posted from 1 Sqn to become the MT Sgt and **SSgt Pauline Quince** to become the troop 'Staffie'. By the middle of February with the pack shuffled again HQ Sqn gained a few more personnel and at least had their first parade. To date things are still not quite as they should be but we are heading in the right direction and later with a move of location to a new Training Centre the Squadron hopes to be functioning efficiently.

RECRUIT TRAINING
by Sig Roberts (Basic Recruit Training Course 1/91)

Shoeburyness. Last light was falling on the square and on the preparations for the Passing off Parade of Recruit Course 1/91, the Regiment's first recruit course under the recruit training team's new regime.

WO2 SSM 'Titch' Reynolds gave us the benefit and wisdom of his years as a lineman. 'The RSM and I, we're life's actors,' he said. Ammunition boots sparkled as he swivelled round and dared us to meet his eye. 'We know how to work hard and we know how to have a good time,' he informed us. 'So work hard, and keep your humour', he breathed in the nearest newly-recruited ear, 'and you'll be all right, OK?'.

Liney wisdom indeed. A wink, a nod, an education. Then we shunned, quick marched and right-wheeled off the square and into the March night. The next day we aimed to step out smartly, receive our berets and badges from the CO, and join the Regiment, if not yet as principal players perhaps, then at least playing our parts with some conviction. Three weekends ago it had been a different story.

We'd arrived then on the same square looking like the back end of a pantomime horse. Secretly I suspected that the RSM—**WO1 (RSM) Dean**—had thought he'd see the Sergeants' Mess run dry and drill taught by committee before Course 1/91 began to think and act in khaki fashion. During PT I'd seen him run his gimlet eye despairingly over the 16 bodies that had gone to bed the night before as civvies full of bootcamp bonhomie, and wakened to a busy, ordered day looking as grey as NAAFI tea, only half as lively, and still civvies. To be honest, I don't think I helped matters any when, in an unguarded moment, I told him that I thought the whole recruit course business was rather more humane than I had anticipated. His silence was eloquent, even if the RSM did, at times, wish himself farther away.

Among my own Squadron—3 Sqn—hoary old lags, that could

WO2 (SSM) 'Titch' Reynolds with Recruit Course 1/91

scarcely recall their recruit days all of 12 months ago, told me we had it easy. I dare say we did. Instead of running the obstacle course in concrete boots on our first weekend, we had a leisurely promenade through a series of introductory stands:

How does this so and so fishing pole go together

The SSM patiently explained the role of the TA, while the RSM impressed upon us the importance of being security-minded. **Sig 'Foggy' Martin** laid on thick clouds of confusion on some arcane fieldcraft and successfully covered his retreat on a shovel recce. And before we could raise a chorus of surprise over the cook's latest effort at bacon grill, we were out in the field. When I say field, I mean of course the vacant lot in Shoeburyness. As soldiers in the field/lot we may have fallen a little short, but as civvies we showed a rare talent in building draughty bashas, running away from thunderflashes, and sustaining our enthusiasm for bacon grill.

Cub outing it may have been, with our campfire and pocket knives, but the germ of teamwork began to take hold. Hardy souls staggered on and stood extra duty on the fire picquet to relieve the weary, and newfound buddies helped each other bury their hard tack. As the characters of Course 1/91 fell into place—and there were many—so our pantomime horse began to fall into step. This first weekend over, we felt as if we'd really been to the vacant lot and back but all sold on the idea of being a member of the TA.

The walk quickened to a trot for the second weekend, the whole plot given extra impetus it seemed by wearing uniform, all available at no extra cost from the man at Q & M's in the guise of **WO2 (RQMS) Derek Ellen**.

For all the wayward collars and wobbly creases, wearing a uniform does set a standard, and trite as the sentiment may be, it was a standard we felt we should try to emulate.

Weapons, drill, fitness. The course generated its own momentum, and our proficiency as a squad—was as much a matter for effort and pride as individual achievement.

So it was, more by carrot than stick, that Course 1/91 came to an end. Our RSM and SSM had set the goals and given us the means. And with 'ard work and 'umour we were resolved to need no-one but ourselves to push us.

We nearly made it too. But come the final weekend, and just when we thought we'd shine like a shilling we let ourselves down in the weapon handling. No need to elaborate, but the sense of disappointment, followed by a strong resolve to get it right on the day, was an example of team spirit rarely experienced before—never outside Goldie Hawn movies.

Then we marched out to receive our berets and badges. **Pte Rogers-Hughes** was awarded the prize for Best Recruit. She 'had worked hard, kept her humour, and she was all right'.

REGIMENTAL TRAINING WEEKEND

'Right you lot. We are going to have a Regimental Weekend and all the regulars are going to show you how it should be done' came the cry from the Training Wing. On a chilly, but sunny, weekend in February the Regiment gathered in Costa del Shoeburyness for some serious training. This consisted of a series of stands which covered a number of different activities. The regular staff deployed in advance to set up the stands and prepared themselves for the onslaught as the Regiment not certain what lay ahead started to arrive. Well everyone was pleasantly surprised by the high quality of the training they were to undertake and by the variety of the subjects.

Brig C. A. Brown toured all the stands including the recruit training course held at the same time. He lunched in the Sergeants' Mess where

The photograph shows the Comd visiting the kitchens and swapping recipes with LCpl Ann Brown

he spoke to the SNCO's. In the evening the Brigadier attended a dinner night in the Officers' Mess at which the CO was dined in.

NBC Stand—Capt Mark Bretton and **SSgt (YofS) Terry Burbidge** (yes I know a Yeoman teaching NBC) had everyone running around in full NBC gear doing a variety of tasks such as wiring up 3 pin plugs, repairing line faults, sewing on a button and typing on a Trend printer complete with gloves.

Vehicle Stand—Sgts John Taylor, Jenny Hall and **LCpl Phil Hay** had individuals doing first Works Parades, substance sniffing (calm down it wasn't what you were thinking, it was to see if they could tell the difference between oil, kero, diesel etc in the dark), reversing with a trailer as well as a highway code test.

TOETS—Sgts Alf Cupper and **Dave Evans** refreshing memories on the old family of weapons.

SA80—Sgt John Hagger giving everyone an opportunity to handle an SA80.

Mast Erection—Sgt Tom Briggs proving that a 48ft mast can be put up straight providing you know how to do it in the first place.

Tent Erection—Really you might say. Well it proved to be worth watching. **Sgt Steve Dale** had them erecting 12 × 12's blindfold at one point and **Brig C. A. Brown** was amused to see a member of the Regiment heading out to sea! Surely he must have realised when his feet got wet!

Vehicle Searching—This stand run by **SSgts Linda Dennis** and **Alan Gillard**, the Chief Clerk, proved to be a winner. It is surprising what you can hide in an army Ford Escort Estate but not so surprising what can be lost in a handbag.

Pole Crossings—SSgt (FofS) Steve Hatfield and **Sgt Sean Weldon** were quite often seen admiring their handy work as they demonstrated how it should be done properly; another valuable lesson learnt.

FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

Over the past few months there has been a fair amount of coming and going in the Regiment particularly with the regular staff. We have said farewell to the following who will be sorely missed. **SSgt Angie Bailey** to civvy street, **SSgt Mark Schofield** to 602 Sig Tp, **Sgt Alec Scott** to the School for his Foremans course, **Sgt John Taylor** to civvy street and **LCpl Phil Hay** to 14 Sig Regt. We would like to thank them all for their contributions to the Regiment and wish them luck in their new postings or occupations.

We welcome **Lt Col Andy Whiddett MBE** and **Marie** from 30 Sig Regt via Namibia, **Capt Gerry Whelan** from 11 Sig Regt, **WO2 Keith Leighton** from 22 Sig Regt, **SSgt (YofS) Terry Burbidge** from 2 Div Sig Regt, **SSgt Linda Dennis** from 9 Sig Regt, **Sgt Sean Weldon** from 602 Sig Tp, **Sgt Ray Webb** from ACIO Luton and **LCpl 'Pops' Popowicz** from 30 Sig Regt. One other mention for those who may know him is the arrival in the Regiment of **Joe Grayley**, recently RQMS at 21 Sig Regt, who has joined the TA as SSM, 2 Sqn in Dundee. Welcome aboard **Joe**.

CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to congratulate **SSgt (FofS) Steve Hatfield** on his promotion to WO2 and to **Sgt John Hagger** on his award of a Northern Ireland GOCs Commendation. Well done to you both.

40 Sig Regt (V)
Belfast

VISIT OF THE SOinC

The Regiment once again had the pleasure of welcoming the Signal Officer in Chief **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook** on his third visit to the Regiment, this time on their home ground at Clonaver Park TAC in Belfast on Tuesday 5 March 1991.

The General arrived at 1930 hrs and was welcomed by the CO, **Lt Col Ian Henderson** and the RSM, **WO1 (RSM) I. M. Urquhart**. He toured the Regiment on its evening training activities which included recruit and trade training, exercise preparation of vehicles, tech workshops, LAD and ACC detachments.

After an informal chat with the WOs and SNCOs in their Mess he joined the Officers at supper at the conclusion of his visit.

You don't put your finger out like this when chopping. SSgt Stanex explains to the SOinC the skills needed when chopping tomatoes

The SOinC chats to recruits on NBC training

THE REGIMENTAL RALLY TEAM

The Regimental Rally Team recently took part in two BAMA championships events. The first was Ex Northern Rock held over the weekend of 30 November-2 December 1990 in the Catterick area of Yorkshire.

Three crews took part; **Maj Ian** 'These glasses help' **Kyle** and **Capt Robert** 'Why me?' **Kelly** in the Expert Class; **Cpls Nick Hanna** and **Rab Greer** in the Novice Class and **Sgt Moates** and **Sig** 'Georgie' **McKee** in the Beginners' Class.

Maj Kyle's new glasses *must* have made a difference to his driving since the crew took first place in the Expert Class, bringing back two lead crystal trophies to the Regiment.

Probably due to this success, the team was then able to participate in the second event; Ex Smooth Ride on 8/9/10 February 1991. This should have been renamed, Ex Sleigh Ride as the weather was atrocious with deep snow and police warnings not to travel unless abolutely essential.

Leaving Northern Ireland on Friday night it took 13 hours to travel from Stranraer to Chattenden Barracks in Kent, a distance of nearly 500 miles. All motorways had been reduced to single carriageways with vehicles abandoned everywhere.

'Snow Joke' Maj Ian Kyle and Capt Robert Kelly pose for a photograph during Ex Smooth Ride

The rally itself which covered a distance of 90 miles took place over very slippery roads. On a number of occasions the landrovers did 180° turns on straight roads. The drivers loved the excitement apart from once when **Maj Kyle** almost broke an arm after a 'slight touch' off a bank.

Heavy snow drifts caused problems on quite a number of roads; and our lead vehicle—**Maj Kyle** and **Capt Kelly** passed the organisers 'course opening' vehicle which was hopelessly stuck three quarters way around the course. Even though we had to dig ourselves out twice, we led for the remainder of the rally around 'untouched' roads, finishing in a very creditable second Expert place and receiving the first TA crew prize.

The second Regimental crew, **Cpls Hanna** and **Greer** were also doing very well until the brake master cylinder on their landrover failed.

The third crew of **Cpl** 'I did the Circuit of Ireland' **White** and **Sig** 'I do not believe he is overtaking sideways' **McKee** started well but had to retire with gearbox problems.

'Let me out' Sig McKee tries to escape while the Rover drives itself

The Comd 12 Bde presents rally trophies to Maj Ian Kyle and Capt Robert Kelly

We could not finish without thanking our two support drivers **Cpl** 'Soup' **Campbell** and **Sig** '360°' **Moates**, who was rumoured to be seen spinning a 4 ton vehicle through 360 degrees in the middle of Chattenden Barracks Square.

Credit must be given to all the personnel taking part, for getting there and back in the atrocious conditions, with temperatures down to −15°C, on a very tight timetable.

But as they say 'It's all in a weekend!'.

85 SQUADRON PROFILE

THE MANAGEMENT

Sqn Comd **Maj Jimmy Woods TD**
2IC **Capt Joe Fallows**

Comms Officer **Capt Mike Kennedy**, OC Larne **Capt Dave Docherty**, OC Delta **2Lt Susan McCluskey**, OC Echo **Lt Shelly Hardie**, OC Foxtrot **2Lt Tony Tierney**, SSM **WO2 Pete Pollock**SQMS **SSgt Tom Hunter.**

1991 has seen 85 Sig Sqn on the up and up. We have had two very successful Regimental exercises when we bring in our overseas contingent namely 'The New' **Maj Nigel Beacom, Lt Isobel Savage** from Scotland and **OCdt Gavin Martin** who travelled from London to attend the latest Regimental exercise.

On the Regimental exercise and, with the help of the famous Irish duo PSIs **Sgts Jimmy Read** and **Titch Wright**, the Squadron managed to communicate with all three TA Centres occupied by the Squadron namely, Larne, Lurgan and Belfast.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Capt Robert Kelly** from 66 Sqn on his marriage to **Capt Cathy Sutherland** from our Squadron.

Congratulations to **Sig P. G. Totten** now known as 'Two Medals Totten' who was awarded his TA Efficiency Medal.

FAREWELLS

The Squadron said farewell in the usual manner to **Sgt Jimmy Reid** who was presented with a Squadron clock and plaque. He also set a target to beat by drinking a yard of ale in record time.

WELCOME

Welcome to **Sgt Thomas** the new PSI for the Lurgan Detachment who is a dead ringer for the FofS.

Don't be disappointed!

Matter for publication *must* reach the editor six weeks before the publication date, ie by 15 December for the February issue, 15 February for the April issue, and 15 April for the June issue.

These are the latest dates and copy arriving earlier will be helpful.

71 Sig Regt (V)
Bexleyheath

RE-OPENING OF THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM BY HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER ON WEDNESDAY 27 FEBRUARY 1991

It has often been said that the very heart of a unit is its history and traditions We, the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry, having been in existence in various shapes and forms since 1534 have a number of artifacts, uniforms and implements which reflect that long period of service to the Crown.

The Regimental Trustees decided on complete refurbishment of the Museum, which up to now had been housed in a variety of display cases. Under the direction of our Curator, **Maj Richard Gentry**, a totally new concept was planned. A Design Display Contractor was appointed and work began.

At this point we acknowledge the assistance given to the project by the Secretary of Greater London TAVR Association, **Brig Peter Bowser.**

After weeks of frenzied activity the work was completed on the target date. Who to ask to open the Museum? It was decided to ask if our Royal Honorary Colonel, **Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother**, would graciously consent to cut the tape. To our delight confirmation arrived by return post that Her Majesty would be most pleased to visit her Squadrons again.

The Royal Car arrived at our Headquarters at Lincoln's Inn at 1900 hrs on Wednesday 27 February. Drawn up outside was a Guard of Honour of men from both Squadrons armed with lances, while inside a Guard armed with sabres lined the route.

The Honorary Colonel of 71 Sig Regt (V) and of the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry, **Col Stephen Carden**, greeted Her Majesty presented the Sqn Comd's of the Signal and HSF Sqn's—**Maj James Cartwright** and **Maj Richard Duxbury** respectively.

Right: Members of 68 (Inns of Court and City Yeomanry) Sig Sqn form a Guard of Honour. On the left SSgt David Lavender and his family being presented to Her Majesty

Her Majesty entered the Headquarters and on arrival at the first floor was met by a Fanfare from the IC & CY Trumpeters in Ceremonial Dismounted Dress. **Maj Richard Gentry**, the Curator, was presented and **Col Stephen Carden** gave a short welcoming address to which Her Majesty replied. A Commemorative Plaque was unveiled and a tape in Regimental Colours cut. Among those present was our Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Duncan Jones** and **Mrs Katie Jones**. A number of guests witnessed the event—representatives from City Institutions and the various Inns of Court, all of whom have been most generous in supporting our Museum Appeal. After visiting the Museum and signing the visitors' book Her Majesty moved to the body of the hall where a number of presentations were made of volunteers and permanent staff, with PSIs **SSgt Cheryl Jackson, Sgts Mark Hammond** and **Mick Sheehan** among those honoured. During the Reception the IC & CY Band of the Royal Yeomanry played a selection of Gilbert and Sullivan music, to the enjoyment of those present.

All too soon the visit ended. On the departure of Her Majesty a bouquet was presented by **Amal Lavender**; the daughter of **SSgt Dave Lavender**; the family group was captured on film and, the proud parents will surely treasure that picture.

With the departure of our Royal Honorary Colonel we mark yet another chapter in the history of the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry.

With Her Majesty are *(right)* Col Stephen Carden, Regimental and Squadron Honorary Colonel, and Maj Dick Gentry, Museum Curator

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother talks to Capt Michael O'Beirne, Ops Officer 68 (IC & CY) Sig Sqn, during her visit to Lincoln's Inn on 27 February 1991. In the centre are PSIs SSgt Cheryl Jackson 71 Sig Regt and Sgt Mark Hammond, PSI Tech at 68 Sqn's TAC at Whipps Cross, East London

Members of the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry Home Service Force Sig Sqn who formed a Guard of Honour

All photographs courtesy of Alan House, CS Photography

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

The Regiment bids farewell to **WO1 (RSM) Bob Mckenzie** who is leaving the Army; also **Sgts Keith Bolton** and **Ken Orme** and families, we send our good wishes for the future. We also welcome in **WO1 (RSM) Alun Parry** and **SSgt Barry Palmer** who will be a short stay PSI due to his forthcoming and well deserved promotion.

265 SIG SQN

PERSONALITIES

Sqn Leader **Maj David Hannam**
2IC **Capt John Barber**
PASO **Capt Jim Esson MBE**, Tfc Officer **Lt Huw Jones**, SSM **WO2 Mark Penny**, TSI **WO2 Brian Eason**, PSI **SSgt Bob Wilson.**

VISIT OF SQUADRON HONORARY COLONEL

On Tuesday 5 March **Col Robin Leigh-Pemberton**, Honorary Colonel of the Kent and County of London Yeomanry Squadron, Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Governor of the Bank of England, paid a visit to the Squadron in Bexleyheath.

On arrival at Bexleyheath he was met by **Maj David Hannam**, Sqn Ldr 265 Sqn, he was escorted to the Regimental Headquarters to meet CO **Lt Col Duncan Jones. Col Leigh-Pemberton** then continued his tour by visiting trade training, meeting members of both 890 and 905 Tps based at Bexleyheath and also the 884 Tp who are based at Brighton but had made a special journey for the visit.

At the final parade there was a Medal Presentation to three members of the Squadron. **SSgt Gordon Holloway** (884 Tp) received the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate, **SSgt Kath Tickner** (now retired) received a clasp to her Efficiency Medal for 18 years service and **Cpl Amanda Burch** (884 Tp) also received a clasp for 18 years service.

The evening was finished off with a Buffet, supplied by the cooks from HQ Sqn, in the Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

TRAINING

In addition to our sporting activities we have also found time to carry out the odd Squadron, Regimental and Brigade exercise. We also attend the Regimental Trade Training weekends. **Cpl Kathie Maeers** from the Brighton Tp won the prize for the top student. As the PSAO, **Capt Jim Esson** said we must not let this military type training interfere with our sports and social life!

OPERATION GRANBY

Like most TA Regiments and Squadrons we have our number of personnel who volunteered to assist in Op Granby. On 'S' type engagement we have **Capt Tom Hardie-Forsyth, Sgt Les Watts** and **LCpl Bob Vincent** serving with 243 Sqn at Bulford. 251 Sig Sqn at Aldershot are looking after **LCpl** 'Whitney' **Houston** for us. In addition a large number volunteered for evening and weekend duties in a Comcen if they were required.

FOOTBALL

This season, once again, the Squadron football team won the London District TA Challenge Cup. The final was played on Sunday 16 December 1990 at Burton Court Chelsea against HQ Sqn 31 Sig Regt (V).

The game was played in a hard but, very sporting manner which was nice to see, if only to be expected, between two Corps teams. The game was very even and at the end it took a 'Penalty Shoot Out' for 265 to come out on top.

Thank you 31 Sig Regt for a good, hard but clean game. Thanks also to the man in the middle, also from the Corps, **Sgt Steve Dale** 39 Sig Regt (V).

The team also had a very successful tour of BAOR winning all their games against 7 Sig Regt and 14 Postal & Courier Sqn RE in Herford, Germany. The tour to Germany is an annual trip which is arranged by the PASO **Capt Jim Esson** and this is the fifth year that the Squadron team have been on tour.

Both 7 Sig Regt and 14 Postal & Courier Sqn made the team most welcome and a very successful weekend was had with many old friendships being renewed and new friends made.

On Sunday 17 February the Squadron hosted the football team from 'C' Company Royal Irish Rangers from Ballymena. Winners of the National TA Challenge Cup. To say it was a great day and a great party can only be described by the three Irish Rangers who missed the plane from Heathrow and were still with us the following morning!

The Squadron Football Team on tour in Germany

NETBALL

With the promise of a possible trip to Germany the WRAC of the Squadron have recently formed a netball team under the wing of **Cpl Debbie Castle.** Progress is slow at the moment played 5—lost 5. Needless to say they are not down hearted and everyone, especially the visiting teams, enjoys the social after the game.

SHOOTING

The Squadron Shooting Teams, both fullbore and small bore are doing well. The annual shoot against 'C' Sqn The Royal Yeomanry for the Company of Insurers Cup was once again won by 265. Both Squadrons are affiliated to the Worshipful Company of Insurers who have presented a Silver Salver which is 'Shot' for annually between both Squadrons. As the Squadron have won for the third year running, the team Capt **WO2** (RQ) **Terry Bodman** is demanding it becomes the Squadron's property. The small bore team are in four competitions and at the moment doing well in all of them.

SQUASH

Once again we entered the London District Squash Competition. This time coming third but winning the 'Plate' Competition. The new CO, **Lt Col Duncan Jones**, played for us this year and has now set his sights on winning next year—look out HAC! Also in the team was **Maj Charlie Homewood** the QM and **OCdt Keith Duffy-Penny.**

CHARITY

Every year the Squadron attempts to raise £1,000 for Charity.

Last year we reached the target and £500 was given to the Major of Bexley Appeal and £500 shared between Service Charities. This year we are well on our way to the next £1,000 and we intend to donate to the Corps Museum and the Corps Benevolent Fund.

– News from Troops –

NORTHAG Air Support Radio Sqn BFPO 18

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj P. J. Hryhoruk**
2IC — **ELt J. Verwoerd RNLA**

SSM **WO2 (SSM) R. Bruce**, YofS **WO2 (YofS) R. W. Marshall**, SQMS **HFW J. Schoenmackers GEA**, OC Comms Tp **SSgt J. Gray**, IC Wksps **SSgt P. Taylor**, CC **Sgt P. O'Brien**, MT Sgt **Sgt P. M. Arnold**, SQMS (UK) **Cpl D. Fitton.**

VISIT OF GENERAL SIR PETER INGE KCB, ADC, Gen

Commander NORTHAG **Gen Sir Peter Inge KCB, ADC, Gen** visited NORTHAG Air Support Radio Sqn in the field at Fort Eben Emael on Wednesday 27 February 1991.

Gen Inge was met at the briefing tent by the Sqn Comd. After a briefing and coffee the General visited all the Inflight detachments, Workshops, MT/Power and Admin area, finishing off with a visit to a quadrinational NBC lesson given by **Sgt1 Ron Boeser RNLA**.

Gen Sir Peter Inge shaking hands with 2IC ELt Jan Verwoerd RNLA

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Squadron welcomes the arrival of **Sgt Bill Martin** and wife **Shona** and **Rommell** from 7 Sig Regt to the post of UK Inflight Commander. We hope they enjoy their tour.

Cpl Pete Crawford, and his wife **Elaine** and **Oscar** left us for 229 Sig Sqn on 1 May. Best of luck to them, they will be sadly missed.

SQN RANGE DAY

On Tuesday 26 March the Squadron travelled to Niederheid Range to take part in the German Army shooting test. The German members of the Squadron made up the range staff so the rest of us felt totally safe in the knowledge that our lives were in the hands of the safety supervisors **SU Erlewein, SU Kranz** and **SU Ott**.

The test consisted of five shoots, two with the MG and three with the G3 rifle. Points scored on each shoot determined whether you received a gold, silver or bronze Army Shooting Medal.

First person to shoot was **SSM** (I got a gold) **Bruce**, who much to everyone's surprise shot well enough with the MG to win a gold. Needless to say everyone was reminded of the fact all day!

Other people to have a good shoot were **ELt J. Verwoerd** RNLA, **1Sgt J. Dupont** BE Army and **Sgt M. Arnold** all gaining a gold.

The day was a big success, one which everyone enjoyed. Our thanks go out to **HFW J. Schoenmackers** IC Range and **OFW P. Theisen** 2IC range.

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj I. Foxley**
2IC — **Capt R. P. Wilson**
RSM — **WO1 (RSM) W. J. Haslam**

The past two months have been active starting with the Sqn Comd's shake up exercise, Ex Second Encounter. This exercise was aimed at bringing our drills up to par and also the ideal time for **Maj Foxley** and the RSM **WO1 Haslam** to stamp their authority on procedures in the field. Apart from the bitter cold the exercise went well and everyone returned to camp all the better for the shake out.

As a reward for the Squadron's efforts on 'First Encounter' the Sqn Comd decided that a few days in Snowdonia doing a spot of hill walking would be the ideal way to relax, he forgot to mention that it would be a TAB carrying 30lbs of equipment. As it was, the exercise went well with all participants enjoying the break. Of course there were moments of tension when the B Troop sections were led to the Snowdon summit via 'Crib Goch' a knife edge ridge and not ideal even in the best weather. In the Q Troop section the RQMS **WO2 Steve Clarke** was prepared at all times for the unexpected, wearing his oversize cagoul as a safety parachute against hurricane winds. On the lighter side M Troop found a novel way of descending by the 'Freefall snow slope technique', pioneered by **Cpl** 'Matt' **Wigley**, but not the ideal way to use the goretex clothing.

BRAVO TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt Rob Healey**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt Fred Hutchinson**
Tp Sgt — **Sgt Jack Hawkins**

Lt Rob Healey would like to dispel all rumours that he has been on long leave, he had actually been preparing 'another' essay for his promotion exam which we now are pleased to say he has passed, so before long it should be, congratulations **Capt Healey**?

Congratulations also go to **Sgt** 'Jack' **Hawkins** for passing his NBC Instructors course and managing to stay awake throughout. Needless to say back at the ranch the work still goes on and that has been left to **SSgt Fred Hutchinson** who has prepared the troop for the exercises while **Cpl Trev Bailey** has been beavering away bringing the Troop stores up to scratch. Mention must be made of **Cpls** 'Iggy' **Gratrick** and 'Flash' **Murphy** for all their hard work in preparing the Troop's vehicles for PRE.

MIKE TROOP

Tp Comd — **WO2 (FofS) Paul Gaffney**
Tp Sgt — **Sgt John Black**
Wksp Sgt — **Sgt George Crozier**

We have recently said goodbye to **Cpl Shaun Taylor** posted to Belize and welcome **Cpl Tom Ewart, LCpl Paul Jordon** and **Sig 'Bags' Hornby** and hope that they all enjoy their stay with the Squadron.

Congratulations to **WO2 Paul Gaffney** on his recent selection to WO1 and his future posting to the Oman, to **Sgt John Black** on his selection for promotion and last but not least to **Cpl Jeff Wright** on his long awaited promotion to Corporal.

Q TROOP

QM — **Capt Fred Bancroft**
RQMS — **WO2 Steve Clarke**
Tp Sgt — **Sgt Pete Alden**

A few new faces in the Troop—**Sgt Pete Alden** and his wife **Lynn, Cpl Allan Kirkwood, Cfn Mark McCallion** and **Lee Follet** all recently posted to the LAD and **Ptes Howey Howe** and **Dick Richardson** to boost up the defence section. We give them all a warm welcome and hope that their tour in the Squadron is a happy one. As with all arrivals we have our farewells, losing **Sgt Gear** and his wife **Heike, Cpl** 'Scouse' **Walsh** and his wife **Anka**, both posted to that much sought after posting in 22 Sig Regt, Lippstadt, and also to **Cpl Andy Bromwich** and **Cfn** 'Chez' **Goodwin** who reluctantly leave the Squadron for more arduous postings in Germany and Catterick. The highlight of the last few months was Ex Fast Buzzard a Brigade logistic exercise which tested our 'tabbing' ability, communications and, of course our side of the house, logistics. The exercise proved a

big success all round. The RQMS **WO2 Steve Clarke** and Sig **'Ginge' Duncan** in their element at 'A' echelon and the QM **Capt Fred Bancroft** and **LCpl Steve Lynch** at 'B' echelon, normally the quieter and more leisurely part of the battle but which proved to be the opposite owing to the trench digging and the constant stand to's. At the latter stage of the exercise **Cpl Colin Rich** joined 'B' echelon for civvy street but also to show us how to get lost in one easy lesson.

Feeling fresh for the start, Pte Phil Smithson, Cpl Colin Rich and LCpl Steve Lynch

FLEET HALF MARATHON

Seven members of the Squadron took part in this year's Fleet Half Marathon in what proved to be ideal running conditions. Although the field was sadly depleted this year owing to Op Granby there were still 3,000 plus runners and all team members had a good run with times as follows: **Cpl Chris Brown** 1.19.36, **LCpl Steve Lynch** 1.21.31, **WO2 Paul Gaffney** 1.22.31, **Sgt 'Q' Rose** 1.24.09, **WO2 Steve Clarke** 1.25.19, **Pte Phil Smithson** 1.28.13 and **Cpl Colin Rich** 1.37.00, well done.

Cpl Chris Brown crosses the finish line

19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209 Sig Sqn) Colchester

NEW ARRIVALS

Welcome to **Cpls** 'Digger' **Grave**, 'Taff' **Smith, LCpls John Badger, John Clarke, Ray Pendrich**, 'Mally' **Mallows, Coupe** and **Wyllie Marshall.**

EXERCISE HIGHLAND HARRIER

In March Comms Tp was tasked to provide vehicles, and radio equipment in support to the School of Infantry, Warminster for its Platoon Commander's Division course exercise.

Sgt Chris Warnes in charge of four FFR landrovers left the sunnier climate of Colchester and headed off to Sennybridge Training Area in Brecon, Wales (well known for its rainfall).

On arrival at Sennybridge camp **Sgt Chris Warnes** and **LCpl Simon Brown** set about providing a safety net for the exercise. This net proved invaluable towards the end of the exercise. A soldier from the QRIH TA, acting as enemy, was brought in suffering from exposure. After numerous cups of hot sweet tea, he was taken to the MRS for a long hot bath, and, happily made a full recovery!

LCpl Simon Brown was tasked to provide a student CP in his 1 Tonne FFR, impressing those who had not seen such a vehicle before, especially equipped with a television and video, kettle, deep fat frier and a 6ft bed, all the things we normally go on exercise with!

Cpl George Hume was tasked as an LO FFR runabout for the Chief Instructor, which is nearer the truth than you may think; the CI is an avid runner/marathoner. Everyday **Cpl Hume** would drop the CI off at some remote place on Sennybridge Training Area and meet him back in Sennybridge Camp!

LCpl Ray Pendrich was tasked as the LO FFR for the exercise author **Capt Baker** Para. **Capt Baker** didn't use the vehicle much, so, **LCpl Ray Pendrich** won the Golden Blanket Award.

ADVENTURE TRAINING

The Squadron is still hoping to get some adventure training in Cyprus, Hong Kong and Kenya. Meanwhile the bivouac area near Tregantle in Plymouth has been confirmed for July/August. These areas really do not compare!

EXERCISE LIGHTNING STRIKE

After an early start six member of Comm Troop led by the 2IC **Capt** 'Paddy' **Evans** headed off to Warminster for the annual UOTC competition weekend. Our part in this was to provide a First Aid and Communications stand for the Cadet teams during the 'Round-Robin' competition.

Our casualties, **Sig** 'Bob' **Bodell**, 'Smudge' **Smith** and 'Jenks' **Jenkinson** put on their cassim make-up and then lay in the cold rain to await the arrival of the first three teams. There were loud cries of pain as the first teams to arrive but, by the time the last ones had arrived some six hours later, the cries had turned into quiet whimpers. The DS, **Capt 'Paddy' Evans, 2Lt 'Dan' Taylor** and **WO2 (YofS) 'Stu' Little** had the difficult task of marking the Cadets varying First Aid skills. A Brownie medal goes to **YofS Little**. He managed to split his stitches climbing into a Landrover.

EXERCISE WINTER WARRIOR

On 1 March the remaining members of the Signal 'Section' led by **2Lt Dan Taylor** left for the South of France on Ex Winter Warrior, a UKLF skiing exercise.

The experienced skiers disappeared up the slopes for some downhill training, returning bronzed or beetroot in the case of **Cpl Murray.** Meanwhile the less experienced members of the exercise started langlaufing. The French instructor soon learned to swear in English as we tried to stay upright. **Sig Stewart** appeared looking like a pint of Guinness after a particularly spectacular nose dive! Eventually we all progressed to downhill after being trained along the lines of the Army's 'follow me down' school of skiing.

Despite numerous 'wipe outs' all members of the exercise attained their Bronze Standard in langlaufing and downhill skiing and are all desperately keen to get on to Ex Warrior next year. With luck the rest of the Squadron will continue to overlook this excellent holiday!

The Team
Are we actually being paid for this?

244 Sig Sqn (AS)
RAF, Brize Norton

EXERCISE GRAND PRIX 2

The Squadron was tasked to provide the Rear Link role in Kenya for the Ex Grand Prix series. The morning of 28 December saw the beginning of Ex Grand Prix 2. **Sgt Ken Barker, Cpl Miles Webb, LCpl Steve Hobbs** and **SAC 'Geordie' O'Brien** RAF (TCW) left for Kenya and arrived in Nairobi for breakfast before travelling on to Nanyuki Camp which took about three hours by bus.

As full Corporals in the Guards are classed as Lance Sergeants, **Sgt Ken Barker** decided to approach the RSM and ask if **Cpl** (sorry LSgt) **Miles Webb** might use the Mess; permission was granted.

Ex Grand Prix embraced various aspects of training, Jungle Warfare, Section Attacks, Live Firing Demos and other Infantry disciplines. Our role in Kenya was to provide communication for the Battalion from Nanyuki and the surrounding sites to UK via Cyprus. Morse transmission was the only level of communication out of Kenya, so many hours were spent on sending out one message!

This link, due to Gulf requirements, was terminated at the Cypriot end, and subsequently were diverted directly to UK. Inadequate power necessitated UK initiating several proposals to overcome this problem, unfortunately the distance won the day.

The High Commission in Nairobi now provides a bridge for our link to the UK. In general communication was excellent, and apart from anything else, took the cobwebs off a few morse keys.

Certain uninvited guests decided to make our life uncomfortable for us. One night **Cpl Miles Webb** woke up to see a camel spider the size of his hand hanging from the tent just 3ft from his nose! After waking the camp up **Cpl Miles Webb** and **LCpl Steve Hobbs** managed to trap it in **Sgt Barker**'s cup but on freeing it the 'monster' ran straight for them! **Cpl Webb** managed to shrink the spider with a 'hit'. When the local guard heard of our predicament they laughed and asked if we had found its mate as they always travel in pairs! Not funny, no one slept, except in the safety of Bivvi Bags.

The new SSM, **WO2 (SSM) Ian Brereton** visited us for a week. On getting off the bus in Nanyuki Camp, he spotted a Signals Cap Badge and the owner with three stripes, so he said 'Hello—**Sgt Barker**, I presume'. **Cpl Webb** said 'No Sir, **Cpl Webb**, in fact, though I can explain''. He then explained his temporary rank of LSgt whilst with the Welsh Guards and its attractions. The SSM was given a guided tour of the area and left 24 hours ahead of the rest of us. **Cpl Steve Johnson, Sig Gaz Middleton** and **Andy Hewlett** joined later with **Cpl Rocky Bentley** for Tech Support.

We all enjoyed our tour in Kenya immensely with special thanks to the 1st Bn Welsh Guards who made life that much easier. We made a lot of good friends. **Sgt Ken Barker** and **Cpl Miles Webb** were later invited to the Battalion's St David's Day celebration by **RSM Harvey** and by all accounts it was a very fine celebration.

L to R: Cpl Miles Webb, SAC Geordie O'Brien, LCpl Steve Hobbs and Sgt Ken Barker

A TROOP

WELCOMES AND GOODBYES

Welcome to the new Troop SSgt, **SSgt Steve Davison** from Northern Ireland and **LCpl Wyldes** from Belize. A farewell from the Troop to **Sig** 'Thumper' **Dryden** on his posting to Northern Ireland.

EXERCISE HARDFALL 1

SSgt Steve Davison received a cold welcome to the Troop as he arrived just in time for Hardfall (our Norway deployment). Ex Hardfall this year was divided into two and we deployed on two separate three week periods.

This was the first time we have been located at the Hardanger Vida with 249 Sig Sqn AMF(L) again (a quick mention to assure *Wire* readers that they do still exist). During the first deployment **Sig** 'Sporn' **Wilkes** kept the Troop flag flying on his first Norway Deployment by coming fourth in the 20km Ski Race. **Cpl** 'Titus' **Reene** kept us up with the leaders by winning the Bin Bag Race down the neighbouring ski slope. It seemed that Hardfall 2 personnel would have a lot to live up to.

EXERCISE HARDFALL 2

Hardfall 2 deployed at the beginning of February with the new SSM. **WO2 (SSM) Ian Brereton** was keen to find out what the Troop got up to. On this deployment **Sig Clink Barker** was Troop MSI. He had the job of teaching the SSM to ski and, also a group of Gurkhas, on loan from 249. The SSM accompanied by **Cpl Mick Brown** and **LCpl Jason Foulger, Cpl Jonjo O'Neill, LCpl** 'Starfish' **Paterson** and **Cpl** AWI **Wilson** went out for the day to see all he could. We showed him some snow holes and the various shelters we use and finished the day with a bit of ski joring. Here the SSM showed us all his military skiing skills!

Sig Mark Deary managed to impress 249 with his flair for skiing and a somewhat shortened deployment went extremely well.

DELTA TROOP

HELLOS AND FAREWELLS

Hello to **Sig Frank Dike** who has just joined us from civvy street where he took a short break after 21 Sig Regt, **Sig Billy Duplock** from the factory, don't unpack lads you're off to the sun.

Farewell to **LCpl** 'Jack' **Frost** and **Dee** who are leaving us for Blandford, congratulations on passing your driving test, **Dee**. Also to **LCpl Paul Musson** and **Jane** who leave us for 21 Sig Regt. **Sig 'Stu' Latham** has just left us for Bravo Tp, best of luck.

Finally congratulations to **Cpl Chris McKenna** on his recent promotion, well done.

Well it's farewell from the Deltoids for another year, don't forget the 244 Reunion on 8 June, see you there!

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

PERSONALITIES

OC **Maj Paul Oldfield**
2IC **Capt Jim Richardson**

QM **Capt Bill White**, OC Main Tp **2Lt David Duggan**, OC Sp Tp **Lt Bob Munro**, SSM **WO2 John McCaffery**, YofS **WO2 (YofS) Pete Barron, SSgt (YofS) Steve Brant**, FofS **WO2 (FofS) Bill Erskine**, Ch Clk **SSgt Rick Warne**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) Steve Hughes.**

After a prolonged absence from *The Wire* we make a return. The highlights of our missing months follow.

EXERCISE HOPEFUL QUEST 1990

As our main charity event of the year a team of marchers completed a walk of 249kms along the coast roads of Cornwall, Devon and Somerset, with the proceeds raised being split between the Corps Museum Appeal and Imperial Cancer Research. The marchers set off from Newquay with the Mayoress of Newquay, **Mrs Olive Irons** cutting the starting tape. At 31 miles per day our team of marchers soon acquired a fine collection of aching muscles and blisters but with glorious sunshine and the support of friendly locals, which included free pasties from one baker and a live radio link with Radio Devon, the distance was rapidly covered.

The final day dawned and as the team reached its destination, Minehead, it seemed as though thousands of people had turned out to meet them (OK truth was our gallant lads had timed the march to arrive on the same day as the Minehead Carnival!). A final burst of fund raising and a fun night out completed a most enjoyable week.

With approximately £3,000 being raised Ex Hopeful Quest was a very successful event. A special thank you to the event's mastermind **Sgt Nick Middleton** and the unsung heroes of the admin party led by **Sgt Chris Martin**.

CORPS SAAM 1990

Lt Bob Munro worked miracles and his efforts resulted in a fine result with **LCpl Jay Saunders** winning the best B class, best Royal Signals and the Roberts Cup.

VICTIM SUPPORT

Each year Wiltshire Constabulary run a charity event for Victim Support. The 1990 event was an assault course competition across the Bulford Course. Led by the 2IC, **Capt Jim Richardson**, our competitors outmatched the local infantry units 2 RRF and 1 D&D to win first place.

Back Row (L to R): Capt Jim Richardson, LCpl Si Schofield, Cpl 'Harry' Kemp, Sgt Nick Middleton, Sig Pete Watson and SSgt 'Strings' Stringer
Front Row (L to R): Sig John Taylor, LCpl Daz Evans, Cpl Paul Storey, LCpl Si Bradley, Sig 'Crabby' Crabb, LCpl 'Jenny' Hart

EXERCISE HARDFALL 91

This year the Squadron divided into two separate courses of three weeks duration. It was the first time novice students underwent the new Novice Ski and Survival Course (NSSC), covering mobility over snow, navigation in Arctic conditions, health and medical subjects in cold conditions and Arctic survival. The latter involved learning about avalanches, avalanche rescue, ice crossing and breaking drills and improvised emergency shelters including the infamous snow hole.

This year the Squadron went into the wilderness and stayed at the Maurseth Hotel chalets, miles from anywhere. Snow conditions were good and this combined with a team of excellent ski instructors headed by **WO2 (YofS) Pete Barron**, the standard of skiing this year was noticably higher. Even the Gurkhas under **Lt Dorje Tamang** seemed to have a great time despite sometimes bitterly cold conditions.

All members of the Squadron (less non-swimmers) participated in the Ice Breaking Drills, an experience most would probably not wish to have again!

The two ski races produced some impressive results with **Sig 'Alfie' Alford** winning the best novice prize for the 10km ski race and **Cpl Kev Read** winning the 20km biathlon in an excellent sub two hour time.

The new Sqn Comd **Maj Paul Oldfield** proved to be a dark horse but he did admit to some previous langlauf experience! He certainly surprised the younger members of the Squadron as he screamed past them in the races!

Most of the novices seemed overjoyed to complete the final exercise, after the last night in survival shelters using just a shovel, survival bags and rollmat.

To balance the work there was some rest and play, mostly downhill skiing in Voss, Geilo or on the hotel's own slopes. All in all a very successful Ex Hardfall 91.

Sqn Comd Maj Paul Oldfield enters the icy depths

Cpl 'Chappy' Chapman displaying fearless control of his emotions!

254 Sig Sqn (UNFICYP)
BFPO 567

SHQ
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj F. T. Riley**
2IC — **Capt P. J. Watt**

SSM **WO2 W. Henderson**, SQMS **SSgt D. Forbes**, Chief Clerk **Sgt A. B. Rose**, Stores Acct **Sgt R. Clatworthy**, FSO Clk **Mr C. Wilkinson**, Typist **Mrs S. Hiscock**.

DANCON MARCHES

On the weekends of 2/3 and 9/10 March the Dancon Marches were held in the Troodos Mountains. Most of the new members of the Squadron took part in one of the weekends. Each day consisted of a 25km march, unfortunately, no one mentioned the fact that on the first day it was a steady climb of 20kms—straight up a mountain. The second day wasn't so bad, quite pleasant even. However, they did put a few small hills in the way.

VISIT DACOS CIS1

ON 12 March the Squadron was visited by **Lt Col Mike Powell**—the new DACOS CIS1 at HQ BFC. A very busy programme had been arranged which included an over-flight of the buffer zone besides visiting our various and unusual departments.

UNFICYP SUPPORT REGIMENT COMPETITIONS

The bi-annual series of Support Regiment and UNFICYP competitions has once again called for the Squadron gladiators to go forth and take on our fellow Squadrons.

The Winning Mil Skills Team
Cpl Mick Hodds, Lt Wally Wood, Sig Ev's Galloway, LCpl Garry Roberts and SSgt Dave Forbes

In the Skill at Arms, the Squadron came second in the Rifle Match and the Falling Plate. **Sgt Paul Jennings** was awarded the overall top shot. However, the pistol team came last dropping the Squadron to its final overall position—fourth.

In the Support Regiment Mil Skills the Squadron team led by our Canadian Officer—**Lt Wally Wood**, achieved a great victory over our rivals. The team came second in the map reading, recognition, grenade throwing and the obstacle course with third place in the March and Shoot and finally first in the shooting.

RADIO TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd — **Lt Wally Wood** (Canadian Signals)
Tp SSgt — **SSgt Mick Halford**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Larry Will** (Canadian Signals)

ARRIVALS

The Troop would like to welcome the following new members: **Cpls Joe McGuggon, Wayne Forrest, Victor Hayes** and **LCpl Ted Rogers**.

DEPARTURES

Farewell and good luck to: **Cpl Andy Delaney, MCpls JP Belanger, Bill Tremblay, Sig Chris Green** and **Dave Archibald**.

OUT AND ABOUT

With the better weather approaching the lads are looking forward to the forthcoming series of adventure and military training exercises, especially those going on Ex Aphrodites Amble IV.

During the first week of March **SSgt Mick Halford** did his utmost to cajole as many as he could to go to Episkopi for a delightful week's rock climbing and abseiling.

UN SPRING FAIR

The Squadron was busy preparing for and organising the UN Spring Fair which was held on 13 April. This is an annual charity raising event with many displays and stalls from within UNFICYP and from outside traders. Radio Tp pressured wives all over the island to buy our raffle tickets.

COMMCEN TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd — **WO2 (YofS) D. MacTaggart**
Tp Sgt — **Sgt M. Hodkinson**

Day Cpl **Cpl M. Miller**, A Shift Cpl **Cpl 'Ginge' Morgan**, B Shift Cpl **Cpl Pete Smale**, C Shift Cpl **Cpl 'Geordie' English.**

DEPARTURES

A fond farewell goes to the following members, we wish them luck. **SSgt 'TG' Thornton-Granville, Cpls Mick Hodds, Paul 'Jabba' Ker, Dave 'Fatha' Betts, LCpls Gaz Roberts, Stevie Voyse, Sig Steve Humphries, AJ Smudge Smith** (320), **Scotty Toomes** and **Steve 'Chelsea' Miners.**

HELLO'S

The Troop would like to welcome the following new members. **Sgt Mike Hodkinson, Cpls 'Ginge' Morgan, Peter Smale, Paul Miller, LCpls Steve** 'Shredder' **Anderson, Andy Sergeant, Sig** 'Taff' **Butt, Nigel Brennan, Jason Fairclough** and **Dave Weir**.

TECH AND LINE TROOP

Tp Comd — **WO2 (FofS) G. Whiteford**
Tp Sgt — **Sgt P. Skene**

Tech Sgt **Sgt S. Norris**, Line Sgts **Sgts P. Jennings** and **S. Bryant**.

The Troop has recently said farewell to **LCpl** 'Johno' **Johnson** who returns to 662 Sig Tp and **Sgt** 'Alf' **Norrie** on posting to 15 Sig Regt. It welcomes **LCpl Percy Manual** from the Canadian Signals and **Sig John Gill** from 662 Sig Tp.

Congratulations go to **Cpl 'Scotty' Carmichael** on his recent promotion and to **Sgt Phil Skene** on his impending marriage to **Diane**.

DASH 2/91—ORIENTEERING

Tech and Line/SHQ was just pipped by Commcen Tp for the overall competition which included soccer and hockey. However Tech and Line did win the Orienteering convincingly and also had the best individual pairing in **Sgt** 'Rab' **Binnie** and **Capt Jon Watt.**

SUPPORT REGIMENT ATHLETICS

Despite only a one day trial the Squadron came overall second being beaten by HQ Sqn by a few points. Well done to all especially **Sgt Ade Rose** on winning the Javelin, **Sgt** 'Clatters' **Clatworthy** on winning the 100m, **Sig Harvey** winning the 3,000m steeplechase, **LCpl Bancroft** in winning both the high jump and triple jump.

Cpl 'Pops' Betts acting as dead weight to test the abseil ropes breaking strain

259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

VISITS

The Squadron has been particularly pleased to receive a number of welcome visitors during the last few months. It was with some sadness that we said farewell to **Lt Col R. C. A. Thwaites**, the outgoing DACOS CIS 1 of HQ BF Cyprus when he paid his final visit to the Squadron on 25 January. We wish him all the best in his command of 31 Sig Regt (V). February marked the initial visit of his replacement, **Lt Col E. M. Powell**. We wish him and his wife **Anne**, a happy and pleasant stay in Cyprus. There was a degree of pride when **Brig J. A. Almonds**, the new Deputy Commander British Forces Cyprus, accompanied **Professor Oxburgh**, the Chief Scientific Officer, on a visit to the Squadron on 15 February. This was a prelude to the Brigadier's more formal visit on 28 March where he saw and met members of Airfield Troop and Episkopi based personnel at work. This visit culminated in the Brigadier presenting the LS & GC Medal to **Cpl** 'Bing' **Crosbie** which was followed by a buffet lunch in the 'Jimmy Club'.

The ADC to DCBF Cyprus, Capt Miller, Gordons, learns how to joint cable. Instruction is given by Sig Hind, with criticism and advice given by DCBF Cyprus and the OC

NEWS FROM TROOPS
AIRFIELD TROOP

A change at the 'top' in Airfield Tp led to farewell to (on 147 separate occasions) to outgoing OC Airfield, **Capt Tim Craven**, we send him our best wishes for his tour as Adjutant of 37 Sig Regt (V). The Troop also bids farewell to **Sig Ces Cecil**—good luck in 21 Sig Regt.

A welcome to the Troop is extended to the new OC, **Lt Butch Maycock** and his wife **Anita** and family. We hope you will enjoy 'Tele Meching' again in Akrotiri. Welcome (again) to **Sig Neil Wells** from Episkopi and **Sig Cunningham** from Belize.

The aftermath of Op Granby has brough little respite with a multitude of tasks and projects in process to fulfil our role. We were particularly pleased to welcome the Deputy Commander British Forces Cyprus, **Brig J. A. Almonds**, on a visit on 28 March.

Congratulations to **Sgt Pete Kelly** on his recent and long awaited promotion. Special congratulations to **WO2 (FofS) Terry Waites** who was elected RAF Akrotiri Sports personality of the month. **Terry** is no stranger to Corps Rugby enthusiasts. **Terry**'s honours range from Yorkshire Colt honours, Combined Services under 19 honours and a final England Trial. Thirty-four year old **Terry** still plays rugby for the Army (Cyprus) side and has played basketball and volleyball for BAOR and water polo for the Army (Cyprus).

EPISKOPI TROOP

Episkopi Tp has been absent from *The Wire* for some while. However all is not lost and the Troop has eventually found someone who can write! **Capt John Phillips** took over command and the mantle of 'TOT' in November when he succeeded **Capt Frank Running**. We extend a hearty welcome to our new 'Totty' and his wife **Sue** and their children and it goes without saying that we send our best wishes to **Capt Frank Running** and **Gloria**. Other new 'faces' and welcome are **Sig Paul Pearson** and **LCpl Bert Reynolds** who joined us from Belize, **LCpl Paul Batley** who joined us from the Coldstream Guards (guess who will be our first choice for ceremonial duties?), **Sig Andy Prout**, fresh from the 'factory' and **Sig** 'Coops' **Cooper** from Airfield Tp. Farewells and best wishes are extended to **Cpl Bob Maxted** and wife **Karen, Sig Barry Pickles** and his wife **Jo** off to Germany, **Sig Tel** 'Sporting Bob' **Hall** to NI and **Sig Neil Wells** to Airfield Tp. A belated hello also goes to **Cpl Phil Wynne** and his wife **Elaine**.

Life during Op Granby seems to have been dominated by work followed by even more work. **Cpl Brian Chinn** went to Saudi Arabia in December and we haven't seen him since. Come back **Brian** we need your help with the work load which is building up with the installation of project 'CRISP'.

Congratulations go to **Cpl** 'Bing' **Crosbie** on receiving his LS & GC Medal. Congratulations also to **SSgt Tam Tulloch** and **Sig Mel Melhuish** on winning the Squadron Classic Golf Open and to **Sgt Neil Stewart** on representing the Army at Badminton.

MOUNTAIN TROOP

The end of the Gulf conflict signalled 'back to normal working and ironically for us on the 'Mountain' not as much time off. With the onset of warmer weather the road users on Troodos can breathe a sigh of relief and none more so than those who bought their 'Gozomes' (Cyprus jargon for a duty free car to take home) during the winter.

Obviously the Gulf conflict curtailed our social life but we did manage to fit in a Games Night against Airfield Tp. Our friends from Hong Kong spent the entire evening outside, watching snow fall, for the first time.

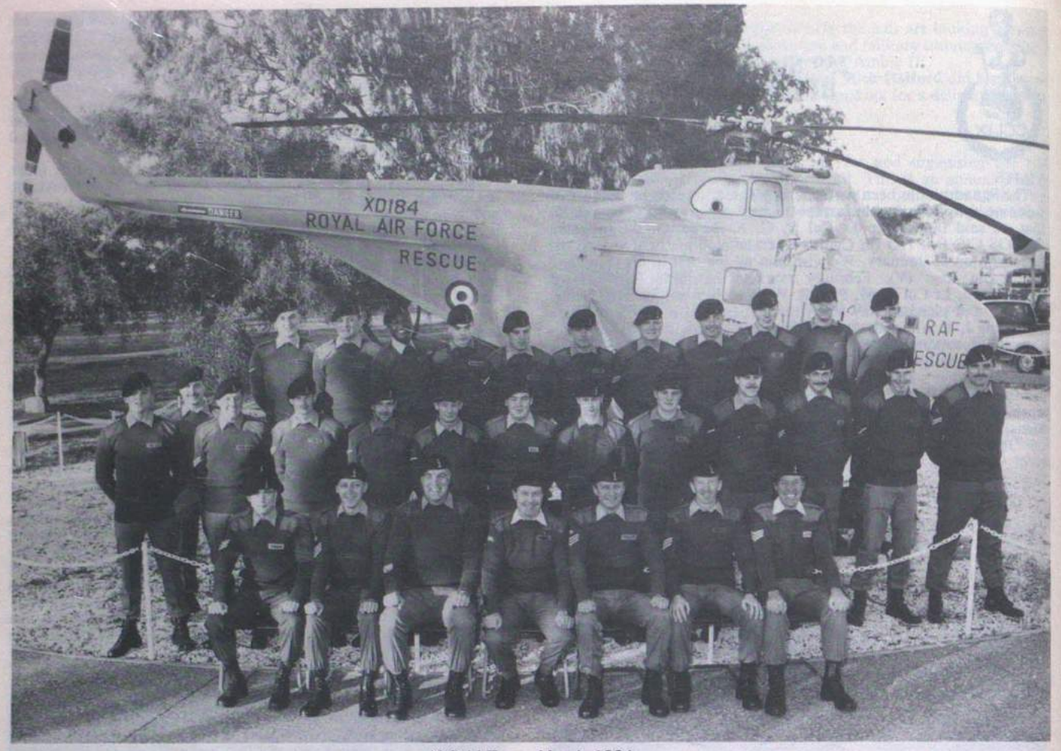
Stranger things have happened at sea, but none the less the absence of the locals in the mountain bars every Tuesday night was inexplicable to those unaware of the 'Brains of Troodos' competition. The Army team pitted their wits against the best and **Sgts Martin Thirsk, Gavin Collins, Chris Ballin** together with **SSgt Dave Alexander** and **Cpl Ian Binks** are congratulated on coming first in the Plate competition.

Finally farewell to FofS **Dave Alexander**, wife **Sally** and the two 'rug rats' who are off to Airfield Tp. We hope to see you all again in the 'Sigs' Bar.

OP GRANBY SUPPORT

There are undoubtedly few, if any, Corps units that have not in some way been involved in supporting Op Granby. 259 Sig Sqn is no exception and we are pleased to have left the busy days behind us. Life would have been more hectic still if it had not been for the support of 21 Sig Regt, QG Sig Regt and 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. A special message of thanks go to **Sig Barber, Davidge, Gilchrist, King** and **Shaw** from 21 Sig Regt and **LCpls Embleton, Mayell** and **Thompson** from 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. We are sure that these 'old mates' will forgive us if we make a special mention of those from Hong Kong. **LCpl Yu Kwok Yin, Cpl Lai Kam Yuen, LCpls Pang Hing Chai** and **Liu Kwok Chuen** photographed with **Maj Dryburgh**. This intrepid four arrived in Cyprus in February. They are all Hong Kong Military Service Corps and have been reinforcing the project teams of our Airfield Troop at RAF Akrotiri. It is hoped that they are the first of continuing liaison with this Squadron and the QG Sig Regt. They have certainly improved the standard of Ma jong expertise in the Cable Pit Club.

The Hong Kong Military Service Corps Tele Mechs teach the OC some cable jointing techniques
L to R: LCpl Yu Kwok Yin, Cpl Lai Kam Yeun, Maj Jim Dryburgh, LCpl Pang Hing Chai and LCpl Liu Hing Chuen



Airfield Troop March 1991

Back Row L to R: LCpl Swithenbank, Sig Cooper, Johnfinn, Gilchrist, LCpl Goodhand, Sig Davidge, Cpl Hodgson, Sig Share, Hind, Barber and Sowden

Centre Row L to R: Sig Maylett, LCpl Jenkins, Cpls Forbes-Wilson, Davis, LCpls Brennan, Campbell, Sig Rigby, Shaw, King, LCpl Batley, Cpl Kelly, LCpl Mattson and Cpl Treeby

Front Row L to R: Sgt Pinsent, SSgt Meyerscough, WO2 Waites, Capt Craven, SSgt Phillips, Sgts Piper and John

THE GREAT PANCAKE RACE

The Gulf conflict had its impact also on the quality of life for the wives and families of the Squadron with the necessary additional security restrictions and limitations in force. However a spot of light relief was offered when the wives accepted a challenge from the wives of 3 Queens. A special report by **Capt Dryburgh**: 'It was hot, in fact, it was damned hot. The band of the 3 Queens played, the dignitaries arrived and at the stroke of 0930 hrs, 259 Sig Sqn Ladies Pancake Teams strolled womanfully on to the parade square to meet the challenge set by 3 Queens.

Two teams of eager cunning: The Dit Dit Dah Das and Jimmy's Jessies armed with Teflon non-stick frying pans, water pistols, flour bombs and pancakes made to a special recipe by **Lesley Howson**. Sixteen teams later they knew they couldn't win (not enough BFT's) but they were mean. They didn't win this year but next year . . . well that's another story.'

The Ladies Pancake Race Team

Back Row L to R: Jimmy's Jessies: Carol Davis, Sue Kelly, Jan Mabel and Aleks Dryburgh

Front Row L to R: Dit Dit Dah Dehs: Chris Tulloch, Sue Geelan, Lorraine Payne and Dawn March

– News from Troops –

662 Sig Tp
BFPO 58

Tp Comd **Capt Nick Naylor**
2IC/AO **Capt Kim Thurlow WRAC**
SSM **WO2 Dale Ikin**, OC Maint Sect **WO1 (FofS) Peter Martin**, OC Comms Sect **WO2 (YofS) Chris Rogan**, SQMS **SSgt John Williams**, Chief Clerk **Sgt Steve Gorman**, Station Comd FSS Cape Greco **SSgt John Smith**.

FSS CAPE GRECO
by SSgt John Smith

FSS Cape Greco is one of the last remaining British manned Ace High Stations still in existence. It is situated beside a rocky plateau on the south east coast of Cyprus and is manned by Corps technicians, RPC dog handlers and a lone driver electrician. This post is currently filled by **Sgt Alan Martin** who joined us from 1 ADSR in November to replace **Sgt** (now SSgt) **John Williams** who left for 662 Sig Tp on promotion.

1990 has in fact seen a great many changes at "The Cape" with a total of 15 postings inside 15 months. This of course includes the four Techs and the Cpl ED, whom we lost due to Corps manning reductions. A quick roll call of the dear departed reads as follows:

January 1990—**Cpl Taff Shaw RPC** to NI and replaced by **Cpl Graham Lindon**.

January 1990—**Sgt Danny Still** injured in an RTA and sent home to Blighty.

January 1990—**LCpl Martin Caudell** to 512 Coy RPC in Dorset. He was replaced by **LCpl Rick Powell** who, not being satisfied with the good fortune of a Cyprus posting, has decided to add to his happiness by getting married.

February 1990—**LCpl Gary Kirk** left for Civ Div.

March 1990—**Sgt Stu Thompson** posted to 4 ADSR and replaced by **Sgt Trevor Lund**.

June 1990—**Cpl Ian Munford** was dragged, screaming, to Catterick for his T1 and, like **Cpl Roy Ward** (15 Sig Regt in December). **Cpl Al Hughes** (4 ADSR in December). **Cpl Mark Patterson** (7 Sig Regt in December) and **Cpl 'SJ' Stanley-Jones** (9 Sig Regt in January) has not been replaced.

November 1990—**LCpl Geordie Luther** joined **Roy** over in the Province which allowed **LCpl Ian Chamberlain RPC** to join our merry band of sun bronzed heroes.

January 1991—Saw the latest departure in the shape of **Sgt Steve King** who, complete with windsurfer, flew off to 21 Sig Regt as the new Starnet SSgt. **Steve** was replaced by **Sgt Rich Cousins** who joined us fresh from his Ace High course in Latina.

The list would of course not be complete without mention of **SSgt Andy Hockley** the Station Comd who left Cyprus for sunny Blandford last July. **SSgt John Smith**, his replacement, and the patrons of the Dhekelia Water Sports Club, where after all he spends most of his time instructing windsurfing, send their best wishes.

Despite all the changes, life goes on pretty much as before, with Cape personnel regularly representing 662 Sig Tp at most sporting and social events available in Cyprus. Most noteworthy are **Sgt Tony Sparks**, who is currently the Army (Cyprus) Golf Champion and **SSgt John Smith**, who is the island windsurfing trainer. We were also in with a good chance at the All Island Ski Championships until Op Granby and a lack of snow scuppered **Alan Martin**'s chance of training up a winning team. We still manage to get on more courses per capita than the Troop.

I would remind all Latina trained Techs that FSS Cape Greco is still a viable option to put on your postings dream sheet, as we have recently received confirmation that we will be staying open for some time yet.

FSS CAPE GRECO SKI DAY
by Sgt Alan Martin

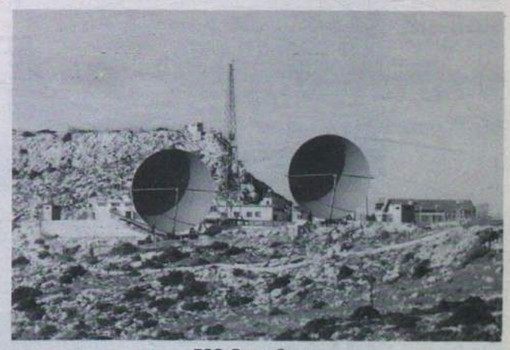
One cold, murky morning a four man team from the Cape and four men from the Troop met in Dhekelia to drive up to the Troodos mountain range for a days' skiing.

The journey was uneventful, except that **Sgt Gary Corrigan** thought the route was up through Nicosia on the Turkish side and we lost the Pajero. **SSgt John Smith** saved the day by remembering the way from a *long* time ago. As we arrived at the Troodos Leave and Training Centre we saw the Pajero pulling in with **Cpl Murphy** saying 'didn't you know it was quicker via Limassol?'

So fully equipped with skis, boots, sticks etc we headed for the slopes to get our legs back. As we arrived at the top of the descent to the first lift, looks of trepidation were apparent, and with a few words of encouragment like 'you've done it before, yeah you're the instructor' **Sgt Al Martin** was sent forwards and downwards. After a few runs everybody had got their legs back and **Sgt Dave Porteous** glibly suggested we go to the North face. **Cpl Steve Ellis** meanwhile (despite being arctic trained) was heading uncontrollably for the trees.

Once conquered the North face was voted a doddle and a spot of lunch was called for, albeit liquid. The intrepid squad, suitably refreshed and now braver, headed for yet more trees and deeper snow. All good things must come to an end, so having caught the last lift up, we reluctantly headed for the Dog and Partridge (a well known, Near East après ski metropolis) for a few jugs of Gluhwein. Tired yet mellow, we headed for home, via Appetitos pizza house. The perfect end to a perfect day.

LCpl Rick Powell and Trojan



FSS Cape Greco

THE ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

Admiral	Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB MBE
Commodore	Col P. J. Pritchard
Vice Commodore	Lt Col C. K. Powell

Rear Commodores: Offshore, Lt Col J. A. Grierson; Dinghies, Lt Col M. J. P. Collins; Windsurfing, Lt Col C. D. McK Kemp

CONTACTS

Yachtmasters: UK; Lt Col A. Davies, Blandford Mil 2344
BAOR; Maj N. J. Cory, Korbecke Mil 257
Cyprus; Maj R. C. T. Cuthbertson, Ayios Nikolaos 7466

Secretaries: General; Maj G. M. Lewis Taylor, Bulford Mil 2308
Dinghy Racing UK; Capt D. C. A. Ellis, Blandford Mil 2489
Dinghy Racing BAOR; Sgt Avey-Hebditch, Korbecke Mil 359
UK Windsurfing; Capt D. J. Gilchrist, Tidworth Mil 2403
BAOR Windsurfing; Capt P. J. Daisey, Korbecke Mil 393

Regular readers will have realised that it is our intention to run a regular Yacht Club article in the colums of *The Wire*. In so doing we not only hope to keep you abreast of events in the Club and informed of forthcoming attractions, but it is also intended to run features concerning different aspects of the Club and its facilities. If you have any comments or suggestions, Club committee members would be pleased to hear from you.

This month it is appropriate to feature the latest addition to the Club's worldwide fleet of offshore yachts, *Petasus III*, since, by the time these notes are published, she will have returned from a winter cruising in the Atlantic at the end of her first full season with the Club.

Older members will have fond memories of the original *Petasus*, a wooden RORC racing boat with spruce spars. With distinctive high freeboard, reverse sheer and flush decks, a very advanced design for her time, she had a fine reputation as a good sea boat. She survived the storm associated with the infamous Channel Race of 1956 when winds of 100 mph were recorded over the decks of some yachts and a number failed to come home.

Built at a time when the yard was getting into trouble during the last boating slump, the second yacht to carry the name was not the measure of her illustrious predecessor. Yet nonetheless this Jeremy Rogers Contessa 32 safely completed many miles in the Baltic with Club members enjoying good sailing in her.

Purchased from new at the beginning of last year, *Petasus III*, a Victoria 34, looks like being a yacht of the old tradition. Designed specifically for deep water cruising, she has a relatively long keel, wheel steering and a skeg hung rudder. She is built with heavy weather in mind and in spite of some initial troubles on first being commissioned, she has surprised many by the docile, yet sprightly manner that she pushes to windward in a seaway. Equipped to the highest standards, with a crew of up to seven she is capable of going anywhere, in any conditions.

Petasus III is now on passage for home somewhere in the Bay of Biscay after six months cruising to France, Spain, Portugal, Gibraltar, Madeira and the Canaries. She will be spending the summer on charters from Gosport, before once again heading off for warmer climes next winter. If you have any ideas about where she might go, let us know. And, whether a beginner or expert, if you think you might be man enough to go with her, watch this space!

Maj John Barrett, as long time UK Yachtmaster, is probably known by more members than any other Officer of the Club. This month he retires after many years of diligent service to members. Amongst other achievements, probably his greatest is the part he has played in adventure training. During the last four years Club yachts have crossed the Atlantic as many times, and, without doubt we currently stand head and shoulders above all other Army yacht clubs for our achievements in this area. John will not be disappearing as we will see him around Blandford and look forward to continuing good sailing times with him in the future.

Petasus in the Canary Islands — Christmas 1990

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal GCVO

President: The Master of Signals

Chairman and Treasurer: Major General P. D. Alexander CB, MBE

General Secretary: Colonel A. N. de Bretton-Gordon — **Assistant Secretary: Major G. Schofield MBE**

Welfare Secretary: Mrs P. J. Haw — **Administrative Officer: Mr R. Whittle**

Association Office, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Tel Military System: London District 8245. STD 071 414 8245 Welfare Secretary (direct line) 071 630 0801.

VICE CHAIRMAN RETIRES

Lt Col R. L. Murray OBE retired as Vice Chairman of The Royal Signals Association, Central Committee on Friday, 12 April 1991. The Chairman, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB MBE** expressed thanks for his support, sound advice and loyalty to the RSA over many years and was warmly supported by the Members of the Committee. **Ron Murray** epitomises the caring and helpful image of the RSA which exists to foster esprit de corps, keep members of the Corps family in touch and provide material or other assistance when needed. He served in Regimental Headquarters for some 10 years as the General Secretary of the RSA until he retired in 1985. Part of his duties included editing *The Wire* and it is with some trepidation that this article is written. He is the architect of the Corps house magazine and much of its present popularity within the Corps and its envy among other Corps and Regimental Editors is a result of his imaginative and progressive editorship.

Typically, when he left Regimental Headquarters, **Ron** unselfishly volunteered to chair Welfare Meetings which are held periodically to consider cases for less fortunate members of the Corps in their time of need, and he has undertaken to continue with this important aspect of the Corps domestic affairs.

The Central Committee of the RSA will miss his valuable and sensible contributions to its work as will the Corps and Association at large. He has our thanks for his support over a long period and we wish **Eileen** and him all the very best for the future.

FREEDOM OF RICHMOND PARADE AND THE ASSOCIATION REUNION IN CATTERICK 28, 29 AND 30 JUNE

Royal Signals in Catterick will be exercising its right to celebrate The Freedom of Richmond on Friday 28 June, and The Association is invited to join the Serving Corps on this occasion—held every other year. There will be a March Past in Richmond Market Square at about 1800 hrs, followed by Playing of Retreat by the Corps Band in the grounds of the Castle. The Chairman hopes that as many Branches as possible will be represented on this parade, with, of course, their Branch Standards.

Reception for members of The Association attending The Freedom celebrations will open at 1400 hrs on Friday 28 June. While accommodation will be available to members on the Friday night, we regret that messing facilities will not commence until Breakfast on Saturday 29 June.

Transport to and from Richmond will be available to members, and light refreshments will also be available in the recently modernised Town Hall Pub under arrangements of the Catterick Branch.

The Freedom ceremony will of course be followed by The Annual Reunion in Catterick on 29/30 June. The programme will include all the usual attractions members expect, save, in the interest of security and, to save on transport costs, the events of Saturday will be confined to Vimy Barracks, and Sunday to Helles Barracks. An outline programme is as follows:-

Saturday 29 June

0900	Reception opens
1000-1730	R Signals Outstation Museum open
1400	Fete opens
1500-1730	Arena attractions
1630	New Museum Grand Draw
1800	Retreat
1900	Supper
2000	Entertainment

Sunday 30 June

0900-1000)	
)	R Signals Outstation Museum open
1100-1230)	
0945	Assemble for Church
1000-1100	Church Service
1100-1130	March Past Royal Signals Memorial
1130-1230	Annual General Meeting
1300	Lunch
	Departure

Application forms are with Branches and The Chairman hopes as many members as possible will attend. Application forms and further details are available from Regimental Headquarters—071 414 8245.

COTSWOLDS BRANCH

From Mr David Clarke

Our resident Committee is made up of the following members:-

President:	**Col J. F. Worth OBE**
Vice President:	**Lt Col J. A. Waite**
Chairman:	**Maj A. C. Cropp**
Hon Secretary/ Treasurer:	**Mrs M. E. Cropp**
Members:	**Maj C. Waugh** (Auditor), **L. Flanagan** (CCOCA Representative), **D. B. Clarke, J. S. Smart, C. W. Smart** and **A. J. Wingate**
Standard Bearer:	Vacant—*any volunteers?*

It has been rather a long time since the Branch submitted notes for the Corps Magazine and this is intended to redress that matter, and we hope, the start of regular contributions.

The Branch which embraces all the Cotswolds district as the title implies holds regular meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at the Victory Club, Cheltenham. Our members come from all our areas, Tewkesbury, Cheltenham, Stroud, Northleach and Mitcheldean, to name but a few.

During the past 12 months we have achieved a couple of honours. **Mr Len Flanagan**, our Standard Bearer, who has since retired, won the Scrivens Cup, which is presented by the Council of Cheltenham Old Comrades Associations (CCOCA) for the best turned out Standard Bearer of the year, and late last year **Mrs Marjorie Cropp**, our Hon Secretary/Treasurer, was made an Honorary Life Member of the Association in recognition of her excellent work for the Branch over the many years that she has been in her present post. She has also been the mainstay and organiser of our annual Christmas function which has involved a lot of behind the scenes work to come up with appropriate 'Party Games' for what always turns out to be a most enjoyable evening.

We are always on the look out for new members, so if there are any ex members, and serving members about to leave the Corps and settle in the area, we shall be more than pleased to welcome you.

Our Chairman and Secretary regularly attend the Representatives Meeting in London and the Branch is also well represented at the annual Blandford and Catterick Reunions.

The address of our Secretary is 18 Church Road, Swindon Village, Cheltenham, Glos GL51 9QP.

DERBY BRANCH

From: Mrs Dot Williamson—Chairman and Entertainments Secretary

December 1990 we entertained 15 Senior Citizen members to Christmas Lunch and Cabaret, the afternoon was so successful we hope, if funds allow, to do the same next Christmas.

9 March 1991, by courtesy of the OC, we held the Annual Dinner Dance at the Kingsway TA Centre, welcoming 133 guests with a wine and sherry reception.

It was a pleasure to have **Lt Col T. W. Acda TD** CO of 38 Sig Regt (V) and **Mrs Acda, Col** and **Mrs Aspdin**, also the OC of 46 Sqn **Maj R. Lingard** as our Guests of Honour. A six course meal was served by 12 of 620 Duffield ATC whose efficiency and turnout was a credit to their unit.

Following the Loyal Toast **Lt Col Acda** gave an interesting speech

about the Corps past, present and future activities which all found interesting, especially members who had relatives in the Gulf.

Due to earlier engagements the Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire **Col Peter** and **Mrs Hilton** were after dinner guests; **Dave Elliott, Betty Smith** and **Capt Sally Reading** hosted and served them with refreshments. The Committee thanks all members for their support and especial thanks to the young serving members who, with the help of **Cpl Adams'** usual flair on the disco, bridged the age barrier, thus creating a friendly atmosphere and the evening one to be remembered. They crowned the occasion by presenting to the chairperson **(Dot)**, on behalf of 46 Sqn a beautiful basket of flowers.

The AGM was held in March, the serving committee was re-elected, plus **Cpl P. Beedle** and **Maj Lingard** and latter elected to the position of Vice President.

NEWS OF OUR TA BRANCH MEMBERS

Pte J. Younger and **Sig A. Wyles** were married on 15 March and **LCpl E. Parr** and **Sig Cullen** were married on 4 May. **Capt Webb** is nowadays greeting all with radiant smiles due to the fact that he is to become a Grandfather twice over!

With the assistance of SSAFA we have been able to help some of our members, and are still working on two cases.

We extend our appreciation to 46 Sqn members, PSIs and staff whose assistance and advice makes our Branch so successful, also for the enjoyable evenings in the SNCOs Mess.

EAST LONDON BRANCH

From: The Chairman: Mr S. E. Thorpe-Tracey

The Branch held its annual dinner and dance on 16 March at the Royal British Legion Hall Ilford, and, as usual, all tickets were sold.

Our Guests of Honour this year were **Maj R. Buston TD** and **WO1 (RSM) F. McCormick. Lt Col D. McLay TD** CO, 36 Sig Regt (V) was unable to be present. **Capt C. Dyball** welcomed all our guests.

The Best Troop Cup this year was presented to LAD REME by **Maj Buston**.

A good evening was enjoyed by everyone, the music for dancing was supplied by Terry's Music Disco.

The evening concluded by the playing of sunset and the National Anthem, with our Standard Bearer Fred Backhouse present.

On 9 April the Branch held its Annual General Meeting at the TA Centre Ilford, most members attended.

The Chairman welcomed our President and Treasurer **Maj G. W. Dyer**. The Chairman outlined the activities over the last year, and thanked all those who had helped to make a success especially the social committee, headed by **Maj Greenwood**. He also thanked the Treasurer for his hard work and for keeping the accounts so professionally. A vote of thanks to **Lt Col McLay**, for allowing us to use the centre for our meeting.

The Chairman concluded with a thank you to our Standard Bearer who was retiring. He then welcomed **Capt Dyball** to serve on the Regional Committee.

Finally **Mr S. Taylor** thanked the Committee for the good work done over the year.

Afterwards we enjoyed a buffet supper prepared by **Mrs Greenwood** for which we thank her.

602 SIGNAL TROOP (SC) ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS

5 ANNUAL DINNER REUNION

On 20/21 April 1991 62 past and serving members of the Troop assembled at the Westcliff Hotel, just outside of Southend on Sea, for our 5th reunion. Most arrived around mid-day and after booking in found the bar and started looking for old friends.

During the afternoon **Pat Gratten** who had previously made out place names for everyone and with the help of **Ken Purnell** and **Dave Hay** prepared the reception board and the layout of place names, the idea being that before the dinner members who wanted to sit with one another could take their place cards and put them on the table of their choice. Before the dinner everyone was asked to go to the front of the hotel and have a group photograph taken—to get everyone out of the bar and to the steps of the hotel was a work of art in itself! At 2000 hrs an excellent dinner was served, during the dinner toasts were in the following format 'The committee would like to take wine with all members who joined the Troop between 1963-1970' these toasts went on through the time span of 1971-1981 and 1981-1991 then the committee took wine with the current serving members of the Troop plus all serving members, of which there were many. This proved a great success as everyone could then see in which era members had served. After the coffee we held our AGM/update of what had been happening over the past year. Our Chairman **Ken Purnell** informed us that it had been a very successful year and stated that the efforts of **Brian (JB) Priestly's** first letter asking for contributions for the Standard had not been in vain. He then unveiled the Standard to great applause. The Committee was then re-elected, the only change being that **Dave Smedley** handed over the duties of Secretary to **Pat Gratten**. The Chairman then thanked **Dave** for all the hard work he had put into the job over the past two years.

It was then announced by the Chair that a new address list had been produced with the names of some 82 members and at the last count we have 100 plus names for our new list yet to be produced. This must be some sort of a record as all members have come only from a Troop.

It was then time for our President **Col Bill Lidster** to say a few words. **Bill** started by welcoming the new OC of the Troop **Capt Hugh Mullan** to the AOF plus hoping his stay would be a happy one. He then went on to say that during his association with the Troop over the years (I first met **Bill** outside the Troop office in 1963), that he was thinking of writing his memoirs about the Troop and then naming a few personalities and the events of the past caused a few red faces, plus some unusual looks from their wives. The OC 602 was then asked to give an update on the Troop, but seeing as he had only been in post for six weeks and two of those had been leave, plus the fact that he was asked to perform this duty as he walked through the dining room doors, this, of course, did not give him a lot of warning for the task ahead. I am pleased to say however that in the true tradition of past OC's his speech was excellent, ending with a toast 'I would like to take wine with all those born in 1962 and have been in the Troop since February 1991' ie himself!

The venue for next years dinner has not been decided as of yet but the OC did suggest that if we had the dinner at Oxford and permission could be gained from our friends at the Firm, he would arrange a 'Troop Open day' on the Sunday at Bicester. Other suggestions came from **Mick** and **Angie Tivenan** for the Wakefield area, and **Mike Joanne Hope** would look at Sheffield when Mr and Mrs P. C. Plod get to know the area. For all members that did not know **Mike** and **Joanne** are leaving the Army and joining the Sheffield Police Force so we wish them the very best of luck and happiness in their new careers. After the speeches and coffee everyone retired to the bar to continue the arm bending movement, this went on to 0530 hrs and all were on parade for breakfast (well most of them) on Sunday morning. It was soon time to say goodbye and arrange to meet again next year.

Standard Dedication

Sam Kennard has volunteered to carry the Standard which is to be dedicated at this years Catterick Reunion Church Parade on Sunday 30 June 1991. The dedication will be held at 1000 hrs in The Gym, Le Cateau lines followed by a March Past of the Royal Signals Memorial in Helles Barracks.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION SOUTH LIMBURG

Since the closure of 227 Sig Sqn in December 1990 the new system, (RAF/Army administered) is settling in well after a hectic transition period. There has been no actual change of posts or personnel but educating the RAF to the ways of Royal Signals took time! January and February saw us engaged in two exercises, the amalgamation of the Sergeants' Mess 227 Sig Sqn with the BSNCOASL (British Senior Non-Commissioned Officers Association, South Limburg) and we were also honoured by the visit of Comd Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen J. O. C. Alexander OBE** on 7 February. Royal Signals personnel from

CINCENT Gen H. H. Von-Sandrart visit to AWCS

five different locations and three different countries; Holland, Belgium and Germany gathered to have lunch in the Association Rooms—these were the old Sergeants' Mess Rooms. An excellent day was had by all and a few of the oldies were more clearly advised on their corner.

The Royal Signals Association, South Limburg, has been created with a meeting held at Tapijn Kaserne in Maastricht; and a dinner is to be held. More importantly, a few ex-members of the Corps living locally in Holland and Belgium fought through the cobwebs to join us, a very welcome surprise. Please continue to support us and bring along any other ex-member out there. In February the first quarterly publication of the Corps Association Newsletter was produced and much welcomed by all. I must mention here two letters received from ex-members of 227 Sig Sqn who had read the short history of 227 Sig Sqn, they were **Mr Ian Fry** of Worthing and **Mr Tom Handley** of Swansea, both having been RSM of the Unit; **Ian** in 1949 and **Tom** in 1966 when the Unit moved from Fontainbleau France to Maastricht Holland. Yes, you are more than welcome to visit us on your travels in this direction.

Last, but not least, all members wish to send their thanks and appreciation for the assistance, guidance, both young and old, given by **Col D. M. O. Miller** who, sad to say, left for UK in March.

3rd DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB — 40th ANNIVERSARY

A Brief History

Towards the end of 1951 a casual comment by **Mr Howard** 'Ginger' **Jones** to **Sgt Ernest Bayley** regarding the absence of any reunion notification for 3 Div Sigs led **Capt Ken Smartt** and **Sgt Ernest Bayley** to contact ex-members of the Regiment regarding the possibility of holding a reunion dinner. Thus was the Club created with the first dinner being held at Ye Olde Cock Tavern, Fleet Street, London on 12 January 1952. It was presided over by **Lt Col S. A. W. Philcox, Maj Gen R. F. B. Naylor** was Guest of Honour and 66 attended. Such was its success that a committee was formed, Chairman **Lt Col S. A. W. Philcox**; Secretary **Sgt E. E. Bayley**; Treasurer **Capt K. N. Smartt. Capt W. J. M. McNeill, Sgts F. Hooker** and **W. J. Cotterell** were elected members. Membership was to include pre- and post war ex-service members of the Regiment and, at a later date, serving members.

Annual dinners (more recently, lunches) have been held mainly in London at the Victory Services Club. In 1955 the Reunion venue was Buxton for the benefit of those living in the North. It was not well attended and has not been tried since. Also, over the years, the Reunion Club has been a frequent guest of the Regiment when stationed at Bulford and subsequently Soest (Germany). One specific Reunion—Bulford 1976—is worthy of being recorded because 10 ex-Commanding Officers of the Regiment attended that particular dinner. Since 1960 wives of members and widows have been invited to some reunions.

Since 1986 the Club has been an affiliated Branch of the Royal Signals Association. It now enjoys a thriving membership of 187.

1991 is a special year, the Club's 40th anniversary. One of its aims is to ensure its continuation by encouraging membership from among all those who are entitled to join.

Presidents

1952-55 Maj Gen C. W. Fladgate CBE
1956-71 Maj Gen R. F. B. Naylor CB CBE DSO MC
1972-79 Maj Gen M. D. Price CB OBE
1980-86 Brig C. G. Moore OBE
1987-89 Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe CB MBE
1990- Brig J. D. T. Brett OBE

Chairmen

1952-57 Lt Col S. A. W. Philcox
1958-71 Maj C. E. Stagg ISO ERD
1972- Maj K. N. Smartt

Secretaries

1952-53 Sgt E. E. Bayley
1954-55 Mr J. A. Atterton
1956- Mr E. E. Bayley

Treasurers

1952 Capt K. N. Smartt
1953-55 Capt W. J. McNeill
1956-63 Mr V. J. Kontzle
1964-72 Maj K. N. Smartt
1973- Maj D. J. Roberts

3rd DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB—1991 REUNION LUNCHEON

Report by E. E. Bayley, Hon Secretary

Friday 22 March saw a record turn out of 86 on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the Reunion Club and the 39th Annual General Meeting.

The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE DL** and **Mrs Birtwistle** were present as our guests. The Master is no stranger at the Club as Signal Officer in Chief, we were delighted when he was our Guest of Honour at our 29th Stagg Reunion on 28 March 1991, accompanied by his son.

A short AGM was held prior to the lunch when it was agreed that the 1992 reunion will be stag and held at Victory Club on Saturday 28 March 1992. The President **Brig J. D. T. Brett** presented the Club Chairman with a silver salver in appreciation of his association with the club since its foundation and **Mrs Winifred Smartt** a bouquet of flowers. Following a group photograph lunch commenced and one of our First Footers **The Rev Father F. Beattie** from Glasgow said Grace.

The President of the Club welcomed our Guest of Honour and his wife and said how good it was to see such a good turn out and many new faces too. The ladies each received a small gift.

After the loyal toasts The Master of Signals addressed the gathering, he began by commenting that the Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment **The Princess Royal,** was unable to attend as she had duties in Japan. He paid tribute to **Her Royal Highness'** devotion to the Regiment, and in particular **Her Royal Highness'** recent visit to Germany to see the families of men on service in the Gulf.

The Master congratulated the Club on having maintained such a level of strength for so many years. He then went on to explain the changes which are currently taking place in the Corps.

The President thanked the Master and expressed the hope that the Regiment would remain intact under the reorganisation plans and proposed a toast to the Regiment especially those members who had served in the Gulf.

The CO **Lt Col J. R. B. Cook** said he was pleased and privileged to be present with his RSM **WO1 Dave Thomas.** He expressed admiration for the staunch comradeship and spirit within the Club, with which he has had associations for over 20 years, having been posted to Bulford in 1971 and entertained Club members there.

It was at this point the President wished the retiring Commanding Officer good luck and hoped to see him at future reunions as a member of the Reunion Club. The President called upon the gentlemen to be upstanding and drink a toast to the ladies. **Brig Brett** said how delighted everyone was to see our ex President **Brig Cuthburt-Moore** looking so well after his accidents last year, a warm welcome was then extended to our first footers, some of whom had travelled a long way. **Mr Len Addison** (Wirral), **Mr A. E. Harker** (Leeds), **Mr Donald MacDonald** (Aberfoyle), **The Rev Father Felix Beattie** (Glasgow), **Mr Norman Snow** (Crewkerne) and **Mr P. Walsh** (Coventry), and again, after many years, **Mr Paul Benedek** from Oldham now confined to a wheelchair, accompanied by his son. The Secretary said that since our last reunion we had lost six members, the oldest being **Mr Sparky Blackford** (87) Swindon ex Dunkirk and D-Day. **Mr Pedlar Palmer** had lost his wife a week ago. Also remembered were **Ted Morris** and others in ill health and old age unable to attend. 'We will always remember them.' It is hoped that **Mr Palmer** will be able to enter the Royal Hospital Chelsea as an In Pensioner.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during March 1991:-

Bequeathed by late Maj H. Dudley	£6,617.42
Mrs T. Matthewman—Carlton Village	£ 400.00
Despatch Riders 56 Div Sig OCA	£ 76.00
RSA Cotswolds Branch	£ 50.00
Mr J. H. Turner	£ 20.00
In memory of Maj F. Eve	£ 20.00
In memory of J. Knight	£ 15.00
In memory of J. A. Phillips	£ 15.00
In memory of Maj E. Collins	£ 10.00
Maj J. Wilderspin	£ 10.00
Rev G. H. Paton	£ 10.00
Certa Cito	£ 10.00
	£7,253.42

The following donations were gratefully received during April 1991:-

Col R. M. Stewart	£120.00
The Halecat Charitable Trust	£100.00
521 Coy 11 Ord Bn RAOC (EOD)	£ 87.50
Brighton Branch RSA	£ 80.00
Col and Mrs G. M. L. Claridge	£ 25.00
RSA Bedford Branch	£ 25.00
Maj J. M. Willis	£ 10.00
In memory of Maj Charles ('Bill') Savage, 'PINDI' '36	£ 5.00
J. L. Wadey	£ 5.00
G. J. Feaks	£ 5.00
Maj D. Lavender	£ 4.20
	£466.70

REUNIONS

BURMA STAR ASSOCIATION—BLACKPOOL AND FYLDE BRANCH—BLACKPOOL WEEKEND 1991

A Burma Star weekend is being held in Blackpool on 21, 22 and 23 June. This is an event for members, families and their friends. Further information from the Hon Sec **Mr J. F. Nield** (RSA Member), 188 Whitegate Drive, Blackpool FY3 9HJ. Tel: Blackpool (0253) 63134.

33 CORPS SIGNALS (SEAC) ASSOCIATION

The next Annual Dinner of this Association is to be held on Saturday 12 October 1991, at 7.30pm, at The Victory Club, 63-79 Seymour Street, London, under the Presidency of **Col G. J. C. Moss MBE**. Any former member of 33 Corps Signals (in any of its guises) not already in touch who is interested in attending can obtain full details from Ken Brown, 12 Bennett Road, Brighton, Sussex BN2 5JL (Tel: 0273-608065).

Last year 23 people attended this enjoyable occasion.

529 REAR LINK SIGNALS

Sgt William Saunders who served with the above unit in MEF, attached 2nd Polish Corps would like to get in touch with anyone who may remember him. Please write c/o **Mr A. D. Edmunds**, Chalkpit Nursery, Chalkpit Lane, Burnham, Bucks SL1 8NH. **Mr Saunders** is now living in America.

HIGH SPEED WIRELESS SECTIONS—ARMY CHAIN SECTIONS KANDY—HORA HENA—EKALA

The Reunion this year will take place on Friday 25 October at the Belmont Hotel, Leicester. Cost £16 per person to include Buffet Supper and 'Trio'—7pm to 1am. Rooms (en suite) available for overnight stay or weekend break at a specially negotiated rate of £22 per person, per night. Last year 95 people attended this thoroughly enjoyable get-together including **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL** and **Mrs Badcock**. It is hoped that everyone who served in these units will attend this year's reunion. We promise you a fun evening. For further particulars write to **Mr Harry Moore**, 1 Blue Granite Park, The Green, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire LE12 7AG (Tel: 0533 375423.

7th ARMD DIV OFFICERS' CLUB

The annual dinner this year will be held at the Naval and Military Club (In and Out) 94 Piccadilly, London W1 on Tuesday 29 October 1991. For further information please contact **Maj Christopher Milner MC**, Mill Lane, Radford, Inkberrow, Worcester WR7 4LP.

HONG KONG REUNION

28 November-12 December 1991

For ex POW's, all military and other personnel who have served in Hong Kong, their family and friends.

Christmas Day 1941: The Japanese take Hong Kong

50 years on and you are invited to a grand reunion in the colony

Revisit old haunts—meet again old friends. Discover the delights of modern-day Hong Kong, vastly changed from your own time there.

Our 14 night inclusive package offers you a chance of being part of this exclusive gathering.

Cost: £1,098 per person

Includes:

- **flights on the scheduled services of Hong Kong's own airline, Cathay Pacific**
- **accommodation for 12 nights at the Park Lane Hotel on Hong Kong Island**
- **full American breakfast daily**
- **Welcome Cocktail Reception**
- **Grand Farewell Cocktail cruise and dinner/dance**
- **sightseeing tours**

and much more.

Early booking is essential—full details are available now contact:

The Royal British Legion Pilgrimage Department, The Royal British Legion Village, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7NX. Tel: (0622) 716729 (716182)

NEW KENT BRANCH

From: Maj Gen John Badcock CB MBE DL

Following upon an excellent presentation of the part played by the Corps in the Gulf War by **Lt Col Hamish Adams**, COS 2 Sig Bde to a gathering at the Canterbury Cricket Ground of over 100 past members of the Corps and their families and friends, it has been proposed that a new Branch of the R Signals Association should be formed in Kent.

If there are any readers of *The Wire* who would like to be associated with this Branch please write to me: **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL**, c/o RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD.

CAPT ALEX B. WALKER MSM

Older members of the Corps will remember **Alex Walker's** achievements as a Cross Country Runner before the war. In 1988 and 1989 he ran in the London Marathon and raised over £2,200 for British Heart Foundation. This year he will be setting out on a walk from John O'Groats to Land's End on 23 June, again raising sponsorship for British Heart Foundation. Congratulations and best wishes for a successful walk.

DEATHS

Brown—Lt Col M. B. M. Brown—served 1946-1974—died 13 May 1991.
Cathmoir—Maj R. S. Cathmoir MBE—served 1930-1966—died 12 May 1991.
Chandler—Sig F. A. Chandler—served 1950-52—died 16 March 1991.
Eve—Maj F. Eve—served 1939-81—died 15 March 1991.
Hayler—Capt P. D. Hayler—served 1951-78—died 5 November 1990.
Remmer—WO2 (RQMS) S. Remmer—served 1947-68—died 2 April 1991.
Weedall—In Pensioner (Cpl) J. M. Weedall—served 1940-63—died 5 May 1991.

OBITUARIES

Connell—Arthur James Connell served as a Sergeant in 'C' Cable Section, 42 Div Sig at Dunkirk and throughout the Siege of Malta.

Founder member of Oldham and District Branch RSA and past Chairman. Also a member of the Manchester Branch RSA. Died 21 March 1991. His funeral was attended by 20 members of several local ex-service organisations and 8 Standards were paraded.

Arthur and his happy smile will be sadly missed by all who knew him—his family, his very many ex-service comrades, and his wide circle of business friends.

Pollitt—Sig S. A. Pollitt. It is with great regret that 8 Sig Regt report the death of **Steven Andrew Pollitt** on 19 March 1991 aged 17 years and 11 months. He collapsed after a run and despite efforts by **Cpl Revill, Sig Tait** and **Pte Jeffries** to revive him, **Steven** was dead on arrival at hospital.

Steven joined the Corps as a Junior Leader at the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate in July 1989. He arrived in 3 Sqn, 8 Sig Regt in August 1990 and after a period at ASMT Leconfield and in Delta Tp, **Steven** joined course OR850BR on 18 March 1991.

Steven was always cheerful; his approach to sea sickness during his introduction to offshore sailing is but one example. A fit young man **Steven** played football and rugby for the Squadron. Always keen to have a go, his latest hobby was skiing. He set a good example to his peers and his potential for an excellent career was curtailed by his untimely death. A happy, loyal and smart young man, **Steven** will always be remembered with affection and sadly missed by all who knew him. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Savage—Maj W. C. Savage. Older members of the Corps will be saddened to learn of the death of **William Savage** on 19 March 1991 at his home in Cardiff, just before his 94th birthday. **William Savage** enlisted into RE Signals in 1914 having advanced his age by one year, transferred to the Corps on its formation and retired in 1948 after 34 years service. His widow will be remembered by ''Pindi wallahs' 1935-40 for her generous hospitality. We send our sincere condolences to **Mrs Savage** and to the family.

Way—Maj John Way joined the Corps in 1925. After 10 years service in India he served in Western Command HQ and later in the War Office. Upon his retirement he settled in North Walsham, Norfolk. He joined the RSA in 1929 and took an active interest in it all his life. He formed the Croydon Branch and played a part in the formation of the Norfolk Branch.

He died on 28 November 1990. Sympathies are extended to his wife **Edith** and to the family.

Cooper—Keith William Cooper. It is with great regret that we announce the death of **Keith William Cooper** on 24 March this year. **Keith** joined the Corps in 1960 after a four year apprenticeship as a Turner and Fitter. He trained as a Radio Technician (Heavy) and saw service in Singapore (with COMCAN), Germany, Northern Ireland and UK, initially as a Workshop technician and later as a Shift Superintendent and Workshop Supervisor in the rank of Sergeant.

In 1982 he left active service and was appointed as an Instructional Officer in the Trade Training School, 8 Sig Regt and continued in this capacity until his death. He was employed mainly with Upgrading Courses and as a Courseware Developer. In addition to his successful career with the Corps, both in uniform and latterly as a Civil Servant, he had a notable involvement with sailing and held a Skipper's ticket.

He will be greatly missed by his many friends in the Catterick area. His death at an early age after a long illness borne with courage and dignity is a considerable loss to the Corps. Our sincere sympathies are extended to his family.

Hendry—WO2 M. Hendry. It is with regret that we announce the death of **WO2 Hendry** which occurred on 26 April 1991. He joined the Corps in 1932 trained as a Lineman and served for 22 years. After he left the army he followed a second career with the GPO. He represented the Corps at Football in Egypt. We send condolences to his widow.

LETTERS

From: Mr Reg Briggs (ex Cpl)
Dear Sir,

North Africa and Korea

From one who again gets great enjoyment from reading *The Wire*, the 'letters' page is of interest and I was glad to read one from Korean veteran **Mr Peter Baldwin** in December issue. Korea is known as the forgotten war, yet there were some five million casualties both civilian and military from this war that dragged on for many years. These men did not come back to a hero's welcome, the word was not used so much then. The enclosed photograph of a troop of OWL's (Operator Wireless and Line) was taken in Tripoli, North Africa about January 1951. The group shows both regulars and national servicemen including myself, an ex Harrogate boy, first on the left, kneeling.

Training in North Africa (Tripoli) before going to Korea

Within a week of this being taken we were asked by our CO 'would some of you like to volunteer to go to Korea?' Korea? some of us didn't even know where it was! Thinking I'm in the Army to see the world I was among those who volunteered. From Tripoli we went to Benghazi in Cyrenaica for more training and to join with 28 Fd Regt RE we were to be known as N Troop. Several weeks later we moved to Tobruk where we boarded the troop ship *Empire Orwell*, I feel this will stir up some memories. There was live firing on the way out. The trip took over a month with stops at Aden, Colombo, Singapore, Hong Kong then on to Pusan. From Hong Kong we had a naval escort, I think that was the first impression I had that we were going to war. On arrival at Pusan we had several weeks waiting for equipment to arrive, before moving up country to the 38th parallel.

It was to be almost 21 months before I returned to Pusan. During this time I had three spells in Field Hospitals, one English, one Canadian and one American, two spells in Japan on R & R or Rack and Ruin as we used to call it. I wanted to stay beyond my 21 months in Korea but the Major was adamant 'you are going home, you have done two winters out here'. Even so, I, and many others felt guilty about leaving our friends, I don't think you ever make friends in civvy street as you do in the services. I returned to England, again, on the *Empire Orwell*, but may I add here that the trip out to North Africa two years earlier had been on the Empress of Australia a 26,000 tonner with three large funnels, used to go to Malta then to Tripoli by naval craft. Does that bring back a few memories to some of you? I am a member of the BKVA British Korean Veterans Association and together with our wives some of us returned to Korea in 1985. What a wonderful reception we were all given. Also last year we went to Canada and met veterans from New Zealand, Australia, America and of course Canada. We paraded through the streets of Toronto and again were so well received. Since leaving the services I have also travelled to Australia, and New Guinea working for a siesmic company doing radio work. Today I work for Thomas Cook at their Peterborough Headquarters as a security control room operator. To conclude, the Royal Corps of Signals is a very fine Corps to belong

to, and even today at 59 years of age I am proud to wear the badge. The Lincolnshire Branch of the BKVA will be marching at Boston 28 April, the Normandy Veterans have asked us to march with them.

Yours faithfully,
Reg Briggs

9 Holmes Way Paston
Peterborough PE4 6XZ

From: Mr S. Brown
Dear Sir,

Capt Yahaya bin Haji Omar

During my 25 years service in the Corps I served for three years in Singapore. I served for a short time in 7 Med Wireless Tp, before being transferred to the RX Station at Amoy Quee and later (approximately 20 months) again transferred to the Signal Training Centre, 18 Sig Regt to serve out my tour (1957-60).

During my period in Amoy Quee I was in charge of the aerial fields in which I had working under me approximately 18/20 MOR's. I was the only BOR and I developed and pursued a fascination to learn the Malay language. I attended the various Malay courses in Nee Soom and later became Troop Sgt of Z Troop STC 18 Sig where I was the only BOR instructing MOR's in their own language. It was during this period I met and served with **Capt Yahaya bin Haji Omar**. As a student of the Malay language, he was, to put it mildly, a living example of a true Malay soldier.

It was while reading of his untimely death I got the urge to try and find out if there is any way possible of making contact with other MOR's as I would like to get in touch with former colleagues and renew old acquaintances.

If there are avenues that I may pursue I would be most grateful for any help. I was a constant visitor to many of their homes. However, all I possess are photographs and names.

Yours faithfully,
S. Brown (ex WO2)

35 Kingsway
Darlington
Co Durham DL1 3EY

From: A. B. Johnston
Dear Sir,

SINGAPORE FORTRESS SIGNALS

At the last FEPOW Reunion I met **'Cabby' Dunn** ex Fortress Signals as indeed I am, I am the instigator of a small 'News Letter' which keeps in touch some members of the above unit who were mostly taken prisoner. I am anxious to get in touch with others and wondered if you could help? For one thing is it possible to have a copy of *The Wire* related to 15 February 1942? In addition have you any information on those missing at that time? In particular have you any knowledge of **Claud Gamble, Robert Cave, Mr Nix, Robinson, Prime, Ross, Clayton**? I know this is a tall order but any help you can give will be appreciated.

Yours faithfully,
A. B. Johnston

Hunters' Lodge
Thetford Road
Coney Weston
Nr Barningham
Suffolk IP31 1DN

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: (071) 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.

Corps Goods Available from the Museum Shop, Blandford, Dorset DT11 8RH

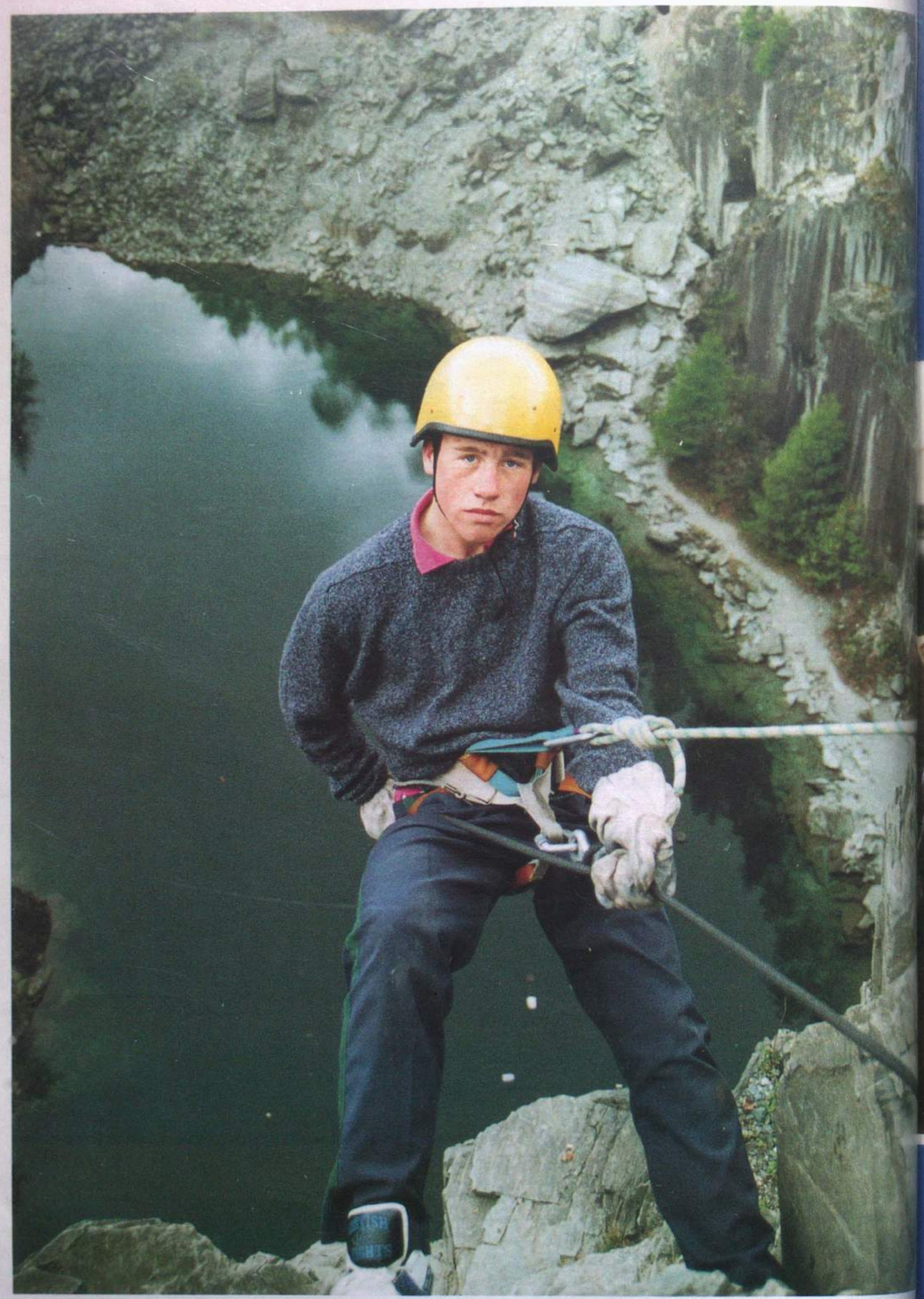
Telephone enquiries to Blandford Military (0258 452581) Ext 2248.

	UK £
Blazer Badge	8.05
Blazer Button—Large	1.80
Small	1.70
Belt, Italian leather, reversible Black/Brown engraved with Corps Badge	13.55
Bookmark	0.60
Brooch, white with gold Corps Badge	3.15
Cap Badge	2.55
Car Badge, 2" × 2", silver badge on enamelled Corps Colours	4.85
Clip board with Corps Crest	3.10
Cocktail mat set, six, blue acrylic with Corps Badge	11.15
Coasters, leather, set of 4, with Corps Crest	2.45
Corps Badge, on foil, framed and glazed, 11" × 9"	6.40
Corps Records and Cassettes—Information Sheet Available	6.20
Credit card holder, leather, with Corps Crest	3.55
Crystal Engraved with Corps Badge	
Brandy Glasses	9.80 ea
Brandy Glasses, Cut Crystal	15.60 ea
Sherry Glasses	7.40 ea
Whisky Glasses	8.45 ea
Whisky Glass, Cut Crystal	15.60 ea
Wine Goblets	9.20 ea
Decanters, Plain	51.70
Decanters, Cut Crystal	56.20
Bud Vase with engraved Corps Crest	19.45
Rose bowl 5½" diameter with engraved Corps Crest	25.00
Gilt Oval Cufflinks, engraved with Corps Badge	14.60
Deskblotter, leather, with Corps Crest	15.35
Hipflasks	14.85
11½" Jimmy, cast bronze, height including plinth	59.25
Keyrings—Bullet	1.30
Leather	0.55
Corps (enamelled Corps Badge, with leather tag)	1.65
Corps Badge	1.30
Ladies Marcasite Brooch	26.60
New Ladies Scarf, Dark Blue with White Jimmy in one corner	10.75
Lapel Badge (Association members only)	2.25
New Medal Holder	2.05
Medal Print	4.60
Mug, white china with Corps Badge in blue	2.30
Pendants, white with gold Corps Badge	4.30
Pennant, embroidered Corps Badge with gold trimming	28.10
Presentation Pennant on metal stand	15.35
Postcard Set	2.05

Prints:	Unsigned	Signed
Frontier Ambush	10.00	16.00
Smith George Cross	10.00	16.00
Palace Guard	10.00	16.00
Imphal Road	10.00	16.00
Dhofar Incident	10.00	16.00
Catterick Parade 1987	10.00	16.00
Photoprints		16.00
Statuette, 6½" Pewter Royal Signals Soldier with SA80 rifle (by BARTON)		26.00
Statuette, Royal Signals Officer in Full Dress (9" tall)		59.25
New Statuette, Royal Signals Soldier with SA 80 Rifle 9"		59.25
Silver Plated Teaspoons with Corps Crest		2.75
Sticker, Corps Badge on Corps Colours, good quality — Large		0.50
Medium		0.50
Small		0.45
Stickpin, 9 carat gold, Corps Badge, can be used as brooch/tie pin		66.45
Stickpin, sterling silver Corps Badge, can be used as brooch/tie pin		17.60
New Sports/Leisure Wear, Excellent Quality, various sizes/colours		
Sweat Shirts with embroidered Corps Badge		14.05
Sport Shirts with embroidered Corps Badge		13.50
V/Neck Sweater with embroidered Corps Badge		15.75
Tablemat set, six, blue acrylic with Corps Badge		31.30
Tablemat, large 15" × 11½", blue acrylic with Corps Badge		9.80
Tankard, 1pt, Polished pewter, lightweight with Corps Badge		15.60
Tankard, ½pt, Polished pewter, lightweight with Corps Badge		12.55
New Tea towel Blue Signals Design on White Background		2.80
Thimble, Bone China with Corps Badge, Gift Boxed		2.75
Tie, Corps colours in polyester, 3" width		5.65
Tie, Corps colours in Pure Silk, 3" width		11.20
Umbrella, golf size, Corps Colours		14.65
Wall plaque, 'Royal Corps of Signals', shield, 6" × 7"		12.40
Watch strap, Corps Colours, Nylon		1.45

These prices reflect the recent increases in the cost of UK post and packaging

Overseas orders will be less VAT, ie less 14.89%
Bulk orders from PRI's will attract a discount



THE wire

The Royal Signals Magazine

August 1991

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.

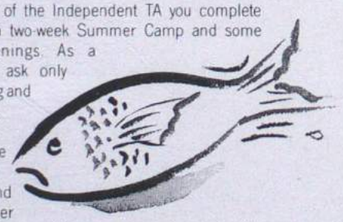
There are three options open to you.

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

August 1991 Vol. 45 No: 4

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The Wire

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Editor Lt Col M. Q. M. Greaves
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:

OBE
Lieutenant Colonel C. J. Burton

MBE
Major (QGO) Balkrishna Rai MVO BEM Queen's Gurkha Signals

BEM
Staff Sergeant J. D. Coles
Staff Sergeant F. E. Small
Sergeant A. M. Millard
Sergeant Dhanbahadur Thapa Queen's Gurkha Signals
Corporal R. G. Blythe
Corporal J. D. Bryant
Corporal A. W. Rankin

GRANBY OPERATIONAL AWARDS

CB
Major General J. O. C. Alexander OBE

MBE
Major C. M. Eastland
Major N. P. Harrison
Major T. J. Hendren
Major R. C. Hood
Major L. A. Jeffery
Major M. S. Olive
Major R. J. Steed
Captain G. Harwood
WO2 J. P. Dempsey
WO2 K. A. Townsend

OBE
Lieutenant Colonel J. E. F. Kirby

BEM
Staff Sergeant J. L. Andrews
Staff Sergeant J. G. Bincliffe
Staff Sergeant G. B. Hawkins
Staff Sergeant P. A. Horton
Staff Sergeant M. D. Kelly
Staff Sergeant P. Richardson
Sergeant P. M. Boon
Sergeant K. R. Hibbins
Sergeant J. W. Letford
Corporal P. J. Bruce
Corporal J. D. Harvey
Lance Corporal P. C. Gibbons
Lance Corporal S. N. Meadowcroft
Lance Corporal R. Mundell

MENTION IN DESPATCHES
Captain D. G. Halstead
Captain M. J. Prodger
Captain R. A. Sharp

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OUR COVER PICTURES

Our Front Cover: HRH speaking to Cpl Richard Harley during the Regimental Tattoo held by 35 Sig Regt (V) at Drayton Manor Park.
Picture by The Birmingham Post & Mail

Our Back Cover: Sig Ian Tait, 238 Sig Sqn, lowers the flag to signify the Queen has left Buckingham Palace for Horseguards Parade and Trooping the Colour ceremony.
Picture by LCpl Michael Winning

– From our "In" Tray –

PRINCESS ROYAL DAY 28 JUNE 1991

The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, DL** sent the following message to our Colonel in Chief.

'On the occasion of Princess Royal Day, 28 June 1991, The Master of Signals and all ranks of The Royal Corps of Signals, serving and retired, send to their Colonel in Chief, Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal GCVO, their best wishes, affectionate greetings and their thanks for Her kindness and devotion to Her Corps.'

The following reply was received from the Colonel in Chief.

'I send my warm thanks and very best wishes to the Master of Signals and all ranks of the Royal Corps of Signals, serving and retired, for their kind message of best wishes and affectionate greetings on the occasion of Princess Royal Day, 28 June 1991.'

35 SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)
ROYAL TATTOO—DRAYTON MANOR PARK
VISIT OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE PRINCESS ROYAL GCVO

On the morning of Saturday 11 May Drayton Manor Park was packed with thousands of visitors as the Regiment anxiously awaited the arrival of the Colonel in Chief. Members of the Regiment manning the various static displays made final alterations to their stands whilst constantly adjusting their dress—the air was tense, the RSM cracked a joke—nobody laughed; this was an important day and everyone wanted to make sure the visit of the Princess Royal went without a hitch. At 1500 hours the Royal Helicopter arrived and Her Royal Highness was received by the Vice Lord Lieutenant for the County of Staffordshire, **Col F. W. James OBE, TD, DL**. He escorted the Colonel in Chief to the main arena and presented various civilian and military dignatories to Her Royal Highness, including the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, DL**, the SOinC, **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook**, the Honorary Colonel, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB MBE** the GOC Western District, **Maj Gen P. R. F. Bonnet CB, MBE** Comd 11 Sig Bde (V), **Brig C. T. Garton** and **Lt Col Brian Foxon**, CO 35 Sig Regt. Of historical interest when the Princess Royal arrived at Drayton Manor Park she became the first official royal visitor to the park since Queen Victoria, nearly 150 years ago when the estates owner was **Sir Robert Peel**.

The Colonel in Chief then moved on to visit the Regimental static displays, which were imaginatively designed by each Squadron to exhibit the training and other activities that take place throughout the Regiment on a daily basis, and to meet members of the Regiment and their families. Her Royal Highness was clearly amused when she was offered a sample of compo from **Cpl Richard Harley** who is serving with 89 Sig Sqn (V). Following the visit to the static displays the RSM, **WO1 John Hyde** presented Sergeants' Mess members and their wives to Her Royal Highness in the Marquee. Her Royal Highness viewed entertaining displays by the White Helmets, the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) Corps of Drums and, finally, a rather dramatic and exciting Regimental Landrover/Obstacle Race which was won by HQ Sqn minus their wooden plank, closely followed by 89 Sqn (who remembered theirs). Before leaving the display area the Colonel in Chief met members of the Regiment involved in providing communications and electrical power supplies in support of the Tattoo.

After a short period of rest the Colonel in Chief attended an Officers' Mess Cocktail Party at the Tower Ballroom with Regimental Officers, their ladies and guests of the Regiment, this was followed by a Playing of Retreat ceremony by the Corps Band.

This very special, memorable and hugely successful visit and unrepeatable, families day ended all too soon at 1900 hours.

Maj Helen James presenting her husband Maj John James to the Colonel in Chief

HRH chatting to serving family members of the Regiment
L to R: LCpl Heath and Pte Clair Turner and WO2 Clive Winstanley

ROYAL SIGNALS RECRUITING AND PUBLICITY EVENTS AUGUST-DECEMBER 1991

DATE		
August		
1-4	KAPE, Inverness	Quicksilver, TGRIT
2-4	Regents Park Bandstand	Corps Band
3	RAF Open Day, Catterick	White/Blue Helmets
	Kent Police Day, Maidstone	44 Sig Sqn
3-4	Bristol Harbour Regatta	37 Sig Regt (V)
4	Branscombe Carnival, Dorset	30 Sig Regt RIT
5	Charlestown Regatta, Plymouth	30 Sig Regt RIT
5-11	KAPE, Aberdeen	Quicksilver, TGRIT
7	Bingley Show, Halifax	Blue Helmets
8	Okehampton Show, Devon	30 Sig Regt RIT
10-11	Yeovil Festival of Transport	30 Sig Regt RIT
	Norwich Truck Festival	36 Sig Regt (V)
10-11	Derby City Council, Markheaton Park	White Helmets
12-13	Lyneburn Park, Dunfermline	TGRIT
12-19	KAPE, Dundee	Quicksilver
13-14	Anglesey Show, Wales	White Helmets
13-15	Burnham Military Days, Burnham-on-Sea	30 Sig Regt RIT
15-16	Challenge Group, Greenock	Blue Helmets
17-18	Darlington Show	34 Sig Regt (V)
17-18	Hartlepool Show	Blue Helmets
17	Mid-Somerset Show, Shepton Mallet	30 Sig Regt RIT
	Adlington Carnival	White Helmets
17-18	King George VI Show, Leven	TGRIT
18	West Park Fund Day, Macclesfield	Blue Helmets
	Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show	White Helmets, 30 Sig Regt RIT
18	Sunderland Show	White Helmets
21	Gillingham & Shaftesbury Show	White Helmets
24	Wensleyside Show	Blue Helmets
24-26	Traction Rally, Harewood House, nr Harrogate	TGRIT
	North Devon Traction Rally, Barnstaple	30 Sig Regt RIT
25-26	Eye Show, Berkshire	White Helmets
	East Durham Show	Blue Helmets
	Noel Edmunds Helifest '91, Duxford, nr Cambridge	36 Sig Regt (V), Quicksilver
31	Llanelli Flower Festival	White Helmets
	Teesside Show, nr Yarm On Tees	Blue Helmets, TGRIT
September		
1	Llanelli Flower Festival	White Helmets
	Nottingham Show	Blue Helmets
	Teesside Show, nr Yarm On Tees	Blue Helmets, TGRIT
1-4	Light Water Valley or Eden Vale	Quicksilver
5	Benggot High School, Eden Vale	Quicksilver
	Bucks County Show, Aylesbury	White Helmets
7	Shepway Festival, Folkestone	White Helmets
	Dorchester Agricultural Show	30 Sig Regt RIT
7-8	Milton Keynes Show	Blue Helmets
7-14	Shepway Festival, Folkestone	TGRIT
8	Drivex '91, Silverstone	White Helmets
9-13	JDS RN Show, Arbroath	Quicksilver
13-15	Cadets Cambrian Patrol Competition, Cwrt-y-gollen Camp	7 Sig Regt
14-15	Bike Festival, Yeovil	White Helmets
19	The Thame Show	White Helmets
21	Barnstaple Festival, Devon	30 Sig Regt RIT
21	Peterlee Carnival	White Helmets
21	Peterlee Carnival	Blue Helmets, 34 Sig Regt (V)
27-30	Darlington Railway Rally	TGRIT
28	Bryanston School Charities Fayre, Blandford	30 Sig Regt RIT
October		
8-9	Drivex '91, Silverstone	White Helmets
12	RAF Linton On Ouse	White Helmets
16-17	Showman's Show, Newbury	White/Blue Helmets
November		
9	Lord Mayor's Show, London	265(KCLY) Sig Sqn, 68(ICCY) Sig Sqn
21	Exeter Lights (Noddy Train)	30 Sig Regt RIT
December		
6	Plymouth Lights (Noddy Train)	30 Sig Regt RIT

KEY
TGRIT = Training Group RIT
KAPE = Keep the Army in the Public Eye

The calendar is accurate at the time of going to press but you are advised to contact the Units concerned to ensure that there have been no changes before embarking on long journeys. Confirmation and information can be obtained from the Units concerned on the following numbers:

Display Teams	(0748) 832521 Ext 2556
(White/Blue Helmets, Quicksilver, TGRIT) Corps Band	(0258) 452581 Ex 2445
30 Sig Regt	(0258) 452581 Ext 2558
71 Sig Regt (V), 68 Sig Sqn, 70 Sig Sqn, 256 Sig Sqn	(0322) 529225
34 Sig Regt (V)	(0642) 232626
36 Sig Regt (V) (44 Sig Sqn)	081-478 1941
37 Sig Regt (V)	(0272) 519898
5 (AB) Bde HQ & Sig Sqn	(0252) 349503

COLONEL IN CHIEF WITH THE BAND

HRH The Princess Royal GCVO talks to musicians of the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals at a reception at St James's Palace to mark the launch of the Royal Tournament 1991.

Her Royal Highness is a Patron of the Royal Tournament which was held at Earls Court from 10-27 July. The Corps Band was the resident band this year.

SSgt Brian Resoun was awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year Honours List; he received his medal from **HRH The Duchess of York** when Her Royal Highness visited Headquarters Western District to declare the Barracks open after a major rebuild.

L to R: Miss Dawn Resoun, Mrs Sheila Resoun, Her Royal Highness The Duchess of York, SSgt Brian Resoun BEM and Miss Suzanne Resoun

Photo by: Peter Griffths Llanwddyn Powys

SON OF VICTORIA CROSS HOLDER VISITS GURKHA MUSEUM

LCpl Chandra Prakash Limbu, Queens Gurkha Signals is pictured at the Gurkha Museum in Winchester where photographs and his father's medals are on display. He is the son of **Capt Rambahadur Limbu VC, MVO** who won his VC as a LCpl with the 10th Gurkha Rifles in Borneo and is now serving with the Sultan of Brunei's Forces.

the rear link detachment of the 1st Battalion 2nd King Edward VIIs own Gurkha Rifles in Church Crookham. Two weeks after his return to The Queens Gurkha Signal Regiment in Hong Kong he is posted again. This time to join his father in Brunei.

Photo: Courtesy of Soldier magazine.

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS GAMES CLUB ON CORPS SPORT FOR WINTER SEASON 1990/91

Not surprisingly, Op Granby has had a considerable effect on all Corps sport this winter. Many inter corps matches were cancelled and the absence of some of our Top Level Sportsmen on operations has led to a lower number of team champions this season than is usual. Skiing, where 22 Sig Regt finished only seventh in the Princess Marina Cup, Squash where the Corps Team was relegated from the Inter Corps 1st Division and Canoeing where 16 Sig Regt were unable to defend their Army Championship were particularly badly effected. However, despite these problems 16 Sig Regt are the Army Basketball Champions and the Corps Basketball Team was only narrowly beaten by four points by the APTC in the Inter Corps Competition Final. In Cross Country, 1 Armd Div Sig Regt are the Army Team Relay Champions and the School of Signals was Runner up in the Army Cross Country Championship. 21 Sig Regt was unfortunately unable to retain their hold on the Army Squash Championship losing to the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich and the Army Apprentice College Harrogate finished as runners up in the Army Minor Units Rugby Championship.

Events in the Gulf notwithstanding, there have been many excellent individual performances. On the Rugby pitch, **Sgt E. Atkins** (AA College Harrogate) has played for Yorkshire and was a member of their losing team at Twickenham in the County Final against Cornwall and **LCpl K. Bowling** (30 Sig Regt) has represented the Dorset and Wilts County XV. At Cross Country, **Sgt J. Martin** (School of Signals) retained his Inter Service Marathon title at Swinderby and **WO1 T. Mortlock** (32 Sig Regt (V)) is the Army Veteran Cross Country Champion. On the ski slopes, **LCpl Crawford** (22 Sig Regt) has been selected for the Army and Combined Services Alpine Team and **Sgt Anderson** and **Sig Bell** (both of 22 Sig Regt) have been selected as Trainer and member of the National Junior Biathlon Squad respectively.

Despite 16 Sig Regt being unable to defend their Army Canoeing Championship, **Capt Jackson** is the Army Slalom Champion and continues as the British Olympic Sprint Team Manager and **Sgt Dobson** of 16 Sig Regt finished runner up in the individual events at the Army Championship. **Cpl S. Sharp** (264 Sig Sqn) has had another excellent year and is the current Inter Service Orienteering Champion. Finally, many congratulations to **Sgt A. Higgins** of 2 Inf Div HQ Sig Regt who has been awarded the distinction of 'Army Player of the Year' by the Army Football Association.

– Movements –

OFFICERS

JUNE 1991

Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col J. R. B. Cook	RMCS
Lt Col C. D. Melhuish	RAC Centre
Lt Col J. A. Wraith	HQ BAOR
Maj R. A. Baker	NCS Latina
Maj A. B. Gould	DSS (A)
Maj D. R. Heyes	241 Sig Sqn
Maj R. R. Holmes	MOD DG Pol & SP
Maj A. L. Pearce	MOD DGGWLS
Maj R. G. Thomas	DSS (A)
Capt J. S. Adams	School of Signals
Capt R. S. Appleton	School of Signals (Course)
Capt D. R. Davey	21 Sig Regt
Capt E. A. Davis	633 Sig Tp
Capt I. G. Lawrence	28 Sig Regt
Capt R. W. Lockwood	28 Sig Regt
Capt D. J. Lumb	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt N. C. Mapp	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
Capt L. J. Mitchell	11 Sig Regt
Capt R. G. G. Bewsher	21 Sig Regt
Lt M. S. McGinty	28 Sig Regt
2Lt A. D. Cathro	School of Signals (Course)
2Lt D. C. Gaul	School of Signals (Course)
2Lt K. Mannings	School of Signals (Course)
2Lt J. W. Merritt	School of Signals (Course)
2Lt C. Moroom	School of Signals (Course)
2Lt J. Palmer	School of Signals (Course)
2Lt M. D. Wood	School of Signals (Course)

JULY 1991

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col P. R. Brewis	School of Signals
Lt Col J. F. Higton	HQ 4 Sig Gp
Lt Col R. M. J. Hussey	HQ 2 Sig Bde
Lt Col D. J. Wills	7 Sig Regt
Maj A. J. Bowering	HQ BAOR/HQ BRSC
Maj R. V. J. Brannigan	7 Sig Regt
Maj D. J. Case	14 Sig Regt
Maj G. Clark	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj M. A. Coupar	28 Sig Regt (Northag)
Maj M. N. Johnston	Queen's Gurkha Signals
Maj C. W. Lockwood	11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Maj A. D. J. McVeigh	21 SAS (V)
Maj R. C. Papworth	63 Sig Sqn (SAS) (V)
Maj A. Russell	11 Sig Regt
Maj C. H. Turner	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt B. K. Billsberry	HQ 2 Sig Bde
Capt R. Carty	13 Sig Regt
Capt M. J. Fenson	244 Sig Sqn
Capt P. W. Glibbery	16 Sig Regt
Capt A. G. Hooley	HQ Trg Gp R Signals
Capt A. P. Hudson	HQ 6 Armd Bde
Capt N. A. W. Pope	9 Sig Regt
Capt M. Stapleton	11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Capt D. Z. Tarrant	35 Sig Regt (V)
Capt A. G. Taylor	240 Sig Sqn
Lt K. Atkinson	AA Coll Harrogate
Lt P. Bosher	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt A. J. Botterill	22 Sig Regt
Lt A. D. E. Cameron	11 Sig Regt
Lt T. J. Carmichael	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt P. S. Cubbin	7 Sig Regt
Lt D. Drinkall	30 Sig Regt
Lt W. D. Fathers	Queen's Gurkha Signals
Lt P. A. Harlow	30 Sig Regt
Lt N. J. Makepeace	244 Sig Sqn
Lt S. R. Mannings	30 Sig Regt
Lt S. J. McConnell	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt S. Moffat	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt C. S. K. Paterson	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt A. S. Saddington	7 Sig Regt
Lt D. G. Wadsworth	AA Coll Harrogate
Lt K. P. H. Wheeler	8 Sig Regt
Lt F. E. R. Whichelo	5 (AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
2Lt R. S. Gibson	7 Sig Regt
2Lt R. J. Lovett	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt K. McKenzie	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt N. M. Peet	244 Sig Sqn
2Lt R. D. W. Rumsey	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt G. J. Williams	22 Sig Regt
2Lt G. W. Wilson	7 Sig Regt

SNCOs and SNCOs

JUNE 1991

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 S. Armitage	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO1 (YofS) K. A. Townsend	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
AWO1 (YofS) J. R. Tyreman	QG Sig Regt
AWO1 (FofS) P. Wilson	School of Signals
WO2 K. A. Jones	Cambridge UOTC
WO2 R. Patrickson	East Midlands UOTC
AWO2 T. W. Potter	14 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) M. P. Wedge	243 Sig Sqn
AWO2 G. G. A. Reith	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO2 (FofS) S. G. P. Whiteford	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
AWO2 G. Woodcock	22 Sig Regt
SSgt M. Bonham	259 Sig Sqn
SSgt M. P. Boyle	229 Sig Sqn
SSgt P. J. Callery	HQ BAOR
SSgt M. J. Cole	259 Sig Sqn
SSgt (FofS) P. A. Cooper	QG Sig Regt
SSgt G. R. Greaves	38 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt D. Greaves	5 (AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
SSgt (YofS) D. R. Leaning	249 Sig Sqn
SSgt R. R. Petrie	32 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt D. R. Randle	13 Sig Regt
SSgt R. W. Skelland	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt B. A. Smallman	21 Sig Regt
SSgt S. R. Stevenson	16 Sig Regt
SSgt M. L. Strefford	HQ AFNORTH
SSgt J. Stubley	34 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt S. L. Tiffen	Comms & Sy Gp
SSgt (FofS) J. Whitmore	15 Sig Regt
ASSgt D. J. Carr	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt K. J. Mardling	608 Sig Tp
ASSgt R. Mason	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt S. R. Tatman	662 Sig Tp
Sgt C. N. Bell	RARDE (PE) (AE)
Sgt C. Collins	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt K. P. Curtin	28 Sig Regt
Sgt H. R. Evans	Comms and Sy Gp
Sgt M. W. Gould	Comms and Sy Gp
Sgt A. Harbord	30 Sig Regt
Sgt A. Hartwell	22 Sig Regt
Sgt M. E. G. Heelan	7 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Henley	11 Sig Regt
Sgt M. C. Hoodless	HQ AFCENT
Sgt R. Horne	13 Sig Regt
Sgt P. A. Jeffries	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt G. A. Jones	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt I. J. Lee	22 Sig Regt
Sgt G. N. Maher	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt A. McLean	21 Sig Regt
Sgt A. B. Morton	30 Sig Regt
Sgt S. R. Osman	NORTHAG Air Sp Radio Sqn
Sgt R. J. Platt	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt I. Power	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt F. E. Roberts	244 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. E. J. Ruff	JCUFI
Sgt G. Terry	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt C. Turner	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt K. P. Vickers	36 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt G. L. Whale	HQ 4 Sig Gp
Sgt J. B. M. Wood	9 Sig Regt
ASgt R. Davis	ACIO Brighton
ASgt S. E. Gallagher	50 MSL Regt

JULY 1991

Name and Rank	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 C. J. Bell	RSMRO
WO1 J. G. Chapman	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO1 D. Chrystal	9 Sig Regt
WO1 B. Cullen	36 Sig Regt (V)
WO1 (YofS) M. Finch	AA Coll Harrogate
WO1 P. H. Grainger	38 Sig Regt (V)
WO1 J. E. Marriott	Birmingham UOTC
WO1 R. F. Stonier	3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO1 D. Thomas	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO1 (YofS) S. J. Whytock	30 Sig Regt
AWO1 (YofS) P. R. Barron	14 Sig Regt
AWO1 (FofS) S. T. Manders	School of Signals
WO2 (FofS) D. O. Allen	28 Sig Regt
WO2 G. W. N. Bartlett	21 Sig Regt
WO2 S. R. Buxton	30 Sig Regt
WO2 P. D. Clifford	22 Sig Regt
WO2 P. J. Griffiths	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 N. March	HQ 11 Sig Bde
WO2 (FofS) D. L. B. Pickard	REME Data Centre
WO2 W. Watts	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 P. Williams	225 Sig Sqn
AWO2 (YofS) A. Patterson	22 Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) K. Sirr	5 (AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
AWO2 (FofS J. R. Waterson	16 Sig Regt
SSgt T. Davies	30 Sig Regt
SSgt S. H. Dobson	259 Sig Sqn
SSgt P. F. Flintham	SHAPE
SSgt R. Griffiths	35 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt W. D. McLean	238 Sig Sqn
SSgt P. L. Mellish	ACIO Manchester
SSgt (FofS) M. C. Milne	259 Sig Sqn
SSgt (YofS) R. K. Perry	21 Sig Regt
SSgt P. E. Preen	School of Signals
SSgt (YofS) K. Robinson	22 Sig Regt
SSgt L. J. Robinson	238 Sig Sqn
SSgt A. Scott	22 Sig Regt
SSgt C. F. Sear	633 Sig Tp
SSgt P. W. K. Sixsmith	16 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) G. E. Stratton	16 Sig Regt
SSgt K. L. Sykes	21 Sig Regt
SSgt S. Thompson	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt T. Wandless	34 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt P. Williams	225 Sig Sqn
ASSgt M. K. Alcock	22 Sig Regt
ASSgt R. C. Clair	22 Sig Regt
ASSgt I. Davies	16 Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) J. Doherty	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) J. M. W. Ewart	13 Sig Regt
ASSgt K. A. Fisher	14 Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) K. V. Fowler	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) M. W. Harris	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt B. P. Hayles	8 Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) L. Keily	Sennelager Trg Centre
ASSgt (YofS) J. R. Knight	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt R. A. Lee	28 Sig Regt
ASSgt J. B. Parkinson	8 Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) A. R. Rathmell	HQ 4 Sig Gp
ASSgt (YofS) A. Redman	28 Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) P. A. Rose	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) S. W. Slater	14 Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) M. H. Swiffen	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt J. R. Thomas	32 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt (YofS) G. Tomlinson	HQ AFCENT
Sgt M. S. Andrews	8 Sig Regt
Sgt S. I. Barclay	633 Sig Tp
Sgt P. A. Burton	22 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Conway	School of Signals
Sgt M. Culyer	8 Sig Regt
Sgt F. Dalton	Comms and Sy Gp
Sgt T. W. Davies	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt S. P. Davis	School of Signals
Sgt P. A. Ellis	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt A. Foster	7 Sig Regt
Sgt B. C. Foster	13 Sig Regt
Sgt J. J. Hitchens	7 Sig Regt
Sgt E. A. Hutchinson	16 Sig Regt
Sgt S. James	UNFICYP
Sgt R. G. Johnson	School of Signals
Sgt B. A. Knight	School of Signals
Sgt K. E. Langton	238 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. A. Lincoln	Comms and Sy Gp
Sgt G. T. Marsh	8 Sig Regt
Sgt D. B. Marshall	ACIO Wembley
Sgt R. Matthews	11 Sig Regt
Sgt S. C. Mayne	Depot Tp 11 Sig Regt
Sgt S. G. Metherell	School of Signals
Sgt K. Mitchell	633 Sig Tp
Sgt F. Moss	School of Signals
Sgt V. Murphy	633 Sig Tp
Sgt J. T. Oates	School of Signals
Sgt T. C. O'Neil	15 Sig Regt
Sgt T. Parle	21 Sig Regt
Sgt S. Parnell	8 Sig Regt
Sgt C. Quantick	9 Sig Regt
Sgt G. A. J. Renshaw	243 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. C. Reynolds	Comms and Sy Gp
Sgt M. Senior	11 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Skeith	13 Sig Regt
Sgt J. S. Speirs	Comms and Sy Gp
Sgt R. E. Stevenson	16 Sig Regt
Sgt P. A. Szczesiak	7 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Tate	8 Sig Regt
Sgt P. B. Taylor	21 Sig Regt
Sgt A. Tye	31 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt M. D. Walker	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. S. Whiting	16 Sig Regt
Sgt A. E. A. Winter	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt A. C. Wood	1 Staffords
ASgt P. N. Bridon	249 Sig Sqn
ASgt D. Linley	30 Sig Regt
ASgt M. D. Newns	15 Sig Regt
ASgt N. Wheatley	AA Coll Harrogate

NOTICES

CORPS DATES

Please make a note in your diary of the following events for 1991.

Friday 27 September—Corps Dinner in Scotland.

Tuesday 17 December—Corps Carol Service in London affiliated Church.

Royal Signals Institution Lecture 1991

on Thursday, 28 November 1991
at 5.30 pm for 6 pm

'Energy, the Environment and You'

Is the environment really under threat from Global Warming? What can we as individuals do about it?

by

Professor Ian Fells MA, PhD, Cantab, FEng, FInstE, FRSC, FIChemE (late Royal Signals), Professor of Energy Conversion, University of Newcastle upon Tyne

at the

London International Press Centre
76 Shoe Lane, London EC4 3JB

Applications for tickets should be made to: The Secretary, Royal Signals Institution, Regimental Headquarters Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD.

Admission by Ticket only

OLD WELBEXIAN ASSOCIATION REUNION DINNER 13 SEPTEMBER 1991

The OWA Reunion Dinner will be held at the HQ REME Mess, West Court on Friday 13 September 1991.

Dress will be Black Tie and timings are 1930 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 Ex 30.

Applications should arrive at least two weeks prior to the Dinner.

CORPS GLIDING—CLAIM FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Some financial assistance is available to R Signals glider pilots and hang glider pilots to offset the cost of the current seasons gliding. Any pilot wishing to claim is to make application to: **Maj A. O. Harkins,** Secretary Corps Gliding, 243 Sig Sqn, Clayton Block, Ward Barracks, Bulford Camp, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 9NA.

FOR SALE

ACE HIGH SHETLANDS

Plaques for the close down of the Ace High stations 'Maybury Club 1991', which are available for £10.00.

Plaques of the Ace High stations 'NATO FSS Shetlands', which are available for £8.00.

Pullovers, red in colour, with the motto 'FSS Shetlands', which are available for £6.00.

Cheques should be made payable to 'Central Bank Army HQ Scotland'.

Officers Mess Kit. New Jacket (worn once), Overalls, Waistcoat, Wellingtons (9½). Royal Signals Service Dress, Royal Signals No 4 Dress.

All to fit 6'1", chest 42"-44", inside leg 32". Contact: (0392) 64025.

Royal Signals Sword. EIIR Regimental Sword complete with unmarked scabbard, leather knot, frog, and soft lined case. Virtually new and in excellent condition. Current price over £900—offers in region of £520. Contact **A. J. Welch,** Telephone (0420) 63821.

LETTER

From: SSgt Wyndham R. Neish

Sir,

CORPS FOLKLORE

Thank you very much for a very funny and ingenious look into how the term Skaleyback was brought into the language of our Corps.

When the Corps was first formed from the Royal Engineers the only jobs befitting the then 'New Boys' were the tasks of the linemen and duty runners. As this was the lowest pay band in the Army of the day it was classed as Scale E. This as you can imagine soon became a jibe from the senior Corps of the RE, and the Corps of Signals became the Scaleys.

I'm afraid that the ideas of acid running down a soldier's back or ill fitting saddle bags sound too much like an Old Soldier's Tale to me.

Thank you both 2Lt S. Parsons and Woods for an otherwise super look into the past.

Yours faithfully,
W. R. Neish

14 Sig Regt
BFPO 23

(The writer is referring to the article which appeared on page 86, April issue).

If you are serving and have a standing order for THE WIRE please keep us well informed 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.

Government Communication Headquarters

Radio Officer

GCHQ requires experienced Radio Officers. If you are coming to the end of your time in the Services and are scheduled for discharge in the next 12 months and are looking for a career which will build on the training you have received, contact GCHQ. We require skilled and motivated staff, with a high sense of purpose, to study our communications across the whole spectrum, from DC to light. To qualify you require a minimum of 2 years recent and relevant radio operating experience. We would prefer you to be capable of reading morse at 20 wpm, but if not, full training will be given at our Training School.

For candidates without experience, you need to hold one of the following qualifications:

BTEC National Diploma (or HNC/HND) in a Telecommunications, Electronics Engineering or similar discipline.City and Guilds 777 (advanced level) or other qualifications incorporating morse skills would be advantageous, but not essential. MRGC or equivalent Radio Operating Certificate.

Age limit for experienced Radio Officers 18-45.
Age limit for candidates who do not possess the full range of skills 18-40.

When your training is completed you can look forward to:

- Good career prospects
- Competitive salaries (reviewed annually)
- Varied work (opportunities for moves within the UK and overseas)
- Generous leave allowance
- Job Security
- Non-contributory Pension Scheme

Training period: Between 29 and 52 weeks (depending on background and experience). **Salary** after training (over 5 years) £13,756-£19,998 with prospects for further promotions. Salaries include an allowance for shift and weekend working.

GCHQ is an equal opportunity employer
APPLICANTS MUST BE BRITISH NATIONALS

For further information and application form contact:
Recruitment Office, Room A/1108, GCHQ Priors Road, Cheltenham, Glos. GL52 5AJ or telephone (0242) 232912 or 232913

GCHQ

THE BLANDFORD TOWER HALF MARATHON

Saturday 14th September 1991

A Half Marathon in the Blandford Forum area starting and finishing in Blandford Camp.

SPONSORED BY

MANDRAKE ASSOCIATES LTD (INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISORS)

A FAMILY AND FUN DAY INCLUDING:

CHILDRENS EVENTS	PLUS
Junior U-14 — 2 mile race	Trampoline Bar-B-Q Raffle
Child U-10 — 1 mile race	Bouncing Castle
	Refreshments

FOR ENTRY FORM AND DETAILS CONTACT:

Race Secretary
Gymnasium
30 Signal Regiment
Blandford Camp
Dorset
DT11 8RH

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES 1 SEP 91

The Regular Forces Employment Association

What is the aim of the RFEA? The Association exists to give advice on resettlement to non-commissioned personnel of HM Forces and to assist them in finding employment.

How is the RFEA organised? It has a headquarters office in London and a network of 40 Employment Officers (EOs), all of whom are ex-Regulars, in Branches throughout the UK.

What kinds of jobs can the RFEA offer? The Association's EOs are in close contact with a large number of employers and with local offices of the Employment Service in their area. They are aware of job vacancies across the whole range of employment.

What do the RFEA's services cost? There is no cost to the serviceman/servicewomen or to the employer; the Association provides all its services free.

Who is eligible for the RFEA's service? Anyone who has served with good character in the non-commissioned ranks of HM Forces for a minimum of three years or less in the case of medical discharges.

How long may an ex-Regular use the RFEA's facilities after discharge? Provided that he/she retains his/her good character he/she can return to the RFEA at any time during his/her working life and the Association will have an obligation to help him/her.

Where do the RFEA's funds come from? The Association is a registered charity, receiving 80% of its finance as an annual grant from MOD and the remainder from Service benevolent funds.

How many service personnel does the RFEA help? The Association helps and advises almost 10,500 servicemen and women each year, and is successful in placing about half of them in employment.

How can a serviceman/servicewomen make contact with the RFEA? Following the final resettlement interview, a copy of Form ES828 is sent to the EO in serviceman's/servicewomen's future home area, who will then write inviting him/her to arrange an interview. Personnel are also invited to make contact with their local RFEA office before this, if convenient, eg during a visit home on leave. Those who attend a Final Resettlement Board will find that EO from the RFEA office serving their Unit is a member of the board.

Further information can be obtained from the Association's Head Office at 25 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2LN. Tel: 071-637 3918.

RHQ TELEPHONE NUMBERS

	London Dist	DDI-STD
Regimental Colonel	8333	071-414-8333
SO2 (Recruiting)	8444	071-414-8444
Regimental Secretary	8240	071-414-8240
Asst Regtl Secretary	8241	071-414-8241
Main Office RHQ	8242	071-414-8242
Fax—RHQ	8243	071-414-8243
Welfare Office	8244	071-414-8244
Welfare Office (Direct Line)	—	071-630-0801
Association Office	8245	071-414-8245
Editor's Office	8246	071-414-8246
Accountant	8239	071-414-8239
Accounts Office	8247/8	071-414-8247/8

REPORT FROM ULSTER

XV

15 Sig Regt
BFPO 801

RHQ

CO	**Lt Col G. M. S. Shipley**
2IC	**Maj J. P. Hudson**

Adjt **Capt F. P. Roberts**, AO/PRI **Capt A. D. Turner**, RSM **WO1 B. C. Howe**, ORQMS **WO2 R. W. Bousfield**, ORS **Sgt P. Lincoln**, ORC **Cpl P. Doidge**, Mov Clk **Cpl A. Bennie**, Clk **Pte S. Booth**.

We say thanks and fond farewells to **LCpl Geordie Glendinning** posted to 21 Sig Regt, **WO2 Paul Duffy** to BAOR and **SSgt Pete Callary** to HQ BAOR.

We welcome their replacements **WO2 Bob Bousfield, SSgt Graham Cottrell** from the Falkland Islands and **Cpl Paddy Doidge** who started off with a bang, firstly his pride and joy a Honda CRXi 1.6-16 V was reversed into but, not content with that, whilst attending early morning PT decided to break his tibia, ankle and dislocate his left foot. Welcome and we wish you a safe tour.

SUPPORT SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj M. S. W. Olive**
SSM	**SSgt (SSM) A. J. Bottomley**
Clerk	**Pte Taylor**

The date was 3 April, the time was 0715 hrs, the venue was the RSM's Parade.

The newly formed Support Squadron was on parade for the first time, led by **SSgt (SSM) Tony Bottomley**. The Squadron consists of RHQ, Comms Branch, QM Dept, MT, Comms Ops, Commcen Tp and NISS.

QUARTERMASTERS DEPARTMENT

QM	**Maj R. I. Buckley**
RQMS	**WO2 J. A. Burgess**

Staff **SSgt D. Leggat, Sgts K. Tunstall, K. Wightman, Cpls P. Haynes, C. Collin** and **Sig D. Gray.**

Friday afternoon dramas now start on Monday mornings which enables the department to plan for every fastball as we never get a slow one!

The QM **Maj Buckley** has got his first long weekend in. The RQMS is steadily growing greyer, but golf trips are still mentioned so things can not be that bad.

COMMCEN TROOP

The Troop has seen changes, the most recent was moving into the newly formed Support Sqn. We have gained a WO2 Yeoman in place of a SSgt and we have said farewell to the Tp SSgt although he is still within the Squadron as the a/SSM.

We wish **Cpl Lisa Cook** all the best on her RCB course in June and we are practising how to address her on successful completion. Congratulations go out to all the newly promoted personnel. They are **LCpls Roddie Hood, Paul Sweeney, Lynne Duncan, Gonzo Thomas** and **Cpl Anf Jeffries**; well done.

COMMS/OPS
PERSONALITIES

Ops Offr	**Maj Bob Holt**
Asst Ops Offr	**WO1 (YofS) Kev Doyle**

A Shift **Sgt Nigel Dixon, Cpl Geoff Buxton**, B Shift **Sgt Danny Thornton, Cpl Rob Allen**, C Shift **Sgt Mark Brunning, Cpl Taff Bowen**, MIS Manager **SSgt Stu Price**, (Asst) **LCpl Ros Rennie.**

We started with the inaugural Support Sqn social function which saw our leader **Maj Bob Holt** tripping the light fantastic. His side kick **WO1 (YofS) Kev Doyle** has been seen flitting in and out of Comms Branch complete with squash racquets, tennis racquets and talking about frequency pairings and talkthroughs on his way past.

On A Shift **Sgt Nige Dixon** continues to be the most employable TG Op around, having seen service with 264 and the Royal Artillery, he now considers his future as a matelot with a RCT cap badge. **Cpl Geoff Buxton** his No 2 claims it's the other shifts who eat the night rations.

Heading B Shift is our Man from Atlantis **Sgt Danny** (Adrian Moorhouse) **Thornton** who often has to swim his way (Wet Lisburn) to Comms Op. All is not lost as **Cpl Rob Allen** has seen the error of his ways and rejoined us from Civ Div, is always there and smiling now that **Michelle** has joined him.

Cpl Taff Bowen holds the reins in C Shift (our most experienced man) who after three years in Province is looking forward to his posting to York to join his family.

SSgt Stu Price our MIS manager has cleared his desk and moved to his own cosy little Portacabin joined by the ever smiling **LCpl Ros Rennie** as the assistant manageress. She has made it clear she does not wish to take the football training.

LCpl Chris Wells our illustrious Ops Clk/PTI has returned from three week's sick leave having spent just 10 days in MPH only to submit a three week leave pass for the USA. Finally our best wishes to the old team currently serving in 16 Sig Regt, 30 Sig Regt and 602 Sig Tp.

225 SIGNAL SQUADRON
A TROOP

The final stages of our merger with 15 Sig Regt have taken place recently, with the departure of the MT. The Squadron will miss them during the next athletics season! **Sgt Mick Tate** however, will not be around to see it blossom, as he is leaving for 8 Sig Regt. Also leaving us soon is **WO2 (SSM) Orange** on promotion. He will become the first one legged RSM in the Corps!

Welcome arrivals are **Cpls Steve Simpson,** and **John Hayden.** Admin Tp welcome the first lady in their midst, **LCpl Sian Stead.**

MERCURY CUP

Stage One of the Mercury Cup took place on a sunny Saturday morning in April (the only sunny day of the month).

All Corps units throughout the Province took part, with 15 Sig Regt entering three Squadron teams.

The competition consisted of Rugby, Basketball, Hockey and Football and all were keenly contested.

The Football competition came to a final game between 225 and 8 Bde, with both sides in with a chance of victory.

8 Bde thought that a win was all they needed, and we thought that we could afford to lose 0—1 and still top the league. Sure enough the game ended 0—1, to the bizarre sight of both sides celebrating winning the league! As it turned out our maths was a little better than our Northern cousins', and our triumph gave 225 overall victory in the Mercury Cup.

Special mention must be made of our 'highly experienced' Rugby team, whose commitment to the cause did them credit.

INDIA TROOP
MANAGEMENT

Tp Comd	**Capt Karen Osterburg**
Tp 2IC	**WO1 (YofS) Chris Pugh**

Tp SSgt **SSgt Gary Dodd**, FofS **SSgt (FofS) Mick Milne**, W Sect Manager **WO2 Tony Byrne**, V Sect Manager **SSgt Mick Brooks.**

The upgrading of equipments continues to keep the Troop extremely busy. The Ops area now looks like an electrical showroom. What do they do with all that packing?

We welcome **Sig Mark Jones** and his wife **Anna.** We all wish them a happy tour.

We say farewell to **Sgt Keith Geddes** who leaves us for civvy street and **LCpl Tony Ward** who thought it was time he put his feet up and went next door to Romeo Tp. **Mrs Sue Heaps** left us some time ago but has been patiently waiting for husband **Bob** to finish his time before they start growing webbed feet in Manchester. I'm sure the whole Troop would like to join me in wishing them every success for the future.

DAY BREAK FROM LISBURN
by **LCpl Jason Follin** and **Sig Ian Harper**

The day started with **Sig Steve Blakey** acquiring the biggest bin bag full of chops I'd ever seen. We then headed down to Ballykinler with two canoes in our backs for neck rests.

On arrival at Ballykinler the beach was already crowded and it was still only 1030 hrs. It was a beautiful day and it was not long before the tents were up and the barbecue was lit. Congratulations go to **WO2 Tony Byrne** and **Sgt Rob Hicks** who never moved from the barbecue stand all day; all that was missing were their pinnies.

After a three hour wait the transport, driven by **Sgt Keith Geddes**, arrived, exactly the time the first chops were ready. After demolishing the barbecue the day's activities started. It consisted of windsurfing, canoeing and water skiing, with football and volleyball and the landlubbers.

Most people had a go at either canoeing or windsurfing and all came back shivering especially **Sgt John Prowse** who had to be rescued and **Sig Steve Blakey** who somehow managed to get his ample bottom out of the canoe but then got his knees stuck. He promptly started to beat the water into a white froth but insists he didn't panic.

On the beach the seniors were 'trounced' at football, their only star being **Ritchie Byrne** who is only 14 years old.

By now it was tea time, so after polishing off the rest of the food everyone relaxed in the sun until 1900 hrs.

I hope everyone had a good day out, I know I did but then I was the barman!

Thanks go to **WO2 (RQMS) Smith** of UDR Depot, **Sgt Kenny** from Thiepval Barracks Restaurant, **WO1 (RSM) Ince** Tpt and Mov, who volunteered to be canoe instructor for the day, and our very own **WO2 (SSM) Jeff Williams** and **Sgt Pete Farrington** for arranging the windsurfing. Without their help the day would not have been the success it was.

ROMEO TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**WO1 (YofS) Stephen Whytock**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Brian White**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Ken Turley**

Work continues at a steady pace often punctuated by a dramatic increase. We provide a Province wide service of training and assistance in all areas, often at very short notice.

By the time these notes have been printed the Tp Comd will have handed over to **Capt Mark Billingham** who will also become the Squadron 2IC. We welcome **Capt Billingham** to the Troop and wish him a safe, successful tour! Also welcome to **Cpl Tim McLeod** from 30 Sig Regt and **LCpl Tony Ward** from India Tp.

We say farewell to **WO1 (YofS) Steve Whytock** who leaves us after nearly two years as Troop Comd, we wish him and his family the best of luck for his forthcoming tour with 30 Sig Regt. Farewells to **Sgt Ralph Johnson** to Blandford this time with the School, **Sgt Ian Pennel** to Blandford, again, on his Foremans course, good luck to him. Finally, **Sgt Pete Farrington** who is now the SQMS but leaves the Squadron shortly for Hereford. Thanks very much to you all.

233 SIGNAL SQUADRON
INSTALLATION SECTION
PERSONALITIES

SSgt Pete Warhurst, Sgts Paul Gorman, Bob Low, Crin Crinnion.

As usual the installations section is running things along the lines of the Chicago Red Socks, on account of the number of fast balls thrown in our direction from a number of sources.

Rigging Section have been developing a heavy bent towards the 70's fashion scene with **Sgt Paul Gorman** spearheading the return of flares and tank tops. Congratulations to **Sgt Hank Potts** on passing the Foremen's Board. Goodbye to **Sig Hall** who leaves us to go to a 'lower' job and hello to **LCpl Kalmar** who is joining us from civvy street after two years leave.

SQUASH
ARMY MAJOR UNITS—SQUASH KO COMPETITION

The Regiment has had quite a successful opening to the squash season. The squad managed to play their way through to the Quarter-Final of the Army Major Units Competition by beating the Northern Ireland Champions. The team narrlowly lost three games to two against SEE Arborfield.

NI LEAGUE PLAY-OFF

Having been runners up in their half of the NI Squash League Championships the team was automatically entered for the play-off phase to establish which team was to be the NI Champions for the season. This also included the Minor Units, RAF Aldergrove and UDR Bns.

The team managed a fine start by beating 33 (Ind) Sqn RE From Antrim. This was a superb effort as the Sappers had beaten the Regiment on two previous occasions. Notable victories were notched up by **WO1 Kev Doyle, Cpl Mick Swift** and **Maj Ian Buckley.** A marathon match by the number five seed, **SSgt Ralph Maddison** which lasted about one hour kept everyone on the edge of their seats. Congratulations to **SSgt Maddison** who eventually emerged as the victor three games to two.

The team then played HQNI in the final. Unfortunately that team proved to be far stronger than we thought and they beat us four games to one. Nevertheless, the team is to be congratulated on a fine season and we hope we can build on our successes this season.

Capt Jim Hanifin receiving the NI Major Units Cup from the NI Squash President Lt Col D. G. Thackaberry RAEC

15 Sig Regt Squash Team 1991
Winners—Northern Ireland Major Units—Runners Up Northern Ireland League Championships
L to R: Maj Ian Buckley, SSgt Ralph Maddison and WO1 Kev Doyle
Front: Cpl Mick Swift and Capt Jim Hanifin

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 803

Sqn Comd	**Maj Andrew Johnstone**
2IC	**Capt Stuart Hodges**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Bill Heelan BEM**

SHQ

Sport at lunch time is taken for granted here, except our Pay **Sgt Mark Bryson RAPC** who, in order to avoid his two sessions a week, has resorted to marriage. Congratulations to him and **Allison**. Well done to **LCpl Pete** 'Atlantis' **Chapman** on his recent promotion.

We bid farewell to **WO2 (FofS) Bob Walton BEM**, on his promotion to WO1, and his move to Soest. We welcome his successor **WO2 (FofS) Kev Truby** and his bride of 12 weeks, **Diane.** Finally it is hello to **Capt Stuart** 'Akela' **Hodges** from 39 Bde, and **Cpl Paul Armstrong RAPC** who thought he was here to pay people but has since become intimately acquainted with the AO's 397.

COMMS TP

Practically everybody has been on FRT 1, 2, 3, 4 . . . The only person not on FRT at the time, **Cpl Bing Crosby**, crowed about it and found himself Squadron Barman. Mind, the problem has not been doing FRT, more a question of who gets the short straw to partner **Sig Gascoigne**. Be it either in a helicopter under fire, or watching his four storey aerial artiste act, you're never far from excitement or danger, or a visit to the Med Centre. Rumour has it that the above high-wire act was the clincher in getter the climbing kit from RQMS **WO2 Gus Hales**. Talking of cheques . . . farewell to **Sgt Martin Hoodless** and **Jacqui** on posting to AFCENT, good luck with the exams. We have also said goodbye to Foreman **Bob Walton**—he will be much missed, and also **Cpl Martin Farmer** off to Belize and **LCpl Tony Artigan** away to RAF Laarbruch.

We say hello in the Commcen to **Sig Wayne Robson** and **Chris Leeds**, and in TM to **Cpl Barney Barnfield**.

Finally congratulations to **LCpl Mod Moylett** and **Judith** on their recent engagement, a pat on the back to **LCpls Jon Collins** and **Stu Maddison** on their success on the RSDCC, and to **Sgt Ian Glover** and **Cpl Al Townsend** on their recent promotions.

QM DEPT

In February the Quartermaster, **Maj Wally Lockwood** decided that he was to take on one final project before his retirement from the Corps. His project was to transform a rundown fitness training centre into an all singing, all dancing Barracks Services Centre.

SQMS Barracks **SSgt Tony Day** RPC was tasked with completing the mountainous amount of works services, statements of requirement and justification which had to be submitted. With the paper work accepted and authority for the work granted most members of the department were given tasks to do and told that failure would result in the individual concerned making the Quartermasters coffee! Inevitably snags occurred from time to time but were overcome by the PSA with a little persuasion from the SQMS. Finally everything was completed, and staff recruited for all three facilities. The grand opening ceremony took place on 25 April which was kindly performed by **Mrs J. Strudwick** wife of the Brigade Commander. Thanks for the completion of the project go to the PSA and all in the department.

Then came a stocktaking board in preparation for the Quartermasters handover, the SQMS Technical **Sgt John Morgan** ably assisted by **Cpl Mal Maddox** RAOC was seen dashing around the place clutching wads of 1033's and their accounts which were to be checked. **LCpl Esh Eshelby** RPC was counting and recounting boots and socks in the clothing store, **Cpl Alan Robson** was wearing down the batteries in his calculator to ensure his POL account was correct. Stocktaking complete the Quartermaster's farewell functions were organised. These took place on Friday 31 May when **WO2 (RQMS) Gus Hales** presented the QM a set of crystal champagne flutes. Monday 3 June saw **Maj Lockwood** leave Drumadd Barracks on his retirement in August for which we wish him and his wife **Dorothy** the very best. All this activity yet some still found time for extra mural activities. Congratulations go to **Cpl Alan** and **Ann Robson, LCpl Esh** and **Caroline Eshelby, Cpl Mal** and **Valerie Maddox** on new additions to the families. We say farewell to **Sig Ian Hayward** who is leaving us shortly to try his hand in civilian life.

Finally we extend a warm welcome to our new Quartermaster **Maj George Clark** and to **Cpl McCulloch**, we hope they both enjoy life within Drumadd Barracks.

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 807

PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd	**Maj D. McDowall**
2IC	**Capt I. G. Standen**

AO **Maj J. L. Godfrey** 15/19 H, RSM **WO1 (RSM) P. Whitehouse**, FofS **WO2 (FofS) J. Abernethy**, YofS **WO2 (YofS) P. Forryan**, CC **SSgt (ORSQMS) M. Cole**.

NISAM 1991

With the cancellation of this year's RASAM, and the usual battle of teams trying to qualify for Bisley, HQNI decided that this year's NISAM would be run along the lines of the Tickle test BFT, eg a nominal roll submitted to HQNI who would then select the team. Thus an 'ad hoc' team came together to represent the Squadron luckily the team was allowed to have a captain selected by the unit, with the Squadron slot being filled by the 2IC.

The CLF Northern Ireland, set out the aim of NISAM as being to assess the standard of shooting throughout the province. As such all the shoots revolved around snap shooting from every conceivable position other than prone, as well as moving target and automatic fire shoots. All in all quite a different experience for most people. Despite being very scratch the squadron team performed well and, although not placed in the overall team competition, did win the Minor Units Team Snap. Additionally the 2IC, **Capt Iain Standen** won the Individual Pistol Match.

The Team: **Capt Iain Standen, Sgt Steve Maycock, LCpl 'Stay' Shaw** and **Sig Robert Townsend**.

Capt Standen receives the Pistol Match prize for the CLF

SHQ

Notes by LCpl Steve Upsall

Welcome To The Sharp End (From a sub-set to a Barkway).

After the pleasures of 11 Armd Bde, I thought that a 'nice little earner' in Derry might just do the trick. So we arrived in Belfast on a typically down trodden day in March and headed west to this alleged Utopia.

I was met by the SHQ Team, **SSgt Mick Cole**, the ORC, **Cpl Marty Briody** and **Sig Bobby Townsend**. After a brief handover and a NIRTT course, **Upsall**'s travel agency was in business! I never knew before there were 100 ways to amend one's leave, lose one's rag and lose my NI pay to the Chief's swearbox. But it's not all bad; **Cpl Marty Briody** continues to excel on the sports field and recently represented the Squadron Football team at the Mercury Cup; alas robbed of the title by the inconsistency of the rules — perhaps now he can come to work occasionally.

The Chief is currently slogging through his EPC (A). I'm not surprised he's doing it with such enthusiasm; we just hope his results are better than his performance at the highly successful Squadron Karaoke night held recently. Still, even he was better than **Sig Townsend** who thought that not opening his mouth to sing might bluff his way through.

We also welcome **Lt Alister Gordon** who replaces **Lt Mike McGinty** (off on flying selection and then to 28 Sig Regt). **Lt Gordon** is the first subaltern to carry the new position of Asst Ops Offr, good luck!

Sig Townsend, LCpl Upsall, Cpl Briody and SSgt Cole in fine fettle at the recent SHQ Troop Dinner

COMMS TROOP

Tp Comd	**Lt McGinty**

SYSCON

The Squadron re-organisation now means that Syscon is up to full strength-ish. For instance, good luck to the following course personnel: **LCpl Mick Rutherford** TG Class I Marriage Class III, **LCpl Dave Wilson** Civ Div Resettlement and **Sig Taff Jones** Civ Div Resettlement.

A warm shift greeting to **Cpl Stan Kelly** and **Sig Dave Wilson** and a fond farewell to the defecting **Cpl Pete Gait** moving downwards to the Cypher cell.

COMMCEN

Here we are in the Commcen and complete with peak manning levels as normal! Not much has happened so it's just hellos and goodbyes and a few congratulations.

Firstly hello to **WPte Sue Wilson** and hubby **Dave** and BJ the dog (they say it stands for 'blackjack' but we've seen what it does!) who have joined us from Bulford. Also hello to **LCpl Stokes** and **Sig Conti** who both join us from 30 Sig Regt.

Now it's bye to **LCpl Mark Wigmore** with his wife **Dawn** and Biffer the devil dog! Congratulations on the promotion and enjoy 28 Sig Regt. Bye also to **LCpl Russ Craig** who is off to the sun—Cushy! And finally to **Sig Ian Preston** and his wife **Jeanette** also off to the delights of 28 Sig Regt.

Lastly, congratulations to **Sig Andy Horkins** on the BI and promotion and to **LCpl** 'Jonno' **Johnston** on his marriage to **Jennifer**.

TM TROOP

Tp Comd	**WO2 (FofS) Jim Abernethy**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Mick** 'Gunny' **Gaylard**

IC Line/Rigging **Sgt Steve** 'The Editor' **Maycock**, IC Tech Wksps **Sgt Andy (Pot FofS) Forbes**.

To the delight of all the techs we have broken away from Comms Tp, and now are TM (Judas) Tp. At the helm is the ever faithful FofS **WO2 Jim Abernethy** and his right hand man **SSgt** 'Gunny' **Gaylard**.

I would like to say a big thank you to **LCpl Maggi** for providing us with so much work which he generates for the troop with seemingly no effort whatsoever. Troop Sgt, **Andy Forbes** has been relieved of all Bar duties and is now supervising the techs.

Goodbye to **Cpl Tough** who has finally been granted his wish to go to Lisburn. Welcome to **LCpl Walsh**.

April and May were busy with an all out effort to eliminate 22 years of overdue maintenance. This has been a mammoth task, but due to long hours and hard work we can say that we are now on top of it.

Because of all the work our social calender was blank, but the ideas are coming forward and many things are taking shape with a barbecue planned for July.

RIGGING SECTION

IC Rigging	**Sgt Steve Maycock**
2IC Rigging	**Cpl** 'Nelly' **Roome**

Not much has happened in the section due to a very busy workload but we would like to welcome **LCpl** 'Jake' **Jacobs** on a six month attachment from 3 Div HQ & Sig Regt and **LCpl** 'Devil Dog' **Bolton** from 21 Sig Regt. In the last two months we have been under 'new management' as we have now become TM Tp (again!).

The section still has its stars in the way of **LCpl** 'Mac' **McDonald** who passed his RSDCC, then surpassed himself at the Squadron Karaoke Night. Obviously he did his Det Comds 'His Way'. Our own yuppie comes in the form of **Cpl Dave McCulloch** who has his time share, obviously his leave is guaranteed each year!

Congratulations to **LCpl Brian Whyte** on his promotion, and to the RSM whose map reading skills he passed on to **Sig** 'Delbert' **Wilkens** who found his way back to us after hill walking in the Scottish Highlands. Not much else to say from the busy end but if anyone can tell us the cubic capacity of a Land Cruiser back end let us know we will pass it on to **Cpl** 'Nelly' **Roome** who thinks you can get more in if you take out the back window!

LINE SECTION

Since the last time we put pen to paper the section has been very busy with its maintenance programme, and the seemingly never ending list of duties. This has not been helped by the departure of **Cpl** 'Taff' **Thomas** who is going to the sunny island with his wife. However, we would like to welcome **Sig** 'De De' **Watts** who joins us from 259 Sig Sqn, and immediately left us for RAF Digby and 8 Sig Regt and will not be back until September. **LCpl** 'Higgy' **Hignett** has just celebrated the fact that he has been granted six days leave after the sixth leave pass submitted. And finally congratulations to **Sig** 'Yak' **Sutton** on the successful completion of his B1. Meanwhile on the sporting front **LCpl Terry Brice** having just got back from a two week holiday got stuck straight in on the football field for the last game of the season.

RQMS DEPT

The past few weeks have seen the demise of Brigade Rover Group and so, as **Cpl Dave McCulloch** moves across to TM Tp to join the high fliers in Rigging Section, we welcome **Cpl Sammy Ahmed** to our illustrious SQMS Dept. We also say a fond farewell to **Sgt John Hogan** and his wife **Sue** as they leave us to go onto other things, in his place we welcome to our merry bunch **Sgt Ritchie Blackmore** and his wife **Liz** who join us from 3 ADSR. We wish them all the best in whatever they are doing.

During this period we have had a few visitors. Firstly, the Londonderry Fire Brigade visited us prior to deploying to Romania to carry out humanitarian tasks. The RQMS, **Mick Ara**, and the Sqn Comd presented them with some goodies, ie sleeping bags and CW vests to make them more comfortable. Shortly after that the Regt Col, **Col R. J. Thompson**, arrived to take photographs of Squadron training. He was treated to a first class demonstration of anti-ambush car drills by the SQMS **CSgt** 'Titch **Varney** R Anglian who enjoyed reliving his days as an infanteer. After this, **Sgts Richie Blackmore** and **Trev Tilley**, and **Sig** 'Nasher' **Bartlett** demonstrated mortar attack drills, with **Sgt Tilley** and **Sig Bartlett** demonstrating First Aid after the mortar had exploded.

While all this was going on **LCpl** 'Stay' **Shaw** was representing the Squadron at NISAAM and **Cpl Sammy Ahmed** was away on his skill at arms course. As always there are a couple of goodbyes—**Cpl Terry Stidwell** is posted to Ordnance, in Paderborn, and **LCpl Shaw** is posted to Berlin. Congratulations go to **Sgt Trev Tilley** who came off the RAOC Sgt-SSgt Promotion board (and he still keeps his posting to Hong Kong). Congratulations extend also to **LCpl Dave Palmer** and **Janet** on the birth of their daughter, and to **LCpl Pete Salt** and **Sharon** on the birth of their daughter. Must be the Derry waters.

Now as we come into our busy season with inspections galore we leave you with this: If a store was meant to issue things out it would be called an issue and not a store.

MT

From Cpl Naylor

I saw an old face, **Sig Bob Goldsmith**. He was smiling so I thought 8 Bde must have changed, people are happy here. Wrong! The only reason he was smiling was that he was posted in six weeks to 4 Div. It seems I arrived when a mass posting was on. First to go was **LCpl** 'Buck' **Rogers** off to Germany then **Sig** 'Dolly' **Parton** and from the other side of MT **LCpl Harvey RCT**.

To make up for a loss of manpower the gods have sent us our own Blues brothers, **Jason** and **Jonathon Kielty**. Also to arrive were **LCpl Hart, Sig Musson** and finally **Cpl Brewer** and family, we welcome them all and hope their tour will be care free.

Footnote, **Cpl Paul Walker** played Cricket for the Army and did very well.

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

PERSONALITIES
Sqn Comd **Maj Neal Yeoell**
2IC **Capt Bob Healey**
AO **Capt Peter Anthony** QGM Queens, Comms Tp Comd **Capt Matt Fensom**, ARSM **WO2 Ray Spencer**, FofS **WO2 Paul Thomas-Peter**, YofS **WO2 Brian Colvin**, RQMS **WO2 Bob Rack**, Chief Clerk **SSgt Charlie Foster**.

SHQ
ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES
The Squadron recently said farewell to 2IC **Capt Stu Hodges** on his short move to Armagh. He had recently attended a unit Fitness Officers' Course and we will all be happy that 3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn will be enjoying morning PT! In his place as 2IC comes **Capt Bob Healey** from 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. We hope that he has an enjoyable tour with the Squadron.

In the Orderly Room we welcome the new Admin Assistant, **Mrs Val Johnston. Val** has settled in very well and is quickly adapting to the military terminology.

OPS TROOP
Ops Troop was formed in April consisting of many departments, mainly Commcen, Syscon, Crypto, Rover Group and last but not least Tech Workshops. Confused? You soon will be, we know the 'Troop Staffie' **SSgt Bob Banner** is.

COMMCEN
Everyone survived Ex Silver Chalice I and II so we're all back happily working away as usual. **Sig Pete Asplen** has disappeared on his AIPTs Course. **LCpl Shaun Curry** has gone on his Class I course.

As for the rest of the Commcen Ops, me **(Rab)**, I'm just getting old, **Mark** is still complaining about his ribs, **Gaz** still thinks he's in Cancun (Mexico) on holiday, **Dunnie**'s still a dunderhead and **Robbo** still can't count.

SYSCON
Cpl Steve Russell has settled in as day supervisor and keeps the other lads on their toes (running away from him). **Ginge** still can't grow his hair, **Geordie** has stopped using hair gel but still looks like a Bros boy, **Gordon** is still short but is getting some leave now, **Matt** still rhymes with his pet name (and its not Pat).

CRYPTO
Sgt 'Scouse' Shield has disappeared to France on Ex French Fancy, so the CRYPTO office is left in the safe(ish) hands of **Cpl Pete Fraser** and **LCpl Rab Brooks** (he is always complaining of never being mentioned in *The Wire*), well **Rab** just for you, how's this? Hello Rab, Hello Rab, Hello Rab, Howsaten.

Well not a lot has happened since our last entry, but then again this is slipper city!

ROVER GROUP
Cpl Wilf Williams has gone to the easy life at MT Tp and **LCpl Lee Lahey** needs time to prepare for civvy street.

Cpl Si Fell has gone to Syscon for a month. Also there was a rumour that **LCpl Nibs Niblett** was going to become a driver.

On the ops side of life we still provide the taxi service and sight seeing trips around various landmarks of West Belfast. **LCpl George Johnston** has been busy doing plenty of Comms Trials, within the BRB, whilst his mate **LCpl Aspery** swans off on five days' escape and evasion, and five days' skiing in Scotland thanks to Campbell College CCF.

WORKSHOPS
TM Tp is now part of Ops Tp. The demise of the Troop was marked by a ceremony in the grounds of the Horseshoe Club. A coffin containing Troop memorabilia was laid in state for people to pay their last respects and then carried to its final resting place. Four members of the Troop, **Cpls Jan Seymour, Wayne Freeman, Kaffa Townsend** and **Ian Wells** were given the honour of bearing 'the Troop' to its grave in full No 2s, where **Cpl Shuggy Hughes** intoned a few words.

The Troop is not the only thing that has ceased to exist. Other notable 'casualties' include several cars, the Troop's confidence in **LCpl Tubbs Turbitt**'s driving abilities, a civilian's unbroken legs (thank you **Sig Steve Ainsley**) **Sgt Frank Roberts'** frequency counter, 763 Heli Tele receivers and cones.

Heli Tele has been a hive of activity. **Sgt Frank Roberts** has handed over to **Cpl Jan Seymour. Cpl Phil Graham**, on a task at Bessbrook, got to work on a car using Heli Tele equipment which left the owner unimpressed.

Two generations of Heli-Tele Techs, Sgt Frank Roberts and LCpl 'Tubbs' Turbitt

The Riggers, **Cpl Kaffa Townsend, LCpls Spiny Campbell, Traff Trafford, Sig Jimmy Watson** and **Steve Stoker** seem to be on permanent night duty. But they managed a 'rigging first' by creating an omni directional antenna from **SSgt Bob Wright**'s bike.

Proof that the lads can actually get a move on was demonstrated by **Cpl Jan Seymour, LCpl Traff Trafford** and **Sig Steve Stoker** when they won the assault course race on Ex Silver Chalice.

COMINGS AND GOINGS
Congratulations to **LCpl** 'Taff' **Jones** on successfully completing his Class One course and cherrio again and good luck on his Det Comd's Course at Catterick.

Welcome back to **LCpl Mark Tweats** on completion of his Crypto Course.

BRIGADE HOCKEY
The team's consistent track record has been maintained this season. There have been a large number of players, all of whom offer their own rules! Team Captain **LCpl Geordie Aspery** ensured that the team was available for the majority of the games, whilst **Sig Jimmy Watson** ensured that we followed the rules.

Sgt Frank Roberts, the Brigade's Hockey Officer, commented, 'our record has been one of hard work and achieved with the help of all, especially **Cpls Jenks Jenkins, Jan Seymour, Phil Graham, LCpl Shaun Curry** and **Pte Julie Austin**'.

NISAAM
This year's Northern Ireland Skill at Arms meeting was again held on the sunny coast of Ballykinler. Four budding Bisley champions representing the Squadron drove down on a cold Thursday morning to compete against all other minor units serving in Northern Ireland, closely supervised by their team manager **Capt Matt Fensom**.

The team consisting of **LCpl Martin Maloney** RPC, **LCpl Jim Heron** RCT, **LCpl** 'Delbert' **Rees** RPC and **Cpl Ian Wells** had very little training due to Rover Group's operational commitments, but the manager did not doubt our potential. The shoots consisted of a pistol shoot on individual APWT, a falling plate competition, a section fire team match and a Rifle team match. These were held over a two-day period. At the end of the day the shooting team won the best individual shot, **(LCpl Heron)** the fire team match champions, and overall Minor League Champions (NI).

Congratulations to all members of this year's Shooting Team on their overall score of 14 gold medals, three trophies and two cups. Not a bad weekend's work.

L to R: LCpls Martin Maloney, Jim Heron, Cpl Ian Wells and LCpl Delbert Rees

EXERCISE SILVER CHALICE
After parading at some unearthly hour in the morning, we collected our weapons and were packed into the pantechnicon like sardines. The only difference; we weren't covered in tomato sauce. We then set off for sunny Balykinler by the sea.

Fortunately, this was like no other day at Ballykinler as the sun was shining, just as well, as we had to get changed into uniform on the range itself.

We then made our way to the ETR range to fire the NI APWT, (it's not much fun firing wearing a helmet and INIBA vest).

Before tea we made our way to the luxurious accommodation, 36 to a room, and found to our cost later that **Rod Buttolph** told a pack of lies.

Next day it was up at 0600 hrs for the obligatory run down to the beach led by **LCpl Scot Ovenstone**, running past the assault course on the way back to get a look at what was to come later. The rest of the day was spent revising all the mandatory training skills and trying to watch the FA Cup Final on **Sig Jimmy Watson**'s pocket TV.

As usual it was the 0600 hrs run, this time down to the assault course. However before we were allowed over the assault course we had to get our respirators checked with ARSM **Ray Spencer**. For this we split into two groups, one half to do the First Aid test and other—well I don't have to tell you what they were going to do.

The girls started the competition off and set a good time for everyone to beat. It was then the turn of **LCpl Mark Tweat**'s team, it was doing well until it got to the Irish table, an obstacle 8ft high and 2ft wide. With **Matt Laird** on top pulling **Mark** up and **Rab Graham** pushing him they proceeded to bruise his ribs on the way up and jump on top of him on the way down. All this captured for posterity on **Cap Matt Fensom**'s video camera. Evenually it was the favourite's turn, the DS team led by **Capt Matt Fensom, SSgt Bob Banner** and **Sgt Scouse Shield. Capt Fensom**'s fall was captured on film by the production team, led by **LCpl Rab Brooks** and **Sig Jimmy Watson**.

Once everyone finished the assault course and First Aid test (why did you turn up **Steve**), it was then on to the range to change and journey back.

NI SWIMMING AND WATER POLO CHAMPIONSHIPS
The NI Swimming and Water Polo Championships took place on 23-24 May at RAF Aldergrove. The Squadron fielded a full swimming team for the first time and finished runners up to the Army Air Corps.

On 24 May, the same team played in the NI Water Polo Championships and to our delight, won all four games and finished winners. Results were: 39 Bde v 1 PARA 9—6; 39 Bde v RMP Lisburn 8—0; 39 Bde v 15 Sig Regt 7—5; 39 Bde v AAC 5—4. This qualified us for the NE Districts in Catterick in which we came 3rd.

Back Row (L to R): WO2 (FofS) Thomas-Peter, Cpl Shuggy Hughes, WO2 (ARSM) Ray Spencer, Capt Stu Sharman and Maj Neal Yeoell
Front Row (L to R): Cpl Wayne Freeman, LCpls Spiny Campbell, Mac Mackay, Cpl Kaffer Townsend
Absent from picture: Capt Rob Healey

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SKIING

UKLF ALPINE SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS 1991—OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL SKI SEASON EVER

On Sunday 3 March 1991, the College Junior Alpine Ski Team (**AT Sgt Platt, AT Cpl Boustouller, ATs Parkers, Patrick** and **Sweeney**) and PS Alpine Ski Team (**Maj Pugh, Capt Bailey, SSgt Mayor** and **Cpl Mitchell**) set off for the Cairngorm Mountains for a week's training prior to the UKLF Alpine Ski Championships 1991.

Training began in earnest the next day, under the watchful eye of the coach **SSgt Major**, with the emphasis placed on finding our 'ski legs' and by the end of the day most of us were exhausted. Race training began on Tuesday and continued on Wednesday. We all drew much inspiration from **Maj Pugh**'s '1001 tales' plucked from his many, many years of skiing experience! On Thursday and Friday we were able to obtain the services of the Championships' course setter and this training was invaluable as it gave us an idea of the style of courses he would be setting the following week.

By the time Race Week arrived everyone was feeling the tension, particularly the PS team! Would **Capt Bailey**'s knee hold out? Would **Maj Pugh**'s ankle survive the slalom? After Monday's Seeding Race came the Junior Team and Individual Race on Tuesday. Here the College Junior Team showed the way ahead by winning the Junior (U18) Team Trophy for the first time in College history, beating 11 Sig Regt, who had looked the favourites, into second place. **AT Cpl Boustouller** skied magnificently and just pipped **AT Sweeney** to take the Junior Individual Trophy.

Army Junior Individual Alpine Ski Champion 1991
AT Cpl Marcus Boustouller

On Wednesday and Thursday were the Individual Giant Slalom and Slalom Races respectively. In his last year of service, **Maj Pugh** retained his Vintage Trophy. **SSgt Mayor** retained his Veteran Trophy and also won the Royal Signals Trophy. (Will he be eligible for the Vintage Trophy next year?) Despite these successes, the PS Team were not yet looking good enough to win the Minor Unit Team Trophy on Friday. POW Div Depot were looking favourities with King's Div Depot also looking dangerous. The pressure was obviously beginning to tell on **Capt Bailey** as he was now making frequent use of his hip flask on the way to the mountain! However, the PS Team had obviously been holding back in order to make the other teams relax because on the day they produced an exhilarating performance to win the Minor Unit Trophy. This is only the third time in the history of the College that it has been won.

The largest piece of silver of the Championships, the UKLF Alpine/Nordic Combination Trophy was to be decided on the last race, a Giant Slalom on Saturday. The College PS Nordic Team had already done their bit by winning the Nordic 4 × 10km Relay. It was now down to the PS Alpine Team to put the College's name on the Trophy. This they duly did, beating 38 Engr Regt into second place and thus ending the week with much jubilation. This trophy has now been won for the second year running.

Finally we would like to thank **Maj Pugh**, after his final racing season, for his services to the College skiing. Without his enthusiasm and dedication we would not have enjoyed such success.

UKLF NORDIC AND BIATHLON SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

Under the leadership of **Capt Guy Ashton** the College entered strong teams both in the Junior and Minor Units categories of the UKLF Nordic and Biathlon Ski Championships held in the Scottish Grampians near Rhynie. Indeed, the Permanent Staff team, comprising **Capt Ashton, Maj Heritage, WO2 Rafferty** and **LCpl Clinton** beat all the Major Units to win the Army trophies for the: 4 × 15km Team Winners, 4 × 7.5km Biathlon Team Winners, 4 × 10km Team Winners, Minor Units Champions and Overall Unit Team Champions.

In addition, **WO2 Rafferty** won the Veterans Trophy for the 15km individual event. Throughout the Championships **Capt Guy Ashton** skied superbly to produce personal best performance in almost every race except the 15km race, when he broke a ski, had to return to the start to collect a new ski and begin again, thus completing over 17kms. He was also awarded the nickname of 'skid' after a spectacular minibus crash, which almost killed the whole team as well as made everyone late for the 15km race. The Permanent Staff Nordic Team also laid the foundations for the Unit to win the Combination Cup for the best nordic 15km team and Alpine Giant Slalom team combined result.

The Combined Adult and Junior Alpine and Nordic Ski Teams
Back Row: SSgt Major, AT Sweeney, AT Sgt Platt, ATs Baker, Pickard, JLs Lello, Picken, Daeth and Wall
Front Row: Capt Bailey, Maj Pugh, Cpl Mitchell, Capt Ashton, LCpl Stenning and WO2 Rafferty

The Junior team was equally successful, mainly due to the excellent coaching and training of **Capt Ashton**. The sackful of trophies at the end of the Championships made up in some measures for the disappointment the team felt in not being able to compete in the Army Championships on the Continent.

JL Picken was the star of the team, winning the 10km Junior ace and the 5km Youth Biathlon. **JL Daeth** won the 15km Junior race despite a broken ski for the best part of the race! As a team the Juniors won the 3 × 5km Biathlon race and 3 × 5km Youth race, and were runners-up in the youth 10km team event.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS

AT Ian Milner of Penney Sqn is working towards his Duke of Edinburgh Award at Silver level. For the service section he and **AT Dylan Arnold** of Rawson Sqn work at St George's Physically Handicapped and Able Bodied Youth Club in Harrogate. The Service they give every Wednesday evening from 1930 to 2145 hrs is varied, interesting and rewarding. They have made many friends outside College activities.

AT RSM Seeds and **AT Baird** of Scott Sqn are both participants in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme at Gold level. For their service they have worked with Prince of Wales Own ACF Harrogate Det.

AT Milner with Mr Len Bearder a member of the Harrogate PHAB Club

WE REALLY DO KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE!

Preparing for a four day expedition to the Lake District towards the Gold standard of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award are: **WO2 George Firth**—College Staff (Expedition Assessor), **AT RSM Gareth Seeds**—Scott Sqn, **AT SSM Chris Driver-Williams**—Penney Sqn, **AT Cpl Bernard Steadman**—Scott Sqn and **AT Wayne Ballard**—Scott Squadron.

Highlights of their four days away will be visits to the summits of Helvellyn, Skiddaw and Scafell Pike.

By coincidence both Sqn Comd's of the Apprentice's Squadrons are holders of this award: **Maj Gus Boag**—OC Scott Sqn and **Maj Pat MacCulloch**—OC Penney Sqn (Ex Apprentice DofE 1963) . . . hence much advice was given!

CANOEING

The College canoeists having trained hard took part in the UKLF Canoe Slalom Championships which were held at Bala in North Wales on 15 and 16 June 991. Although not as successful as last year they still achieved some very good results: Junior K1 Class—2nd—**AT Cpl Wilson** (Penney Sqn); Junior K1 Class—2nd Team—**AT Cpl Wilson** (Penney Sqn), **AT Phillips** (Scott Sqn), AT Pennicott (Scott Sqn).

LCpl Marriott goes through gate

ROYAL SIGNALS UK WINDSURFING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Once again the College entered into the Championships held 29 May-1 June with the following personnel **Sgt N. Finnegan, Sgt J. Fradley** (Penney Sqn), **Sgt S. Halmshaw** (Catering), **AT Cpl Goodbody** (Scott Sqn) and **ATs Hillson** and **Young** (Penney Sqn).

The Championships took place at Gosport. To prepare for the event the competitors went down two days in advance to get used to the sea and the strong tides associated with the Solent. However, the sea and the conditions proved a little too much for **ATs Hillson** and **Young**. They were tired out and washed out with their balancing acts and uphauling techniques in the swell. But all was not lost, they were both soon up and sailing the course with not too many rescues!

For **AT Cpl Goodbody** it was a different story, he went from strength to strength as the week went on ending up winning the 'Best Junior' and 'Best Novice' prizes. He continued his good sailing throughout the team events ending up beating over half the fleet during the races. This lad should have much to offer the Corps.

At the PS end things started to really happen. **Sgts Finnegan** and **Fradley** were battling away at the front of the fleet with **Sgt Finnegan** taking the lead. This lead was a bit of a worry to him though, after last years wrong turn and loss of route, he was very determined to win the overall Individual Heavyweight Championships. **Sgt Fradley** not far behind was sailing like a man possessed overtaking many good Corps windsurfers. He finally crept into second place for the Individual Heavyweight. However, **Sgt Halmshaw** became the team anchor man aiding the PS team with his determination to carry on, helped to win second place in the team event where all team members received a trophy.

CHARITY

On Saturday 20 April Penney Sqn held its annual Charity Car Wash. This took place in four locations in Harrogate, ASDA, Morrisons, Safeways and Great Mills Car Parks. The Fire Brigade was contacted over the use of standpipes for water. Gardner Merchant, who run the College cleaning contract, provided buckets and the cleaning liquid. The only people who at first let us down was the weatherman. From the Artic North they brought in during the early hours of Saturday morning two to three inches of snow and a very hard frost. Not the kind of weather for washing cars. The start planned for 0900 hrs was delayed until 1000 hrs. The skys cleared and and the sun came out and by 1000 hrs all the snow had melted. The slush covered cars meant that many shoppers were very happy to have their cars washed for £1.00. It was a very successful day's fund raising with £1,000 collected for the Squadron's car washing efforts. The money has been presented to National Children's Homes.

School of Signals
Blandford Camp
Dorset

OPERATION GRANBY

SOinC(A) set aside the second day (Thursday 23 May 1991) of his annual conference at the School of Signals for a presentation co-ordinated by Comd 2 Sig Bde on Operation Granby. All the Corps commanders and principal staff officers who were involved in the operation told their parts of the story. As a finale, **Gen Sir Peter de la Billiere** was invited as a special guest speaker. The scripts, slides and videos used by all the team are being compiled for future use and will be held at the School.

OBSCURE ESOTERIC PASTIMES

What costs a million pounds and leaves marks on the streets of London? Answer—The shoes on the feet of 25,000 runners in the London Marathon. This year the School of Signals had 10 runners. All finished well, the majority beating personal best (PB) times. PBs are somewhat like the Holy Grail of Arthurian legend in that the quest never ceases. As an anonymous participant, I am often asked 'Why do I do it?'; the best answer is that it is a kind of madness and hence inexplicable.

The cheering and encouragement of the crowds; the finish with a medal, is gained through many lonely uncomfortable miles of practice in all weathers.

At the end of the day the money raised in sponsorship does go a long way to providing an aim. Having run two London Marathons, few in comparison to some, I can assure everyone that, regardless of how fast or slow you may run, all runners have a common bond, *pain*. OK, so we all have masochistic tendencies and, if that is what is needed to gain that feeling, even being 12,000+ when crossing the finish line, it is worth it. I know, mad. Those below ran the 26 miles 365 yards: **Maj Bateson, SSgt Chorlton, Cpl Cornforth, Lt Col Drew, WO1 (RSM) Hogben, Maj Rawlins, Cpl Withers, Mrs Murray, Mr Stanley** and **Mr Eames**.

WANTED

A Wall Hanging is being made for Jubilee Hall Community Centre in Blandford Camp and nimble fingers are needed to produce a contribution in any medium of needlework.

Any volunteer willing to assist in making a rectangle 15in (bottom) × 10in (side) please contact **Mrs Bobbie Drew**, c/o Chief Clerk, School Regiment on Blandford Military Ext 2455 or civil (0258) 482455. Assistance will be greatly appreciated.

HELP INFORMATION VOLUNTEER EXCHANGE (HIVE) OPENS IN BLANDFORD

On 6 June the new Help Information Volunteer Exchange was opened by the GOC SW District, **Maj Gen Pollard**, HIVE provides a much needed service to all ranks of all units in Blandford Camp. HIVE, located in a prefabricated building near the Medical Centre, also has a well equipped coffee shop. The HIVE Co-ordinators, **Mrs Linda Lawrence** and **Mrs Rachael Johnson** offer a friendly welcome to all.

At the opening, which was attended by many of those who had helped to forge it, a finger buffet with wine was served, and afterwards a magnificent cake made in the shape of a hive was cut by the GOC. Now that Blandford has obtained funding (only one of two new UK HIVEs to do so) a firm base for a very useful facility exists. **Brig Pike**, FHWS, SW District, remarked that this is the best HIVE in the District **Mrs Jackie Randle**, UK Cast, intends to bring HIVE Co-ordinators on their course at Old Sarum to see what a HIVE is and what can be achieved with co-operation and help in just 12 weeks. To all those who helped and without whose assistance the HIVE would not have been born our appreciation and thanks.

BLANDFORD CAMP TRIATHLON CLUB
by Sgt Philip Cox

The School of Signals and 30 Sig Regt can now boast the formation of a Triathlon Club. This consists of a nucleus of dedicated masochists and, in addition, a number of 'fairly interested' individuals whose training seems to depend on the weather.

The first event of the season was the Wimborne Triathlon held on 12 May only 10 miles from Blandford. For this reason, the Garrison was well represented not only in the race, but also by some inquisitive supporters eager to find our what all the fuss was about. A team was entered under the name 'Blandford Fri Mad' and the following competed: **Sgts Philip Cox** and **Larry Tullet, Cpl Mick Garbett, LCpls Paul Ledger** and **Craig 'Nobby' Noble.**

The weather on the day was excellent and once the early morning mist had cleared the temperature rose steadily in the sunshine. The wind was kind to us and dropped to a mere breath from the East throughout the event.

The 400m pool swim resulted in some notable performances. **Craig Noble** managed 6 mins 2 secs and **Larry Tullet** completed his first competitive swim over the distance.

At the first transition, **Philip Cox** added half a minute to his time by attempting to begin the cycle phase in bare feet. It was suggested that the resulting running about was purely an attempt to loosen up after the swim. All team members worked hard on the 25km cycle route with split times ranging from 45 minutes to 52 minutes being recorded.

Unfortunately **Paul Ledger** suffered the embarrassment of his rear wheel working loose and had to hitch a lift to the finish where he retired. He assures us that the resulting damage has now been repaired and he is looking forward to actually completing an event this season.

By the time the competitors had started the 4 mile run stage, the day had begun to warm up and some were cursing their initial caution in choosing to wear long sleeved tops. The course involved a deceptive 2 miles downhill followed by an all too obvious 2 miles uphill. After running off the usual cramp, the athletes settled into a reasonable pace. **Philip Cox** found that he could not keep up with this initial blistering plod and saved his strike for the second half of the run.

First **Mick Garbett** then **Craig Noble** fell victim to this uphill 'kick'. However **Craig** hung on and managed to claw back his lead in the final 100m resulting in a split time of 27 mins 17 secs.

After such a close event the final results rested upon alphabetical order:

32nd **Philip Cox**	1 hr 19 mins 20 secs
33rd **Craig Noble**	1 hr 19 mins 20 secs
57th **Mick Carbett**	1 hr 24 mins 18 secs
29th **Veteran Larry Tullet**	1 hr 37 mins 4 secs

Congratulations are due to all who took part, especially to those for whom this was their first Triathlon.

ATTA—MR GORDON DIVALL'S RETIREMENT DINNER

1 April 1991 was a significant day in **Gordon**'s career as it was his last working day before his retirement after over 40 years in the civil service. A farewell dinner was held for him in HQ Mess Royal Signals; unbeknown to him many of his army and civil service colleagues had been invited, and **Gordon** was greeted by over 50 of them. He joined the civil service in 1948, moving to Blandford Camp on 30 May 1960. He transferred to Trials Division, School of Signals, on promotion in October 1967, and has remained in the Division ever since, playing a key role in introducing new equipment into the Corps. After the dinner, **Col Phil Whitemore**, Commander of the Army Tactical Telecommunications Agency, on behalf of all those present and some who were unable to attend, presented **Gordon** with a retirement gift of a set of Waterford Crystal champagne glasses. The evening finished in a very convivial atmosphere, and all of us at the School of Signals wish **Gordon** a happy retirement.

Mr Gordon Divall, Brig (Retd) Jimmy Blake, Lt Col Mike Weiner and Brig (Retd) Mikey Topple at the Retirement Dinner

AFCEA MAKES A GENEROUS PRESENTATION TOWARDS THE NEW CORPS MUSEUM

Bill Burrows, President of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA), Southern Chapter, presented a cheque for £2,500 to **Brig Ashley Truluck**, Comd School of Signals. The money was raised by holding a symposium at Blandford which was well attended by senior Corps officers and representatives from industry.

Mr Bill Burrows, President of AFCEA, Southern Chapter presenting a cheque to the Comd School of Signals

I WING—NO 19 TA SQN COMDS COURSE

No 19 TA Sqn Comds Course took place from 16-24 February and our photograph shows those who attended. As usual, the week had its fair share of amusing occurrences and anecdotes. **Capt Stephen Potter** was tasked with these notes and felt the urge to break into poetry. Here follows the course limerick:

No 19 TA Sqn Comds Course
Front Row L to R: Capts Twinem, Hubbard, Jones, Geddes, Maj Lambton and Capt Clegg
Back Row L to R: Capts Nicholls, Potter, Lt Col Foakes (SO1 (TDM) TA), Maj Greig (Course Offr), Capts Crackett and Watson

19 TA SQN COMDS COURSE

We had a course Major called Ian,
Administering things like the tea urn,
He sucked at his teeth,
In sheer disbelief,
The whale joke was simply plebian.

There was a young Captain called Carol,
Who wore rather funny apparel,
Her accent was strong,
It sounded all wrong,
But her jokes had us over a barrel.

A Captain from Bristol called Crackett,
Could not from this week earn a packet,
He did it for free,
It wouldn't suit me,
But he looks like the sort that can hack it.

From Norfolk came Trisha and Jane,
With germs and a penchant for fame,
Presenting together,
They braved the cold weather,
Please give us your short (?) talk again.

There was a Scots Captain called Geddes,
Who's fond of a couple of bevvies,
'I drive a big bus',
He told all of us,
We now know why trucks are called 'heavies'.

John 'Major' was with us all week,
He waited for six days to speak,
By the time it arrived,
His gusto had died,
So he gave it whilst plonked on a seat.

Nick Nicholls who's from Thirty-Nine,
Does briefings with chickens and mime,
'I can't tell you much',
'It's secret as such',
Animated's become his catch-line.

There was also a sly one called Potter,
Who's singing with Gin became hotter,
So on the last night,
He got rather tight,
Singing harmony's he blotted his blotter.

33 sent a travelling road-show,
They spoke as a duo, not solo,
'Just look at those bricks',
'Just give me that stick',
Mike Jones had forgotten his halo.

TM TROOP

Members of the Troop have been busy trying to bring about a boost to the world coffee market by imbibing vast amounts each day. To assist in this momentous feat the Troop rest room was rearranged to provide easy access to the kettle and to enable us to make a profit selling other types of refreshments. To have a break a darts competition was organised, won by **Sgt Steve Hodgeson** who received the princely sum of £5.

Some new arrivals were also drafted in. They are 'Tiffy' **SSgt Dougie Goodman** (new Team Manager), **Sgts Jo Richmond** and **Angie Irving**, fresh from the Staff Sergeants Course. **Sgt Taff Braid**, the Welsh Rugby team's secret weapon. To lend a hand on the systems side **Cpls Daz Evans, Gordon Newell** and **Julz Holder** were drafted in. **LCpl Gerry Russel** is the latest addition to the team straight from her T3 course at Catterick.

There were a few other new faces but their services were required elsewhere. **Cpl Liggins** on a Leadership Course, **Cpl Tony King** to High Wycombe and **LCpl Nick Heasman** to the Gulf.

We said goodbye to two members of the Troop: 'Tiffy' **SSgt Chris Horsfall** and **Cpl Tucks Tucker**.

We also wish good luck to **Sgts Steve Young, Jo Docherty** and **Steve Hodgeson** in their Foreman's Exam.

CROSS COUNTRY

The 1990/91 season was the best for many a year as far as results are concerned. The season culminated in the unit winning the SW Dist league by the proverbial street. Of the nine races contested we were first in seven and second and sixth in the other two.

In the Army Championships we finished a close second to the PWO.

Of individual performances that of **Cpl Nick Withers** springs to mind. Not only was he the SW Dist individual champion, but has represented the Army and the Combined Services Teams. Other runners worthy of a mention include **WO2 Pete Griffin**, whose training schedules scare off lesser mortals, he finished third in the league. **SSgt Dave Carr**, a late starter was fifth. **Sgt Joe Docherty** was sixth and **Maj Nick Bateson** was eighth.

Mention must also be made of the backbone of the team, without whom success would have been impossible, they include: **2Lt Mike Dooley**, now with 22 Sig Regt, **CSgt Phil Wallom RM, Sgts Steve Ible, Jeff Martin, Cpl Chris Lloyd** and **LCpl Andy Thompson**, now with 8 Inf Bde.

Obviously the School of Signals is the place to be for all budding Cross Country runners. So don't delay; get your preference posting forms in now.

Cross Country Team

Back Row L to R: Sig Paddy Clarke, Cpls Phil Joyce, Chris Lloyd, LCpl Andy Thompson, Cpl Nick Withers, CSgt Phil Wallom, Sgts Joe Docherty, Phil Cox, SSgt Danny Chorlton and LCpl Fred Taylor

Front Row L to R: SSgt Dave Carr, WO2 Pete Griffin, Lt Col R. E. S. Drew (CO School Regt), WO2 John Smith, WO1 (RSM) D. A. Hogben, Maj Nick Bateson and 2Lt Mike Dooley

WO2 Pete Griffin (123) gives chase to Sgt Joe Docherty (127) during the SW Dist Championships

ARMY HALF MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIPS FLEET

The results of the above race held on 24 March: **Sgt Jeff Martin** 1 hr 10 min 40 secs, **WO2 Pete Griffin** 1 hr 11 min 35 secs, **Maj Nick Bateson** 1 hr 13 min 2 secs, **CSgt Phil Wallom** 1 hr 17 min, **Sgt Phil Cox** 1 hr 25 min, **WO2 John Smith** 1 hr 31 min, **WO1 Dave Hogben** 1 hr 31 min, **Lt Col Dick Drew** 1 hr 44 min.

Team Results: FOD Dulman—1st, School of Signals—2nd, Depot Para—3rd.

SOCCER—SW DIST MAJOR UNITS CUP WINNERS

The School of Signals football team, having lost the majority of the 'Gladiators' to 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt, proved they are still a force to be reckoned with. Playing against strong opposition in 94 Loc Regt RA, the team came from being a goal down to run out winners 2—1. Goals from **Sgts McQuade** and **Steele** ensured that the trophy went to Blandford for the first time.

Back Row L to R: LCpl Barnett, Sgt Murray, Cpl Bunkle, Sgt Gigg, LCpl Owen, WO2 (QMSI) Luckham and Capt D. J. Brown

Front Row L to R: SSgt Ingham, Sgts Steele, Rutherford, McQuade, Master Wilkins and SSgt Vincent

Not in photo: Sgt Wilkins (photographer)

IT'S ALL RIGHT MUMMY, I'LL MAKE IT BETTER

Nineteen children were enrolled into The British Red Cross Society at the first Enrolment Ceremony held at the new Centre at Blandford Camp. The Junior Group of 7-11 year olds were watched by their parents as they were awarded their membership certificates from **Mrs A. Jaggard**, Dorset County Branch President. Just as proud as the parents were the Group's two Leaders, **Mrs Kaye Forrest** and **Mrs Sharon Kendell**; both wives of serving soldiers whose hard work had made the evening possible. The Centre runs three groups, a junior group 7-11 year olds, a Youth Group for 10-18 year olds and a Senior Group for those of us who do not like to admit to our age! It is not all 'Death by View-foil' as well as instruction in practical First Aid, the Society makes learning fun for the children by organising trips, competitions and even a Summer Camp, and, of course, they are able to go home and practise on Daddy! The British Red Cross Society funds groups in many areas.

The children of Blandford Camp at the first enrolment Ceremony

2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt York

RHQ PERSONALITIES

CO — **Lt Col S. G. Hughes**

2IC — **Maj B. J. Barton-Ancliffe**

Adjt **Capt I. Hooper**, Asst Adjt **Lt L. A. M. Stremes** WRAC, RSM **WO1 (RSM) G. Ellis**, Supt Clk **WO1 (SC) J. A. Pape**, ORS **Sgt D. Cullen**.

Our congratulations go to **Cpl Simon Smart** and **Julie**, and **Cpl John Barclay** and **Kim** on their recent marriages.

The Regimental PRI Shop has recently combined with the Wives Club Craft Shop and is doing a roaring trade. Pictured here are the brave ladies who have taken it on.

49 INF BDE SIG TP

by Capt G. J. Complin—Tp Comd Fox Tp

Having spent five and a half months away from the Regiment, attending the Junior Command and Staff Course, I would not have considered myself the most up-to-date scribe on the previous few months. The fact that I was chosen merely illustrates that things have not changed much during my absence!

My return from Warminster was greeted by a different set of management faces to those who waved me off last November—namely 'hello' to: **2Lt Stuart Gillespie, SSgt (YofS) 'Wally' Bacon** and **SSgt Dyson**—a 'pillar'! (ie he has not had a day off playing rugby, golf—yet!). Also welcome back from the Gulf **Cpl Paul Jude** and **Sig Tim Harrison**.

The Troop continues to provide support to the Brigade during a variety of UK based exercises. It has also assisted the Regiment in its airmobility trials providing manpower and equipment.

FOX TP

by Cpl Oxley

We start our notes with Hellos and Goodbyes.

Sgt Kev Moore from SHQ Tp, 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt; **Sig Rich Darby** from Berlin and last but not least, from 8 Sig Regt **Sig Dave Connelly**.

We say goodbye to **SSgt Pete O'Connor**, who has gone to 28 Sig Regt and **Cpl Tom Ewart**, (who likes to go to sunny climes in his time off) to 5 AB Bde.

Congratulations go to **Cpl Daz** and **Karen Mulley** on the arrival of their daughter **Frances**.

Two members of the Troop, **Cpl Paul Jude** and **Sig Tim Harrison** have arrived back safely from the Gulf and are currently on leave.

VIKING TP

Tp Comd — **Lt Andy Parsons**

Tp SSgt — **SSgt Watts**

Ex Spring Tide will remain in the minds of the lads for quite a while and for totally different reasons. **LCpl 'Tiz' Woolen** found that it was unwise to cross the Line/Power Section collectively, known as the Black Hand Gang. The price he paid was having to climb a 40ft chimney to retrieve his webbing which had appeared on the top as if by magic!

The OC Troop entered into a prize draw and ended up with the booby prize, not a wooden spoon but a second pip to go with the one he found in last year's draw. Joking aside, congratulations to **Lt Parsons**!

Sgt Norrie Allen is away on a basic military recognition course learning the difference between a Trunk Node and a group of caravans. This comes from the fact that he thought the Node would blend into the surroundings of a caravan park!

Just as you forget what an exercise is—they come around again! This time however, we were staying in England (no duty frees?). We moved out and after only 200m the OC decided that the route card meant to say 'left' instead of 'right'. The rest of the Troop however, decided it said 'right'. We all managed to arrive at the same place in the end—the top of Sutton Bank! With only 2 Switches out, not a lot of communicating could take place so the Troop decided to attack Roman Tp.

Cpls Humphries, Houghton and **Phillips** (**Cpl Houghton** being the technical support for the mission!) went on a recce of their location. Having found the identities of all the wagons we withdrew to plan the next phase.

High explosives were put together by **LCpl Rogerson** (he gave tins of compo he did not want). At around midnight the attack team moved off. As well as **Cpls Phillips** and **Houghton** from the Recce Team, we had picked up **LCpls Watson, Phil Shawcross** and **Sig Place**. The attack was a total success, Roman Tp did not know what hit them! The ERV still maintains that he checked his vehicle however, when endex was called and he pulled out of location a compo tin was seen to fall off!

In the last few months we have had quite a number of hellos and goodbyes to say. One of the goodbyes was to **Cpl Fallows**, who has gone on to bigger and better things. Best of luck at Sandhurst!

Other goodbyes—**Capt Hanson** (2 Sqn), **Cpl Brash** (Secure Area) and **Cpl Openshaw** (civvy street).

Welcome to the following people: **Cpl Mountfield, LCpls Shawcross, Bowling, Sig Moore** and **Place**.

A special goodbye to all the Technicians in the Troop: **SSgt Woodfine, Cpl Houghton** and **LCpl Woolen**.

Hopefully we should be able to get some work done in the Troop now that you lot have gone!

1 SQUADRON

PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj Terry Canham**

2IC — **Capt S. Gray-Cowan**

SSM **WO2 (SSM) Ray Cory**, FofS **WO2 (FofS) Steve Cadywould**, YofS **SSgt (YofS) Graham Pardew**.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURES

Welcome to: **SSgt Adrian Jenkins** and **Martin** (Wak) **Waklawec** from the Gulf, **WSgt** 'Roni' **Nixon** (our first girl technician!), **Cpl Andy Riley** from 21 Sig Regt, **LCpl Ian** (Taff) **Lenny** from Blandford (here for the cricket), **Sig Julian Adams** and **Nigel Downey** from 'the factory'.

Farewell to **Sgt Tone Johnson** to 8 Sig Regt and **Sig Dixon-Dawson** to civvy street.

ADVENTURE TRAINING

With the signalmen tucked away on a 10 day Cadre Course, it was left to the JNCOs to head up to Ambleside for a week's climbing and abseiling. It was intended as an introduction to these activities and a refresher for those more experienced.

We left, with our instructors, **LCpls 'Taff' Hennessy** and **Al Richards**, we drove to the first ascent/descent at 'The Cathedral'. After a hard day collecting rope burns we spent the evening getting to know Ambleside. **Lt Hampton-Chubb** and **LCpl Clare** even managed to get an invite back to the local teacher training college!

The next day the heavens opened but back at 'The Cathedral' **LCpl 'SI' Hance** won the award for the last forward facing abseil, nobody else dared to!

Next day the instructors left for the Recce of our next abseil. They returned with a really great idea about abseiling down a cliff, into a water filled quarry! We found that the ropes were too short, so the idea was changed to abseil down the rope and then drop approximately 30ft into the water! However, as there were more students than instructors, we did a dry abseil instead.

LCpl Si Hance during one of his conventional descents

WELCOME AND FAREWELLS

Best wishes to **SSgt 'Stu' Piddock** and **Gail**, on posting to 39 Bde NI, congratulations on your promotion **Stu**. You will be sorely missed for your humour and hard work.

Also to **SSgt Andy Jenkins** and **Sheila**, who go to sunny Rudloe Manor.

Welcome to **Sgt Paul Caygill** from Roman Tp; hope you enjoy your stay with the A Team.

2 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd	**Maj A. J. Rock**
2IC	**Capt R. J. Duffy**

Ops **Capt M. G. Hanson**, Eagle Tp Comd **Capt F. N. Grant**, Falcon Tp Comd **Lt G. H. Hume**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) Payne**, YofS **SSgt (YofS) Sirr**, FofS **SSgt (FofS) Baldwin**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) Clair**.

In April and May we carried out an airmobile exercise in BAOR; PRE, took part in the annual 'Race and Sun' competition and the Regimental Athletics competition.

EAGLE TROOP SUMMER CAMP
ADVENTURE TRAINING TEAM

Sgts 'Mitch' Mitchell, 'Scouse' Moore, Cpl 'Nursey' Hatton, LCpls 'Al' Richards, 'Steve' Evans, 'Fergie' Milne, 'Globetrotter' Whitty, Sig 'Paul' Sorbie, 'Frank' Hudson, Ptes Colin and **Jock**.

The venue was Ambleside. The week was split between rock climbing/abseiling and hill walking, hill walking was probably the most popular. **Sig 'Fearless Frank' Hudson** proved his bravery, or idiocy, at abseiling by hurtling down every rock face as fast as possible and, usually, frontwards! He was closely followed by **Cpl** 'Nursey' **Hatton** whilst everyone watched in horror! Everyone enjoyed a good week's adventure training.

FALCON TROOP ADVENTURE TRAINING WEEK

The Advance Party left on Friday 17 May for Stirling Training Camp, the rest of the Troop followed the next day by coach (which was thought to have reverse gear only—it was so slow!). It arrived in Stirling just in time to catch the Scottish Cup Final and the Scottish rain!

On Sunday the activities got underway with a 1km walk up a mountain to a 50ft rock face, which we were supposed to abseil from Monday saw mountain biking, abseiling and wind surfing. Rock climbing, hill walking, canoeing and swimming were added as extra activities.

The evening's activities included football (golf for **Sig 'Dave' Berry**) and various entertainment was devised. Wednesday night was barbecue night.

FAREWELL/HELLO

Farewell to **Cpl Rutter** going to AA Coll Harrogate and **Sig Madgewick** going to 633 Sig Tp on promotion. Thanks for the hard work and all the best for the future.

Welcome back from Op Granby to **Cpl Cooke, LCpls Rosen, Stanwick** and **Sig Berry**. Not forgetting **Sig Mack** from his stint in NI—glad to have you all back.

15 INF BDE SIG TP

Tp Comd	**2Lt Tim Wood**
Tp YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Taff Williams**

Tp SSgt **SSgt Andy Snaith**.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Welcome to **Cpl** 'Hodgie' **Arthurs, Rick Cummings,** Taff **Vewen, Sig Stanley Knight,** 'Smudge' **Smith** and 'Fatty' **Kenning**.

Farewell to **Cpl Keith Graham, LCpl** 'Chipmunk' **Harper, Sig** 'Herse' **Chapman**, all departing to civvy street.

Congratulations go to **Sig Peters** and his wife **Dawn** on the birth of their daughter.

SPORT

The Troop have been active participants in the many athletics meetings which have taken place in the last couple of months. **2Lt Tim Wood** would like to give himself a pat on the back for winning the 200m and 400m at the Morrison Cup and the District Championships.

SSgt (YofS) Taff Williams organised the team on the ground. **LCpl 'Geordie' Crawford** for his pains in the spear throwing, was not last!

RACE THE SUN 1991

In keeping with what has now become a Regimental annual tradition, members of 2nd Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt, complemented by teams from the AA Coll Harrogate, 8 and 11 Sig Regts, Depot King's Div and, of course, HQ NEDIST once again assembled at Imphal Barracks to compete in the competition aptly named 'Race the Sun', so called due to its starting at Sunrise and finishing at Sunset.

We are proud to say that we believe we are alone in the three Services in competing in the competition with participants from the rank of Private to Major General, or equivalent.

The idea was conceived in 1989, as a training exercise. The competition brings the Army to the attention of York residents and, also raises money for local charities. Due to its success in 1989 guest teams were invited to participate which resulted in 'Race the Sun' becoming a major annual event in the calendar in the North of England.

We are lucky to have the kind support and sponsorship of Rowntree Mackintosh. The 'Yorkie Bar' has fast become associated with both the fitness and charity aspects of the York District.

'Race the Sun' is a multi-disciplinary relay race which has, we believe, been accepted as the toughest annual event in North Yorkshire. To give the reader a flavour of what lay in store for competitors I outline the events as they occur. At 0445 hrs, some 30 minutes before sunrise on 16 May, 432 members of the Regiment (not forgetting our Squadron at Catterick—210 Sig Sqn) and Guest Teams, supported by their administrative backups stood by for the start. The pistol shot signalled the commencement of the short run to the river bank of the River Ouse, where competitors were quick to enter their canoes for the 6km canoe upstream.

The 14 hour event had begun! This event, which covers some 120 miles, traverses some of the wildest terrain, picturesque but rugged, that North Yorkshire has to offer. Competitors tackle many disciplines including cycling from Newton-on-Ouse to Kilburn and Thornton-le-Dale to Castle Howard, hill runs from Sutton Bank and Blakey.

Topping, a forced march from Sutton Bank to Broadway. With a fell run across Helmsley Moor, a half marathon from Helmsley to Cropton, Mountain Biking through Cropton Forest, Swimming across Castle Howard Lake and, for good measure, an Assault Course at Depot King's Div at Strensall.

For some weeks prior to the event, participants (and possibly those who volunteer) busied themselves obtaining sponsorship for either themselves or for their teams. Last year we raised in the region of £3,000—this year the aim was to double that figure! Each Squadron chooses a children's charity. This year the Children's Ward, York District Hospital—Fulford Cross School and Northfield School (both Special Needs Schools), the Special Needs Activity and Play Provisions for York (SNAPPY) and finally, the Deanne Gee Memorial Fund (which assists local handicapped children).

Although it is not possible to mention all the competitors who made the competition such a success, exception must be made for **WO1 (RSM) Geoff Ellis**, who despite competing in a previous Leg—upon hearing that one of the Squadron Swimmers had to retire from the Castle Howard Lake Swim due to fatigue—without blinking, stripped to his underwear and swam the entire Leg rather than allow his team to be disqualified! Who said they don't make them like they used to?

As you can imagine this is quite a large commitment, there are 16 different Legs and each team have three competitors per Leg. With 10 teams competing, all with their administrative backup, York city appears to be inhabited with runners, swimmers and cyclists. At the end of the day—despite the hard challenge—everyone has asked to be allowed to compete again next year.

With sponsorship money pouring in daily, we have already passed last year's total—we are in no doubt that we will reach our goal and raise in the region of £6,000 for these very worthwhile Charities.

We congratulate this year's winners, the AA Coll Harrogate, who beat Depot King's Div by nine minutes to take the Guest Team Prize. The Regimental Trophy this year was won by 1 Sqn—well done.

Cpl 'Rockey' Ramharak with the Winner's Trophy and the Best Squadron Trophy

A tired competitor receives his reward

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3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 114

CO'S HANDOVER/TAKEOVER

On 17 May **Lt Col J. R. B. Cook** left the Regiment. His departure was marked by dinner nights and culminated in being driven out of RHQ on one of the Regiment's few remaining Panzers.

The Regiment wishes **Col Jonathan** and his wife **Jane** the very best for their tour at RMCS Shrivenham.

The Regiment is now under the Command of **Lt Col R. Baxter** who arrived from the Army Staff College in Camberley. We wish him and his wife **Gwynedd** a happy and successful tour with the 'Iron Division'.

The CO being driven out of RHQ past members of the Regiment who lined the route out of camp

1 SQUADRON

HANDOVER/TAKOVER OF OC 1 SQUADRON

On 17 May the Squadron said farewell to **Maj Rod Thomas** on his posting to the MOD. **Maj Thomas** joined the Squadron in 1989 and served slightly longer than normal due to our tour on Op Granby. We wish **Denise** and **Rod** good luck and best wishes for the future and send congratulations on the birth of their son **Robert**.

Our new Sqn Comd **Maj Chris Richards** was posted to us from 28 Sig Regt, via the Gulf.

Maj R. G. Thomas, in desert livery being towed out of 1 Squadron

SPORTS

ATHLETICS

Immediately following the Squadron's return from 'Gulf' leave we fielded an athletics team for the Inter Sqn Athletics and gained second place.

INTER SQUADRON SWIMMING

After the initial request for swimmers names and preferred strokes raising comments such as 'like a brick' and 'beached whale', **Sgt** 'Fish' **Weavers** took the enthusiastic hopefuls to Werl pool to train. Some, hoping to get away from the SSM's runs and have an easy time, were quickly and viciously disillusioned. **Sgt Weavers** punishing circuit training left some of them volunteering to return to the SSM's tender mercy.

With a squad of about 15 in training, the time trials began with some of the potential butterfly and back-strokers clocking up hours rather than minutes for 50m. The squad made the best use of the luxury heated pool to hone their abundant skills before venturing into Soest outdoor pool for the final practice.

In totally unprecedented weather 'Sunny Soest' was actually warm and bright for the competition. After great swims by **Sig Craine, LCpl Oldcroft** and **Sgt Weavers** the Squadron was narrowly beaten into second place, but an exhausted team still managed to celebrate in style. Thanks to all our supporters and cheers for the beer.

202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 16

PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj Peter Gillespie**
2IC — **Capt Mark Baines**

Battle Captain **Capt David Kenyon**, OC Ardennes Tp **2Lt Brian Russell**, SSM **WO2 John Brooks**, YofS **WO2 (YofS) Steve Wayman**, FofS **SSgt (FofS) Steve Gill**, SQMS **SSgt Steve Mitchell**, Chief Clerk **Sgt Paul Wicks**.

HELLO FROM PADERBORN

This bumper report from 202 Sig Sqn will cover two main areas, firstly Op Granby home and away, and the Squadron events since we have been back together.

Whilst the boys were sunning themselves in the Gulf life went on in Paderborn where **SSM John Brooks** became Families Officer and Wives Club gopher. The Wives club was very busy during families lunches, Bingo, trips and bowling nights were very popular. Many thanks to all those wives who supported these events and each other so well. Particular thanks to 'SSM' **Gina Brooks** who has been at the helm throughout.

Back Row, L to R: Karen Preen, Dawn Wicks, Petra Marshall, Mary Farrington, Gina Brooks and Nicola Wayman
Front Row, L to R: Liz Kenyon, Anna Jones, Sharon Graham and Jo Baines

TOGETHER AGAIN—MAY 1991

The Squadron has now reformed in Paderborn but along with most of 1 (BR) Corps has few vehicles to play with. 'More drill' shouted **WO2 (SSM) John Brooks** as he helped to embark the Squadron on a programme of Mil Trg and sporting competitions. Top marks on the Mil Trg went to **Sgt Archer** for his demonstration on survival. Three inter Troop sports have taken place, Athletics, Rugby and Football. The overall scores on the doors at present are Ardennes Tp 8, SHQ Tp 4 and Rhine Tp 6. The Sqn Athletics Team is strong again this year and the season started with a convincing win in the Regt Inter Sqn event. The Cricket side also looks strong, five players; **Capt David Kenyon, Cpl Mitch Mitchell, LCpl Lance Malin, Sig Taff Wilson** and **'Mc' McKenna** having made the Div side for the Inter Div Championships. It's 'sport for all' in sunny Paderborn.

LS AND GC PRESENTATION

The photo shows **SSgt Kevin Nelson** together with his wife **Leslie** with **Lt Col Jonathon Cook** after receiving the LS & GC medal. **SSgt Nelson** deserves the congratulations of the Squadron for 'undetected crime'—well done **Kev**.

SSgt Kevin Nelson, Leslie Nelson and Lt Col Jonathon Cook

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Hello to the following new members, Sqn Comd **Maj Pete Gillespie, SSgt (FofS) Steve Gill** and his family, **Cpl Fitzpatrick** and **Jane, LCpl OZ Hulland** and **Karen, Sgt Archer** and **Allison, LCpl Stu Hodgson** and **Naomi, Cpl Joyce** and **Andrea**.

We said farewell to **Maj Jo Fletcher** and **Jenni** who has handed over command to **Maj Pete Gillespie**. From all ranks, many thanks and best of luck in your post as OIC Windsurfing 1 (BR) Corps.

Farewell to **SSgt (FofS) John Martin** and family on posting to 22 Sig Regt, to **Cpl Jock Castle** on posting to 21 Sig Regt, come back with the football strip **Jock**. Finally farewell and congratulations to **LCpl Keith Lines** on his selection for promotion to Cpl and his posting to 1 ADSR.

TROOPS

ARDENNES TP

We have done well on the sports pitches and have come through with the following results: Athletics—first, Rugby—first and Football —second.

Welcome to the Troop to **Sig Shaun Bysouth** and **Rod Rogers**; heads down for a good tour. Congratulations to **LCpls 'Scouse' Gamble, Mino Minorczyk** and **Dick Whitaker** (yes **Whitaker** has been promoted) on their recent promotions well done lads.

RHINE TP

Its now seven months since Rhine Tp vanished to the four corners of 1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt to deploy on Op Granby. After a month's leave everyone is back with tales of glory and numerous photos of sand dunes and burnt out T64's.

A warm welcome to the new Rhino's **LCpl Whyte** and **Sig Coleman** from 3 Div, as well as **Sig 'Geordie' Allan, 'Hacker' Davies** and **Kev McLean** from Catterick.

Finally many congratulations, somewhat belated, to **LCpl Glen Stephenson** on the arrival of little **Rebecca** (two days before flying out to Al Jubayl).

206 (6 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 106

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj Nick Corbin**
2IC — **Capt Neil Cary**

SSM **WO2 (SSM) Allen**, YofS **WO2 (YofS) Crosby**, FofS **Sgt (FofS) Newsome**, SQMS **SSgt Treen**, OC A Tp **Lt Neil Selby**, A Tp SSgt **SSgt Boulton**, OC B Tp **???**, B Tp Sgt **Sgt Martin**, Chief Clerk **Sgt Griffiths**.

It is so long since we last appeared in *The Wire* that it would be impossible to list all the new arrivals and say farewell to all who have departed. We must, however, welcome our new OC, **Maj Nick Corbin** and his wife **Penny** who arrived in January. We hope they both enjoy their time with 206.

After being decimated by Op Granby we are now fully-reformed. We are also fully up-to-strength in manpower for the first time in many years. All we need now is for someone to give us back our Panzers.

The programme for the year ahead is crowded with the usual mixture of exercises, adventurous training and inspections. This year **WO2 (YofS) Terry Crosby** is organising an expedition to walk around Mont Blanc so there should be something on that in a future issue.

HOW 206 WON THE GULF WAR

Although 6 Armd Bde did not deploy on Op Granby, some 40 members of 206 did get out there. They served with so many different units it became clear that the General Staff were using them to raise the standards of these other units. To relate all their tales of heroism and bravery, fortitude and courage, hardship and endeavour, would fill this magazine and more besides. However, it would be wrong not to make some brief mention of the parts they played.

The true gladiators of the war (assuming one believes their stories) were the crew of SAN 637. Commanded by **Cpl Ian Burt** it included **Cpl Kevin Wood, LCpl Kenneth McCausland** and **Sig Mark Jago**. Apart from providing comms at the Arty Raid HQ they also charged through Iraq as the Div Rear SU HQ.

A quieter hero is **Cpl Seb Wiles** who commanded the Rebro that went through the breach with the first American forces. Then, with his crewman **Sig Andrew Luck**, they held the nets for those British units following on. On the other side of the breach, **Sig Andrew Ball** was doing the same in his Rebro. **Sig Mick McDonald** also ended up in a Rebro which followed 4 Bde into Iraq.

At the heart of the military machine was **Cpl Paul Davis** who commanded the Plans 432 at 1 Div HQ. He was able to renew his acquaintance with **Maj Gen Rupert Smith** who remembered him from 6 Bde days. **LCpl Ian Boslem** also worked for the Staff, this time in the G2 Int vehicle at HQ 4 Bde. **LCpl Allan Moffat** drove the Staff Moves vehicle for the same HQ.

Several members of 206 were to be found in 4 Bde BAA including **2Lt Charlie Cooper, Cpl Richard Lyon, LCpl Mark Keogh, Sig Richard Cocks** and **Simon McKinna. Sgt Lenny Martin** found himself in 1 Div Rear Comms Ops and **Cpl** (promoted in the Gulf) **Scott Rickett** worked in 4 Bde Ech. **LCpl Michael Sherwood** worked with the QM Dept of 1 Div Rear.

Perhaps the soldier with the best job was **Sig Dave Anderson** who, as driver for **Lt Col John Kirby**, managed to visit nearly every Signal unit in the Gulf.

The Ptarmigan system absorbed a large part of 206. **Lt Neil Selby** commanded TN 063 and took with him **Cpl Pete Preece** and **Sig Alf Garnett** (who enjoyed himself so much he stayed on with the LSG Sig Sqn). **Sgt Steve Osman** spent the war in the SQMS wagon of OSC 133 and **Sgt Paul Newholm** joined **Sig Andrew Hambley** and **Brian Johnman** in TN 043. **Sig Glynn Warburton** went into TN 053, **Sig Chris Scales** into TN 011 and **Capt Neil Cary** ended up as SCRA Manager in TSEP.

Finally, last but not least, our two techs, **Cpls John Ashman** and **Michael Laidlaw**, served with 14 Sig Regt—I'm afraid we can't tell you any more about it.

And here ends the Roll of Honour. All of them are now back in Germany and doing some work for a change. The people you have to be concerned about now are those of us who have to listen to their war stories!

EXERCISE RENEGADE TRIANGLE

By Sgt Chalky Meek

Ex Renegade Triangle was an adventurous training exercise held in the area of Sonthofen, Bavaria. Twenty members of the Squadron went down for the week, including 15 students, four instructors and one chef. The activities included canoeing, abseiling, mountain biking and trekking (though one of the groups got out of trekking because **Lt Neil Selby** decided he'd arrive a day later than the rest of the party).

Day 1 saw us depart Salamanca Bks at 0600 hrs with quite a few sore heads from Friday night. The journey down was uneventful apart from the Minibus co-driver **Capt Neil** (it's my minibus) **Cary, Cpl Dave** (make sure you have a receipt) **Lyon** and the rest of the party having to wait for nearly an hour at a rest platz for the two rovers and the Bedford. We all finally made it to the REME Chalet where we arrived to a most delightful welcome and guided tour of the hut.

The Saturday night saw most of the lads venture down into Obersdorf to get acquainted with the local population. The dream team, which consisted of **Cpl Paul Davis, LCpl Ken McCausland** and **Sig Norn Addison**, led the way. **LCpl McCausland** gets a special mention because over the course of the week he spent hours chatting up a certain young lady and all he had to show for it was a mug of compo coffee.

Day 2 got under way with the groups going off to do their activities. The abseilers went with **Capt Neil Cary** (and of course his minibus), the canoeists went with **LCpl Paul Oliver** whom we borrowed from 22 Sig Regt for the week and finally the mountain bikers went with **Sgt Chalky Meek**. A good hard day in the saddle was had by all, with the exception of **LCpl 'Fiddler' Box** who spent most of the time adjusting his bike. The canoeists were being put through their paces, though **LCpl Paul Oliver** was having trouble convincing the dream team that the water wasn't really that cold. The 2IC got his group doing some nice things on the end of the ropes, though none more so than **Sig 'Yogi' Robertson** whose mountain goat impressions were envied by the rest of the groups. Even **Sig Frank Burnside** had to settle for second best. The rest of the week went very well indeed and **LCpl Bob 'My feet hurt' Dixon** did well in providing us with some excellent food.

On the Thursday the groups could choose what activity they would like to do again. The three professional mountain bikers went their own way—**LCpl 'Fiddler' Box, LCpl Mark Baker, Sig Fod Hughes** and with them they dragged along **Cpl Dave Lyon. Lt Neil Selby** thought he was in for a day off but two of the lads actually volunteered to go for a walk with him. **Mr Selby** thought it was a wind up but **Sig Jock Black** and **Lee Lyon** were dead serious and no amount of gentle banter could change their minds. The 2IC took away his little group of mountain goats including the best dressed man of the week, **Sig Sid Buck**, such style and panache in one so young. **LCpl Paul Oliver** took **LCpl Elmo Dowd** and **Sig Mick McDonald** to the Olympic canoe course at Avysberg where they had an enjoyable time. While all this was happening **LCpl Bob Dixon** and **Sgt 'Chalky' Meek** went shopping for the barbecue that evening. It was a perfect way to round off an excellent week's adventure training and we are all looking forward to next year when we can do it again.

4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt BFPO 15

HQ SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj Peter Goss Glosters**
2IC — **Lt David Welton RPC**

BSM **WO2 Jim Brotherston RA**, BQMS **SSgt Barry Lawrence RA.**

The Squadron man the administrative 'engine room' despite the deficiency of manpower in almost every department. This handicap has forced the BSM **WO2 Jim Brotherston** to retreat to his dues bunker for most of the time only to be detected by the continuous stream of cigarette smoke.

Congratulations to **SSgt Barry Lawrence** on his recent selection for promotion to WO2. The Sqn Comd has been heard to mutter that he would not be a SSgt for much longer so was not too surprised at the good news. We wish him well.

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

RHQ endured a particularly busy period during the 'boots on, boots off' preparation for Granby 2 when **LCpl Gary Gibb** and **WLCpl Karen Manzie**, under the watchful eye of the travel director **Sgt Ray Pritchard**, carried out a sterling job by preparing the Unit's documentation for the expected trip abroad. **Cpl John Sharples** and **LCpl Ritchie Hanley** successfully completed their sponsored 36 hour word processing marathon to produce the crewing tables and word has it that their efforts kept the Supt Clerk in future employment. The CO **Lt Col Tony Raper** handed over command on 12 April to **Lt Col Cedric Burton**. We wish every success to **Lt Col Raper** at the Staff College and welcome his successor. We bade farewell to **LCpl** 'Stavros' **Hanley** and family on their departure to Cyprus and to **LCpl John Hayes** on his move to Northern Ireland. We welcome the arrival of **LCpl** 'Titch' **Petre, Sig Chris Wilson** and **Pat Holker**.

The department continues to maintain a steady helm with the aid of **WO2 (RQMS) Alan Markillie RCT, WO2 Paul Knox** 5 INNIS DG and **SSgt Jim Curley** 16/5 L. **WO2 Paul Knox** is shortly to be posted, under protest, to Hong Kong for three years after serving with the Regiment for four and half years. All those admirers in the field of accommodation stores who begged him to stay will, alas, have to make do without his advice and friendly co-operation.

Dieter the Dog and his staff from RHQ
From Left to Right, Back Row: LCpl Gibb, Sig Wilson and Cpl Sharples
Middle Row: WLCpl Manzie, LCpl Petre, WPte Brookes and Sig Priestley
Front Row: Sig Holker, Sgt Pritchard and WCpl Jones
Centre: Dieter the Dog

QM(T) DEPARTMENT

Despite the repeated cry of 'no manpower' the department has managed to keep smiling. Congratulations to **Sgt Adrian West** on his promotion. We bade farewell to **Sgt Mark Blakeley**, off on a tour in the Falklands before being posted to 30 Sig Regt, and to **Cpl Bill Knox** posted to 16 Sig Regt. A special farewell and appreciation to **WO2 (RQMS) Bill Kelly** who has returned to UK for his last six months service.

MT DEPARTMENT

The MT achievement during this period must be credited to those who deployed on Op Granby and we all welcome their safe return. The remainder of the Troop must also receive recognition for their hard work and the extra long hours worked to cover the gaps left by almost all the LCpls and Dvrs. Having shown our prowess at RCT Ops we are preparing to enter into the summer activities of Adventure Training, starting with Ex Verdon Quadrant organised by **Capt Derek Cleeton** which is a level three expedition to climb and canoe the Grand Canyon in the South of France.

Finally, congratulations to **SSgt Alex Porter** on his recent selection for promotion to WO2. He will be missed after such a marathon tour with the MT Troop.

LAD

The LAD has undergone a very busy period having deployed five tradesmen to the Gulf in addition to the many other tradesmen sent to assist other units in preparing their equipment for deployment. Commander Maintenance 1(BR) Corps **Brig M. L. Wildman** visited the LAD on 18 April. The Commander commended the OC and his team on their excellent standard of workmanship and thanked them for all the hard work carried out by all ranks in support of Op Granby.

CATERING DEPARTMENT

March brought an emphasis on trade training featuring conversion of No 4 and No 5 Cooking Units from gas to petrol (just in case). Action followed training on Ex Quadriga Herald as weary chefs padded to and from the field trying to use the remainder of the Regiment's stock of training Compo. If any of the lads had all-in-stew with sand and grit in—the chefs swear it was for training value. The chefs also played hard. They had to on a couple of occasions, defeating 7 Sig Regt and 16/5 Lancers chefs in a five-a-side soccer competition. A games evening followed which was attended by wives and friends. An excellent evening was rounded off with farewell presentations to **Cpl John Worley AAC** on completion of 22 years service and to **Pte McIntosh**.

Brig M. L. Wildman discussing the 20kw generator with Cpl Gary Pickford

INTER SQUADRON ATHLETICS COMPETITION

The big day arrived Friday 10 May.

We got off to an incredible start when **WO1 Terry Hall**, ACC, won the 400m hurdles. It soon became apparent that we were doing remarkably well, with only 2 Sqn managing to keep up with us.

The lead see-sawed between us and 2 Sqn all day. Other results worthy of note were **Sgt Harvey** 200m winner, **Cpl Robinson** high jump winner, and **Sgt Rutkowski** 800m winner.

Some excellent performances were put up, resulting in us winning many of the events when the A and B competitors were taken into consideration.

At the end of the day, with only the 4 × 400m to go, 2 Sqn were 2 points in front. If we could win the event, or if we just came home ahead of 2 Sqn, we would be the 1991 champions.

Unfortunately this was not to be, and 2 Sqn, with a very strong 4 × 400m team, romped home to take the race and the competition.

Well done to 2 Sqn, but watch out next year. We're already training!

1 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj E. A. Newnham**
2IC — **Capt K. A. Jones**

SSM **WO2 (SSM) P. Ramsey**, FofS **WO2 (FofS) Edmonds**, YofS **SSgt (YofS) P. Jones**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) J. Pickles.**

Just a quickie from the 1 Sqn journalist of the month as that 'Sword of Damocles' RSIT is looming dangerously near. Once again the word 'obtain' has taken on several meanings and the search for green paint has taken the Squadron to the four corners of the globe!

The Squadron has recently returned from another multi-national, action packed, fast moving epic of an exercise with 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt, or should we say MNAD. Various translations have been put forward, but it is understood that, 'Multicoloured Nightly Aerial Displays', has been accepted. Notably, Jaguar Tp's newly christened switch has never fully recovered from the champagne liberally sprayed all over it at its official launch celebrations, so they now have a 'new' one and are now the only Troop to possess two switches! **2Lt Louise Tomkins** and **SSgt Budd Abbott** were heard to say 'what's wrong with a spare!'.

A toast to the new Switch 074 by Lt Col Tony Raper and 2Lt Louise Tomkins

Panther and Kiwi Tps have proved that they can survive without an officer, whilst **Lt Andy Williams** enjoys a jaunt in Bavaria, on the excuse that he is OC Hut, and **Lt Hanby** has a 'holiday' on P Company. After the last exercise Kiwi Tp have been asked to provide all military signposts for BAOR.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Hello from Panther Tp to **Sig Jason Andrews, Paul Burn** and **Simon Emery**. Congratulations on promotion to **LCpl Mark Yuill**. Welcome home from the Gulf to **Sig** 'Charlie' **Brown**.

Hello from Cheetah Tp to **Sig Al Hughes** and **Bill Bailey**, straight from the factory.

Hello from Kiwi Tp to **LCpl Wood** and **Sig Hilton**. Goodbye to **Cpl** (now civvy) **Billy Brothwood**.

Hello from Jaguar Tp **LCpl Rock, LCpl Filer, Sig Butler** and **Stevenson**. Welcome back from the Gulf to **Cpl Graeme Keith**.

SPORT

SSgt Nige Varley insists on dressing in blazer and tie for something called cricket. He says it's all an excuse for gentlemen to get together and talk about googlies!

The Tug-of-War season is here once again and **SSgt Bud Abbott** and his merry bunch of 'Tuggers' are involved in an extremely vigorous training programme. The Regiment has been invited to pull at the Royal Tournament—autographs will be available after the event. The question is will **2Lt Louise Tomkins** actually be pulling as their secret weapon, or is she really just OIC. **Cpls Fox, Hurst, Evans** and **LCpl Collis** are competing for the loudest 'Yes' trophy.

2 SQUADRON

PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd	**Maj N. T. Moore**
2IC	**Capt J. C. Williams**

SSM **WO2 Calow**, SQMS **SSgt Baron**, FofS **SSgt (FofS) Flippance**, YofS **SSgt (YofS) Holt**, Sqn Clk **LCpl Petre**.

EXERCISE SPRING TIDE

The Squadron was not let off the hook after all, and took on the commitment of 3 SANs with its usual good humour. Support to the newly formed MNAD gave us the chance of working, not only with 2 Div but, also, with the Dutch. Comd Comms **Cpl Pete Blagg** and his ADC **Sig Williams** impressed with their speed and efficiency. Whilst newly promoted **LCpl Saunders** and **Sig Wells** resorted to the ADAC, and they were left with the LAD option, oh well.

Cpl Barrass taxed himself and his crew by providing four subsets. Even this was too much for **Sig** 'Smudge' **Smith. Sig** 'Danny' **Kates** continued his building site training producing one brew below freezing and two verging on zero, even **LCpl** 'Tomo' **Tomlinson** wouldn't take him on to the det, despite the job advert he put in Sixth Sense.

BAOR TRIATHALON

The Squadron supplied the Regimental Triathalon teams with one notable exception, **SSgt** 'Wippet' **Sykes**—welcome to the main Squadron. The weather was perfect for a holiday but not exactly what was required when eight people were to undertake three gruelling events. The 4 Div event team consisted of: **Capt Tony Picknell, SSgt (YofS) Geordie Holt, Cpl Stan Staniford** and **LCpl Mick Breydin**.

SSgt Geordie Holt the man with all the equipment proved that being a Swanvesta match was the easiest thing in the world—two minutes of sun. The team came third overall with **Cpl 'Stan' Staniford** coming in tenth after steaming away on his bike fitted, I hasten to add, with new aerobars.

In the afternoon the big boys set off with a team of: **SSgt Kenny Sykes, Cpl Ibbo Ibbotson, LCpl Kev Christie** and **Sig Dicky Brass**. The event was a 800m swim in an open lake (Temp 10°C), a 40km cycle and 10km run. **LCpl Christie** was third out of the water with **Sig Dicky Brass** just behind in fifth. **SSgt Kenny Sykes** decided to do doggy paddle, or so it seemed, and came out well down the field. That said, by the end of the cycle all had changed and with **Cpl Ibbotson** leading **Sig Brass, SSgt Sykes** and **LCpl Christie**. Came the final slog and **SSgt Sykes** pulled it all back, coming in 25th overall with **Cpl Ibbotson** in 31st place, **LCpl Christie** 41st and **Sig Dicky Brass** proving how easy it is to lose all your fitness in three weeks of leave. Could this be the start of the 4 ADSR Triathletes?

INTER SQUADRON ATHLETICS

On Friday 10 May the Inter Sqn Athletics competition was held once again at the Jahn Stadium here in Herford. As usual, all the non-athletic members of the Regiment were dressed up to the nines in their Corps ties, blazers and Panama hats. 2 Sqn who had their first and last training session on the Wednesday thought they had a good chance of bettering the last five attempts at winning the trophy.

By lunchtime, (surprisingly) we were joint leaders with HQ Sqn on 108 pts each. After lunch the majority of the field events took place with the two relays. The last event was the 4 × 400m relay with 2 Sqn leading HQ Sqn by only two points. It turned out to be an exciting last event with, as you must have guessed, 2 Sqn winning, picking up the trophy for the first time since 1986!

Special mentions go to **Sig Paul Wildish** for winning three of his events and coming second in another, and to **Sgt Coffin** for outstanding performances, coming first in all his events. **Sig** 'Taff' **Boucher** for winning the 110m hurdles and third in the High Jump, if he had used his right arm instead of his left in the discus he might have had a better chance of coming sixth. To **Cpl Pete Ross** for an excellent performance in the 400m after being told he was competing in the event half an hour prior to the start. Well done also to **Cpls** 'Stan' **Staniford, Bruce Ibbotson** and **LCpls** 'Hammy' **Hamilton** and **Vince Saunders**. And finally a special mention to **Capt Picknell** for his outstanding performance in the 1,500m, he came sixth. Not bad for a Nordic Skier!

A1 TROOP

PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**Capt Tony Picknell**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Dave Catchpole**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Steve Martin**
	TBC

Hello to **LCpls** Taff and Jackie **Webber** and **LCpl** Rob **Read** on and upwards to A1 from A2. Also **LCpl Chris Neale** and **Mrs Neale** who came from that sleepy hollow 1 Sqn. In addition **Cpl** 'Chaz' **Fox** has taken a few more under his wing, namely **Sig** 'Bomber' **Lanchester, Andy Drohan, Tony Boyer** whilst **Sig** 'Smudge' **Smith** and his wife **Petra** have seen the light and transferred from the Artillery. Goodlucks and best wishes to **Cpls** 'Woody' **Wood**, detached to AMTC (make sure we get the best deal), 'Johno' **Johnston** and **LCpl** 'Sniper' **Shears**, our heroes in the Gulf. Hi there to **LCpl Nige Howard** in Cyprus and **Sig Steve Birchall** in the Falklands. Two farewells; **Sig** 'Mat' **Eastman** back to SHQ and **Sig** 'Danny' **Kates** to A2. Congratulations to **Sig** 'Simo' **Simpson** and **Bridgette** on their recent marriage and to **Carol** and **Andy Ryan** on the birth of her child.

A3 TROOP

Welcome to **LCpl Hyland, Sig** 'Paddy' **Briscoe** and 'Jock' **Campbell. Sgt Collins** is back, now a proper Sgt. **LCpl John Imrie** is back—he passed! **Sig** 'Jock' **Archibald** is back from Cyprus whilst the Gulf veteran—**Sig** 'Tash' **Hayes** is also with us again.

Now to the farewells. Goodbye and good luck to **Cpl Jeff Smyth, LCpl** 'Chaz' **Challiner** and **LCpl** 'Tow Chain' **Thomas** off to the UK and **Sig Gordon Grassick.**

Finally congratulations to **Sig** 'AJ' **Crabbe** on his marriage to **Nicole**.

3 SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj Justin Johnson**
2IC	**Lt Bob O'Hara**

Tp Comd N Tp **Lt Dave Craft,** TM Tp **WO1 (FofS) Mick Poland,** SSM **WO2 (SSM) John Somerville,** FofS **SSgt (FofS) Mick Minton,** SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) Ron Woodger,** Ops SNCO **Sgt Dave Mason.**

SHQ TROOP

Having just found his feet the 2IC was sent to the Gulf with the UN, the Squadron wish him a safe and pleasant tour. We also said farwell to **Sgt Dave Shuttleworth** with a barbecue at the Squadron Commanders House (will your garden ever be the same again sir?). We wish **Dave** and **Margaret** all the best in the Province. Lastly, for those of you who follow the Chronicles of Tarm-Egan here is the final chapter—written as a farwell to the previous CO—**Lt Col A. J. Raper MBE:** 'And so it came to pass, that after several years of leading the Seagnarls on Tarm-Egan, the Great Lord Tonee was ordered by the magician Pee-Bee the Eleventh to go forth on a quest. Lord Tonee was to travel to a planet called Camber-Lee and oversee the training of the Deev-staff so that they no longer came to Tarm-Egan needing to ask many questions about the planets awesome power.

In order to see Lord Tonee off in a fitting manner, it was decided to hold a great feast called 'See-Ohs Gozome' in his honour. The minor leaders at Mainey, For-ward, Re-ah and Osk all arranged to give gifts in honour of the great Lord Tonee . . .

And so, after much secrecy and preparation it was time for See-Ohs Gozome and all the tribal leaders on Tarm-Egan sat down to a great feast. As they ate they remembered, with fondness, some of the events of the past few years. Such as Lord Tonee's eagerly awaited confwrongs where his gentle caring approach exorted many a tribal leader to push that little bit harder to achieve the aim. And indeed of his three main points:

Plan 2 steps ahead—always a must when answering the great Lords questions on a confwrong.

Maintain a sense of urgency—always achieved in com-sops at Mainey when the confwrong went a stray.

Passage of information—never faster than when the sacking committee convened, or when endex was called, and never slower than when the Turdises were booked.

Lord Tonee was also a gladiator and was a master of the ancient ball and stick games Hockey and Golf. But most of all he would be remembered as a grand master of the mystic order of cork poppers, where at many a feast he could be seen trying to hit the mystic light.

As the great feast drew to a close the great Lord Tonee was presented with farewell gifts from the lesser seagnarls: A new tribal teddy—for verily they had caused the old one to be much worn.

A cork popper so that he may have one last chance to hit the mystic light.

The Seagnarls at the feast gazed in awe and sadness and wondered what the future would bring, for much had been learned under Lord Tonee's rule.'

TM TROOP

With RSIT now firmly behind us, the Troop can start to get the workshops cleaned up before the Troop SSgt returns. **SSgt Geordie Merrie** is detached to Kuwait Sig Sqn. Together with **Sgt Dave Morley** he is soaking up the UVs and dreaming of ice cold drinks, the kind he can't drink there.

The Troop wishes to extend a warm welcome to **LCpl Mick Temple,** who has arrived from 8 Sig Regt.

It is about time that a special mention be made about the Out of Use team, who slave day in day out to keep the Light Preservation vehicles in good order. The lads also have the pleasure of listening to **Sgt Mick Watkins** talking about Ten Pin Bowling. **Sig Stuart Kelly** and **Dutton** are constantly black from work and must be costing the firm a lot in new uniforms. Meanwhile the Centrals and Radio Relay trucks are kept under the watchful eye of **LCpl Jim Guillfoyle** and **Sig Tony Hinton.** Keep up the good work lads.

200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 41

Now that Op Granby is over, except for equipment recovery, life in Detmold has returned to normal. We are glad to welcome our lads back.

Sport has regained its usually high position on the list of priorities. Soccer, rugby and hockey teams have gained notable achievements and the prospects for the athletics team look good.

In April the Squadron were pleased to welcome **Lt Col Cedric Burton** the new CO 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt on his first visit since handing over 200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn in 1989. Commitments are as numerous now as they were then, read on and learn a little of what we have been up to in recent months.

EXERCISE SURF QUADRANT

Eight members of the Squadron took part in Ex Surf Quadrant, a three week's adventure training sailing exercise in the Baltic in May. It was originally planned to be led by **Capt John Charnock** who, due to the Gulf, was replaced by his opposite number in B Troop, **Lt Clive Cook**. The sailing experience required for the trip was supplied in the form of **LCpl Harry Harrison** and **Cpl Mick Johns. Cpl Johns** accompanied the expedition throughout and was the crew's guide and instructor aboard the yacht, *Kranich*, a 56 wooden racing yacht built for the 1936 Olympics. The remaining expedition members were **Cpl Nobby Hall, LCpl Daz Melia RCT, Sig Dougie Lacey, Mitch Mitchell, Taff Williams** and **Pte Pez Perry RPC**.

Kranich sailed from Kiel on 5 May and headed North in gloomy conditions. Fortunately, the rest of the first week was spent in better weather conditions; clear skies and no rain. The all important wind, however, was either against us or sometimes non existent. By Friday 10 May we had made it to Aalborg in the North of Denmark, for a scheduled rest stop. Aalborg lived up to all expectations and left everyone's wallets considerably lighter.

The next port of call was to be Kristiansand in Norway. The weather had other ideas and in the space of five hours went from a dead calm to Force 7 Gale. The open sea between Denmark and Norway, the Skagerrak, became too dangerous to cross in *Kranich* and the skipper, **Cpl Mick Johns**, decided to head for Skagen, the northern most port in Denmark. The night of the attempted crossing to Norway was definitely one to remember, especially for the starboard watch was experienced the decks awash and **Sig Mitch Mitchell** being very unwell.

The sailors take time out to pose
Standing, L to R: Sig Mitch Mitchell, Lt Clive Cook (Exped Ldr), Pte Pez Perry RPC
Sitting, L to R: Sig Taff Williams and Dougie Lacey

Behind schedule, after the storm and unfavourable winds, Norway was abandoned and we sailed to Sweden instead. Then after a short day sailing around the islands off Sweden's coast, *Kranich* pulled into Gothenburg, Sweden's second largest city.

From Gothenburg we headed south, arriving in Copenhagen on Saturday 18 May. Fortunately, we arrived in the middle of the capital's Carnival weekend and were greeted by a city full of painted faces. **Sig Taff Williams** and **Pte Pez Perry** being resourceful individuals and short of money, found themselves a job for the evening—selling T Shirts. They did not break any sales records and came back with little more than a selection of free samples. From Copenhagen we started on the return journey to Kiel through the Danish Islands. The weather was variable and the wind was often against us. Throughout Tuesday 21 May the wind speed increased, eventually reaching Force 6. Fortunately, the islands protected *Kranich* from the worst of the conditions and we made it to Svenborg, where we sat out what was now a Force 8 Gale, occasionally gusting to 60 mph, the following day.

We arrived back in Kiel on Friday 24 May and started to prepare the yacht for handover. Then after a final polishing of the brasswork, the crew dispersed next day. The members of the crew who had never sailed before had learned a lot and everyone benefited from the experience of working as a team in cramped conditions.

MATCH REPORT BAOR MINOR UNIT HOCKEY FINAL

200 Sig Sqn, 2—ICP Viersen, 3

On Wednesday 27 March we travelled to Munster to play ICP Viersen in the most important match of the season.

As expected it was a very close match with both sides working hard until the final whistle. ICP scored first but we kept cool under pressure and managed to pull one back with a goal from **Sgt Chris Crickmore** after only 14 minutes of play. In an attempt to take the lead before half time **Capt Joe Cooper** received the ball in the circle from **Lt Tony Kirk**, took a first time hit at goal but was interrupted by the umpires whistle.

At half time with the score 1—1 no one needed reminding what was at stake.

A near goal worth mentioning was a great drive by **Capt Alasdair Wild** from the opposing 25 yard line to the goal line through half of the Viersen team, releasing it across the goal mouth right to left, a push by **Sgt Chris Crickmore** was recovered off the goal line by Viersen right back.

We were determined to get the second goal, **Capt Alasdair Wild** initially won the short corner then converted it to a goal. Only two minutes later Viersen equalised. At 26 minutes into the second half Viersen had a break and scored their third goal.

We then applied greater pressure. Our equaliser was not to be, a dribble by **Sgt Mac Singh** down the right side was released to **Capt Joe Cooper**, who struck the ball into the goal, however, **Mac** was penalised for an obstruction.

The team worked hard throughout the game but it was not to be our day. 200 Sig Sqn was defeated for the first time this season.

ROUND UP OF THE SOCCER SEASON

It was obvious from the results obtained during our pre season friendlies that we had a squad of players who were capable of chasing honours. Our early league results highlighted this fact and it was no real surprise when the team was unofficially declared Champions of the 4 Armd Div (Minor Units) league last November.

Two excellent cup runs then followed and the Squadron reached the semi finals of the BAOR Minor Units Challenge Cup but lost 1—0 to 40 Army Engr Sp Gp. Notable results achieved during this competition were a 4—1 home win over 202 Sig Sqn in a cracker of a match last November and an easier, but definitely sweeter, 3—2 away victory over our sister Sqn, 211 Sig Sqn, after extra time.

Despite the disappointment of failing to reach the final in the 'Big One', the next week the players had to lift themselves to Play 71 Amph Engr Sp Sqn in the final of the 4 Armd Div Minor Units Challenge Cup. The Engineers proved to have the edge in a fast entertaining game held in Detmold and came out on top 4—2.

Our best wishes go to the following former members of the Soccer Squad who have now moved on from the Sqn: **WO2 (YofS) Wilf Wedge** to 243 Sig Sqn, **Sgt Terry O'Neill** to 15 Sig Regt, **Cpl Geoff Trotman** to 202 Sig Sqn, **Cpl Keith Betts** to 30 Sig Regt, **LCpl Bob Ellison** to 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) and **Sig Lomas** on transfer to the RAF.

Finally this article would not be complete without mentioning the noisy vocal support that the squad received during our Cup Matches from the Squadron (who called them the 'Detmold Casuals'?).

4 ARMOURED DIVISION SEVEN-A-SIDE RUGBY

A relatively inexperienced side went to Hameln on Saturday 20 April 1991 intent on 'having a bash' and got off to the best possible start by defeating 15/19 H 24-0, committed tackling and running were immediately apparent. **Sig Brian Owen**, a recent convert from Soccer and Rugby League (some would say beyond redemption), proved highly effective from the outset, displaying pace and aggressive running.

A narrow defeat by 4 Armd Wksp 4—0 then followed. A breakaway and kick ahead resulted in an unconverted try and, despite continual pressure, 200 Sig Sqn could not break down a well organised Workshop defence. This was then followed by a further defeat by 1 Regt AAC whose slightly better balanced team scored three well worked tries to the Signal Squadrons 1. However, a healthy points difference qualified the Squadron for a bye to the semi final of the Plate competition versus the Berlin Fd Sqn RE.

The Semi-Final was, undoubtedly, the best performance. Tireless running in support and good ball handling resulted in a comfortable 18—0 victory. However, the Final, the Squadron's fifth match, over stretched their abilities. A well organised side from 28 Amph Engr Regt scored four tries to nil but despite 200 Sig Sqn's obvious fatigue never completely wore them down.

Sgt Al Churchward has made his punishing hand off a hallmark, **Sgt Lou Russel** and **Sig Dill Dilnot** proved to be able tacklers, **SSgt Bill Smith** covered across with hitherto unseen grace, **Cpl Cliff Smith**'s agile but robust style proved vital to the Signal Squadron's attacks which was further enhanced by **LCpl Darren Arris**'s excellent support play, and the day was made all the more enjoyable by enthusiastic encouragement from **Cpl Ellie Churchward** WRAC. Well done chaps.

The 'Rugby Lads'
Back Row, L to R: Sgt Stu Hamilton, LCpl Daz Ariss, Sig Dilly Dilnot, Cpl Cliff Smith, Sig Bri Owen and Sgt Al Churchward
Front Row, L to R: SSgt Bill (Barnacle) Smith, Capt Joe Cooper, Sgt Lou Russell RPC

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T. FROST (Saddlers)
SOUTH PARADE, BAWTRY
DONCASTER, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 29

PERSONALITIES

OC Rear Party **Capt Jonathan Gillespie**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Roger Fairfield**
Ops SSgts **SSgt Barney Barnard BEM**, Crypto/Ops Sgt **Sgt Frank Jones**, Ops Tp Sgt **Sgt Taff Morgan**, Sp Tp SSgt **SSgt Geoff King**, SQMS/URS **Sgt Kev Bullen**, CC **Cpl Mark Garfield**.

When everyone thought Op Granby had disappeared into the past, a signal was received at the Commcen that would rapidly change our state of idyllic relaxation.

GULF DEPLOYMENT AND NEWS

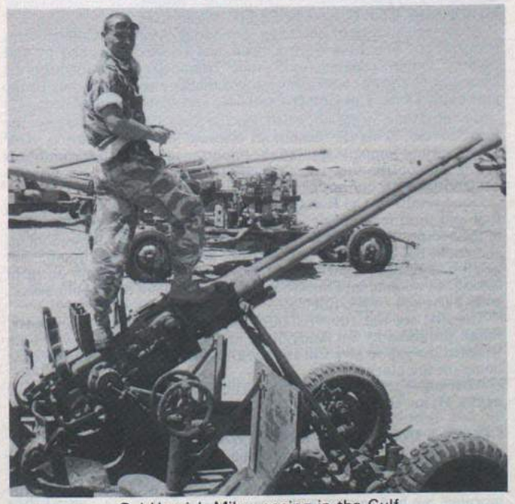
News arrived daily from the Gulf in the form of 'blueys' and a picture of life in Kuwait began to materialise. The weather it would seem alternated between hot sunshine (45°C) and smog in a three day cycle. Most of the lads, however, seemed to have acquired a Gulf tan of some description. The initial task of setting up communications for the British Forces HQ and Embassy in Kuwait City was completed. The remaining commitments are now that of monitoring and maintaining the equipment being used. The 2IC **Capt John Dakin** is said to be busy sorting out R & R for those who have remained in theatre for a long time. **SSgt (SQMS) Mick Wood** has been kept busy bringing onto account the wide variety of equipment deployed on Op Granby, most of which he has never seen before. Our best regards to everyone there.

UOTC/ACF VISITS

Leeds UOTC and ACF visits have continued. Scorching hot sunshine, blue skies and a barbecue were only a part of what made these visits so enjoyable. The efforts of **Sgts Taff Morgan, Dave Thomas** and **Cpl Chris Willets** won enthusiastic praise from **Maj I. Ford**. The highlight proved to be cross country driving in the 432.

ARRIVALS, DEPARTURES AND PROMOTIONS

Lt Jonathan Gillespie has been promoted Captain. **Pete Lackenby** is now a Corporal and **Kenny MacPherson, Del Del-lano** and **Si Nutter** are now Lance Corporals. **Cpl Mark Garfield** is attached from the Regiment to act as Chief Clerk in the absence of **Sgt Steve Hayes**, who has gone to the 'big beach'. Other arrivals are **LCpl Bob Dean** and his wife **Nicola, Cpls Andy Hanlon, Steve Rhyde, LCpl Mick O'Hara, Sig Eric Palmer** and **Dvr** 'Saint' **Mroz** (no, it's not a misprint). **SSgt Gaz Hartin** has recently left for UK. He will probably be remembered as 'Mr Fixit', or the only person who understood accounts. Our best wishes for the future go to him, **Karen** his wife and their children. Farewell also to **Cpl Chris Cole** and his wife **Adele, Sgt Bob Dillet** and **LCpl Del Del-lano** in their postings to UK (there is a way out of Germany after all!).



Cpl Hamish Milne posing in the Gulf

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8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

Sgt Santa Pun Queen's Gurkha Signals was presented with his LS & GC by Brig Roberts on 8 March 1991

EXERCISE WHITEOUT 91

It was time for the brave and hardy to venture up to Scotland into the mountains for an adventure in the snow.

Everything was ready to go, the hut was booked, transport, food, ski equipment and snow all on standby. All that was required now was the brave and the hardy to volunteer for a week skiing. Easier said than done! We asked and we asked, still the numbers for each week remained small. In desperation we went to other units to see if they had any one who would like to ski—we got a solid 'No' for week one. 11 Sig Regt came to our rescue for week two by providing four people.

The Advance Party arrived at Aviemore on the Saturday, which comprised **Capt Shelagh Macleod** (Chief), **WO2 Steve Harrison** (Admin) and Instructors **Sgt 'Ash' Ashley, Cpls Tony Waddington** and **Phil Jarvis**. Gourmet food was provided by **Cpl Dave Tatham**.

The first week got under way with lots of rain, but still plenty of snow, so the drying rooms were working overtime. The students were split into three groups—beginners, not so beginners and budding Franz Klammers. 'Stars' of the week were RSM **Fred Payet**, for his staying power night and day, 'Zoo' **Williams** for his spectacular fall down the West Wall, (heard saying, 'Never again down there'), and **Lt Carolyn Armstrong** for her endeavours to keep up with the Franz Klammers and for leaving them all behind in other fields.

The first week's skiers left on the Saturday for the long trip home, clutching their Ex Whiteout 'I was there' Certificates and, for the better skiers, a bronze proficiency award.

Group two arrived on Sunday and there were more people thanks to **WO2 (SSM) Clive Young** and **Sgt Steve Rogers** who had touted for business. The weather for the second week was fantastic, Scotland at its best, plenty of snow and non-stop sunshine. Up the mountain they went and once more the West Wall took its toll. **LCpl Steve Barker** tried to ski it on his arms (he had no success) and would still be sliding now if **Cpl Tony Waddington** had not decided that he did not like his style and managed to stop him. The two weeks went by all too quickly and it was time to return to the Regiment. We all thought it had been a worthwhile exercise in the mountains. All that was left to do was to convince the PRI that all their money had gone on a good cause.

A STAB IN THE DARK OR THE REGIMENT GOES TO THE ARMY FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS
by LCpl Holtby WRAC

The Army Fencing Championships for 1991 took place in Aldershot from the 11-16 May, and among the many hopeful participants were five members of Papa Tp 1 Sqn.

The team consisted of **LCpls Barry Heanes, Simon Nice, Sig Chris Pinnock, Adam Wright-McCarthy** and **LCpl Linda Holtby**. The list is roughly in order of experience. **LCpl Heanes** fought in last year's tournament, whilst I have just taken up the sport.

The junior competition came first, over the weekend, in which **LCpl Nice** and **Sig Wright-McCarthy** fought, **LCpl Nice** achieving fourth in the Junior Epee. Well done **Simon**. No medal but a qualifier for the Junior Epee team at the Royal Tournament.

The competition was characterised by large muscular protagonists leaping through the air at each other, yelling bloodcurdlingly (mostly in French) and walloping each other with what I am sure were highly artistic and technically expert blows. Yelling however, was not obligatory. **Sig Pinnock** achieved a worthy 11th place. This qualifies him for an intermediate placing on the Army Foil team at the Royal Tournament.

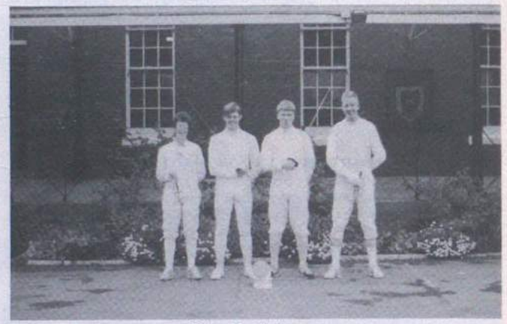
Next day came the Mens and Womens Epee competitions. The epee is a larger heavier and less flexible weapon than the foil. I found fighting in the proper kit, including a plastic and electric mesh overjacket for the foil competition, not unlike trying to scrap in NBC kit (less the cannister).

I was fortunate in the competition and came third in the Ladies Epee and third in the Chairmans Cup for foil. The girl who came first in the ladies Epee was also in the Corps, **Cpl Massie** from 240 Sig Sqn, so we will both be going to the Royal Tournament in July.

The lads did not get anywhere in the sabre competition on the Wednesday, the competition was cut-throat (groans!), and the women do not fight sabre in competition, so that was the last thing.

Finally we wish to extend our thanks to **Lt Col Hunt**, 2IC 8 Sig Regt, who introduced us to and encouraged us in this unusual sport, and gave us the opportunity to fight at Army level.

In the light of my good fortune in the competition I would encourage all novices to have a go, 'you never know your luck'.



The Musketeers
LCpl Linda Holtby, Sig Adam Wright-McCarthy and Simon Nice, LCpl Barry 'Harlequin' Heanes
Absent: Sig Chris Pinnock

MORRISON CUP (UK) ATHLETIC MEETING 91

After the success of the Inter Squadron Athletics Competition, (surprisingly won by 1 Sqn) a team was selected, coached by **Cpl** 'Skinny' **Quinn**, released from Trade Training, and set forth on the Morrison Cup trail. Some last minute replacements (welcome to the pole vault arena, **Cpl Cosser Costello**), and battle commenced.

By lunch time, it was obvious 2 Div Sig Regt's athletics were not the force of old, with the School of Signals looking favourites. Our 'chuckers and jumpers' showed the importance of their less glamorous events by contributing valuable points, and suddenly, we were in contention, with our stronger events to come.

Good results by **Cpl Rob Chivers** and **Sig Paddy Howe** in the 800m, first and third respectively. **Cpls Mick Cameron** and **Les Oliver** first in their respective strings in the shot putt. **Sgt Tinsley**, followed up his success in the triple jump earlier, with a win in the long jump, thus helping us to draw closer. In the 4 × 100m we finished an excellent second, so we went into the last event, the 4 ×400m on 95 points each, with 2 Div out of the title race.

The first leg was run brilliantly by a relative novice, **Sig** 'Snutty' **Smith**, followed by **Sgt Andy Slack** and **Cpl Wayne Hayes** who both widened the gap to give **Cpl Dougie Douglas** a 30m lead, and a cruise home on the glory leg.

After many teething problems a brilliant effort by all the team gave us the Major Unit Championship for the first time in . . . years.

GROUP 5 INTER UNIT TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Two days after the high of winning the Morrison Cup, we came down to earth for the District Inter Unit Team Championships. Unable to gain trade release for our strong field eventers in the morning, we had to start with a much weakened squad, only to find

2 Div Sig Regt was at full strength with the return of their 'star-players'. Things looked bad when **Cpl** 'Skinny' **Quinn** and **Sgt Andy Slack**, probably the lightest men in the squad, had to throw/lob the hammer, (and not let it throw them!), and **Sig** 'Janes' **Jervis** had to learn the pole vault the hard way.

Happily things improved towards the end of the day, and we eventually managed a very worthy runners-up to clinch a place in the next step, Zone A/B in Andover. After a hectic three days, a well earned rest was needed, notably by **Sig** 'Richie' **Richards** spikes, which won more medals than any others and **Lt Boyd**, the Team Captain, to allow his nerves some respite.

The Gp 5, 8 Sig Regt athletics team

Cpl Costello demonstrating his javelin technique in the Gp 5 athletics

BLUE HELMETS TEAM TRAINING

March saw the Blue Helmets, The Free Fall Team of the Royal Signals, off to JSPC Lippspringe for the annual team training phase prior to the start of the hectic display season. The Showman's Show at Malvern, plus the magnificent drawing card of **Capt Jan McKee** being the first woman to command a military display team has made this year the busiest ever for the Blue Helmets. The team has almost 70 displays booked already, which compared to other military teams enhances the team's growing reputation in the competitive field of Army displays.

The aim of the team training camp has always been to bring qualified Corps parachutists up to display standard. This year's training was, as always very beneficial and a lot of hard work and fun was put into it. **Capt Jan McKee** was OC Camp whereas **Sgt Phil Raven** was in charge of all parachute activity in his capacity as Team Instructor. With the services of **LCpl Ian Cessford** of the Golden Lions Free Fall Team as CRW Instructor we perhaps had the strongest squad ever.

The team was blessed with very good weather during the two weeks and over 540 jumps were made, all aspects of parachute display routines were covered, ie RW, CRW and accuracy. **Cpl Steve Hicks** and **SSgt Mick Honeyman** cracked in the most with 50 each, whereas everyone else made the mid forty mark. Notable achievers were **Cpl Steve Hicks** 500th and **WO2 Mick Cooper's** 200th and both were duly dumped in the lake for their trouble.

The team has a reputation for being a 'funny bunch' and on this trip this reputation was enhanced somewhat. First of all, **WO2 De La Haye** got the discipline bug and started rifting everyone from the OC down. Two other officers of the Corps were next on the list as they arrived back late from the barbers, and finally, the whole team was given a public roasting on the patio! Apparently someone had written some 'rude' words in the dirt on the back of the van. Just when it looked like bedpacks all around, someone did the decent thing and 'grassed'.

Next on the list was **Sgt Phil Raven**, known as **'Bill'** to everyone in the sport due to his international renown. **Phil** was seen walking around the DZ telling everyone that he was, in fact Team Instructor. He was also the only man in the team to earn a rebuke from the Chief Instructor for flying over the ranges. Whilst still in the air and dodging the bullets he heard those dreaded words over the tannoy, 'You're banned **Bill**'!

Cpl Steve Hicks was next. In a frantic bid for attention he stated publicly 'If you catch me smoking you can all smack my backside and throw me in the lake!'. (Nothing wrong with him then!). The very next morning he was caught smoking by the boss and received the due punishment. This little escapade brought to light the fact that he wears boxer shorts!

Whilst all this was going on **Sgt Dave Burgess** and **LCpl Dave Chapman** at Relative Work training were improving by leaps and bounds and both achieved a very high standard. All jumps were finished off with accuracy and, towards the last couple of days, it became quite apparent that the team was more than ready for the coming year. The final act, as it were, was a jump into Sennelager Stadium for a practice display. This was a compulsory test in front of Chief Instructor, **Jim Coffey** who judged our ability to carry out APA displays for the season. The jump went perfectly and the team was duly cleared, just so long as **'Bill'** keeps away from the ranges.

With camp at an end it was left to give our thanks to all the staff for their help. This was done with a typical Blue Helmets barbecue. The party went very well, so well in fact that **LCpl Jock Simpson** took off his yellow T-shirt for the occasion it having done two weeks hard work on the camp. **Sgt Phil Raven** said a reluctant farewell to a friend he had met during the training.

Everyone put a lot of effort into camp which made us ready for the road. Two who didn't get a lot out of the camp were **Capt Glenn Harwood** who missed everything due to Op Granby and **Cpl Steve Munday** who was present for the first weekend only due to T1.

When this goes to press the team should be well into the season, with two displays being put on for **HRH The Princess Royal GCVO** and other prestigious shows. We hope that this season will not only be one of the busiest but also one of the most successful.

Sgt Phil Raven directing LCpl Dave Chapman during the 'Blue Helmets' training camp at Bad Lippspringer

Photo by Cpl Steve Munday

1 SQN
TM TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**Capt John Oakes**
FofS 1	**WO1 (FofS) Roy Wilson**

FofS 2 **SSgt (FofS) Steve Wardle**, FofS 3 **SSgt (FofS) Ted Edwards**, Tp Sgt **SSgt Bob Bayly**, Radio Wksps I/C **SSgt Angus Reid**, Tg Wksps I/C **SSgt John Middleton**.

There has been considerable movement of personnel within TM Tp. We have seen the postings of **SSgt Charlie Abbott** (251 Sig Sqn), **Sgts Mitch Barr** (8 Sig Regt), **Gary Exton** (39 Sig Regt (V)), **Clive Turner** (225 Sig Sqn) and **WCpl Zdena Best** (8 Sig Regt), we wish them well in their new postings. We have also seen the arrival of **SSgt John Middleton, Sgt Paul Gardener, WLCpls Pam Lee, Lorna Russell, Michelle Watkins** and an Inter Squadron posting of **Cpl Dom Cooke**. We hope their tour with the Troop will be a happy one.

Members, if asked, will say that the Troop has just gone through it's 'quietest' period for a long time. Since its succcessful defence of the Training Wing Trophy March and Shoot competition last year there have not been any competitions within the Regiment to win. This has quite a lot to do with the fact that TM Tp was 'operationally' involved in other duties. To the relief of many of our members the 'hard slog' of the now defunct shift system has been laid to rest. We have resumed normal afternoon activities of Military Training and Inter Section 'Demi' Trophy' sports competitions which commenced with **SSgt Bob Bayly** organising a range day for the troop on Dhekelia range.

On the social front we got together for a Go-Karting afternoon on Wednesday 22 May. The Inter Workshop competition was won by TG Workshops with Radio Workshops coming a close(ish) second. **LCpl Mick Lowerey** surprised us all by burning several inches of rubber. **Sgt Danny Daniels** caused the crash of the afternoon shunting a fellow racer through the crash barrier and into the bondu.

After the race the Troop retired to the Mercury Kart Club Patio for a Barbecue. **Capt John Oakes** presented the prizes consisting of a trophy and beers for TG and a consolation beer for Radio.

Hot off the press! The Troop would like to congratulate **Sgts Brent Holmes, Andy Garrett** and **Dave Middleton** for being selected for the Foreman of Signals Course next year.

TRAINING AND SUPPORT TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**Capt Jess Harper**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Dave Taylor**
QMSI	**WO2 (QMSI) Pete Davis**

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Members would like to welcome the following, **Cpl Dave Baillie** and **Jo, Cpl S. J. Stanley-Jones** and **Alice, WPte Wynn-Green-Smith** and her husband **Spencer** (1 WFR), **Cpl Doug Wroe** and **Lindsay** and **WLCpl Amanda Davis** and wish them all a happy tour.

We bid farewell to **Cpl Brummy Clare** and **Cilla**, good luck in civvy street, and to **Cpl Taff Smith** and **Paula** on posting to 19 Inf Bde; also **Cpl Tony Barker** and **Lisa** on posting to 22 Sig Regt.

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate **Sgt Paul West** on his marriage to **Lena** and **LCpl Daz Rolfe** on his marriage to **Karen**. We wish them all the best in the future.

EXERCISE MERCURY BREAK

Ex Mercury Break is the Regiment's battlecamp that takes place bi-annually and involves most members of the Troop for its five weeks duration.

Long hours and hard work make up each individual training week, the idea being to carry out Annual Mandatory Training whilst making it as interesting and exciting as possible.

All students who participated agreed that the week was particularly good and the command tasks, which took place on the final day, were of special interest. One thing is certain, whenever the record 'Camouflage' is heard by any of the students, it will be certain to remind them of battlecamp week.

WO2 Taylor teaches the finer points of the trip flame

Section 2 negotiate the electric fence
The three successful runners

COMMS TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**Capt Tony Lomax**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) 'Chippy' Wood**

Tp SSgt **SSgt Rob Ibbotson**, Tp Sgt **Sgt** 'Walt' **Disney**, DSO A **Sgt Mick McCue**, DSO B **Sgt Paul Williams**, DSO C **WSgt Karen Cable**, DSO D **Sgt Shaun Curley**, Tp Clk **WLCpl Wiseman**.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

We welcome the arrival of the following and families and we wish them a happy tour: **Capt T. Lomax, WO2 (YofS) S. P. Wood, WCpl Dempsey, WLCpl Theobald, Ptes Hall, Kent, Mercer** and **Ross.**

We also bid fond farewells to the following and wish them luck in their new posts: **Capt** 'Taff' **Dunbar** (now Maj), **WO2 Dave Bowman** (now WO1), **LCpl Mandy Brazier** (now Cpl), **LCpl Stella Simpson** (now Cpl), **LCpl Lisa Ingham** (now civvy) and **Pte Sally Hack** (now civvy).

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate the following on their recent marriages: **LCpl Andy Greenland** to **LCpl Suzanne Leslie** and **LCpl Sharon Fazackerley** to **Cpl Roy Wilson** (Paddy) **Wiseman**—RAOC.

We congratulate **LCpl Ken Resoun** and his wife **Ruth** on the birth of their son **Joshua Michael**.

A very special mention to **Cpl Roy Walledge** and his wife **Chris** on the safe return of their sons **Gary** and **Paul** who served in the Gulf.

QM DEPT
PERSONALITIES

QM	**Maj Stan Hargreaves**
RQMS(G)	**WO2 Jeff Smith**

RQMS(T) **WO2 Dick Taylor**, SQMS(A) **SSgt Fred Muir**, SQMS(T) **SSgt Dusty Miller**, SNCO IC ET/MSA **Sgt Chris Andrews**, Tp Sgt/Armourer **Sgt Steve Long**.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We bid a fond farewell to **Capt Stan Long** to 608 Sig Tp, **SSgt Mick Swallow** on promotion to WO2 to 2 Div, **Cpl Dom Cook** (in-house) to TM Tp, **Cpl Andy Tiernan** to 4 Sig Gp, **LCpl Mick Clark** to Civ Div USA and **LCpl Ian Meredith** to 5 AB Bde HQ & Sig Sqn.

We welcome **Maj Stan Hargreaves, SSgt Dusty Miller** and **Cpls Bill Edwards, Rob Baylis** and **Danny Ford**. We also welcome **Sgt Steve Long** REME and two WRAC Supply Specialists, **Cpl Louise Moore** and **LCpl Kay Wood**, both of whom are an asset to us.

ADVENTUROUS TRAINING

The department has participated in numerous activities throughout the last year: **Sub Aqua**. Try dives, with the QM and the RQMS(G) leading the way, both felt claustrophobia to be a more rewarding experience.

Walk Down from Troodos. Enjoyed by all who participated, in particular, the bus ride and swim at the end.

Abseiling. Cpl Joe McAuley having the most refusals.

Fishing Afternoon. WO2 (RQMS) Dick Taylor winning the competition having bribed the fish with copious amounts of weighted bait.

Horse Riding. At the Famagusta Saddle Club, followed by a barbecue cooked by chefs extraordinaire, **Sgts Chris Andrews** and **Steve Long**.

Sea Canoeing. An excellent afternoon with **RQ Smith**'s reluctance to the fore.

COURSES

The following have completed courses successfully:

RSSSC	**Sgt Chris Andrews**
MHE Basic Operator	**Sgt Chris Andrews, Cpl Danny Ford**
Sub Aqua Dive Leader	**Sgt Chris Andrews**
EPC	**Cpls Bill Edwards, Jeff Higgins** and **Dom Cooke**

Cpl Danny Ford's pass on the MHE must be viewed with some scepticism since he had a crash on the forklift the day after he passed his test. **Cpl Ford** was found painting and decorating the forklift truck three days before PRE.

SPORT

Maj Hargreaves proved once again that age is no barrier. He represented the Army at badminton and is a dab hand at squash.

WO2 (RQMS) Smith represented the unit at football. He has two married quarters—one for his family and one for his trophies. An excellent season for him and the team.

Cpl Louise Moore has been awarded her Army Colours for basketball, representing the WRAC in the UK this season.

Cpl Bill Edwards has excelled on the golf course and has represented the unit in cross country, making him the fastest golfer in the Regiment.

SHQ TROOP
IN AID OF BLESMA

On Saturday 23 March, 21 servicemen and women of all cap badges from the Regiment arrived at the gymnasium to attempt to pass 24 BFT's in 24 hours.

The event started at 0600 hours and continued until 0500 hours.

The final score saw more than 250 BFTs completed and £2,050 collected for BLESMA.

Three people completed all 24 BFTs. They were **WO2 (SSM) Dave Wilson, Cpl Tony Barker** and **LCpl Steve Pettifer.**

L to R: Cpl Tony Barker, WO2 (SSM) Dave Wilson and LCpl Steve Pettifer

Sgt Jim Timlin, WO2 (RQMS) Jeff Smith and Sgt Chris Andrews with his dog 'Pockets' take a break from the Troodos Walk Down

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

LEADERSHIP WING
SOLDIERS TOLD:
GO WASH AN ELEPHANT

Two soldiers, namely, **LCpl Neil Beattie** and **Sig Ian Gradon** were stunned when a training course in the countryside ended—and a real-life Mission Impossible began. It involved completing a series of tasks including dancing with a policeman, washing an elephant and singing for their supper.

Darlington-born **Sig Ian Gradon** and **LCpl Neil Beattie** had just finished a gruelling week-long adventure training course in Cumbria. They thought they were returning to Catterick Garrison for a weekend's rest when the bus stopped near Darlington and they were ordered to get out.

The pair were told they had to spend the weekend accomplishing more than a dozen tasks scoring points for each one. Sitting in a Rolls-Royce was worth 75 points, being photographed with a model would earn them 1,000.

They were each given £10 to spend—but would gain 850 points for returning to base without using any of it. Their wallets were placed in sealed plastic envelopes, and opening them would forfeit their entire score.

The pair were among several teams with the Scotton Hall leadership course at Catterick to be packed off for the weekend.

Ian, 26 said: 'Our initial reactions were surprise and horror, and then we went for it. Once people found out what we were doing they were really helpful, and it was a lot of fun.'

Their first points were earned when they sang for their supper at a Little Chef restaurant. From there **Ian** and **Neil**, 21, from Dunfermline, thumbed their way to Welwyn Garden City, near London, and talked their way into a night at the town's Crest Hotel.

The next day a pair of Saab-driving Yuppies helped them win points by finding them a sports car to sit in.

They managed to get on national radio by calling in at Radio 1 and having a request read on the Adrian Juste show.

They went on to London Zoo to hose down an elephant, danced with a policewoman and washed a fire engine, all for more points.

The pair returned to Darlington by train after a British Rail guard turned a blind eye to their presence. Once in town they dined gratis at a Pizza Hut before hitching their way back to Catterick.

LCpl Neil Beattie and Sig Ian Gradon 'Tangoing with the Law'

Photo by courtesy of Northern Echo

NCO TRAINING WING
THE LAST RSSSC 304/305—THE END OF AN ERA
by Sgt Don Walker 9 Sig Regt

The old adage states that 'All good things must come to an end' and sadly the RSSSC has also reached that point. I am sure that everyone who has successfully attended this much loved course over the years will agree it was 'A good thing'—even Warcop?

Courses 304/305 commenced on 10 February with a briefing in the Durham Hall by **Sgt** (Stretch) **Barry**. What a good start we had, only 34 out of 44 had turned up. **Sgt Bob Duff** decided to give the introductory briefing a miss and turn up on Monday—did he prang his car on purpose, or did the snow blizzards really have a hand in it?

The weather put paid to any ideas of an intake BFT—not even a RSSSC was allowed to attempt it in 3ft of snow and treacherous ice—much to the relief of certain members who had decided it would be a good idea to take leave immediately before the course.

The bad weather did not bother **WO1 (RSM) Douglas**, who carried out his 'Welcome' Best Kit Inspection, obviously feeling kind, possibly due to us being the last RSSSC. **Sgt** (Taff) **Meaden** was the only one to be told to go and introduce himself personally to **WO2** (QMSI) **Alan Hoench**—well done Taff—the last Sgt on a RSSSC to be marched away.

We had our introduction to the gymnasium and its staff headed by **SSgt** (SSI) **Martin Mariner** by doing 'The Bleep Test' followed by a steady 3 mile snow sprint. But, it wasn't all work in the first weeks, thanks to a 'democratically' elected PEC—**Sgt Eric Strefford** and committee who arranged a games night on Tuesday 12 February, the finals of which were completed in games night two in week four, well done to the various winners.

The second week saw the advent of a thaw—BFT runs were now possible—unfortunately not everyone was quite as fast as **Sgt Joe Docherty** who did the first BFT in about seven and a half minutes. The first drill and kit inspection proved an event in itself with some absolutely astounding scores—most notably a big 'O' by myself. By the end of the week, after several beasting sessions and some enjoyable webbing runs, our numbers had now been depleted to the grand total of 29—surely this is the final figure?

We were dropping like the proverbial flies—as Ex Shakedown approached, we had reached a total of 27. What the majority of the course would like to know was who invented webbing runs and why are **Sgts** 'Mace' **Mason** and **Bob Banner** so fit? At least it gave some a chance to carry out part of the first aid which **Sgt John Laffey** drummed into us. As everyone who has done the course knows, the third week sees the start of the exams—starting with the so-called easier ones! Summer Venture, (easy?—you must be joking) 'Q' Accounts—now, we all remember that a TOR is not called a works ticket, don't we? Well if you don't, **SSgt (SQMS) Dave Petty** would like to shout at you—just to jog your memory. As for Military Law, you don't realise how quickly an hour and a quarter goes by and how many sections there are to get entangled in within the MML—never mind there's always the WOs' course to have a go at it—and get it right. Have to wait and see!

A thing to remember for future courses—(Sgts Courses that is!) don't park on camp—it costs you an extra duty. Ask **Sgts** 'Scouse' **Whiting** and **Keith Stewart**—nothing better than doing ROS on a weekend off. Shakedown itself was an eye opener for some—**Sgt Don Donnelly** made an absolutely brilliant start by getting somewhat geographically embarrassed on the *day* Navex?? (To the uninitiated, that means lost).

Why is Gandale so wet? Possibly the whole of the British Isles daily rainfall fell on our harbour location as soon as we had dug our shellscrapes—I can't think of anything more demoralising than doing a 'stand-to' at 0630 hrs in a dug out with 3ft of water in it—unless of course you know otherwise? The second night the patrol and obstacle crossings took place without incident—there was obviously something afoot because we were back in location at 2230 hrs. Of course there was—a crash out at 2315 hrs! Naturally everyone was fleeing around like 'headless chickens' for some minutes. As **Sgt Dave Rook** pointed out to the stragglers—it pays to be first to the ERV point—you get a lift in a Bedford back to The Wing to do your exam. Everybody else has to walk, some longer than others, notably **Sgt John Prowse** who made it back at about 0330 hrs—must have taken lessons from **Sgt Don Donnelly**? Never mind **John**, a one and a half mile log run to do in eight hours—it seemed more like a swimming lesson to some thanks to the puddles (or were they lakes?). Anyway well done to those members of Section 3 for winning.

Week 4—Oh no, is it revision time already? Obviously the course had been enjoyable the time had flown by and exam week proper had arrived. It actually looked as if we'll finish with 27—mind you, there is Warcop yet!

As we approached the end of the fourth week, with all the exams completed—and some of the course wishing there were re-tests—the dark (and wettest) cloud of Warcop was drawing over us. Never mind, what's four days and nights of being soaking wet, cold, tired and miserable to a course of 27 hardy, well-trained and motivated Corps Sergeants? Those who have had the pleasure of Warcop will know the answer to that—keep looking forward to the fresh rations of Friday night and eventual freedom on Saturday.

Week 5 and 'Sunny' Warcop for a few days. Never mind, it'll soon be over, that's the only way some of us look at it—not long to do! Sunday night saw most people clambering over an envelope which had the names of the first day's Platoon Commander, Sergeant Major and Section Commanders in them. These didn't prove to be such awesome tasks after all, as we all found out. The practice section attacks on Gandale that Monday morning proved to be a good omen. Gandale was dry, surely Warcop would be! Indeed it was. During the week that followed we had minimal rain and barely a temperature below 7°, absolutely unheard of in Warcop, according to training staff.

The first night patrol was a quest for food—some went hungry—Section Three on the other hand ate heartily for the whole exercise but couldn't resist the temptation to display our gains by cooking in full view of the other, now dieting, two sections. As normal at Warcop, the days were filled with range work, the best of which I think everyone will agree, was the All Arms Air Defence Shoot. This gives most people what will probably be their only chance to try and shoot down an aircraft. Out of the whole course, 12,000 rounds and some replacement LMG barrels later, **Sgt Ray Iddles** was the only winning shot and had one kill—an expensive day to say the least.

The staff of 'I' Wing pride themselves on normally being able to retain their cool and ensuring that their teddies have four limbs at the end of the day/night—but the QMSI was seen on Tuesday night to get rather upset with his section, possibly because of lighting of the skies with a torch policy whilst **Sgt Paul Garner** was checking the geographical features on the map. He was also seen to take out his anger on the terrain on Wednesday night, firstly by standing on **Sgt Steve Metherell**'s leg, then arm, then hand, but soon had enough of that and decided to head butt the deck—not a titter came from the section of course.

The week culminated in a live section attack, Three Section leading, Two Section going twice, the first attempt being a wipe out due to the section firing a total of approximately 10 rounds during the whole attack and One Section taking up the rear.

On the Thursday night we went back to Gandale to set up a platoon ambush against the DS. Good fun was had by all as it gave us a chance to get rid of all our pyro and ammo; it gets rather heavy after a while. It was the time to return to camp which is normally unheard of for a Thursday night, but due to the unavailability of ranges it could not be helped but it did give the course (well, Section Three anyway) a chance to run off all the extra pounds put on during the week. It seemed more of a sprint at the time, but then again if **Sgt Mace Mason** had anything to do with it, it would have been a sprint. The SA80 leaves a nice bruise on your back as I'm sure half the course can testify—but it was worth it or it seemed so when we left for the last time on the Saturday morning. Five weeks wasn't too bad was it?

The End of Course Dinner was a prestigious occasion with special and honoured guests: **Maj Gen A. Yeoman CB, Brig M. W. H. Roberts OBE, Lt Col J. Blake, Majs B. Young, J. R. Nicholl, Capts D. Hornsby, R. Harris, Majs** (Retd) **D. Gould,** (Retd) **V. R. Preece, Capt** (Retd) **H. Jennings** and **WO1 G. Hegarty.**

Congratulations go to **Sgt Stillie** for achieving the position of Top Student and all the members of the course who finally succeeded in passing.

So, the end of an era. We can all proudly display the course photograph, specially annotated with the words 'The Last' Royal Signals Staff Sergeants' Course—304/305.

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**Lt Tom McCappin**
Sgt	**Sgt Mick O'Brien**

Tp Cpls **Cpls Iain Hay, John Dornan, Mel Hough, Alex Craig.**

3 Troop is well into its second regular recruit intake for the year. The two week gap between courses being conveniently taken up with a TA Detachment Commanders' Course!

With normal training in full swing for the final exercise and the Pass Off Parade on 12 July, **Sgt O'Brien** organised a highly successful charity event. It took place on Saturday 8 June and involved the whole troop in the clearance of a half mile stretch of derelict railway line which Darlington Railway Museum intend to use. A final total has not been reached as yet, although the target figure of £2,500 should be passed. The cash will go to help the English Amputee Football Team who travel to the USSR this year to take part in a World Cup Tournament.

This charity event was followed the next day by 4 Troop day out to Flamingo Land Theme Park. A fun day was had by all and everyone returned to work on Monday morning feeling refreshed and ready for the count down towards pass off, then the next intake.

3 SQUADRON
KOHIMA TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**Lt Scott Youngson**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Ed Eminson**

Tp Cpls **Cpls Tony Brine, Keith Williamson, Greg Sharp.**

by JLdr D. Graham

Kohima Tp is busy recovering after successfully completing their sponsored Tri-athlon in aid of Mayfair School (Darlington) and the NSPCC. The exercise, which was called Yolach Chase, started at Mayfair School on Saturday 15 May, with the Troop running from Mayfair School to Warrington Leisure Centre. Each member ran approximately 13 miles, which made the trip 200 miles in total. While the runners slogged away, the rest of the troop took to collecting donations from towns along the way.

By the end of the first day the Troop was nearly three hours ahead of schedule and could afford an early night at Holcombe Moore TA Camp. While they ran along the route some were interviewed by local newspapers; **JLdrs Gill** and **O'Callahan** being interviewed by their local Burnley newspaper.

After a well earned rest they set off to complete the journey to Warrington, reaching the leisure centre by midday. For the swim, each member of the troop did 20 lengths, added up this equalled five miles. As the participants are 'water babies' it didn't take long and they were out of the pool by 1400 hrs. Team spirit was high, even the non swimmers were helped along to do a few lengths.

The next and final day was spent cycling back to Mayfair School. Despite getting lost a couple of times, they arrived back to a very warm reception from the pupils. The exercise raised £1,000, collected in buckets en route. With another possible £2,000 to come from sponsors, Kohima Tp hopes to have raised a total of £3,000, much more than it expected. All in all the Charity event was a great success!

Recently the Troop has been on an advanced leadership course in Dent where they have learned advanced Abseiling, Caving, Climbing and Camping. As it has professional camping equipment (not Poncho and Hexi blocks), most of the lads enjoyed the night in the field as the weather was good. The only thing not on the kit list was After Sun lotion, **JLdr Webb** and **Pollock** found out it would have been very welcome!

The troop Passed Off on 21 June, and trade training follows at 8 Sig Regt.

ULSTER TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**Lt Steve France**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Steve Dickson**

Tp Cpls **Cpls Mick Pegg, Tam Bennie, Steve Lockwood.**

The second term started off with Second Venture with winds, on the training area, that felt as if they had done their basic training on the plains of Siberia. With the help of the Light Armoured Training Squadron, from RAF Catterick, the recce patrols deployed by Spartan, the best way in the world to destroy the gyro in a Junior Leader. Following this exercise the Troop went skiing on the slopes of Anach Moor and sent half the population of Scotland fleeing for the safety of their lives. The troop moved into the third term during which we completed a sponsored run to Scarborough and a clear-up of a rather run down council estate.

13 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

PERSONALITIES

CO — **Lt Col A. M. Wallace**
2IC — **Maj G. R. Elliot MBE**

Adjt **Capt M. Griffiths**, A/Adjt **Lt S. V. Roberts**, RSM **WO1 (RSM) Dobson**, Trg YofS **WO1 (YofS) McMahon**, Chief Clerk **WO2 (ORQMS) Armitage**.

HQ SQUADRON
'A DAY OF RECKONING'

by Capt 'Paddy' Crabtree

Saying it is one thing, doing it is often quite another. This was the case when a few members of 13 Sig Regt decided to fulfil a lifetime ambition and do a parachute jump, but there needed to be an incentive: that was provided by means of sponsorship with the proceeds going to charity. The jumpers were **Cpl Wheeler, Sgt McInally, Mrs McInally, WLCpl Milford, WLCpl Bevan** and **Pte Maxwell RPC**.

After intensive training the day of reckoning arrived on 10 March, fear was running high, adrenalin was in abundance when they emplaned at Bad Lipspringge.

'What have I done?' or 'how did I get myself into this?' were heard but names were not forthcoming.

Afterwards the relief on their faces was indeed extraordinary with cries of 'I've done it'. To them all I say a big 'Well done' particularly the girls who probably for the first time in their lives have had to come to terms with themselves. As a result of their experience nearly DM2000 has been sponsored.

It would appear that now the foundation stone has been laid **WLCpl Bevin** wishes to go one stage further and do the three week Free-Fall course. Who knows, maybe one day she will Captain a Corps Free-Fall team.

As this goes to print another parachute jump is well under way with 30 more nervous but, eager contenders, ready to have a go. I'm told even the SSM of 2 Sqn is keen, this is probably due to her Sqn Comd's persuasive influence.

Standing, L to R: Sgt McInally, Mrs McInally, WLCpl Bevin, Cpl Wheeler, a fan, and Capt Crabtree
Sitting, L to R: Pte Maxwell and WLCpl Milford

H TROOP WITHDRAWS FROM HERMES CAMP

As the BBC 'pips' signalled 1300 hours on Sunday 21 April 1991, the switch was thrown and H Troop, 13 Sig Regt, ceased to exist as an operational unit.

This isolated outpost of the Corps has been stationed in Gross Gusborn, Dannenberg (Elbe), since 1973 and, although not well known by the majority of soldiers, it can claim to have achieved more than many units in a fairly short time. Being situated some 480km from its parent Regiment and 60km from the nearest British unit, the Troop became fully integrated into the local community. This was recognised in 1983, when it became the only Royal Signals Troop to be awarded the Wilkinson Sword of Peace.

In 1986, after excavating a famous German battle site at Goehrde, near Dannenberg (Elbe), the Troop was presented with the Bismarck Medal for services to German culture, the first time that a foreign group had received such an award. To preserve the memory of the British Army in the area, the medal has been presented to Stadt Dannenberg for safekeeping; it will be shown in the Waldermar Turm museum in the town.

The pinnacle in the history of the Troop, was the great honour bestowed upon it when granted the freedom of the Stadt of Dannenberg by the town council, in December 1983. Each alternate year, H Troop has exercised these rights by marching through the streets of Dannenberg with swords drawn, bayonets fixed and drums beating, and this was done for the last time on Saturday 27 April 1991.

One thing is certain, the withdrawal of H Troop was marked in truly magnificent fashion, with the parade reviewed by the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE DL** and **Burgermeister Herr Predoehl**. The Master of Signals spoke to each soldier during the inspection. After his speech, in which the Master emphasised how proud he was to view again the unique relationship between the two parties, the presentation party marched smartly forward and offered the Union Flag, which has flown over Hermes Camp for 17 years, to the Burgermeister. In accepting the flag, **Herr Predoehl** highlighted how the co-operation and mutual respect shown over the years should stand as an example to the people of Eastern and Western Europe and that, although the withdrawal of H Troop was a sad occasion, the reason for the changing face of the British Army in Germany was something to welcome.

Capt Appleton requested permission to exercise the Freedom of the Stadt of Dannenberg for the final time and led a march past to the sound of the Corunna band playing 'Begone Dull Care'.

The cocktail party, which followed the freedom parade, was particularly enjoyable and memorable. Apart from the local dignitarys and military guests, many people, who had been involved with the Troop, made great efforts to return and join the weekend celebrations.

The Troop members ensured that everyone enjoyed the drinks and food provided by **Sgt Jimmy Grant**.

Order was called midway through the proceedings and, **WO2 (SSM) Mark Wright-Jones** was presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by the Master of Signals.

Then followed a series of presentations to the Troop, the first being a beautiful set of painted tiles from the Stadt, to be held in 13 Sig Regt as a permanent reminder of a long and happy partnership. The politician for Neidersachsen, **Herr Grill** presented a commemorative book. **Maj Klaus Welge**, the Commandant of the local German camp at Neutramm, again highlight the good relations that had always existed between the two parties; he then presented an original plaque from all three German units. Finally, the Schuetzengilde Dannenberg 1528 have issued an open invitation to troop members to future schutzenfests, and presented a magnificent sword to the Master of Signals, asking that it be held in a suitable place. The Master said that it was a great honour to receive such a wonderful gift and handed the sword to **Lt Col Wallace** for safekeeping.

In September 1990, when the intention to withdraw H Troop was announced, the greatest task was to identify and locate as many past members of the Troop as possible. Fortunately, help was forthcoming from such H Troop legends as **WO1 (Retd) Mick Green**, his brother **WO1 Dave Green, Maj Dennis Weir, Capt Neil Mapp MBE, WO2 Mick Foster, SSgts Tim Wood** and **Paul Meadows** and **Mr Harry Reay**. In all, 340 names were identified. The final figures for those attending were 66 past and 37 present members of the Troop.

After the cocktail party a Troop Reunion was held and **Lt Col Wallace** welcomed all those who had travelled such a long way to witness this unique occasion, he made special mention of its first CO, **Capt (Retd) Michael Billet MBE** who had, for the second time, flown across the Atlantic from New York to attend a reunion.

H Troop march off the market square in Dannenberg (Elbe) for the final time led by the Troop Commander, Capt Bert Appleton

Capt Neil Mapp presents the Union Flag to the Burgermeister in the presence of the Master of Signals

WO2 (SSM) Mark Wright-Jones is presented with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by the Master of Signals

Maj Klaus Welge, the German Station Commander presents Capt Bert Appleton with a Commemorative Plaque to mark the Troop's departure

Everyone enjoyed traditional German fare and exchanged stories with old friends, and colleagues. The meal was followed by photographs, taken in five year brackets of time served in the unit. As some older members sat in all four groups, it has to be assumed that they had been forgotten by their respective postings branch. The local band played on and the music revived old memories. **Capt Mapp** was heard giving a stirring account of his days in the Corps team. Those who were able, danced across the dance floor, out of the door and into the Tamburin Disco, owned by **Mr Doyle Underwood** who, as a United States Army Lieutenant, handed Hermes Camp over to **Mr Michael Billet MBE**, back in 1973. He lost the Stars and Stripes that day, only to find that, the then MT, **Cpl Charlie Ferguson** had brought it back in 1991. The next morning, the present troop football team lined up against, what can only be described as, 'The past tenses with few senses'. Refereed very well indeed by the Quartermaster, **Maj Brian Hudson**, the final result was 3—3, with no-one quite sure who did score, although everyone was unanimous that **Capt Brian Gardner**, current TOT and past Foreman of Signals couldn't have done.

MTV Dannenburg III last team photograph
Standing, L to R: WO2 Wright-Jones, Pte McNeil, Mr Wilkes, Mr Coop, Pte Foulger, Cpl Earnshaw, WO2 Webster and Cpl Eastick
Collapsed, L to R: LCpl Foster, LCpl Munro, LCpl Wilkinson, Sgt Whitty, Cpl Nicholls and LCpl Davies

Yet another social gathering followed in the Troop Club 'Am Turm' in the form of a famous Grant curry lunch. **Col Eric Sambell OBE**, Tp Comd H Troop in July 1975, thanked all present members for organising the reunion and for the immense hospitality shown to the visitors; it gave us all great pleasure and we hope to celebrate the 20th anniversary in 1993.

THE FINAL NOTE FROM H TROOP

The Troop strength when the withdrawal was announced in September 1990 was 57. A vast amount of work has been done tying up the loose ends. Particular mention should go to **SSgt (FofS) Martin Drake**, and on the stores side to **Sgt John Williams** who has been more than rewarded with a posting back to Cyprus only a year after leaving!

And finally, for posterity, the final troop personalities list.

Tp Comd	**Capt Bert Appleton**
Ops Offr	**Capt Neil Mapp MBE**
TAWO	**WO1 Bob Hodges**
SSM	**WO2 Mark Wright-Jones**
Ops	**WO2 John Webster**
FofS	**SSgt Martin Drake**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Tim Wood**
M Chef	**Sgt Jimmy Grant ACC**
TQMS	**Sgt John Williams**
RPC NCO	**Cpl Dave Earnshaw**
MT NCO	**Cpl Steve Eastick**
LAD NCO	**Cpl Ian Hetterley REME**

'Ask not for whom the bell tolls . . .'

3 SQUADRON

The transition into spring simply meant the snow turning to incessant rain in the city, but this did not daunt the sporting stalwarts of the Squadron.

Brigade Orienteering Championships

On Friday 19 April, 3 Sqn entered three teams comprising four runners in the Berlin Brigade Orienteering Championships. The weather for the event turned out to be the worst imaginable 'spring' day, with continuous rain and snow.

When all the times had been calculated, the Squadron A Team emerged fifth, with the B Team coming in seventh.

Individual positions gained over the two set courses were:

A Course	B Course
11th **Maj Peter Williams**, OC 3 Sqn	6th **SSgt Mick Jones**
15th **SSgt Paul Yeoman**	7th **Capt Jan Sykes**
25th **SSgt Shane Overton**	18th **Sgt Gaz Bateman**
26th **WO2 Dick Pickup**	25th **SSgt Taff Smart**
27th **Cpl Steve Garner**	30th **SSgt Frank Lindsay**

Special congratulations also go to **Capt Jan Sykes WRAC** who took the prize for the first lady runner.

.22 SHOOTING

The Squadron shooting team has undergone a change of management. **WO2 Ray Armstrong**, who has run the team successfully since 1985 has, at last, relinquished responsibility and handed over to **Sgt 'Denver' Owens**.

The team recently entered the Berlin Brigade Minor Units Service Rifle (.22) Competition and gained third place. **LCpl Ian Elliott** achieved the highest overall score.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

For possibly the first time in the history of the Squadron, arrivals outnumber departures. Firstly, the Squadron wishes farewell and the best of luck to **Capt Gareth Babbs** and his wife **Emma** on their departure for a tour in UK. The Squadron also says cheerio to **LCpl Jeff Couch** on posting to 'Civ Div' and to **WLCpl Wendy Bell** on her departure to start a family.

The Squadron extends a hearty welcome to the following arrivals: **WO2 John Webster**, returning to Berlin on the demise of H Troop and bringing along **LCpls Rich Milligan** and **Sid Yule. SSgts Dave Stapleton, Gary Melding** and **'Farmer' Vaughan** on completion of the HEC Mulheim Course. **Sgt Andy Charles** from HEC Beaconsfield, **Sgt Andy Roberts** from Cyprus, and last, but by no means least, **Cpl 'Chopper' Christopher** from 14 Sig Regt.

Enjoy your tour lads, however long it may, or may not be!

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Airwork

14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 23

1 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd	**Maj Steve Turpin**
2IC	**Capt John Stuart**

SSM **WO2 Phil Abbott**, YofS **SSgt (YofS) Monty Montgomery**, FofS **SSgt (FofS) Musky Tyson**.

1 Sqn has reformed with many personnel, vehicle and office changes. The Squadron is to be Armoured and we await the return of the 432s from the Gulf.

SHQ TP

Sgt Al Hunter has moved from the Regimental MT to be the Sqn MT rep and SHQ TP Sgt; definitely a full time job. He is assisted by **Cpls Bret Laverick, Si Dyson** and **Sig 'Baggers' Bagnall.**

W TP

Tp Comd	**Lt Claire Holdsworth**
2IC	**SSgt Fitz Fitzpatrick**

Hello from all in the new Whiskey Tp. At this point it is usual to welcome newcomers to the troop, to do this however, would require the complete troop nominal roll. I will however, welcome our new Troop Staffy **SSgt 'Fitz' Fitzpatrick.**

At the moment life in the garages is fairly quiet whilst we await the return of the vehicles. On the other hand the troop social life is far from quiet, as the entertainments committee have been earning their pay (a first for many of them!). Our latest function was held at Scheuen, courtesy of the local Bundeswehr, who allowed us to use their Sergeants' Mess facilities. A good time was had by all. I end by congratulating **Cpl 'Jez' Clarke** and **Gina** who announced their engagement at the Troop do.

X TROOP

Tp Comd	**WO2 John Bellion**
2IC	**SSgt Win Neish**

They said that when we returned from the Gulf things would return to normal. Wrong! Firstly, the Troop is now Armoured. Nice in the warm Gulf and on sunny summer afternoons, but a lot less fun in the freezing cold nights in BAOR. Just to keep the troop on its toes they have also changed the structure of the troop.

Ah well, as the great Scottish Bard once said 'Oh would the power of gift tae gie us, tae see ourselves as ithers see us'.

Y TROOP

Tp Comd	**Lt Richard Spencer**
2IC	**SSgt Stitch Woollard**

The Gulf conflict created as much turmoil in Yankee Tp as in any other involved unit. December and the Christmas festivities saw the deployment of many of our experienced track drivers and operators to various other units, causing an influx of new faces and a large troop reorganisation. By mid January we were all feverishly fitting out our newly acquired Armoured Vampires in a warehouse on the outskirts of Al Jubail. During the following 12 weeks we escaped with very few major incidents and considering our inexperience at working with 432s, coping with desert conditions and just avoiding high speed Challenger tanks in the Breach. The Troop acquitted itself well under the command of **Lt Richie Spencer** and accurate navigation of **SSgt Woollard**. We managed to follow the land battle all the way into Kuwait, **Cpl Kev Jones** and the rest of Vampire 1 rolled in a couple of days later, having been towed all the way from Concentration ARGA Rays in Saudi Arabia. Our War ended with three weeks of sunbathing, battlefield tours, baseball and a massive impromptu fireworks display instigated by the Sqn Comd.

We must bid sad farewells to **Cpls Hukin, Hall, Tunstall, LCpls Redstone, Rowe** and **Temple** all will be missed in the new Troop line up which now includes **Sgt Wally Pollitt, Cpl Andy Ham, LCpl Bernie Topham** and **Sig Kev Tharby**.

Sig Vaughan, Cpl Marshall and LCpl Graham. Mad dogs and Englishmen enjoying a midday snack (note the bones in the foreground)

Yankee Tp Gulf 1991

3 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd	**Maj Bernie Hewitt**
2IC	**Capt Paul Peel**

SSM **WO2 Mal Geer**, SQMS **SSgt Dave Davidson**, OC RCP Tp **WO2 (YofS) Brian Pritchard**, OC Comms Tp **WO1 (YofS) Merv Finch BEM**, OC DEF EW **Lt Ken Graham**.

Whilst awaiting the arrival of our vehicles from the Gulf the squadron has indulged in an orgy (not the best turn of phrase) of military training; new depths in pain have been exquisitely explored and the troops have risen to new heights in their production of imaginative excuses for missing PT.

The squadron has retained its old structure, which includes the 'never present' Defensive EW Team who recently said a fond farewell to **Capt Carl Storey** and his wife **Wendy. Lt Ken Graham** now leads the fight in convincing cavalry officers that CNR is not used like vodaphone, and that a radio check consists of 'OK over' instead of 'OK ya'.

COMMS TP

WO2 (SSM) 'Bart' **Geer** and **Maj Hewitt** have devised some rather interesting tests to see just how much of an edge was taken off both our fitness and our military skills. They believe it is more than an edge, so we have embarked on a journey to hell!

We all thought the Commando Course was hard, but this is something different. The word is now out. We have had enquiries from Commandos asking to join the much coveted 3 Sqn Course. On completion of the course successful participants are awarded an 'I've been to 3 Sqn, 14 Sig Regt and Survived' T shirt and a Bart Geer doll dressed in desert combats. All kidding aside, the lads seem more than happy to be back and would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new-comers to Comms Tp. PS, Happy fitness training!

RCP TROOP
COMPLEX SECTION

With the reformation of RCP Tp under way the Complex Section has returned from its duties in the Gulf. New faces are mingling with the old and war stories are still being swapped.

Sgt Dave Crashley is the Complex Section Sergeant. This conversation was overheard in the SSM's office.

SSM: 'Right **Sgt Crashley** what are your aims for Complex Section this year?'

Sgt C: 'Well Sir, I intend to get some work out of **Sig Bury** and **Osborne** and make **Sig Scott** look smart in uniform.'

SSM: 'Very commendable, and you **Sgt Rutland**, what have you in store for EWLO Section?'

Sgt R: 'Sir EWLO Section will win the Morrison Cup, Lanyard Trophy, field the Army 7's rugby team, the combined services basketball team and we will all put ourselves forward for the next flight of the space shuttle Columbia.'

SSM: 'That is a bit over the top Sgt R.'

Sgt R: 'Well he started it!'

EWLO SECTION

The EWLO Section once again finds itself part of RCP Troop, following the return of everyone from Op Granby. Whilst we were away the powers-that-be rearranged things of us, so for the first time in our short history we have a SNCO in charge of us, in the compact form of **Sgt John Rutland**. Also new to the section, if not to the Regiment, are **Cpl Mick Proud** and his wife **Karen, Sig Bob Wilson** and his wife **Lisa. Sig 'Sid' Barrass** is doing his Assistant Beastmasters Course (AIPT) and with **Cpl Steve Walton** already qualified we now have quite a section of PTI's; is this the shape of things to come?

Cpl Jim Toms, will shortly be bidding a tearful farewell to the panzers. He is off to pastures new at 30 Sig Regt; no more pack lifts!

VON STEUBEN/LAFAYETTE WINNERS

Earlier this year, the Regiment and 103rd MI Bn (US) were honoured by the presentation of the Von Steuben/Lafayette award by **Maj Gen Wilson A. Shoffner** US Army, Commanding General, 3rd Infantry Division, based in Wurzburg. The award is made annually to pairs of units who have done the most to further international co-operation and inter-operability between units of 3rd Inf Div and allied armies. This is the first occasion a British unit has received this prestigious award. 14 Sig Regt and 103rd MI Bn received their award for the work they have carried out together over the past year. This has included joint exercises, and participation by individuals and small groups, in each others' training.

Maj Bernie Hewitt and Capt Nathan Woods just after the parade where they received the award on behalf of their units. Lt Col Greggory Lammond (CO 103rd MI Bn), and Maj Hugh Hancock (2IC 14 Sig Regt) are in the background

16 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

3 SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj G. J. Whyman**
2IC — **Capt J. E. Swindells**

SSM **WO2 (SSM) G. L. Richards**, YofS **SSgt (YofS) R. McCombe**, FofS **SSgt (YofS) R. Griffiths**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) A. Turner**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) Thomas**, MT **SSgt M. Jeffery**, Trg **Sgt J. Lewis**, Clerks **LCpl Armstrong, Ptes Godfrey, Yates.**

3 Sqn is now together again and the Squadron has doubled its size, following a successful take-over bid launched for 2 Sqn, whilst its board of directors were sunning themselves (providing the HQ for the LSG Sig Sqn) in the Gulf.

Since its amalgamation with 2 Sqn it has spent the most of its time preparing for Ex Flying Falcon 91, no mean task when over 70% of the vehicle fleet is suffering from post Granby depression.

DELTA TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd — **2Lt Kennedy**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt Lawrence**
Recce Sgt **Sgt Isles; Sgts Lucas, Edge.**

Delta Tp has had its fair share of new faces. **Cpl** 'Ollie' **Oldroyd** arrived from 1 Sqn via Kilo Tp, **Cpl Skivington** arrived from Foxtrot Tp and fresh from the factory came **Sig Marshall** and **Hunt**. The troop would also like to congratulate **Sig Shaw-Rowlands** and his wife **Dianne** on the arrival of their son, **Christopher**.

Well, whilst our men were away 'fighting' in the Gulf, the Rear Party were heavily involved with guarding the Barracks and maintaining the mass of vehicles that were left behind. This was a boring task, however, the men (and women) of Maintenance Tp, (Foxtrot Tp) completed the task.

2Lt Kennedy provided an 'escape' during June when the Troop joined forces with an Army Cadet Force visit to Phantasialand. It had an excellent time and helped host the cadets. It was an unhappy day when the old Foxtrot Tp was disbanded and reformed.

The Troop has a new Tp Comd. **2Lt Kennedy** arriving fresh from Blandford in February for his second (but slightly longer) stint at 16 Sig Regt.

FOXTROT TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd — **Lt S. E. J. Parry**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt K. Munnelly**
Tp Sgt **Sgt M. Jennings**, Tp Tech Sgt **Sgt A. Goodwin**.

We threw ourselves into the preparation for the Regimental Operation Granby Weekend—a drill parade, party and Regimental Fun Day. The weekend certainly went with a 'bang'. Saturday consisted of various 'It's a Knockout' type competitions with en suite food and beer. Of course, Fox Tp were victorious, but nevertheless a good day was had by all and everyone ended up well fed and wet to the skin. The cunning PTIs ensured that most events included water and a dreaded tank as a part of the proceedings.

The evening was rounded off by a Regimental All Ranks party and many a war story retold (draw up a sand bag etc—aaah—exciting stuff). Everybody had an excellent time.

After this high point in the social calendar the Troop returned to the realities of life—sorting out the various vehicles returning from the Gulf—some in less than perfect condition. Back to the real world. Most of us have had enough sea and sand, well certainly sand, to last us a lifetime!

JULIET TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd — **Lt Ian Ellis**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt Tom Benson**
RR Sgt **Sgt Neil James**, Another RR Sgt **Sgt Glen Henderson**, Tech Sgts **Sgts Dave Nuttall, Phil Moffat, Tom Davies**.

J Tp are the melting pot of the Regiment, with personnel from eight different Granby units and the newly posted in. The Tp Comd was press-ganged from (the old) 3 Sqn to serve out his last three months in the Unit. **Sgt Davies** is posted very shortly, somewhere. **Sgt James** should be posted very soon. Congratulations to both for coming off 'the Board'

After reconstructing the picked carcass of the Node, we deployed on exercise a week after returning from Granby rehabilitation leave. Roll on Flying Falcon.

Inspections and exercises loom; a normal size Troop again and all that goes with it. It's nice to know that some things never change.

TOP TEN GRANBY LIES
A factural compilation from **Maj S. Innick**

It will be issued in theatre.
You're on 2 hrs NTM.
Everything is going well.
Nobody else has complained.
Sorry, none in theatre.
No, you didn't put it in your resup demand.
Move now.
Yes, I have been chasing it up.
Move to grid . . .
It should have been issued before arriving in theatre.

SIERRA TROOP
PERSONALITIES
SSgt Mills, Sgts Licence, Penny, Bain, Wosika.

To all from Sierra Tp who have left we wish them well in the future.

Once we all got used to the cultural shock after four weeks post Granby leave, the Regiment celebrated our return from the Gulf with a Granby Weekend starting off with 'It's a Knockout' competition—everyone had an excellent time, most getting a soaking because the event ended with a ducking. A great day, well organised and enjoyed by all.

The evening continued with an All Ranks Dance where it seemed as if everyone in Krefeld was in attendance.

The weekend was rounded off with a Regimental Parade, a church service and a march past with the CO taking the Salute. A Special mention must to be made to M Troop for providing us with splendid entertainment on the PA system.

The Troop is now well into its' programme taking over and sorting out all the Op Granby vehicles (did we really survive in those trucks?).

We would like to welcome the following: **Sgts Kev Wosika, Bagsie Bain, Mick Licence, Cpls Stinger Burn, Mumps Maynard, LCpls Cas Casswell, Simmo Simcock, Sig Scouse Byrne, Jack Hawkinsl, LCpl Barley** and **Sig Bing Crosby.**

AWARD OF COLOURS

Sig Steve Pengelly, a Tele Op (RR) being presented with his (BR) RCZ Sports Colours for Badminton by **Brig R. M. Bullock**, Comd RCZ, after the RCZ Individual Badminton Championships in May. He came first in the Men's Singles and also the Mixed Doubles with his partner **Cpl Roz Stanners** from B Coy, Rheindahlen.

Sig Pengelly has served in 1 Sqn for more than four years.

Sig Steve Pengelly

EXERCISE LONG LOOK
by Sgt Williams

Are you in the Scottish Army? What is your cap badge? Why are your stripes really big? These questions were just a few of the many strange comments that greeted me during my four month exchange in New Zealand on Ex Long Look 1990.

It all began one cold dull day at 1 Sqn HQ where I was slogging away at the paperwork on my desk when my SSM **WO2 (SSM) Babs Davies** casually asked if I would like to be nominated for Ex Long Look. After two seconds consideration I casually volunteered my services!

I received a letter from my New Zealand counterpart **Sgt Maggie Beattie** of the NZ Army Medical Corps, with help and advice.

On Saturday 4 August I was packed and ready to commence the journey for my holiday, oops, I mean exercise. At about 1800 hrs we boarded the flight at Dusseldorf Airport which took us via Dubai and Singapore. Whilst the plane was being refuelled at these stopovers I was refuelling at the duty free shops.

After our stop at Singapore the plane headed for Sydney Australia the New Zealand contingent (Me) boarded a RNZAF flight for the final part of our journey.

At approximately 1825 hrs on Monday 6 August we arrived in Auckland, New Zealand. We were taken by coach to a camp in Papakura where we stayed for two days familiarisation.

On Wednesday 6 August I left for the first of my host units. It was 2 Field Hospital located within Trentham Military Camp Wellington. My appointment was Admin Clerk and my duties including raising signals, collection and distribution of mail, attending to admin and pay problems and booking flights and warrants.

Whilst at Trentham I got the chance to visit various camps around the country one of these which I will not forget was Waiouru Military Camp which is the main training centre for most Corps.

I attended a Passing out Parade of armed soldiers, male and female, is this a sign of things to come?

After a few weeks in Wellington I went on a three week attachment to a Medical Battalion based in Christchurch, South Island. During that time I saw many famous sights such as Christ Church Cathedral, The Ferrymead Historic Park which is a recreation of a New Zealand Edwardian township. I also visited a town called Shantytown which is a replica of a West Coast gold mining town at the turn of last century, whilst there I got the chance to go Gold Panning and I managed to get a wee bit of gold to show off. I'm sure I must have toured the whole of the South Island and I've got the 12 × 36 films worth of photos to prove it. It was in between sightseeing and taking the odd photo here and there that I was encouraged to take part in a 'bungy jump', what is a bungy jump you may ask? Well it's when a person jumps off a bridge 143ft above a river with a big rubber band around their ankles and yes I did it, how much did they pay me? Believe it or not I paid £43, for the jump, receiving a certificate, T-Shirt and a video of me jumping (with a wee bit of persuasion) and for getting the fright of my life!

After going down in the world I very quickly came up in the world by being asked to attend a NZ WRAC Reunion lunch as an official guest. I enjoyed this very much and found it to be very interesting. Incidentally the NZ WRAC was disbanded in 1977, however the interest and loyalty by the ex WRAC members was as strong as ever.

After my three weeks touring, I mean working, I returned to Trentham. One thing that surprised me was, in NZ you tend to do a lot of travelling in uniform and if you are going from one island to the other by a military flight then the dress is uniform so I ended up touring the country in my barrack dress, however, don't panic I did my bungy jump in civvies!

When I was half way into my tour I had two weeks leave and as I was fortunate to have some old school friends who emigrated to Australia I took the opportunity to fly to Melbourne and visit them, a great time was had.

After leave I returned to Trentham for a few days and discovered I was to assist on a recce of 2 Field Hospitals annual camp sited at Napier so I was off again. Armed with my camera I set off on an interesting recce via the scenic views stopping just long enough for me to take some photos and do a wee bit of shopping. After the recce it was back to work for another few days and then I was given the opportunity of a visit to a Maori village which was about eight hours drive north of Wellington called Rotorua.

R to L: Cpl Buzz Hendry, Sgt Ian Black, WSgt Williams, SSgt Mac McNally and Cpl Duncan Agnew outside 2 FD Hospital

The first thing that greets you when you arrive in Rotorua apart from the excellent scenery, is the spectacular thermal site where you will see geysers at play and mud pools simmering. It is such a fascinating sight that you almost forget the horrible smell. Next stop was to a Maori Hangi and concert. A Hangi is a Maori oven in which food is cooked by steam, in a shallow pit in the ground. Firstly firewood is piled over the pit and rocks placed on top of the wood, as the wood burns the stones sink slowly into the pit. When the burning wood is removed water is sprinkled on the stones to make steam, food is placed in containers on top of the stones and then the hole is covered with leaves and dirt to seal in the steam. The food cooks for about three hours; it may not be the quickest meal to prepare but it must surely be the cheapest and well worth waiting for. What better way to finish off a Maori meal than a Maori evening of cultural dancing and songs by the end of my time at Rotonia I was feeling quite Maori, I mean merry.

After my trip in Rotorua it was back to work for a rest and no sooner was I back when another trip came my way but sadly it was to be my return trip to Germany, it was time for me to leave 'Kiwi' Land, a great country with lovely people.

As I boarded the plane my final thoughts were that Ex Long Look was an excellent experience which I would recommend to anyone. To see something of their culture and stay in a country with so many close links with UK, yet so far away, was a once in a lifetime trip that I was delighted to have made.

21 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

ONE SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj C. B. Keegan**
2IC Sqn — **Capt L. Harvey**

SSM **WO2 (SSM) S. Mullen, SSgts (FofS) W. M. R. Whitehead, (YofS) I. Nicholson, (SQMS) McCutcheon.**

DUCK RACE (EXERCISE QUICK FLOAT)

The burning question at Wednesday morning's briefing was—'Has anybody got any ideas as to how to raise money for charity?'

SSgt Mazey suggested a Duck Race. 'OK Staff organise a Duck Race'.

Sgt Colin East was appointed German interpreter for the race, and with **SSgt Barry Mazey** went to the Burgermeister in Gielenkirchen and arranged to use a stretch of the river that runs through the Stadt.

The next problem was how to get hold of 1,500 plastic ducks. Knowing that the AAC Harrogate had run a duck race, we rang **WO2 (SSM) Pete Jackson**, of Scott Sqn, who gave us the information we required and offered his help (and the RQMS's) in collecting and transporting the ducks to BAOR; he pointed us in the direction of **Mr Albert Smith**, who has over 4,000 plastic ducks on his 'flick'; these he offered to lend so long as profits went to charity. We chose Muscular Dystrophy and a local school in Oberbruch for mentally and physically handicapped children.

SSgt Barry Mazey and Sgt Colin East at the start of the Race

SSgt Neil Killen organised a start gate and a finish line, whilst SSgt **Ken Kennedy** took on the job of 'Ronald MacDonald' with the help of everyone in the Squadron, SQMS **Tom McCutcheon** 'acquired' the stores.

The next job was to sell a mere 1,500 tickets. In addition to selling on camp and JHQ, we had permission to sell tickets in local supermarkets in Geilenkirchen and at the Nato base at Teveren.

On race day with 1,160 ducks in the pen, the Burgermeister and the CO of the Regiment, **Lt Col H. H. Ham**, did the honours and started the race in front of a large crowd of Duck Fanciers (all shouting for their ducks).

Everyone followed the ducks 2km down the river to see the first six to cross the finish line; **2Lt Maria Staples** and several of her Trunk Node were in the water to make sure that the first six ducks only were pulled out of the river.

The winners were rewarded with a cash prize, a 50 DM Natex voucher and a Magnum of Champagne. The two charities were duly delighted when they received their monies a couple of weeks later. All in all the day was a great success with the local population hoping that we would make the race an annual event.

The ducks on their way

EXERCISE HANDY FORGE

Ex Handy Forge was a Harrier Force Exercise which took place in April. Trunk lines were provided by 1 Sqn.

Early one Saturday morning Trunk Nodes 037 and 039 deployed on Ex Handy Forge under the command of **Lt Maria Staples**. The only hiccough along the way occurred when a wheel almost fell from OC 037's Landrover, containing **2Lt Sue Goodwin** and **Sgt Bob Squires**. The Node was set up and Comm's were established. Then the fun began . . .

Lt Maria Staples was going for the 'Cleanest Woman in Nato' award by the frequency of her visits to the shower block.

As the exercise progressed **2Lt Sue Goodwin** considered walking, or hitching to get the 10 miles to the nearest NAAFI to get some cigarettes. At 2330 hrs one dark and nicotine free night she was seen cruising at 3,000ft muttering 'some place must be open'.

Sig McGair is considering a formal complaint about the number of guards he has been jiffed for. **Sig Barlow** would be the ideal candidate but unfortunately he was too busy whinging on his own behalf.

The Switch prepared for its war role—that of **Sig Tracey** and **McKindland** Publishing Empire Inc. The underground presses rolled every night and as dawn broke a news sheet appeared bearing tales of woe. Any story founded on gossip, hearsay or personal grudge was eagerly seized upon by the roving reporters.

2 SQUADRON
EXERCISE HANDY FORGE

The non-Granby part of the Squadron has just finished the first Harrier Ex of the year (Ex Handy Forge 91). The Exercise was very limited in scope because the lack of RE support which confined us to two flying sites. Deployment started four days early for the Lineys who currently think they have the largest Line Troop in BAOR with 18 Dvr Lmn. During the exercise we carried out HGV training for Squadron personnel, there were three successful students: **Maj Ewell** (keeping his options open), **SSgt Terry Petherbridge** and **Sig Steve Goodall**. Two weeks, 50 videos and some Rugby training later we were back in Wildenrath and straight into the Battle of Britain Rugby competition.

RUGBY

The Battle of Britain rugby is part of a year long competition in which all the Army and RAF Squadrons compete. There is intense rivalry and 2 Sqn are currently the leaders. The Squadron fielded two teams. The A Team (who were actually the second team) were knocked out in the Quarter Finals by 1 Sqn A Team. The final was an all Army affair: 1 Sqn A vs 2 Sqn B Team. 2 Sqn were 14—0 up at half time but 1 Sqn managed to recover to win 16—14 on the final kick of the match. It was annoying to discover that we had actually played 12 minutes in the second half and all we had to do was kick the ball dead to win.

OP GRANBY

The Op Granby personnel have now returned from well deserved leave and 'normal' life hit them at 0730 on their first day with the start of the Mother and Father of all inspections. Welcome back men!

FAREWELLS

We say farewell to the following squadron personnel: **Cpl Evans** who will leave us for his T1 on return from his Leadership course; **Sgt Taff Thomas**, who is leaving us on promotion to fill a post as a PSI (Permanent Staff Instructor/Permanent Slave Instructor) with 32 Sig Regt (V) at their Aberdeen Squadron. Sgt now **SSgt Gary Foster** who is also leaving on promotion to sort out 4 Sqn's stores on return from the Gulf.

ATHLETICS

After a late start, athletic training is now in full swing. The Regiment retained the (BR) RCZ Athletics Championship with a convincing win.

On 29 May our athletes were in action in the BAOR Individual Athletics Championships. in the 17 events we won 8 Gold, 10 Silver and 3 Bronze medals which enabled us to send 15 athletes to the Army Individual Athletic Championships where they won 4 Gold, 7 Silver and 3 Bronze medals.

RESULTS

BAOR Individual Athletic Championships

100m	1st **Cpl Henry**	2nd **Cpl Farrell**
400m	3rd **LCpl Francis**	
800m	2nd **Sig Smith**	3rd **Sgt Pollard**
3,000m SC	1st **Sig Braysford**	
110m H	1st **LCpl Tomkinson**	2nd **SSgt Killen**
400m H	1st **Cpl Richardson**	2nd **Sig Renwick**
HJ	1st **Cpl McSween**	2nd **Sig Powell**
LJ	1st **Cpl McSween**	
PV	1st **Sgt Lyons**	2nd **Cpl Ingham**
	3rd **SSgt Killen**	
Discus	1st **SSgt Killen**	2nd **Cpl Dobson**
Javelin	2nd **Sig Powell**	
Shot	2nd **SSgt Killen**	
Hammer	2nd **LCpl Jones**	

Army Individual Athletic Championship

100m	2nd **Cpl Henry**	3rd **Cpl Farrell**
800m	3rd **Sig Smith**	
110m H	1st **LCpl Tomkinson**	2nd **SSgt Killen**
400m H	1st **SSgt Killen**	2nd **Sig Renwick**
HJ	1st **Cpl McSween**	
LJ	1st **Cpl McSween**	
PV	2nd **Sgt Lyons**	3rd **SSgt Killen**
Discus	2nd **SSgt Killen**	3rd **Cpl Dobson**
Javelin	3rd **Sig Powell**	
Shot	2nd **SSgt Killen**	
Hammer	2nd **LCpl Jones**	

RCZ SHOOTING COMPETITION

The Regiment team assembled to zero weapons, test fire and run through the relevant shoots under the expert guidance of **Sgt Bob Hope**. We had five days before the shoot to get the eight man team adjusted.

The team consisted of five A class shots: **Sgts Stan Haynes, Bob Hope, Gunny Young, Cpls Scouse Curlitt** and **Dave Robinson**; the 3 B class shots were **2Lt Wood, Sig Dave Pitt** and **John Inglis**.

The team plus two, **SSgt Kev Fitzpatrick** and **Sgt Neil Blair**, motored to Haltern to book into the competition.

Cpl Jeff Underwood was the team non-shooting captain. The team managed to win everything except the SMG match, where it was placed second. The Master of Arms award was taken by **SSgt Fitzpatrick** with a very good all round performance; well done.

The team with its loot

We only had to complete the March and Shoot before collecting the hoard of trophies that had been won by the team. The 12 man team led by **2Lt Wood** and **WO2 (SSM) Dick Whittingham**, left the start point at 0830 hrs on Wednesday 15 May. It completed the eight mile course in 1 hr 26 mins which put it in the lead. The shoot was an advance to contact causing an enemy retreat. Twenty rounds per man were issued before running 100m to the firing point to engage targets at 100m, 200m and 300m. Top scorer was **Sgt Gunny Young** with 15 hits. Despite a couple of 'washouts', the team's overall total score was another good win for the Regiment.

L TROOP
3 SQUADRON, RAF Laarbruch

News from an airfield that is staying open.

BOXING

Congratulations to our resident pugilist, **LCpl Phil Gash**, who won the BAOR Heavyweight Championships. Unfortunately, he lost the Army Championships on a points decision.

LS & GC PRESENTATION

On 7 March **Cpl Steve Kemble** was presented with his LS & GC medal by **Brig Bullock**, Comd RCZ witnessed by the Troop and his wife **Alison**.

OP KATE ADIE 2

With the Regiment's return from the Gulf it was soon realised that the unit could be replaced by just one Tele Mech from L Troop. Consequently, **LCpl Mitch Mitchell** was dispatched to Kuwait, complete with notebook and satellite dish, to watch the home fires burning. The things some people will do to get out of athletics training . . .

Congratulations to **Sig Andy Dodds** on his marriage to **Karen**. We look forward to welcoming her to Laarbruch soon.

Soon to be a LCpl, **Sig Kelvyn Dale** is also congratulated on his 'outstanding' Signalman's report.

Farewell to **LCpl Jim Wainwright** and his wife **Julie** who are leaving us to join the world's largest Tornado wing. Thanks for everything **Jim**.

Welcome to the following new members **Sig Pickles** and from 'the factory' **Sig Benjamin, Williams** and **Whitehouse**.

4 SQUADRON
FAREWELLS

After Granby came changes and postings. Sqn Comd **Capt** (Maj, now Capt again) **Hickling** has returned to 7 Sig Regt as QM Tech. **WO2 (YofS) Kev Townsend** is posted to 15 Sig Regt. **WO2 Ray Patrickson** is going to Nottingham UOTC. **SSgt 'Geordie' Bincliffe** has gone on to Nottingham as PS with the TA. We wish them and their families all the very best in their new posts.

MORE GRANBY NOTES

The shape of the Support Helicopter Signal Squadron we finished up with bore no resemblance to the initial concept of operations; we provided the following:

MAOTS: 6 two man dets, (equipped with SCRA(T)/VHF(Z)/HF(Z)), deployed between Regimental Aid Posts, Field Dressing Stations and Field Hospitals, to call for real time casevac and to co-ordinate less urgent tasks. Originally under control of **Flt Lt Douggie Vine**, they were finally tasked directly by FHQ. **LCpl Ellis** and **Sig Wilson** deserve a special mention for showing the calmest approach to the threats that they faced daily.

TSW (Tactical Supply Wing) refuelled the helicopters and were dotted all over the place. **Cpl Sam Parke** and **Sig Scott Mackenzie** were with one of the first soft skinned packets through the breach. **LCpl Woody Woodland** managed to build a mast extension worthy of Monsieur Eiffel in order to get his SCRA(T) in comms with the rest of the world.

ASOC Det was led by **LCpl Heap** at Div Rear HQ, providing the main route for helicopter tasking for the entire Force. They were one of the very few soft skinned vehicles in this HQ.

Force HQ (FWD): supported the RAF Staff HQ. Although this was the high profile job, it had its drawbacks. **Sgts Gunny Young** and **Chippy Chapman** were the 'front end' of the HQ team, manning CP4 and generally making sure that the FHQ did not fall too far behind the QDG recce screen.

RRBs: plus, in some cases, reinforcing radio dets, were the bold, brave, fearless (foolhardy) members of the Squadron. They were deployed into ground that was often only recce-able on a map, deployed at short notice, and often for very short periods of time. Taking into account the fact that they were not well forward, they did distinguish themselves by taking the first batch of prisoners. **Cpl Harry Fellows**, along with his reinforcing det of **Cpl** (Mad McMad) **Jackson** one of our tame (?) Royal Marines, took the surrender of 18 Iraqi soldiers, whilst finishing off their breakfasts.

Force HQ (Rear) was the real nerve centre of the Force, where most of the important decisions affecting a large part of the Theatre, and in fact many other theatres too, were taken. A SAN/VHF(Z)/HF(Z) det supported this HQ and the collated Chinook Main Operating base. The administrative side of life was run from here by **Cpl Lockwood** and **LCpl Stuart** when they weren't busy learning how to use yet another computer system.

King Khalid Military City was the base for the Americans, French, Egyptians and Syrians and it was from here that the Puma and Sea King Squadrons operated. It was the only location at which the Squadron came under enemy fire. This took the form of a Scud missile exploding (with the able assistance of a Patriot) over the MOBs. There were no casualties, except those killed in the rush for bits of missile for souvenirs.

ACPO?

ACPO is an enigma to most. What does it stand for? Is it an Association of Chief Police Officers? As a small formation we use a whole glossary of appointments and abbreviations. Firstly there's the Boss, **Capt Brian Billsberry**, and where there's a TOT there's usually a FofS, in our case **WO2 Dave Stewart**. Then we have PPS 1 and PPS 2. **SSgt Dave Campbell** and **Sgt Steve Gerrish**.

We live, crushed into a cellar, with what little space there is taken up with computers, word processors, plotters, printers and the like. Maybe ACPO is Associated Computer Programmers Office?

Keeping us all in line is our Clerk **Michelle Matthew**. She must be due for a reward for her 10 years service with ACPO.

We have a Drawing Office too, manned (and wo-manned) by our faithful retainer **Sig Jake Jacob** and our other draughts person **Donna** (congratulations on the birth of a son **Jordan**) **Worrall**. Whilst **Donna** was away her post was filled by **Susan Williams**.

Lastly there's myself **SSgt Steve Dobson**, merely a temporary bolster until I go to Sunnier Climes. ACPO—Acclimatisation for Cyprus Posting Office?

Well no actually, ACPO stands for Airfield Communications Planning Office!

Airfield Comms Planning Office—May 1991
Back Row L to R: Sig Jacob, SSgts Dobson, Campbell and Sgt Gerrish
Front Row, L to R: Mrs Donna Worrall, Capt B. K. Billsberry and Mrs Michelle Matthew

30 Sig Regt
Blandford Camp

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj E. J. P. Kellett**
SSM — **WO2 Steve Simpson**
SQMS **SSgt Paul Horton**, Clk **Miss Maxine Lloyd**.

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

Greetings go to the following personnel who have recently joined the Squadron: **WO2 Gerry Knight, WO2 Dougie Wright, Sgts Mark Potter** and **Gary Pither APTC**.

We wish farewell and good luck in civvy street to **Sgt Jim Keeping** and his family. Farewells also go to **WO2 Chris Edler** and **Sgt John Reeves** on posting. Congratulations to them both on their promotion.

It has been a busy time for all in the Squadron in the last few months with personnel and equipment returning from Op Granby. No sooner had these assets returned than some were turned round and redeployed on Op Haven.

TRAINING WING
PERSONALITIES

RIT Team — **Lt Craig Sutherland**, **Cpl Kieron Butler**, **Cpl Gareth Thompson**
Training — **WO2 Gerry Knight**
2IC **WO2 Dougie Knight**, SNCO **Sgt John Fisher**, Wing Clk **Miss Julie Pearce**.

GOODBYES

We have said farewell to two members of the Wing: **WO1 Chris Edler**, now at 11 Sig Regt, we wish you and **Jackie** (and the dogs) all the best for the future. We have also said goodbye to **SSgt (YofS) Dave Leaning. Dave** arrived at the peak of Op Granby activity and is glad to get away to 249 Sig Sqn for a more predictable existence. We wish **Dave** and **Wendy** every success in their new unit.

WELCOMES

We welcome **WO2 Gerry Knight** and **WO2 Dougie Wright** into the Wing. They were originally in 1 Sqn, but hearing of vacancies in the Wing they filed applications and were accepted, on condition that they stop blahing about the Gulf!

At the time of writing, **Sgt John Fisher** is engaged on his EPC(A), prior to leaving for pastures new. During the last eight months **John** has run the Wing almost single handed.

TM TROOP
by Sgt 'Josh' Mainka

With Op Granby winding down the Troop was looking for a rest as the trickle of members returning from the Gulf turned into a flow and then going off for a spot of leave. This left the rest of the Troop, under **SSgt (FofS) Annetts**, to inspect the mountain of returned equipment.

As the first of our 501 detachments returned Op Haven was announced and our 501s were redeployed to Turkey to provide comms for the Kurdish relief effort. After many a late night the dets were deployed with **Sgts John Linck** and 'Eric' **Sykes** plus **Cpls Ian Slinger, John Hutchings, Lou Casci**, 'Titch' **McGiffen** and **Smith** providing technical cover.

With **SSgt (FofS) Annetts** following the main deployment to Turkey the TM Tp hot seat was then filled by **SSgt (FofS) Graham Ramsdale** from 2 Sqn who now knows the true meaning of being in the hot seat.

The Troop has welcomed **WO2 (FofS) Steve Hatfield**, fresh from the agony of lodging allowances and claims at 39 Sig Regt (V), he has now packed his bags and flown off to Turkey.

Congratulations to **Sgts Guy Lewendon** and **Russ Batley** for having passed their Foreman's selection. Best wishes to **LCpl Steve Bell** and **Ayshea** on the occasion of their wedding. Congratulations to **Sgt** 'Flanny' **Flanighan, Cpls Dave Irwin** and **Everton Rock** on their promotions.

We welcome **Cpl** 'A-H' **Alexander-Hyde, LCpl Scott** and **Sig Newbitt** to the Troop and we say goodby to **Sgt Bob Buckingham** to 15 Sig Regt and to **Sgt Glenn** 'Tankie' **Sherman** who leaves us for civvy street.

HQ MT
by Sig J. Williams

HQMT is as busy as ever, with the increase of Op Granby returns and the odd detail to the Outer Hebrides, but still managing to keep on top.

New arrivals to the Troop include **Sig** 'Daz' **Burns** who joins us straight from training, and **Cpl Dave Jubb**, who didn't get a mention last issue because he was shipped off for an early suntan.

Farewell to **LCpl** 'Pops' **Popowicz** who leaves us. We wish him all the best for the future.

REME

April saw the start of a new training year and as such a break from normal routine, with a couple of days out of the workshop to complete mandatory training along with the rest of the Squadron.

May was the first time in a long while that the REME Det were back to the full strength of 11 with all the VMs back from their post Granby leave.

May was also the start of the vehicles returning from Granby, slowly they started to appear on the Workshop 'In Park' in desperate need of repair and with half of the desert still attached!

Now it's back to work and the usual routine of 30 Sig Regt. Get the vehicles repaired as quickly as possible, re-painted (which colour now?) and ready to deploy on the next exercise/operation, whichever comes first!

THE REGT INF TEAM (RIT)
by LCpl Pat Barnes

At the beginning of February nine members were on standby for the desert. By the end of the month we were assembled as a force. We were now the RIT!

February to April was spent preparing the vehicles and equipment for our task.

On 23 April we encountered our first taste of the big time at East Devon College, Tiverton, led by **2Lt Craig Sutherland**. It was a gentle introduction to the job.

Our next port of call was Plymouth, with minor mishaps occurring. Our catalogue of catastrophies multiplied by the second. **Sig Alex** 'Humper' **Howell** found a rapid way of painting land rovers, **Sig Si Lambert** learnt how efficient the Navy could be at cordoning off an area, **LCpl Pete Kenyon** got a bout of food poisoning and had to stay in his room all day.

LCpl Jason King (the second technician on the team) has fixed more candy floss covered kit than any technician in the Corps, and as far as **Sig Tony Davies** and **Paul Warden** are concerned, life's a beach!

To date we have attended a total of eight shows. On the recruiting side of things we have had some success. In the team's opinion the RIT has been a great success so far, despite screaming, crying, and inquisitive children! They're giving away free ice cream over there!

QM'S DEPT

QM — **Maj R. Fortune**
RQMS — **WO2 S. T. Wise**

The department has been swamped with 'operational' tasks. Op Haven started with the normal crisis management, not helped by the fact that the equipment was still en route from Op Granby. But we pulled rabbits out of the hat and together with 640 Sig Tp moved in support of 3 Cdo Bde. It has been rumoured that the RQMS has applied to join the Magic Circle.

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

We welcome the following back from Granby: **Maj Bob Fortune, LCpls Steven Campbell** and **Brian Parry** and say a fond farewell to the following: **LCpls Dave Lilliman** to civvy street, **Robbo Robertson** to 11 Sig Regt, and **Steve Campbell** to 8 Sig Regt.

CATERING TP
PERSONALITIES
SSgt Partridge
Sgt Harding
Cpl Norris, LCpls Fricker, Humphries, Parkinson, Brock, Pte Warr and **Milne**.

We welcome **SSgt Partridge** and say farewell to the following: **SSgt Treen** on promotion, **Cpl White** on posting to Detmold and **Pte Culleton** on promotion to West Moors.

During the past few months most members of the Troop have been in the Gulf.

The Chefs acquitted themselves well and remained full of enthusiasm even for military training and this was proved by our passing ACC ARU with flying colours.

On 19 May the RSA Reunion Day took place at Blandford, and the troop provided a buffet and a tea for 600 guests. The day went very well with the Old Comrades enjoying themselves and only too willing to regale us with their interesting reminiscences.

All in all it has been a good first few months, and we all look forward to the future and what it has to offer.

1 SQUADRON
BRAVO TROOP
From Sig Bembridge

Life in 1 Sqn is hectic. We still have commitments to Op Granby and people go off from time to time; Op Haven is in full swing and the Squadron is preparing for its Nimble Finger exercise and Regiment deployment to Gambia in September. All this keeps us on our toes.

We would like to congratulate **Sig Taff Phillips** on his recent marriage to **Andrea**. We would also like to wish **Sgt Tim Hopkins** a speedy recovery and an early discharge from hospital.

L to R: Sig Alex Howell, Paul Warden, 2Lt Craig Sutherland, Sig Tony Davies, LCpls Jason King, Pat Barnes, Sgt Si Lambert, LCpls Pete Kenyon and Guy Padfield

We would like to welcome **Sig (Pte) Bell**, our first signalwoman to the Regiment, and welcome back after their long absence to **Sgts Si Tyler** and **George Farrar** who both successfully passed YofS selection, and we hope that **SSgt Farrar** will apply his new found skills in the SQMS department.

FROM PTE BELL WRAC

I have just joined 1 Sqn fresh from basic training at 8 Sig Regt. When I arrived I hadn't realised I was to be the only female in the Squadron; that came as quite a shock.

I was introduced to the other members of the Squadron and there were quite a few surprised faces when they found out who I was. It was then that I found out that, in due course, I shall wear the Royal Signals beret and cap badge and become a Signal-woman in the Corps instead of a Private in the WRAC.

30 Sig Regt is not what I expected for my first posting, it seems to be the busiest place in the world. The first week soon passed and I discovered that, male or female, you have to develop some body strength as life seems to consist of hundreds of boxes in all shapes and sizes. All, it seems, have to be moved to somewhere else.

The work is hard but enjoyable and I am looking forward to going off to Gambia, in September, and to my four year tour with the Regiment.

2 SQUADRON

SHILLINGSTONE TO BLANDFORD RAFT RACE 1991

2 Sqn supplied communications for this annual event. Under **Sgt Dave Keevash's** organisation, five checkpoints were deployed at various locations along the Stour River, from the start point at Shillingstone to the finish line 10 miles down stream in Blandford.

One hundred and twenty rafts of all shapes and sizes shared in the delights of the reeds and mud of the Stour. Most lasted the course: others only made it for a few yards.

Our specific task was to ensure all rafts progressed down river safely and aid the marshals.

Each checkpoint was manned with a PRC 320, **Hoss Cartwright** ensuring he had an adequate supply of rations and suntan lotion.

The event started at 1100 hrs and the first raft crossed the finish line in 1 hr 45 mins so we thought it might be a short day but there were still rafts on the river eight hours later. A good day was had by all and 2 Sqn hope to participate in the actual race next year and leave someone else to provide the comms.

EXERCISE CERTA CITO

On Friday 31 May six members of 2 Sqn left Blandford for the journey to Weymouth. The idea was to assist Exeter UOTC in a basic VHF and HF comms exercise. The team was **Cpls Adamson, Richardson, Sheerin, LCpls Harrison, Leonard** and **Wilson**. On arrival at Weymouth we were allocated tents.

The main exercise began at 0800 hrs on Saturday when the det comds were introduced to their respective syndicates of officer cadets and delivered a quick talk on equipment, map reading skills, BATCO and voice procedure. The exercise got off to a hesitant start. **LCpl Harrison** gave his cadets a demonstration of how fast a landrover can go when his accelerator cable stuck whilst going down the hill, and **Cpl Dave Adamson's** vehicle managed to last all of two hours before breaking down and returning to camp under tow.

250 GURKHA SIG SQN

PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj A. P. R. Roberts**
2IC Sqn — **Capt Lilbahadur Gurung**

SQGO **Capt (QGO) Silajit Gurung**, OC V Tp **Lt (QGO) Karnasher Tamang**, OC W Tp **Lt (QGO) Dorje Tamang**, SSM **WO2 Bomkarna Rai**, FofS **SSgt (FofS) Wilson**, YofS **SSgt (YofS) Bains**, SQMS **Sgt Yogesh Thapa**.

The comings and goings have been quite considerable of late, especially in the heirarchy. 8 April 1991 saw the departure of the Senior Queen's Gurkha Officer (SQGO), **Capt (QGO) Mohanbahadur Thapa**. As the first SQGO of the Sqn, **Capt (QGO) Mohanbahadur Thapa** was instrumental in setting a firm foundation for this newly reformed Squadron. We wish him the very best on his appointment as SQGO of 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn. Welcome to the Squadron to **Capt (QGO) Silajit Gurung** who now occupies the SQGO's hot seat. Farewell also to **Lt Alistair Gordon** (OC V Tp) who spent most of his time either on the hockey pitch or on Spearhead duty during the 14 months with us. It was to his credit that the Regimental hockey team took part in most of the major competitions, even during the Op Granby period. Result—another piece of silver in the Regiment's trophy cabinet by winning the SWDist six-a-side competition. The Squadron was sad to lose **SSgt (YofS) Keith Emmerson** who packed his bags and strolled 20m into YofS 1 Sqn office. In his place, welcome to **SSgt (YofS) N. J. Bains**, who has since been deployed to Op Haven. Lastly, farewell and congratulations to **SSgt (SQMS) Bick**—the magic touch—**Gurung**, who left us for sunny Hong Kong on well deserved promotion to Lt (QGO) and welcome to **Sgt Yogesh Thapa**.

Brigadier Brigade of Gurkhas, Brig C. D. J. Bullock, meets Op Granby personnel from 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn

Traditional farewell to Lt Alistair Gordon from 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn on Nepali New Year's Eve

EXERCISE MAJA AUNE

With over a third of the Squadron deployed to the Gulf, Battle Camp 1990 was cancelled. A mini Battle Camp was held from 8-12 April. **Lt Alistair Gordon** and **Lt (QGO) Dorje Tamang** took 26 personnel to Tregantle and exercised them in command tasks, an orienteering competition, lectures and written appreciations around Dartmoor Training Areas.

VISIT

The Brigadier Brigade of Gurkhas, **Brig C. J. D. Bullock OBE MC** visited on 22 April. He was met by the CO **Lt Col Kidner** and given a brief on the Regiment's role, especially Op Granby. After a short tour of the Squadron area, the Brigadier met the personnel who had been in the Gulf.

SOCIAL

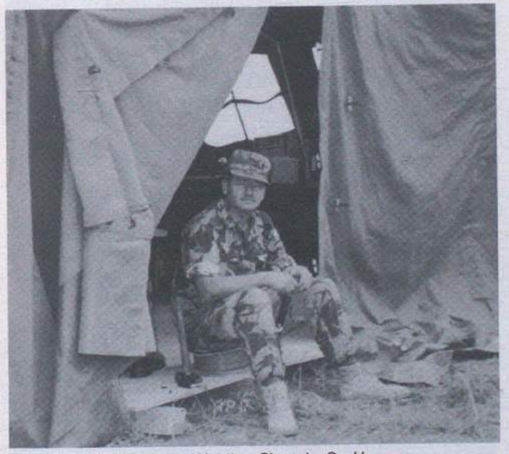
On 13 April the Gurkhas celebrated their New Year (Bickram Sambat 2048) in much the same fashion as last year. Only difference being that last year, the occasion provided the Squadron with the opportunity to congratulate **Lt Alistair Gordon** on his second pips—this year we bade farewell to **Lt Gordon** on his posting to 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn.

OPERATION HAVEN

Just as we were beginning to put the Gulf behind us and with many enjoying some leave, we were called upon to provide communications support for Op Haven in Turkey. The first detachment arrived at US Air Force Base in Incirlik on 21 April led by **Capt Paul Vingoe** and **Sgt Eric Sykes. Capt Percy Beynon** had arrived a few days earlier as a member of the advance party.

Next on the scene was **Cpl John Douglas** who arrived in Silopi with Inmarsat equipment to provide an initial contact link for the Advance Party of 3 Cdo Bde. He was soon to be followed by **Capt Neil Stevens** and **Sgt Steve Welding** accompanied by VSC 501 and TRC 522 detachments. These were soon to move to Sirsenk in Northern Iraq. Further detachments followed with a total of 68 men from the Regiment deployed. It is hoped our stay in Turkey will be a short one.

The Det at Sirsenk posing with Kate Adie
L to R: Sig John Williams, Doobs Rodgers, Ray Hayes, 'Ronnie' Barker, John Denison, Sgt 'Spot' Welding and Maj Mark Perry



Sgt Steve Welding Sirsenk, Op Haven

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V) Glasgow

VISITS

On 10 April the Regiment hosted the visit of **Gen Sir John Waters KCB CBE**, CinC UKLF to Glasgow. The CinC met permanent staff members of the Regiment and officers and other ranks representing all units in Glasgow. He talked to all those present and briefed us all on the many changes and the new challenges that lie ahead. He showed a keen interest in the history of the Regiment and was most impressed with our Officers' Mess and the collection of books and associated material in the library.

Brig G. K. Ramsey MBE, ADC, DWRAC visited us at Jardine Street TAC during our training night on Thursday 18 April 1991. She was able to meet most WRAC members of HQ, 52 and 61 Sqns. **Brig Gayle Ramsey** briefed us on the proposed new WRAC uniform of which she has been the main instigator and also brought along a complete set of photographs for all to see. During her visit **Brig Ramsey** presented **Maj Ann Sweeney** with her well earned Territorial Decoration and **Cpl Nicky Anderson** with the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for Meritorious Service.

Naturally, both visits were extremely well catered for by **Capt Dennis Nicholas**, PSAO 52 Sqn and his team of invisible workers.

Cpl Nicky Anderson with her well earned Lord Lieutenant's Certificate

OFFICERS' MESS NEWS

Hearty congratulations to **Lt Pauline Lamb** (nee **D'Arcy**) on her marriage to **Malcolm** and also on being awarded The Eaton Trophy for her outstanding performance on the recent Lt to Capt promotion exams.

We welcome from Glasgow Strathclyde UOTC **2Lts Jill Burgess** to our Irish Horse Sqn and **Colin Borthwick** to 52 Lowland Sig Sqn. We congratulate **2Lt Brian Shankland** on passing his RMAS course and gaining his commission and **OCdt Lindsey Dunsmure** on completing her TAPOC—**Lindsey** is now geared up to attend her commissioning course in September. We welcome back **2Lt Joe Meade** who has just returned to the Regiment on completion of his studies in the USA—52 Sqn may now throw away **Mr Meade's** cardboard cut-out! Lastly, congratulations to **OCdt Nicholas Pollard** of 61 Sig Sqn on passing his DAB.

HITLER LINE PARADE—69 (NORTH IRISH HORSE) SIG SQN (V)

On Friday 24 May an Officers' Mess Dinner was held at Ebrington Barracks. It was attended by the **Lord O'Neil**, Lord Lieutenant **Col Michael McCorkell TD**, the Lord Lieutenant of the County of Londonderry and the Lord Lieutenant of the City of Londonderry **Maj J. T. Eaton TD**.

On Saturday 25 May the North Irish Horse Regimental Association (North West Branch) held a Dinner at Clooney Base. The Dinner was attended by the two Lord Lieutenants and the Mayor of Londonderry **Councillor D. Davis**.

On Sunday 26 May a parade was held at Clooney Base. The Band of 211 RCT (V) was in attendance for the parade and the Churchill Foot Band were present at the Church Service. Of note the Guidon was on Parade after a considerable absence and was escorted by three members of the Squadron.

Members of the Regiment from the mainland joined 69 (NIH) Sig Sqn (V) on the Parade and the festivities at which a good time was had by all.

FAMILY REEL PARTY—JARDINE STREET TAC

On 12 April the CO, **Lt Col Michael Anderson** organised a Family Reel Party to raise money for charity. The Reel Party was very well supported by some 190 people ranging in age from 9 to 99 years. The event with a raffle, sweepstake and donations raised some £1,500. The Corps Museum Appeal Fund and the East Park Home for Handicapped Children have both been sent handsome cheques. The CO thanks all the backroom workers who contributed to making the Family Reel Party a roaring success.

52 SQUADRON

The Squadron has been very busy over the last few months with the RSAAM, the Regimental Military Skills Competition and various exercises.

RSAAM

The RSAAM was due to be held on 7-8 March but due to bad weather it had to be cancelled. An impromptu military skills competition was held instead with 69 Sqn narrowly beating 52 Sqn into second place. The events included drill, first aid, weapon handling, pistol shoot, forced march and NBC.

We won the weapon handling and the NBC but our first aid and pistol shooting left something to be desired. On the first aid the team was accused of rough handling of patients just because we threw them about a bit. **Sig Matt** 'Dr Kildare' **Moss** method of dealing with a man with two broken legs using one field dressing was also less than satisfactory.

Our worst performance of the day was on the shoot with **2Lt** 'Sniper' **Gordon** claiming he had a 9mm grouping with all 10 rounds going through the same hole. This was a most enjoyable weekend and good practice for the Regimental Military Skills Competition.

REGIMENTAL MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

This was held at Cultybraggan on 12-14 April and consisted of three separate competitions. A Military Skills Competition, a drill competition and a march and shoot.

The Military Skills Competition was held on the Saturday. At 0600 hrs the bleary eyed team led by **2Lt Donald Gordon** and **SSgt Keith Anderson** awoke hopeful of glory. The events included first aid, NBC, camouflage, driving, commcen, command task, basic signalling skills, assault course and drill.

We got off to a good start on the commcen stand by setting up two Trends. We then sailed through the NBC, but this was followed by our jinx stand; first aid. This went well and we finished top on the first aid stand. The rest of the day went quite smoothly with one hiccup at the drill. One Officer, one SNCO, one JNCO and one private rank had to call the commands. **Sig James Wilson** 'volunteered' to give the commands without knowing what to do. We have a future RSM there I think.

The second day was the march and shoot. This consisted of four parts; a five mile march, a command task, the assault course and a shoot. We completed the march in 74 minutes but then came the real test of physical might, the command task.

This was an 800m course over which the team had to carry the team leader on a stretcher and six full jerry cans. Now **2Lt Donald Gordon** is a tad large at the best of times but with his webbing and weapon the task was indeed formidable. This handicap aside the team found a store of amazing strength from somewhere and completed the task and were still able to walk afterwards.

Next on the agenda was the assault course, we put on a great performance with the team leader finding a novel way down the rope. He let go! Finally came the shoot, but again our marksmanship and weapon handling dismayed us.

The final results were that 69 Sqn won all three competitions but only beat 52 by two points in the military skills competition.

EXERCISE STRONE STOATER

Ex Strone Stoater is a series of exercises run by 52 Brigade. These are TAOR sized exercises where local units guard key points. We provide two commcens; one for the TAOR HQ and one for Brigade HQ. We also provide dispatch riders.

The first of these was held on 19 April. Glasgow and Strathclyde UOTC provided the TAOR HQ and the HSF provided the troops on the ground. HQ 52 Bde were to provide staff to man Hicon but they were only ever seen at meal times and at the pub.

Only nine messages were sent between Bde HQ and TAOR HQ but a fiercely fought golden blanket contest was held. The smart money was on **2Lt Gordon**, but he was soundly beaten by the joint winners **LCpl Maz Gilchrist** and **Pte Allison Hannay**.

FAREWELL

It is with great sadness that we say farewell to **Maj Paddy Henry MBE**, PSAO 61 (City of Edinburgh) Sig Sqn (V). **Maj Henry** joined the Squadron in August 1983 on retirement from the Corps after over 32 years' service. **Maj Henry** went into final retirement (officially) on 31 April after a total of over 40 years of service to The Corps. Fortunately the family are not moving and hence we hope to be able to keep in touch. All ranks of the Regiment wish **Catherine** and **Paddy** the very best wishes for a very well earned happy retirement.

L to R: LCpl Dave McKay watches whilst LCpl 'Puppet' McGurn carries out Marionette Drill under the strings of LCpl Rab Nimmo

33 Sig Regt (V) Liverpool

CO **Lt Col R. J. Brown**
Trg Maj **Maj P. J. Bowles**
QM **Capt K. E. Clark**, Adjutant **Capt R. W. Seaword**, RSM **WO1 (RSM) J. J. Dent**.

The Regiment is preparing for Annual Camp, which this year takes place at Scarborough. Permanent Staff members are busy putting the final 'touches' to the training programme under the guidance of **WO2 (YofS) Pete McInally** who, in the absence of the Training Major (on Gulf duty), is in full control of the Training Office.

This year's camp has been designed as an all embracing event covering Trade Training, Detachment Commander and Recruit courses, Officer Training, Adventure Training and numerous social activities to form a hardworking but enjoyable camp. Weather permitting, a good time should be had by all.

REGIMENTAL DETACHMENT COMMANDERS COURSE

The Regimental Detachment Commanders Course No 1/91 assembled at Halton Training Camp on 1 March 1991. In all it consisted of 12 TA soldiers, male and female, who had, somehow, persuaded their employers to release them for 10 days. The difficulty of this aspect of TA life is indicated by the fact that 7 days earlier there were 21 candidates!

Assisted by four excellent instructors from the District Specialist Training Team the course progressed through the full Royal Signals Detachment Commanders Course (TA) syllabus over the next week.

On Wednesday 6 March Comd 11 Sig Bde (V) **Brig C. T. Garton** visited the course. After breakfast he spent a damp hour with the students on the Ranges.

During the 10 days the students were introduced to many new aspects of military life, both in and outside the classroom, success brings a satisfying sense of achievement.

The course was a busy one and it was with a sense of relief that the final preparations for the pass off parade were completed.

Col J. Greenhill TD our Honorary Colonel kindly agreed to take the salute which was conducted by the TA soldiers.

Afterwards the students joined **Col Greenhill** and **Mrs Greenhill**, the CO **Lt Col Brown** and the officers, warrant officers and senior non-commissioned officers for lunch.

The top student award was presented to **Cpl Hawkins** and a further award was made to **WLCpl Julie Johnson** for her magnificent efforts during the course. It was an intensive and interesting course and leads nicely to Summer Camp where it will start all over again!

WLCpl Wycherley on the Detachment Commanders Course arming a trip flare and hoping it won't go off before she gets away

Det Comds Course 1/91
Back Row, L to R: Cpl Hawkins, LCpls Burke, M. Stanton, Jones, Aryeetey and King
Centre Row, L to R: LCpl Fletcher, WLCpls Riding, Draper, Johnson, Wycherley and LCpl P. Stanton
Front Row, L to R: WO1 (RSM) J. J. Dent, Brig C. T. Garton, Lt Col R. J. Brown and Maj P. J. Bowles

WARCOP TROPHY

Capt Jimmy Jackson receives the Bennett Trophy for most improved team from **Col Peter Bennett** the donor. They participated in the Warcop Trophy, an annual event testing the military and trade skills of both Regular and TA REME over a gruelling weekend at Catterick . . . 13th place overall from over 20 entrants but 6th TA team and outright victory on the first aid stand rewarded the efforts made to improve on the previous last place, outstanding indeed!

The gladiators were: **Capt Jimmy Jackson, Sgts Ronnie Tran, David Byrne, Sam Turner, Cpls Gary Critchley, Peter McCoy, LCpls Steve Evans, Tony Sullivan, Jim Boyd** (retired injured), **Cfn David Ashworth** and **WO2 (AQMS) Phil O'Connor**.

NEWS FROM 42 SIG SQN (V) (MANCHESTER)
WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS CLUB DINNER

A dinner was held on 23 March to welcome new members and to say farewell to a number of Squadron personalities. Departing was **WO2 (SSM) John Morrison**, back up the road to RHQ after two year's service to the Squadron. Replacing him is **WO2 (SSM) John Slamon**, formerly Squadron Recruiting Warrant Officer. This being the first dinner since a change of Squadron command, **Maj Martin Davies** also received a welcome to the club. A rather belated welcome was extended to **WO1 (RSM) John Dent.**

EXERCISE NEEDLE POINT '91

Ex Needle Point was held over the weekend of 9/10 March 1991.

Day 1—a team competition was held in the Cheshire area which tested navigation, map reading, vehicle maintenance and driving skills. After a close and bitterly fought competition (including no small amount of attempted sabotage) the winners were team G, a combined team of permanent staff and recruits. Naturally, the recruits did all the work.

Day 2—a sports competition was held in and around the TAC. Teams competed at 'Bucket Ball', Rounders, Volleyball and Shooting. Spirited competition took place throughout the day with honours in the various sports shared amongst three of the four teams taking part. Well done everyone!

NEWS FROM 80 SIG SQN (V) (CHESTER)
Report by Cpl Alison Seaward-Birchall
Exercise Snow Goose II 1991

During mid March this year, 19 members of the Regiment converged on Aviemore, the Klösters of Scotland, for a week of fun and frolics in the snow (and to learn to ski of course!).

The trip coincided with the UKLF Army Skiing Championships and one of the more proficient members of the group, namely **Cpl Tony Wylie**, 80 Sqn Chester, actually got as far as entering the competition and was quite highly seeded!

Instruction for the 'not-so-hot-on skis' contingent was expertly given by **Sgt Tony Crampton** of HQ Sqn, Liverpool. Subsequently all members of the party felt fairly confident after a couple of days, although not everyone mastered the fine art of getting on and off the 'T' bar—the only available means of getting back up the slope, once you had skied down.

Surprisingly, the weather kept fine with most days quite mild and even sunny, although the last day wasn't so good, high winds meant that the chairlifts up to the Ptarmigan run were taken out of service, meaning only one way down . . . ski. Not an easy feat when you've only been doing it for four days, the snow has frozen rock hard and there's a howling gale behind you to help you down. The novices all coped extremely well despite the adverse conditions.

Back at the lodge—Rothiemurchus, **LCpl Alan Johnson**, HQ Sqn Huyton kept the home fires burning and provided everyone with some good home cooking, while **SSgt Geordie Bradley** ran the bar. Just the ticket to keep out the cold!

FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT

The Squadron Recruiting Staff, plus members of Radio Relay and HF troops took part in the Chester Festival of Transport over the weekend 18/19 May 1991.

The event was first held last year and is becoming a popular occasion in the local calendar of events. The festival exhibits entries of all types of transport both old and new; from horses to fire engines.

This year's event was supported by the local ACIO stand together with displays from ourselves and other TA and ACF units in the Cheshire area.

The Squadron display team was led by **Capt Steve Watson** assisted by **WO2 Dave Rhodes, SSgt Mike Mahoney, Sgt Colin Jones, Cpl Dave Sutch, LCpl Tommy Jones** and **Sig John McNulty**. The display consisted of a Triffid TEC 471 vehicle, an HF detachment and recruiting stand all under cover of a camouflage net. The display looked quite impressive and attracted quite a lot of interest from the general public.

34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V) Middlesbrough

EXECUTIVE STRETCH
by Capt Ian Hall

One of the things I like about the Territorial Army is that, occasionally, the opportunity to take part in something out of the ordinary comes along. Ex Executive Stretch certainly qualifies as out of the ordinary. The exercise, sponsored by TAVRA, was designed to 'stretch' young executives from industry, commerce and local government, by putting them through an intensive, competitive series of physical and mental tasks under arduous field conditions. The area selected for all this fun, by our training major, **Maj Tim Mountford**, was Kielder Water, the largest man made reservoir in Europe, located in Northumberland and close to Otterburn Camp. My role, together with **Sgt Janet Green** was to be a 'minder' for one of the six teams of executives taking part. Everyone arrived in good time on the Friday night, despite the snow which had been falling for much of the day! After issuing the kit, including 24 hour ration packs and a video presentation from **Brig Hodge** of TAVRA; there was just time for a curry supper and a few drinks in the bar before reveille at 0500 hrs (a time most executives cheerfully admitted they did not know existed!). The cold dark of Saturday morning saw a few anxious glances in view of the covering of snow, but we were soon on our way in the team minibus to our first stand.

Fortunately the weather was excellent all day as we progressed clockwise around the Reservoir calling in at various stands, the idea being to collect as many tokens as possible for the final challenge on Sunday morning. Orienteering was swiftly followed by canoeing run by **Capt Bob Holmes** and then an aerial rope way (which the Royal Engineers DS insisted on calling a Death Slide). We then moved to the Raft building stand run by **SSgt Mick McKenna**, which cause a few problems (wet ones!), then on to Mountain Bikes and for many people the highlight of the exercise—abseiling. **SSgt** (NRPS) 'Gus' **Honey** soon had the executives (and minders) free abseiling for 90ft down into the overflow drain of the reservoir, on to a target below.

After lunch (a la ration pack, of course!), it was off to some tricky command tasks care of 11 Sig Regt and then a demanding casualty evacuation and vehicle recovery stand, under the control of **Sgt Thurley**.

After a hard day around the reservoir the executives were delighted to discover as they marched into their bivouac locations that their equipment for the night had arrived by notional parachute and therefore needed finding. This was quickly done and everyone was soon comfortable and getting ready for a short night march.

Midnight saw our Regimental 2IC, **Maj Augus Maude** arrive with hot Gluwhein for everyone. Surprisingly there were no takers—everyone was too tired to get up. My duty was clear—I drank the lot and very nice it was too! Sunday morning dawned (raining of course) and back to Otterburn we went, to hand in our tokens which reduced the weight we had to carry around the assault course. The teams all did well on this demanding course especially the girls since the rather smelly mud crawl must have been hardest of all of them. After a final shoot on the range to decide the competition it was all over. Time then for a shower before the CO, **Lt Col Chris Spencer** presented the executives with their certificates on behalf of TAVRA.

All of the executives and, for that matter, all the minders, said that they had had a great time. The executives certainly went away a little bruised and tired but with very positive thoughts about the Territorial Army in general and our Regiment in particular.

On a personal note all I would say is if your Regiment is running an Executive Stretch—get involved! You will have a great time.

50(N) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
HEADQUARTER
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj P. A. Woodhead**
2IC — **Capt P. J. Skinner**

PSAO **Capt A. H. Bell**, SSM **WO2 J. Kerry**, PSI **SSgt W. Laurie.**

The Squadron, based at Darlington, the cultural epicentre of the North East, must open its notes with a congratulations to our SSM, **WO2 (SSM) John Kerry**, on being awarded his Efficiency Medal (T). Well done from all.

We welcome **Sgt Hedley** who takes over the MT Office on promotion from H Troop and say a sad farewell to **Sgt McMain** who leaves us but still remains as one of our civilian employed fitters. Must be good here! Good luck for the future for **Sgt Crane WRAC** who also leaves us.

Preparations for the Regimental Camp, Ex Flying Falcon, in BAOR are well under way with all hands on deck. The food preparation by **Sgt Berry** and **LCpl Robb** may be a little premature though. The PSI, **SSgt Bill Laurie** has just completed the London Marathon in a very good time, wonder if he's trying to escape us, or is he planning to run to BAOR in June.

Sgt Berry and LCpl Robb caught in the act

Last but not least we say a thanks to **Capt Andy Bell** our PSAO for keeping the Squadron in check with pay and docs etc. Keep smiling Sir, we'll soon have you a Sqn Clerk, Pay Clerk, Docs Clerk etc.

E TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd **Lt Jones**, Tp SSgt **Lt Jones**, Tp SQMS **Lt Jones**, Tp Cpl **WCpl Cooke.**

Echo Troop welcomes the arrival of **Lt Jones**, just before camp, but as yet we are not sure how to employ him, maybe in all three jobs of which we know he's capable.

Congratulations to **Sgt Gill Jordan** on his wedding to **SSgt Ena Hall WRAC** on 1 June. **SSgt Hall** should be able to relate her Gulf war stories having been attached to the regulars for the last six months whilst husband to be, **Sgt Jordan** (regular) has been sunning himself in Middlesbrough Tech Wksps awaiting his posting to 8 Sig Regt.

Congratulations are in order for **Cpl Cooke WRAC** and **Cpl Readshaw** on being awarded their Efficiency Medals (T). Well done.

VISIT TO HMS *JUPITER*

Five members of 34 Sig Regt, **SSgts M. McKenna, H. Muligan, Sgt Wicks, Sig Barton** and **Sowerby** joined HMS *Jupiter* for her two day voyage from Portsmouth to her affiliated home port of Middlesbrough.

The journey was filled with guided tours of every aspect of the ship, social interludes to the various Messes and the opportunity to sample the cramped environment of the Senior Service.

L to R: SSgt Mick McKenna (PSI) and Sgt Glen Wicks, Flight deck HMS *Jupiter*

In the course of the journey we were witness to an Air Defence Exercise, with four Jaguar aircraft from RAF Coltishall providing the entertainment.

Sig Barton assisted in the Sea Raider during a test firing and recovery of a torpedo, whilst **Sig Sowerby** went aloft in Jupiter's Lynx to spot for the boat party.

Our hosts aboard HMS *Jupiter* ensured our journey was memorable and we wish them well in their forthcoming trip to the Falklands.

FAREWELLS

The Regiment says farewell to the Chief Clerk after three and a half years, and note that some people will do anything to avoid Annual Camp. Best wishes to **SSgt Mark Bonham, Babs** and **Victoria** on posting to Cyprus. Also leaving is **SSgt Stu Thompson,** moving not far down the road to York and **Sgt Gil Jordan** to Catterick.

WELCOMES

The Regiment welcomes to Gateshead: **SSgt Wandless** and family, to Middlesbrough: **SSgt Jim Stubley** and family. Have a good tour.

H TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd — **Capt T. Millichip WRAC**
2IC — **2Lt M. Nisbet**

RR Sgts **Sgt S. Tinkler, Sgt B. Lawson**, DTG Sgt **Sgt B. Franklin**.

Hotel Tp, radio relay, finds itself involved in the annual 'spring cleaning' after our reformation, to include Muxco in preparation for our Regimental Camp in BAOR in June and the RSIT Inspection.

The Troop, which has always been a male environment, now finds itself working alongside our WRAC members, not to the disappointment of **Sgts Bob Lawson** and **Steve Tinkler**, who both believe the ladies should share the 'muck and the glory'.

The Troop skull and crossbones emblem, which was introduced to the Troop by **LCpl Steve Nelson**, which we hope to fly on Exercise in BAOR, subject to tactical conditions and the location of the CO and RSM!

H Troop

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 15th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

TATTOO ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The success of the Tattoo was due, in no small part, to the hard work put in by the Regimental planning staff who ensured the paperwork was processed promptly and efficiently, that regimental efforts were properly co-ordinated, and that the display arena was properly established and dismantled by our exceptional QM department. Special thanks must also be expressed to the managing director of Drayton Manor, **Mr Colin Bryan**, and to the many supporting units, organisations and displays including the Blue Helmets, the Army Apprentices College Log Team, GEC Alsthom, Land Rover, 3 Staffords, 210 AD Bty RA, 5 RRF, 183 AYT, 202 Gen Hosp, Printing Dept COD Donnington, CRLS WDIST and STANOC, last, but not least, to all regimental personnel and their families who travelled from all over the West Midlands to give their support.

EXERCISE VERNAL MAIDEN

Viewing the Leicestershire countryside from the top of Bardon Hill, an outstanding site of natural beauty, on a sunny and warm spring day in April made you forget you were on exercise. That is until your inner peace was disturbed by the steady pulse of the generators, the frantic activity surrounding the comms complex and the immediate change in the NBC state which soon brought you down to earth. The Regiment had deployed once again on a Brigade level exercise to test our capabilities and endurance—it also preceded vehicle PRE's for a number of our Squadrons. The Trg Major thought the weather was disappointing and longed for some snow, those of us preparing for our PRE thought otherwise and were delighted at the glorious non exercise weather. The RSM was also on the warpath and as a result camouflage (and concealment) improved dramatically. The Commanding Officer was in a buoyant mood as he prepared to receive some special visitors; he had good cause, attendance and morale was high and the exercise was going extremely well.

Shortly after 1000 hours on Saturday 20 May our Honorary Colonel, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB, MBE**, arrived at RCP on his first official visit to the Regiment. He was welcomed by the CO, received a briefing on the conduct of the exercise and was then given a grand tour of most exercise locations. He took an interest in everyone he met making even the most nervous feel relaxed and comfortable. Access Node 64 entertained the Hon Col to lunch where he was joined by the Bde Comd, **Brig C. T. Garton**. It was at this stage that **Sgt Mick Clarke** realised that you couldn't make cream for coffee out of 10 tins of dry milk powder which, much to the amusement of our visitors, refused to come out of the pot as it had solidified! Meanwhile at Access Node 63 **SSgt Derek Sharman** was breathing a sigh of relief that no-one was scheduled to visit his location as a number of his vehicles had ventured into a bog. His Troop is now called Axle Node 63. This eventful exercise surprisingly finished as it started 'dry'.

SERGEANTS' MESS

The Mess welcomed **Sgt Linda Mayell** of HQ Sqn and congratulated her on her promotion. Also a new arrival to the regiment in the shape

The Hon Col chatting to members of 48 Sqn

Comd 11 Bde chatting to Lt David Hooper and LCpl Oz Gilroy at Access Node 64

of **Sgt Barry Geddis** who is joining Tech Wksp was also welcomed. A farewell to **Sgt Paul Baines** who leaves the army. Finally many congratulations to **WO1 Pat Cassidy** on his promotion and appointment as Senior Volunteer Warrant Officer.

UKLF ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS
OH! MY LEFT FOOT
by Sgt Paul Fundak

This year's event was based at Proteus Camp near Ollerton, with the individual event on Saturday in Matlock Forest and the relays on Sunday within the Sherwood Forest area. It was an excellent well organised weekend with good courses and perfect running weather.

Despite the usual early interest, by the weekend of the event we only just managed to scrape together the required five runners to make up a male TA team, fortunately these were all reasonably experienced; if ageing orienteers. Also attending was **Lt Liz Hyde** as our only WRAC representative.

Matlock Forest was fairly flat and dry but not very friendly to runners with its thick layers of brashings, poor visibility and many horizontal trees blocking the tracks. This made progress quite tiring and route choice critical—the warnings of giant ants didn't help either. None of this, however, deterred our resolute team, who produced some excellent performances. **SSgt Dave Arnot** and **Lt Stephen Wadeson** both performed well on the A course, particularly **Dave** who achieved a personal best in the London Marathon only the previous Sunday. **Sgt Mick Purdy** achieved a good time for the B Course and **LCpl Alan Griffiths**, who was supporting me on the B Course, would have done well if he hadn't kept stopping to tie his laces! **Lt Liz Hyde** put in an exceptional performance as this was her first event since the previous championships. All in all a good first day which saw us lying in ninth place overall. The relay race on Sunday proved to be exhilarating, the choice of course was excellent and the breaktaking views briefly took your mind off the pain in your legs. **Sgt Mick Purdy** was so distracted he went completely off course and did a grand tour of Sherwood Forest—he said 'it was treemendous'. The teams considerable efforts secured the Regiment a final and fifth place and because of the high standard of the competitors we can be proud of our final position. To all team members well done!

BABY BOOM

Many congratulations are extended to **Capt Petra Meeson** and **Tony** on the birth of their daughter **Katherine** (Kit) **Alice**, to **Cpl Sue Joyce** and **Pete** on the birth of their daughter **Bianca** and to **Cpl Alan** and **Cindy Hawes** on the birth of their daughter **Sara Louise**. **Sara Louise**.

QUEEN'S CUP COMPETITION 1990/91

89 Sig Sqn (V) are congratulated on achieving 12th place out of 112 scoring units (many who enter the competition do not score) in the Queen's Cup Competition.

39 Sig Regt (V)
City of London

This contribution has been put together during our Annual Camp. RHQ has now moved to its new location overlooking King's Road Chelsea leaving the QM and RQMS to fight a rearguard action at Worship Street. Our offical opening will be in September.

1 SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj Philip Moore**
PSAO — **Capt Alex Leitch**

2IC **Capt Helen Hay**, A Tp Comd **Lt Paul Roberts**, A Tp 2IC **2Lt Jackie Lockhart**, B Tp Comd **2Lt Roger Brooks**, SSM **SSgt 'Robbo' Robinson**, Op PSI **Sgt Steve Dale**, Tech PSI **Sgt Ian Rogers**.

The Squadron has made a move! It has redeployed to the land of the concrete cows and left one troop in the smoke at Worship Street. Apparently the Sqn Comd has been swayed by all those adverts about business opportunities in Milton Keynes.

We are pleased to report there are several ex-Worship Street soldiers who have successfully negotiated the 12 odd roundabouts and found the new TAC and we hope that the advertising will educate the others.

All of these changes have naturally led to some confusion. Several new sayings have come into being such as: 'Bletchley Squadron' to which everyone responds 'Who?' and HDRS Tp (a mythical form of radio communication system). Naturally new working practices have also been introduced such as sending mail to PSAO Bletchley (a mythical figure who, we hope, will become reality).

Bletchley now has two PSI's; **Sgt Steve Dale** who is quite prepared to sail anywhere at a moment's notice and **Sgt Ian Rogers** who is still wondering who he upset that caused him to be banished to this outpost. These two have an interesting variety of hats, Clerk, Driver, Fitter, Storeman, Technician, Receptionist, Secretary, Teaboy and oracle on all matters past, present and future.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Several social events have taken place which include three official functions of the Lynx Club and 38 parties at **LCpl Tony Welch**'s house in Bletchley. **LCpl Tony Welch** and **Pte Caroline Loots** have also organised participation in several charity events. In particular Bletchley won a swim marathon organised by the Myrtle Peach Trust.

To balance this successful event **Cpl Ray Rock** organised participation in a Charity Assault course in which we came second to last (beaten by the ACF, Civilians, OAP's etc . . .) however, all agreed that Bletchley entered the best looking team as can be seen by the photograph. Well done for raising the money.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Maj Philip Moore handed over command of the Squadron to **Maj Mark Bretton**, formerly the Ops Officer, during camp this year. Clearly he wishes to swap the excitment of jumping out of Hercules Aircraft for jumping out of Staff HQ windows. We wish him well in his new appointment as a Staff Officer.

Welcome to 1 Squadron's latest recruit **SSgt Angie Bailey**. She left the Regiment finishing her regular service as a PSI and missed us so much that she rejoined as a TA volunteer. Another welcome goes to **SSgt Dave Connolly** another ex-regular who is now living in the Milton Keynes area. **LCpl Clive Sillence** has, unfortunately, left the Squadron to become a scouser with 34 Sig Regt (V). He will certainly need all his communicating faculties!

LONDON TASAC 1991

On Saturday morning, 27 April, 10 shooting teams awoke at the Guards Depot, Pirbright, wondering what lay head of them. After all, the TA were trying to run the annual shooting competition which is normally hosted by the Regular Army—would it work?

Once again the Regiment entered a team, a regular event for the last few years, with the team's high enthusiasm counting for more than their practice time on the ranges.

The weekend was very successful, both from the competition point of view and from the Regiment's. When Sunday came it was full of firsts. Firstly; we managed to get a team member into the top 20 shots, (well done **Sig Derek Durrant**—19th). Secondly; the A team won the Falling Plate competition. The Falling Plate team consisted of **Lt Mike White, Sgt Tony Mather, LCpl Steve Bland** and **Sig Derek Durrant**. We know what it is like now to be giant killers at Wembley after knocking out both 10 Para and 151 RCT.

The team members had a great time, including many for whom it was their first time at a competition. The entire team would like to give a well deserved vote of thanks to **WO2 (RQMS) Keith Wheatley** who, for many years, has been the backbone of the Regimental shooting team providing coaching, encouragement, organisation, sandwiches and, above all, his time. He is leaving the TA this year and we would like to thank him for everything he has put into our shooting at the Regiment.

The Team was: **Lts Julian Gregory, Mike White, Sgt Tony Mather, Cpl Brian Higgs, LCpls Steve Bland, Richard Dear, Sig Derek Durrant, Ptes Victoria Steer** and **Pte Diana Maddox**.

REGIMENTAL WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following to the Regiment: **SSgt (FofS) Bob Pullan** fresh from his Foreman's course, **Sgt Gary Exton** from 9 Sig Regt, **Sgt Bob Matthews** on his last six months in the army from 4 Sig Group and, of course, **SSgt Angie Bailey**, previously mentioned, who has returned to the fold. We wish you all a happy and pleasant tour with the Regiment.

Sadly we have had to say farewell to one or two who have moved on to fresh pastures. **SSgt (FofS) Steve Hatfield**, now WO2, to 30 Sig Regt, **Sgt John Taylor**, on his last six months, in Liverpool and **Sgt Sean Weldon** to walk the beat in civvy street as a Bobby. Best wishes to you all and thanks for your contributions to the Regiment.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Sgt Ian Rogers** and his wife **Trish** on the birth of their daughter **Hannah**.

Sitting, L to R: (Rev) P. Dorrian, Harrison, (Poet) Gott, (Ace) Dexter and (Plug) Chapman
Standing, L to R: (Stanner) Lee and (Sage) Weaver

40 Sig Regt (V)
Belfast

EXERCISE ROADMASTER—ARMY DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIP 1991

Brigade Exercise, same weekend as the Army Driving Championships, sorry Sir you will have to cancel the Brigade Exercise, oh well it was a thought!

The Regiment managed however to enter a team in Ex Roadmaster 91, the Army Driving Championships which is open to all three Services.

The crew of **Maj Ian Kyle** and **Capt Robert Kelly** set off at midnight on Thursday 25 August to catch the Larne-Stranraer Ferry and drove to Leconfield.

On arrival at Leconfield we were immediately involved with admin preparation and vehicle scrutiny, it was at this point we discovered we didn't have a 'Fording Bung' fitted (thought we were entering a Rally, not a Boat Race). Having 'obtained' the required item we successfully passed scrutiny meanwhile **Capt Robert Kelly** was frantically marking the six maps with Out of Bounds and Danger areas.

The Friday night navigation run of approx 200 miles was quite difficult for navigator **Capt Kelly** but was held mostly on tarred roads however the patchy, but dense fog didn't help the nerves. After starting 14th out of 130 we finished this phase in 5th place and very tired.

Saturday involved the three cross country stages which took us to near Leeds and the most interesting of these was held at Driffield on the vehicle testing track. We were required to go through a deep water ditch, which we completed successfully, a RAF crew got rather wet when they slammed their door after getting stuck in the middle, unknown to us at this stage our spotlights failed after being completely submerged in the water.

Another interesting task at Driffield was driving over the tallest 'Hump', not the conventional way but from side to side. It was rumoured that one crew had to change their clothing after dropping off the Hump and going through the fence at the bottom.

The next major task was the Saturday Night navigation run—the sting in the tail. This was designed to test the driver by using all types of roads, old railway tracks and rivers. I thoroughly enjoyed this stage even though our driving lights hadn't recovered from our swim in Driffield.

The driving was very testing on crews and vehicles with even the CO of the organising unit (who shall remain nameless but it was RCT) managing to write-off a Land Rover Discovery while 'examining' the course, we could offer good rates on driving lessons.

The final results were very encouraging with us obtaining a fourth Overall, 1st Royal Signals and 1st Territorial Army. This result combined with our second place on Ex Smooth Ride and first place on Ex Northern Rock must leave us on The Premium Corps Rally Team.

A very successful, tiring but most enjoyable Exercise, we had driven 1,200 miles by the time we returned to Clonaver.

Our sincere thanks must go to our CO, **Lt Col Ian Henderson** and all those members of the Regiment who provided such strong support to enable us to compete in this event.

Oh! It seems the Brigade Exercise did go ahead although I'm sure our presence was sadly missed.

LORD MAYOR'S SHOW—BELFAST 1991

This year the Belfast Lord Mayor's Show had another strong TA contingent in the parade with the Regiment's contribution led by **2Lt Andy Woods**. A Triffid vehicle manned by **Cpl Joe Hume** and **Pte Gillian McMaster** and a GS 4×Ton driven by **Cpl Rab Greer** took part. **Cpl Dave Reilly, LCpl Wendy Cush, Pte Maggie Peake** and **Cfn Derek Hughes** posed on the back of the 4 Tonner wearing different versions of uniform worn by TA soldiers.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are extended to **WO2 Heather Butler** and **WO2 (AQMS) Finlay** who were awarded Lords Lieutenant Certificates on Saturday 27 May at Hillsborough Castle.

The Lord Mayor's Show Contingent

TA Winners— Maj Ian Kyle and Capt Robert Kelly pose with some of their BAMA Rally Trophies

WO2 Heather Butler and WO2 (AQMS) Finlay pose with their Lord Lieutenant's Certificates

71 Sig Regt (V)
Bexleyheath

VISIT TO GERMANY BY 70 SIG SQN

After last year's successful visit to Chelmsford by the Reservistar Kameradschaft of Backnang the return trip was organised.

Once some admin difficulties in the organisation had been ironed out the visit was on and 20 members of the Squadron travelled by coach and ferry to Backnang and were soon meeting old friends after an 11 month gap. Everyone soon got into friendly conversation, and celebrations were soon under way.

Our first day was bright and sunny and allowed us to see the historic town of Backnang at its best. One of the more memorable visits due to our RA and RHA Yeomanry backgrounds, was the tour and display provided by the 2nd Tank Artillery Battery in Miinsingen. This resulted in the attempt to purchase a mobile gun by **Maj Ken Lloyd** and his flexible friend, sadly not accepted in this case. **Ptes Lisa Stewart** and **Sandra Mutch** settled in quickly and were soon being very well looked after.

Maj Ken Lloyd and the gang pleading to keep this one

The next day it was on to the local electronics company ANT who are in direct competition with our home towns GEC Marconi in the field of satellite communications, this was of great interest to us. Then a visit to the local winery for some excellent wine tasting. Gifts were exchanged with **Capt Jonathan Crowther** soon looking like a gift shop.

The third day took the form of a Range Day and a chance for everyone to fire the German army machine gun, rifle (G3) and pistol in a competition resulting in two gold, five silver and one bronze medal being awarded out of 16 firers. This ended with a dinner-dance night with medal presentations and speeches being made.

The final day was a Sunday with a parade and wreath laying ceremony at the local war memorial along with involvement in the Chelmsford and Backnang councils' official twinning function and social events made for a full day. Sadly soon it was time to say farewell and thank you for an exhilarating and memorable visit. Then on to the coach with thoughts of 'I hope I can come next year'.

68 SIG SQN (V)

Sqn Comd — **Maj J. D. C. Cartwright (V)**
SSM — **WO2 P. G. Thornton**

PSI **Sgt M. T. Sheehan**, PSI (Tech) **Sgt M. A. Hammond.**

The Squadron has had a little success in a number of different fields.

Capt Peter Walker and **Lt Eddie Marshall** again took a small party of enthusiasts to Warminster for Horse Riding Practice. It being one of our older customs to provide a Mounted Detachment each year for the Lord Mayor's Show, we are constantly on the look out for competent horse riders.

LCpl Sean Spackman, one of our PT Leaders, successfully took part in this year's London Marathon, sponsored by serving members, with the proceeds equally to the Yeomanry Benevolent Fund and Whipps Cross Hospital. Well done **LCpl Spackman.**

Lt David Turner, having been with us just 18 months has decided to move on and try his luck with the Royal Marine Reserve. His Troop are sorry to see him leave, but we all wish him the very best of fortune in his new venture.

This month we had a successful Annual Documentation Inspection, the Squadron being most fortunate to have **Mrs Pam Dumbrell** as its Administrative Officer; a very loyal and efficient lady, who over the years has brought the level of unit documentation and soldiers' records to a very high standard. A well deserved vote of thanks from us all—'Well done **Pam**'.

Next month sees our UEE Inspections, with the Permanent Staff at our Whipps Cross TAC having that well in hand. There is also an escape and evasion exercise with the HSF Sqn to look forward to and Regimental and Brigade Exercises. Altogether a busy time for the Signal Squadron . . .

265 SIG SQN (V)

Despite all the rumours of a cut back on Man Training Days (MTD's) and the promise that life would get easier in the Squadrons we still seem to be kept fairly busy and most weekends are taken up with exercises, sports and socials.

SQUADRON EXERCISE

One Friday in April we deployed to Hankley Common Training area for an Infantry style exercise under the direction of **Capt Hardie-Forsyth**. The three troops, 884, 889 and 905, established separate headquarters and from there sent out recce patrols to try and find the unknown enemy. At about 1000 after a good fire fight the enemy made a run for it hotly pursued by the Troop. Much to the surprise of 884, the enemy had only gone a short distance, and after another brief fire fight **LCpl McHenry** was taken prisoner and dragged off.

At 905's THQ the enemy had also paid a visit, cleverly getting past their defence plan undetected. 890 was not left out of this either but due to tactical skills of **Lt Diane Clare** the Troop Commander the enemy was repelled successfully. Now the talk amongst the troops was who are these masked raiders. Soon came a time for the troop to get their own back, the enemy decided to attack 905 THQ again but when they arrived in a 4 tonner they were greeted to the fire power of the whole Squadron who happened to be there for a briefing on the next phase of the exercise.

It was whilst doing this that **Cpls Melvin Absalom, Marina Nicholson, LCpl Gary Franks** and **Sig Parsons** of 905 bumped into the Maroon Bereted enemy and were hooded and taken hostage. **Lt Adrian Marshall**, who was leading the section, managed to runaway and avoid capture, the rest of the section later thanked him for helping them out!

That was Endex apart from one more unplanned incident whilst **Cpl Jeff Masters** was packing his kit a rather large Bloodhound bounded into the location and stole his towel; after a valiant chase the dog managed to get away with his prize.

The weekend was great fun and we thank members of 5 AB Bde Sig Sqn for giving up their spare time to be our enemy.

21ST BIRTHDAY PARTY

On Tuesday 21 May the Squadron held a 'belated' birthday party. The Squadron was formed in 1969 and to celebrate its coming of age, over 45 ex-members met once again at Bexleyheath (all the old Squadron Commanders and ex Squadron Majors were there telling all the young ones how much better it was in their day!).

After a brief talk by the present Sqn Comd **Maj David Hannam** the ex members had a look around the TA Centre, a look at the training and new recruits then back to the mess for a Curry Supper. This was followed by the telling of 'war stories'.

A good time was had by all and it was proposed that the visit become an annual event.

CHARITY SPORTS DAY

On Saturday 5 May the Squadron took part in a Charity Sports Day organised by the Rose & Crown a local Pub. The Squadron entered a number of teams for this, taking part in the five-a-side football, netball, tug-of-war and welly throwing. **Lt Adrian Rabot** led his football team to the final against one of the top local sides and won the trophy 2—0. The girls, captained by **Cpl Debbie Castle**, also did well by coming runners up in the netball losing 8—7 in a very exciting final. The tug of war was the next event with 265 entering a girls team and a boys team. This was not to be our strong event both teams being knocked out in the first round against the Rose & Crown entries. Both teams agreed to drink more lager during the year to give more ballast next time. Congratulations also go to the **SQMS SSgt Mickey Mustoe** on winning the welly throwing competition. Lastly a big thank you to the Rose & Crown and its regulars, for providing an excellent day of sport and entertainment in aid of Charity. Over a thousand pounds (£1,000) was raised on the day and it is to be shared between the British Red Cross and local charities.

News from Squadrons

HQ BFME Sig Sqn
BFPO 646

PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj K. J. Hadfield**
2IC/Adjt — **Capt P. W. Glibbery**

Tfc Offr **Capt P. M. Castle**, TOT **Capt G. F. Chaloner**, FofS **WO1 (FofS) P. F. Wood**, YofS **WO2 (YofS) W. Thompson**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) N. Duncan**, RQMS **WO2 (RQMS) C. Charlton**, Chief Clerk **Sgt P. J. Street**.

Headquarters British Forces Middle East Sig Sqn was formed on 15 April 1991, when the Joint Communications Unit Middle East ceased to exist. The Squadron is comprised of those detachments (late of JCUME) at Riyadh, Muharraq, Seeb and Dhahran. Although originally a 30 Sig Regt commitment, the Squadron and its detachments are now very much of the 'Heinz 57' variety.

As communicators, our task has been to ensure that whatever happened, the means to exercise command was always available to commanders and staffs at all levels. Op Granby has entered Corps history as the operation with the widest variety of successfully engineered communications systems deployed. Indeed, at one point in the war, an American Divisional Commander was able to speak to **Gen Schwarzkopf** by the only means available at the time . . . SCRA at his Div Tac HQ via Euromux at HQ BFME to Centcom in Riyadh. (Whilst engineering the call one comment overheard was 'whaddaya mean, with all these telephones, I've got to use a Goddamn Brit system'.)

Squadron hierarchy

RIYADH

An American Air Force TSC100 Satellite Ground Station provided a Ptarmigan 'bridge' between ourselves and the Logistic Support Group. This was manned by a US crew led by ex-astronaut/ex-drag racer **SSgt Ken Pasley**. The crew consists of a Staff Sergeant and five Sergeants. The VSC 501 detachment and the commcen are largely staffed by Jocks, known affectionately as 'Porridge Gobblers'. The Jocks on tour included **Sig Tony Curtis, George Cowan, Cpl Jim Dyer** and **LCpl Gordon Lloyd. Sig Rambahadur** nearly became an honorary Jock, but his command of the English language is too good!

Commcen Riyadh is made up of two shifts, day shift and Vampire shift, who have been stagging 12 on, 12 off, for the past four months, with the odd day off thrown in to keep us happy.

DAY SHIFT

In the past month we have seen many people leave us, amongst them **LCpls Tuk** and **Hasta**, (Gurkha 1 and 2) back to Blandford, thence to Nepal. **Sig Hoggarth** and **Toughey**, who volunteered to go to the Kuwait Sig Sqn, to test their patience, not to mention that of **LCpl Gordon Lloyds** in the radio room. **Cpl Bob Bleasdale** has been drafted across to 'very ugly Vampire shift'.

VAMPIRE SHIFT

SSM Duncan keeps us going with the ol' discipline side, with block inspections and haircuts, although **Sig** Spanish **White** takes haircuts to the extreme. **Sig** 'Trig' **Poole** and **Frank Dike** keep themselves fit by their daily weight training, and **Sig Den Healey** keeps the rest of us going by being the duty cook, (when he remembers to take the food out of the freezer).

MT

Cpl Dave Copley, LCpls Geordie Cullen, Mac (Trigger) Mckenzie, Sig 'Ram Ram' Ram-prasad-Rai.

The one thing that every member of the MT will be eternally grateful for is air-conditioning in cars. Local drivers are not bad ones, but they do have a competitive spirit and a complete disregard for personal safety.

SEEB

Flt Lt Tony Butler, LCpls 'Jo Mangle' Mullineux, Keith, Dunn.

The TSC 502 detachment at Seeb provided Communications facilities for the RAF Nimrod Squadron. The lifestyle of the det at Seeb was a closely guarded secret. However, the cat was let out of the bag when **Flt Lt Tony Butler** appeared in Riyadh looking like a Space Hopper!

JCU MUHARRAQ

Capt Paul Pople, SSgt Geoff Graham, Sgt 'Rudolf the red nosed' Rimmel.

Surprisingly enough, the latter part of the war was a quiet time, except, of course, for the aircraft parked all around us. In fact one C 130 wanted to park with us and cut one of the 521 antenna legs in his efforts. Most of the time the shifts continued, the comms stayed in and the staff left us alone, for they were mighty busy.

BAHRAIN ULTRA MARATHON

This year the annual Bahrain Ultra Relay Marathon was held on 14 March. The event is a gruelling 80km around the northern half of Bahrain and Muharraq Island. Although this event does not normally attract military competitors, this year six of the 26 teams entering were from the British and US forces.

JCU Det Muharraq entered two teams of three, and the **(YofS) Paul Sexby** entered as an individual, attempting the whole 80km on his own to raise money for the RAF Benevolent Fund. The two teams were **LCpl Andy Powell, Capt Paul Pople, Sig** 'Cowpie' **Cowlard, Cpls Wayne Kennedy, Mark Coates** and **Eric O'Halloran**.

The day started at 5am, or 0500 hrs for the more military minded, when a small but select group who were going to attempt to run the race as individuals started off from Bahrain Rugby Club. Two sleepy eyed officials waved them on their way with the cheery news that it was predicted to be the hottest day of the year so far. **Paul Sexby** took an early lead and by 0900 when the main event started he was 20 mins clear.

The weather forecasters were on this occasion quite right and the temperature when the teams assembled for the 0900 start was already topping 90°C. The big decision which had to be made was how far each leg should be. The advice from those who had done it before was that legs of no more than 1km were best for speed, and the hot favourites had declared that they would be doing legs as short as 400m. **Andy Powell** and **Eric O'Halloran** were the starters with **Eric**'s team changing runners at 1km, and **Andy**'s at 4km. The latter turned out to be not a good idea as it put **Andy**'s team well behind in about 19th place, and left **Andy** resembling a lump of molten wax. **Eric**'s team meanwhile were racing alone in 11th place.

Paul Pople and **Cowlard** had a quick conference and decided to run just 2km each and 1km legs from then on. This worked much better and four teams were overtaken by the time they reached the causeway across to Muharraq, the island which housed the RAF station.

Meanwhile, the Yeoman was increasing his lead, despite the temperature, and heading for a very good time. The leaders in the relay were really motoring and running close to six minute miles, while at the other extreme, one team had already dropped out due to the heat.

Almost exactly on the half way point, just after they had crossed back from Muharraq to Manama, **Paul Pople** overtook **Cpl Kennedy** who was at the time winning a tussle with a team from the US marines. This put the two teams in 11th and 12th place respectively. **Paul Sexby** was now within 10km of the finish, but suffering from stomach cramps, which were forcing him to jog and walk, and allowing his closest rival to close up on him.

Eventually he made it over the line in first place with a time of just over 7 hrs, some 20 mins ahead of the man in second place. The two teams came in 11th and 12th with only 10 mins between them, just after the 6 hr point.

Everyone was glad to have taken part, despite the heat, and **YofS Sexby** had raised nearly BD1,000 for the RAF Benevolent Fund. A special mention should be made to **Sig Nicholson, JT Howard** and **Cpl Batts** who drove the three support vehicles, without which it would not have been possible.

BF Kuwait
HQ & Sig Sqn
BFPO

This contribution marks an event, namely, the one and only set of *Wire* notes from a short lived but distinguished unit formed immediately after the cessation of hostilities in the Gulf. In March the remaining members of 204 (4 Amd Bde) Sig Sqn were given the task of setting up the Squadron from scratch, a task which they did remarkably well under the circumstances. The Headquarters was located in a warehouse complex near the port of Doha, some 30km from Kuwait City. St George's Lines, as it was known, was shared with the 2 R Anglian Battlegroup and the Logistic Support Company. 204 Sig Sqn handed over on 10 April to 211 Sig Sqn with a short ceremony during which a KFS painted in Corps colours was handed over, (Knife, Fork and Spoon representing Kuwait Force Signals). The Squadron was officially disbanded in May before returning to the various units via Al Jubayl.

The Squadron consisted of SHQ and 3 troops; A Troop formed mainly from UKLF soldiers providing a VSC 501 detachment with a Commcen and radio detachments at the airfield, B Troop from elements of 211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn who provided the RLD for the BG, and RRBs and some of the Radio Room staff, and finally TM Tp which covered a multitude of sins. This hybrid unit of 92 all ranks had representatives from no less than 16 Army and RAF units under command, and that did not include the staff.

PERSONALITIES

OC — **Maj Don Steele**
2IC — **Capt Jon Dakin**

SSM **WO2 Duncan Hall**, YofS **WO2 Colin Luckham**, SQMS **SSgt Mick Wood**, Chief Clerk **ASSgt Steve Hayes**, MT Sect **Sgt Kev Clark, Cpl Brian Naylor.**

ALPHA TROOP

Tp Comd — **Capt Simon Payne**
Tp Sgt — **Sgt Mon Bahadur Gurung**

Despite its short life the detachment suffered enormous changes in manpower. This was a deliberate policy to ensure that those involved in the desert campaign were moved out of theatre as soon as possible. Lots of happy smiling faces were dispatched to Bahrain to complete their roulements. The role of the Troop remained unchanged, providing a VSC501 satellite link carrying data, voice and TG circuits, together with a full commcen facility. Our collection of war spoils ranges from an Iraqi Bedford 4 ton box body to a missile guidance system. We have yet to work out how to get the T-62 to Blandford. Op Granby has now given way to Op Haven.

BRAVO TROOP

Tp Comd — **2Lt Chris Ford**
Tp Sgt — **SSgt Boyle**
I/C RLD **Cpl Smudge Smith.**

The appointed Rear Link Detachment (RLD) to the 2nd Battalion Royal Anglians Battle Group deployed on 16 April.

Det Comd: **Cpl Smith.**
LCpl Dean.
Sig Stone.
Sig Siggs.

2Lt Ford, took up the appointment of detachment barometer. Any sign of a gloomy day and he moved between the two Rebros until his internal needle registered the hottest and sunniest spot. Arrival at your Det signified a glorious sunny day. **LCpl** Chuckles **Dean** was extremely quick to bring to the attention of the lesser mortals that LCpls do not do radio stags. **Cpl** Smudge **Smith** listened with a sympathetic and understanding ear, then proceeded to organise the stage as 'fairly' as possible. Swiftly the stags were arranged to the total satisfaction (and advantage) of the det commander and the daily routine began to take shape. And routine it certainly was, so much so that the only game not undertaken was 'I Spy', much to the disgruntlement of **2Lt Ford.** The daily resupply mail runs performed by **Sgt Mick Boyle,** were an utter pleasure.

REBROS 2IC AND 2ID DETACHMENT COMMANDERS

2IC — **LCpl Budgie Falconer**
2ID — **Cpl Hamish Milne**

Rebro 2IC is positioned on the highest ridge in the area just to the east and overlooking Basrah Highway, a devastated sight; also the site of the old 021 Trunk Node. The detachment is responsible for maintaining the Battle Group communications link to St George's Lines. The crew resemble 'bronze gods' after only a few days of living in the sun. The hardest part of the shift for the duty operator was fighting off the affections/infections of the local semi-wild cat population.

Rebro 2ID tracked into the desert under the command of **Cpl Hamish Milne**. His crew consisted of **LCpls Jim Swain, Tim Shears** and **Cpl Joe Killen**. After various moves and trials, trusting wholly in their SATNAV aid, they provided the safety communications for the live firing ranges being run by the Battle Group.

ADMIN SECTION

SQMS — **SSgt Mick Wood**
Chief Clerk — **ASSgt Steve Hayes**

MT SNCO, **Sgt Kev Clark**, Chef **Sgt Paul Sewell**, LAD **LCpl John Taylor.**

The hub of the Squadron came from all walks of life and from units all over BAOR. The daily routine varied greatly, for example, the main work horses of our vehicle fleet are Toyota Landcruisers which can be best described as luxury landrovers. The Chief Clerk, 'Wilbur Hayes-Smith' is writing his magnum opus of life and experiences over here which he hopes to publish. The chefs are working in a huge field kitchen geared to feeding 1200 per day based in a open sided storage facility. In the intense heat, it was not a enviable job, but they worked extremely hard and produced great scoff. Unfortunately their reputation spread and at each meal there was a mix of nationalities queuing at the gate!

TELEMECH/LINEMEN/TECHNICIANS
THE MANAGEMENT
AWO2 (FofS) Shuggie Barclay
ASSgt Geordie Merrie
Sgts Scouse Sartorius, Baxter, 'Grandpa' Morley.

The Troop was a motley collection of Techs, Tele Mechs, Linemen and Driver Electricians, with the odd Crab thrown in for good measure. They had the unenviable task of maintaining and repairing a wide variety of equipments with the 2nd line support several hundred miles away in Saudi Arabia.

A TELE MECH'S VIEW

Arrival in Saudi was a sight to be seen, we saw Saudi, but nobody saw us as nobody had expected us. Things could only get better. Wrong! We finally got to Kuwait, where fortunes are made so they say, but we all wished that someone had told us our fortunes before we set off then, maybe, we might not have come! The Telemechs thought that a 500 line exchange and a few hundred pair cables would greet them, the Lineys thought they would be putting in field exchanges, whilst the two Telemechs fixed a phone, yes a phone! Just the once though. **Sig Shep Shepherd** and **LCpl Kev McTiernan** went to the Rebro Dets for a bit of cross training. To cure the boredom the FofS designed a new game called 'Hump the Triffid stack'! It involved replacing a working SHF shot with a Triffid shot from the top of three high buildings, all with no lifts, small staircases and no air conditioning.

THE POWERMEN

Back in camp our power section **Cpls Dave Shimmons** and **Bruce Findlay** coped well with frequent power cuts. The sappers greatest achievement was in fixing the air conditioning system, which everyone was happy about apart from **Sgt Ginge Coburn** who insisted on leaving all the doors open.

A NOTE FROM A TECHNICIAN—TM TP

Having spent the best part of 10 days at the sharp end doing the normal thinks like dodging cluster bomblets, stubbing toes on leftover grenades and doing battle with the odd pack of rabid dogs, it was obvious, applying Murphy's Theory, that **Cpl Pete Lackenby** would come to grief sooner or later. Following an amazing display of physical unco-ordination on the volleyball court and watched by an appreciative audience, **Pete** unfortunately, tore his ankle ligaments very seriously. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

VISIT TO HQ 3RD AMERICAN ARMOURED DIVISION

Being for the most part a friendly Battle Group, a group of beach vets were dispatched to collect as many US camp cots as they could carry and to beat the Americans at their own game—volleyball. Bravo Tp sent **LCpl** Chuckles **Dean** and **Sig Jason Stone,** not to play but to quaff ice cool 'near beer' and pop.

LSG HQ & Sig Sqn
BFPO 637

The Logistic Support Gp HQ and Sig Sqn was hung on to and built around the skeleton of the FMA Sig Sqn. The strength of the Squadron is some 160 personnel made up of Granby 1.5, BCRs and volunteers from UK and BAOR. As well as providing strategic communications the main task of the Squadron is to provide secure communications in support of the Logistic. Support Group which is some 2,500 strong and heavily involved in the complex task of inspecting, conditioning, packing and moving what is in effect our best equipment. In the first five weeks alone the LSG recovered 10,000 vehicles, 45,000 tons of ammunition, 10,000 tons of engineer stores and hundreds of containers from Kuwait and the desert logistic bases in Saudi, back to Al Jubayl.

SHQ
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd	**Maj Mike Complin** (vice **Gareth Smith** after 206 days in theatre)
2IC	**Capt Jim Forrest**
Admin Offr	**Capt Ken Stead RCT**

RSM **WO1 Barry Spiers**, YofS **WO2 Trev Gower**, Chief Clk **SSgt Ray Stone.**

At the time of writing the Squadron Headquarters is going through a change, as **Maj Gareth Smith** hands over command of the Squadron to **Maj Mike Complin. Maj Smith** served 206 days in the Gulf and has been with the unit from its inception back in October 1990 till late March. Of course he was seen off in true Royal Corps style, the Squadron Officers and Seniors took over a suite in the Al Jubayl Holiday Inn for the occasion. RSM **WO1 Barry Spiers** claims a possible first—a Regimental dinner without alcohol (any takers?). Suitable gifts were exchanged and a good night was had by all.

The RSM **WO1 (RSM) Barry Spiers** is gradually getting the camp into some semblance of order. Ably assisted by 'Emeer' his No 1 Indian chargehand and a team of some 10 Bangladeshies he generates a degree of heat and energy in accomplishing his aims, as well as adding a number of hitherto unknown words to the vocabulary.

Those most popular heroes of the orderly room **SSgt Ray Stone, Cpl Jenks Jenkinson** and **LCpl Mark Longhurst,** who provided the bluies, the daily papers and, more importantly, details of the flight's home. Whilst the Squadron **2IC Capt 'Binky' Forrest** sweats over the establishment that may have a bearing on the clerks workload.

JCU TP
PERSONALITIES
Capt John Adams
Sgt Paul Ellis
Sgt George Strachan

As the rest of the Gulf locations return to Western Europe, JCU Tp's load increases as it becomes responsible for the only strategic comms in Theatre. This comprises two VSC 501 satellite stations and an HF VRC 322 det. Associated with these are all our 'data tails' and of course our RAF data techs: **Cpls Glynn Kaye, Gordon Olsen** and **JT Jaz Saunders**. Apart from that almost everyone else 'works' in the Commcen, 'rests' on Pearl Beach and 'plays' in Bahrain.

TM TROOP

The forming of the Logistic Support Gp Sig Sqn, required a very special group of people to keep the Headquarters and Ptarmigan Troop ship shape. Running the Troop was **SSgt (FofS) Neil McKie** who has just recently handed over to **WO2 (FofS)** 'Stumpy' **Rowe,** newly arrived from BAOR. We will all remember **FofS McKie** as 'the juggling FofS', no problem was too big that a little spot of juggling couldn't cure.

Manning the Switch were two excellent 'Switch Bitches' **LCpls Dean Spiers** and **Danny Clarke,** who have since come off death row and are now on probation in the workshop. Plotting the ERV was **Sgt Walker's** responsibility, navigator **Cpl Jase Harvey**. Bomber and tail end charlie were **LCpls Keith Muggleton** and **Collins**

One of the success stories out here is the Motorola Management Radio currently being heavily relied upon by every man and his dog. Here in Al Jubayl Supervisors to this are **Cpls John Ashman** and **Kyle Barker**, with tea boy and gopher **LCpl Richie Parnham** learning the ropes.

Two men who have really had their work cut out are **Cpl Mick McEwan** and **Sig Bob Cope**. Also under the giant wing of TM Troop comes Power Section, which is fronted by **Sgt Clive Artus** and his two heavies **Cpl** 'Brummie' **Lawes** and **LCpl** 'Scottie' **Scott** who have recently taken over the (150KW) RE ISO Generator.

PTARMIGAN TROOP

Tp Comd	**2Lt Kate Pope**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Ed Perry**

Ptarmigan Tp is also in a state of flux as the Troop Comd for the past six weeks **Lt Colin Hinsley** makes way for **2Lt Kate Pope. Lt Hinsley** enjoyed a potted sports cum barbecue afternoon for his farewell.

The only out detachment is Central 314 complete with 024B R/Relay. The Commander is **LCpl John Benson** who has turned his Desert Hideaway into something more becoming. Other members include **Sig Jock Lennie** who, somewhat frustrated with the resupply service, decided to take matters into his own hands and hire a car from the local town.

As the temperature moves into the 100s the Troop eagerly await their replacements from 16 Sig Regt—except of course Beechy **Beacher**.

ADMIN TROOP

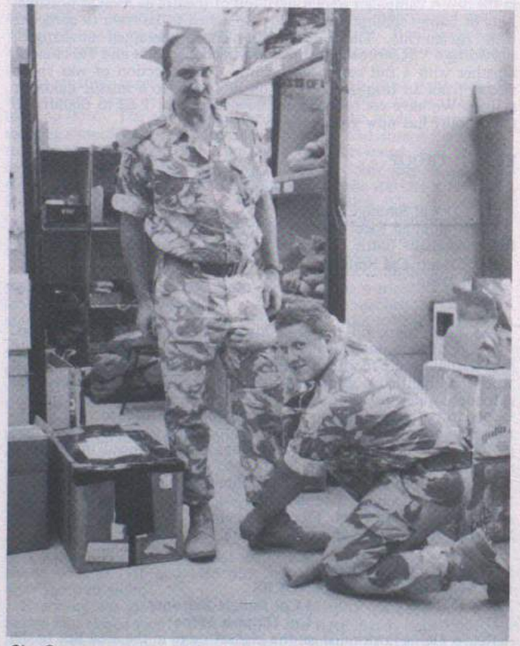
QM	**Capt P. Doherty MBE**
RQMS	**WO2 W. Sweeting**

The largest and most diverse troop in the Squadron is Admin Tp. It comprises the Kitchen, MT, LAD, Defence Section and the QMs Department, the latter being the only Royal Signals organisation within the troop. To say the QMs is a busy organisation is no exaggeration. **Sgt Graham Kendall** runs a busy clothing store kitting virtually the whole of the Logistic Support Group, half the Kuwait Battle Group and the United Nations Brit Force for good measure. As well as that he doubles as the computer equipment manager for the Middle East. Of course his biggest difficulty is sharing his store with **Sig Alf Garnett,** our resident war hero, having arrived in theatre in December and is full of the proverbial war stories.

Cpls Tony Sherwin and **Pat Mullen** have their own air-conditioned empire and look after the Ptarmigan and FAMTO bits. They generally avoid coming into sunlight.

SQMS accommodation is **SSgt Geordie Tough** who has the unenviable task of controlling the accommodation and standard of Old Port Barracks, ably assisted by **Cpl Craig Davis** and **Sig Mac McGuinness**. All this under the watchful eye of **Capt Pete Doherty**.

The final member of the team, and quickest to the 3,000 parcels is **WO2 (RQMS) Wayne Sweeting.** All in all a grand team doing a grand job.



Sig Garnet measuring up Cpl Tony Sherwin for a new pair of desert combats

NORTHAG Air Support Radio Sqn
BFPO 18

NORTHAG SIX-A-SIDE SOCCER

The Northag Six-a-Side Soccer Competition took place at the Rheindahlen Garrison pitches on Wednesday 10 April 1991. With an influx of footballers this year ASRS could afford to enter two teams into the competition.

The A Team comprising **Sgt Paul Hubble**, Captain, as always, **Sgt1 Ron Boeser RNLA, SSgt Jim Gray, Kpl Richard Coumans RNLA, LCpl Dave Haytack ACC, Sld Raymond Lauman RNLA, Sld Martijn Konings RNLA** and **GEF Thomas Hess GEA**.

The B Team apparently comprising **Sgt Pete O'Brien**, Captain, **Sgt Gunny McFeely, Cpl Tim Boyle REME, CLC Jeff Lelievre BEA, Kpl Benny Schroyen BEA, Sld Frank Houben, Sld Martin Biezen RNLA** and **HFW Josef 'Norman Wisdom' Schoenmackers GEA**.

The A Team got off to a reasonable start drawing 1—1 with RAF(G)A, **SSgt Jim Gray** the scorer. Other results as follows. Joint Tpt Coy (B) 1—1 **(Lauman)**. HQ Northag lost 0—1. 1NL Corps 2—0 **(Gray** and **Hess)** and GTNC lost 1—5 **Sgt Paul Hubble** being the scorer only to hit the woodwork with a penalty at the crucial point in the game which can only be described as a nightmare.

Staying with the nightmare theme, the B Team captained by **Sgt Pete O'Brien** went from bad to worse having been drawn against all A Teams bar one which didn't turn up, giving the B Team two points and a place into the second round. The team may have written themselves into the Northag History Books having been the only one never to have scored a goal during the whole of the competition with only one shot on goal all day. However, the B Team Goalkeeper, **HFW Josef Schoenmackers** can now boast having something in common with Michael Jackson, both wear gloves for no apparent reason.

The results being 13 TTR lost 4—0, Joint Tpt Coy A lost 2—0, TWOATAF lost 1—0 and 1 BE Corps lost 5—0.

Back Row L to R: Sld Houben, SSgt Gray, Clc Lelievre, Sgt McFeely, Sld Biezen, Sgt O'Brien, Cpl Boyle and Hfw Schoenmackers
Front Row L to R: Sld Konings, Kpl Coumans, Kpl Schroyen, Sgt Hubble, LCpl Haytack, OG Hess and Sld Lauman

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1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
(215 Sig Sqn)
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PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd	**Maj J. P. McD Coulthard**
2IC	**Capt S. J. Turnbull**

Adjt **Maj S. C. Firbank**, Tfc Offr **Capt D. I. Gilchrist**, QM **Capt J. N. Hornby**, OC A Tp **Capt L. D. McCourt**, OC B Tp **2Lt A. Sharman**, OC C Tp **Capt M. J. Prodger**, TCO **Capt M. Matthews**, RSM **WO1 (RSM) R. Taylor**, FofS **WO2 (FofS) S. Kassim**, YofS **WO2 (YofS) K. J. Glasby**, RQMS **WO2 (RQMS) D. J. Faherty**, Chief Clerk **SSgt (ORSQMS) P. J. Addison BEM.**

ALL CHANGE AT THE TOP

A change at the top with the departure of the Squadron Commander **Maj Tony Russ** to 1 BR Corps—via Riyadh! He will be missed by the Squadron and our best wishes go with him, his wife **Sue** and family on their new tour.

Stepping into the void is **Maj John Coulthard** from the MOD. At 6ft plus, it is a void we are sure he will have no trouble filling. Welcome also to his wife **Sally** and family, we wish you all a happy and successful tour.

No sooner had the RSM **WO1 Fred Payet** completed the Sqn Comd's farewell presentations than it was **Maj Russ's** turn to say farewell to him. **'Sir Fred'** as he is affectionately known (out of hearing of course!) is off to Catterick to take on the mantle of RSM 8 Sig Regt. Again they will be missed and we wish him and **Joan** and the family all the best at Catterick.

Welcome to **WO1 (RSM) Bob Taylor,** his wife **Pauline** and family. Out goes **WO1 (FofS) Tom Sharp** (literally—he's off to civvy street). As our last remaining expert on Bruin he will be sorely missed.

In comes **WO2 (FofS) Sid Kassim,** desperately trying to rerole the Squadron into something modern that he can fix. He brings with him his wife **Debbie** and family, and we bid them a warm welcome.

EXERCISE STAG OFF
A report by Cpl Kev McIntosh

Due to commitments in the Gulf, the Squadron like many other units had very little time to release the tension of concern about fellow comrades serving overseas, so now the majority of the Squadron are back from the Gulf, it was decided by a very new member of the Squadron, **2Lt Andrea Sharman**, to venture to North Wales on Adventure Training. Timings were set, accommodation booked, and finally **Sgt Steve Coombs** booked the transport—what could go wrong in this very neatly planned operation? Pathfinder extraordinaire took control of the carefully planned route to Capel Curig, so why did we take the scenic route around Birmingham? Eventually we arrived in North Wales to be greeted by **Sig Nige Hinton.** So it doesn't take much working out to the reason why we all had severe hangovers in the morning.

Mount Snowdon was our first conquest, we were split into two groups, each ably led by **Cpls Skull Freeman** and **Robbo Robson** respectively. So the race began, the climb seemed steady going until the weather closed in and **Sig Geordie Gough** wished he was only climbing the stairs to bed—say no more. The wind howled and the mist dropped as we finally reached the top, only to find the cafe closed, so it was down to the infamous 'Death Pack' for nourishment.

The descent was an individual finale with times of 33 min by **Sig Nige Hinton** and 36 min by **Cpl Robbo Robson** and myself. So after a very strenuous day the bodies of all were refilled by that very refreshing drink in Betsw-y-Coed.

The next day was more a test of nerve especially for those of us feeling under the weather.

The ascents began, up the rock face with **Sig Pete (Brummie) Dimmack** suffering with a phobia of heights and a barrel of beer still circulating through his blood stream, he finally reached the top in a record slow time of 25 min—**SSgt Alex Sampson** stole the show with a record time of 10 min. So with a good time had by all, and a formal presentation of certificates to all participants of 215 Sig Sqn ramblers, we departed to our own destinations.

A special thanks to all the organisers for this enjoyable exercise.

SPORTS NEWS

HOCKEY

The team, led by **Sgt Dave Harman**, had quite a good season which was nicely culminated by winning the SWDIST Minor Units Cup Final beating LEA Andover 2—1 (our COS **Maj C. W. Tadier** scoring both goals).

FOOTBALL

The football team have suffered this season with quite a few of their better players being posted out. However, they doggedly fought on and still managed to get to the SWDIST Minor Units Semi-Final, where they were beaten.

SQUASH

The team, led by **WO2 (YofS) Keith Glasby** were doing quite well in the SWDIST Minor Units League, unfortunately the latter part of the season was badly disrupted.

CRICKET

The Cricket team have had a crushing start to the season by hammering both Support Weapons Wing from Netheravon and 90 Ord Coy. Could this be due to the team Captain's tactics (**Capt Martin Prodger**), or the arrival of a new Tp Comd from Sandhurst, **2Lt Chris Whitehead** and **WO1 (RSM) Bob Taylor** from 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn.

SKIING

Some members of the Squadron are now more adept at skiing after their six week exercise with 249 (AMFL) Sig Sqn in Norway. **Sgts Keith Balsdon** and **Chris Middleton** took part in a 60km Endurance Loip (Langlauf) race, with them coming fourth and seventh respectively—Well done.

DEC/JAN EXPEDITION SNOW LEOPARD

KENYA EXPEDITION PERSONNEL

2Lt Woody Woodcock (REME), SSgt John Hall, Sgts Nick Evans (RPC), Vanessa Dyke (WRAC), Cpls Skull Freeman, Steve Thornley, Sig Scott Barrie, Moose Musson, John Kielty and **Pte Geordie Clark (RPC)**.

There were two aims to the expedition, to climb Mt Kilimanjaro, and Mt Kenya, and to introduce younger members to the challenges of Army life. Unfortunately the first aim of the expedition had to be changed.

We eventually took off on the 14th.

On 17 December (with our freight still in Brize Norton) we left Batlsk in Nairobi and headed North 85km to Lake Nivasha to start our acclimatisation training prior to the ascent of Mt Kenya.

The next four days were taken up by walking up and down and around the local hills, with the final aim being Mt Longonot, a dormant volcano at approximately 9500ft. All personnel found breathing a difficulty which caused us to pause every 50m or so. Sleeping was also a difficulty but was overcome by sampling some of the local brew (Tusker—yum yum).

On 23 December we started out at 0500 hrs. With the daunting task of our first major yomp, a mere 27km from Chegoria to the Kenyan Natural Park entrance. We laced boots, donned packs and started our 3,000ft ascent from 6,000ft to 9,000ft. This day's yomp was more difficult than expected. So with sore feet, exhausted bodies and time on our side we decided to spend the next day at the Park gates recuperating. There we met people from Canada, Australia and New Zealand who were also doing the same route. The civvys were going this for fun (weird people!). Christmas carols were exchanged around a fire that night.

Christmas Day proved to be one of the most tiring days and the 13km we covered showed just how the combination of altitude and packs cause difficulty, the last 6km took us 4 hrs and 45 mins. We reached Mintos Hut (14,000ft) around mid afternoon. One hell of a way to spend Christmas Day!

Due to mild altitude sickness the majority of the party didn't sleep well, so 26th was spent relaxing and acclimatising. However, one or two of us found the energy to stage a mini Commonwealth Games with some of the lads from Canada, Australia and New Zealand, who had also pitched tents at Mintos Hut.

Another bad night's sleep, but today was the day to tackle Point Lenana, although the distance was minimal (6km) the thin air and icy slopes made going difficult. On route some of the party had to rest up, and were collected by the rest of the party on the descent. The sight from Point Lenana (16,355ft) was quite spectacular—on a clear day Mt Kilimanjaro can be seen some 200km away.

Due to some of our party feeling under par our plans changed. Instead of circumnavigating the peaks, we descended back along the Chorgoria route to a pre-designated pick up point. On New Year's Eve we travelled on the overnight train from Nairobi to Mombassa on route to Watamu which was the location of our R and R phase.

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd **Maj I. Foxley**
2IC **Capt R. P. Wilson**

RSM **WO1 (RSM) W. J. Haslam**, QM **Capt 'Fred' Bancroft**, Admin Officer **Capt John Aspinall**, Ops Officer **Capt Rob Meinertzhagen**, OC 'A' Tp **SSgt 'Eddy' Grattidge**, OC 'B' Tp **SSgt Fred Hutchinson**, RQMS **WO2 'Steve' Clarke**, FofS **WO2 'Lee' Wookey**, YofS **WO2 Mac McCrindle**.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Squadron has seen a large turnover of personnel over the past two months, saying farewell to **WO2 Paul Gaffney** and his wife **Gail**. **Cpl Colin Rich** and his wife **Emma** off to civvy street, **Cpl Reuben Paul** posted by 187 Coy RPC, **LCpl Dave Dewar** on posting to 264 Sig Sqn and **Pte Steve Saunders** posted to NI.

Welcome the new Foreman **WO2 Lee Wookey** and his wife **Nicky, SSgt (SQMS) Dave Greaves** and his wife **Julie, Cpls Billy Dilkes, Les Tobbell** and **Pte Mark Thwaite** and wish them all the very best for their time in the Squadron . Congratulations to **WO2 Steve Clarke** and his wife **Sue** on the birth of their son **Jack** and **Cpl Olly Oliver** and his wife **Wendy** on the birth of their son **Matthew.**

BATTLE CAMP

What better way to return from Easter block leave than to deploy to Battle Camp in Sennybridge on the first day back? In an effort to get rid of the cobwebs the programme devised by **SSgt 'Nick' Neilson** had us on the ranges a matter of hours after the three hour journey to the camp. After the initial zeroing, which went well, the training started off in earnest with two and four man close quarter contact drills. That evening 'Big Nick's brief was, 'If you thought that was frightening then you aint seen nothing yet, for those para trained it's like jumping out of your first balloon and for those not, it's like attending Squadron PT.' The training progressed well, with emphasis being placed on safety and weapon handling, which all greatly improved upon as time went by. We could tell things were going well because **SSgt 'Nick' Neilson** was seen smiling, and on more than one occasion too, so it must be all right.

Sgt Jack Hawkins worked hard to teach the Squadron NBC drills and achieved more in the few days than had been achieved in the previous two years. **Sgt 'Q' Rose**, in addition to running the admin, was also involved in the map reading phase and set a course which proved a little taxing. Some of the groups were overheard suggesting they might follow the Sqn Comd and the RSM but even the hierarchy can make mistakes.

The Battle Camp proved an excellent fortnight's training and special mention must go to **SSgt 'Nick' Neilson** and his instructors for their hard work and realistic planning, to **Capt Richard Wilson** and especially **2Lt Martin Phillips** who, as Platoon Commander, really got involved in everything, to **Cpl Chris Bailey** voted best Section Cpl and **Sig Mick Brown** voted best improved soldier.

WELSH 1000 PEAK RACE

Whilst the remainder of the country shivered, on what was to be the coldest weekend on record, two teams from the unit were taking part in the Welsh 1000 peak race, a race starting at sea level and covering 21 miles before finishing on the summit of Snowdon, climbing approximately 3,000m in between. The race started with a run of approximately 1.5 miles before the climbing really began and the 'A' team immediately set a blistering pace and kept it going from start to finish. All runners ran well with pleasing results especially the 'A' team who finished in an overall 7th position out of some 60+ teams, which we hope to improve on next year. Individual results were as follows: **Cpl Olly Oliver** 5 hrs 21 mins (25th), **WO2 Steve Clarke** 5 hrs 31 mins (33), **Cpl Clive Smith** 5 hrs 31 mins (34), **Sgt** 'Q' **Rose** 5 hrs 40 mins (57), **Maj Ian Foxley** 6 hrs 6 mins (74), **Capt Fred Bancroft** 6 hrs 20 mins (97), **LCpl Steve Brown** 6 hrs 30 mins (107) and **LCpl Gaz Shuck** 7 hrs 15 mins (161).

The teams prior to the start of the Welsh 1000 Peak Race

LONDON MARATHON

The ADT London Marathon took place on 21 April with an invitation for 10 teams from the Brigade to run in aid of the Airborne Initiative. Although the Squadron was heavily involved in Squadron Battle Camp the Sqn Comd released the team to take part. The weather forecast was poor but it turned out to be ideal running conditions with the team running well and finishing in 7th position overall. The team consisted of **Capt 'Fred' Bancroft, WO2 (RQMS) 'Steve' Clarke, Sgt 'Garry' Smith, Sgt 'Ron' Blackburn** and **LCpl Steve Lynch**.

The London Marathon Team
L to R: Sgts Ron Blackburn, Garry Smith, LCpl Steve Lynch, WO2 Steve Clarke and Capt Fred Bancroft

229 Sig Sqn BFPO 45

EXERCISE WISE BEAR

Ex Wise Bear was designed to practise navigational and leadership skills. Split into sections the teams set off into different directions—**LCpl Mac McDonald** leading the team in a different direction from everyone else!

Over the four days the Squadron circumnavigated the Soltau Training area and ended up not far from where they had started! In between, battling with snow storms and raging rivers, completing command tasks, practising survival skills and walking, followed by more walking.

Feeling hungry, **Pte Lynne Sheridan** turned her operating experience to good use in gutting her fresh rations but with **LCpl Delboy Gilmore** in the team she need not have bothered. The section had acquired **Maj Littles'** steak and sausages from camp. It was of course, a coincidence.

Meanwhile the Sqn Comd was encouraging maximum participation by the Directing Staff. This led to the downfall (literally) of **YofS Les Whittle** on the command tasks, as he met with a pole and a nasty accident. **FofS Russ Moren** was last seen rolling about the floor in fits of laughter.

The final day led the blindfolded teams around a short confidence course and into the river—wet, cold but still smiling. Congratulations to **Sgt Clive Quantick's** winning team.

A fish imitating Pte Lynne Sheridan

Sgt Gordon Whale prepares 'luncheon' for Maj Max Little and WO2 (SSM) Alan Bailey

238 Sig Sqn
Chelsea Barracks

PERSONALITIES

OC **Maj Tim Bushell**
2IC **Capt Sue Harrison**

Mike Tp Comd **Capt Lee Brown, SSgt John Godfrey**, Radio Tp Comd **Capt Philippa Owens MBE, SSgt 'JB' Bragg**, Oscar Tp Comd **Capt Martin Corcoran, WO2 (YofS) Clive Copestake**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) Nick Churcher**, RQMS **WO2 (RQMS) Colin Thompson**.

Life in busy Chelsea Barracks continues under the thump, thump, thump of the Coldstream Guards' big drum as the 'Spring Drills' are practised. In this build up to summer we have endured a Battle Camp at Longmoor training area for two weeks. The first week was glorious in the early sun; the second week wasn't!

The Squadron's 'ceremonial team', mostly R Tp, took part in a State Visit at Windsor in April, for the President of Poland. This was the first official State visit held in Windsor for five years so it was a fast learning curve for all. **SSgt 'JB' Bragg** did his bit of urban orienteering armed with a map. **Capt Philippa Owens** was a little concerned to find herself sharing the Round Tower with lots of builders on the rehearsal and lots of press on the day. It all went without a hitch and everyone now knows where the hills are in Windsor!

The ceremonial season is well under way with many inspections and Parades. Sig Oliver comes under the close scrutiny of Sqn Comd Maj Tim Bushell

Chelsea became very busy in May when the Chelsea Flower Show got under way. The girls did their bit and raised a substantial amount of money collecting for the Army Benevolent Fund.

May also bought a wonderful document inspection. Well, Chief Clerk **SSgt John Morgan** thought it was wonderful once he got the satisfactory report. Thanks to the team, **Cpl Wendy Blacklock, LCpl Bridgette Maratty** and **Pte Rachel Thompson**, who worked hard to produce the goods.

Oscar Tp are bracing themselves for the move of the Commcen. It will travel lock, stock and barrel from the Horse Guards in Whitehall to Chelsea Barracks. The Yeoman promises he won't have a nervous breakdown until everything is installed and working in Chelsea.

Mike Tp are the sportsmen of the Squadron, having won the Inter-Troop Basketball and potted sports competition. Their run of luck will no doubt stop when they come up against the SHQ hockey team!

RADIO TROOP

Once again the Troop has been pulled out of cold storage, dusted off and, believe it or not, drilled on the highly acclaimed Chelsea Barracks Square. Why? you may well ask. Nothing to do with Options for Change; however June has arrived with the inevitable Trooping the Colour, Beating of Retreats, not to mention car calling at the Palace and the Gulf Parade. In preparation for a summer season of ceremonial duties the Troop has undergone an intensive period of training and inspection. Boots have been bulled, threads cut off and the entire Troop have been brushing up on the history of the Corps lanyard and flotation drills.

Of course, no State Occasion would be complete without the obligatory rehearsals to enable the operators to see the Queen's 'Chariot' (as the carriage was aptly described by **Sig Alston** from Oscar Tp over the Command Net) race down the Mall.

On the sports front the Troop (with the odd attachment from elsewhere in the Squadron) seem to be bringing in the silver trophies and have done particularly well in the Londist Cricket and Swimming Competition.

Finally, entries are still required in the Sqn Comd and Comd Comms 'Spot the Deliberate Mistake' Competition.

MT TROOP

Once again the silly season of Ceremonials is with us.

MT Troop, with it's so called drivers doing their best to upset **Sgt Joy Harrison**, but she manages to keep a happy face. Congratulations go to **Sig Brian Townsend** and his wife **Helen** on the birth of their baby boy **David**.

A few personalities within the Troop are: **Sig Dave Hineson, Debbie Tugwell, Sharon Williams, Sig Ian Branney** and **Cpl Dusty Miller**.

CRICKET TEAM

The Squadron cricket team have got off to a successful start to the season by reaching the Final of the Londist Cricket Cup. The first round was against LE(A) Units REME in which they set a target of 162 in 32 of the allocated 40 overs. The team replied by reaching the total for two wickets with **Maj Bushell** 88 not out and **Sgt Gilbert** 47 not out. The next round was played against the Guards Band team. This time our batting was a bit unsteady with the first four batsmen out for 84 but a fine innings of 31 from **Sig Tait** enabled us to scrape 123 all out. The bowlers rallied to the challenge and skittled the Guards Band out for 72. The final, being the next round, was played at Kneller Hall against RMSM, again we were put into bat and after another indifferent start managed to reach a score of 160, with very valuable performances from **Sgt Gilbert** 31, **Sig Tait** 36 and **SSgt Godfrey** 26. It was down to the bowlers who performed admirably—**Sig Tait** 4 for 6 and **Sgt Barnett** 3 for 16 and were well supported by some excellent fielding. The team now go forward to the Districts Final. Well done to the band of players who have enabled us to get this far.

238 Sig Sqn cricket team won the Londist Minor Unit cricket competition. Congratulations to the team

Back row, L to R: Sig Ian Townsend, LCpl Bartliff, SSgts John Godfrey, 'JB' Bragg, Sgt Ali Duncan, Cpl 'Bish' Bishop, LCpl Parkes and WO2 (SSM) Churcher

Front row: L to R: Sgt 'Rog' Thompson, LCpl Bob Garlick, Sgts Al Barnett, 'Dad' Gilbert, Maj Tim Bushell and Sig 'Tatty' Tait—who was man of the match

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PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj Eileen Tye**
Adjt — **Maj Bill Smith**

Ops Offr **Maj Colin McLoughlin**, TOT **Maj Gerry Sullivan**, SQMS **SSgt Rob Meyers**.

We do not often have a mention in *The Wire* so just in case you don't know, we are based at York and cover North East District. Recently however we have had special happenings which are worthy of publicity.

Firstly; **SSgt Ena Hall**, who came to us from 34 Sig Regt (V) on a six month 'S' Type engagement for Op Granby was awarded her Territorial Efficiency Medal by **Brig M. W. Roberts OBE**, Comd Training Brigade, Catterick Garrison.

Secondly; **Cpl June Massie** one of the two Systems Technicians in the Squadron is a mean fencer. She is now the Army Ladies Epee Champion and came second in the Chairman's Cup Foil Competition. She has been selected to fence Epee in the Inter Service Team.

Thirdly; on April Fools Day we handed over responsibility for North West District Communications to 241 Sig Sqn. We wish them every success with the new Western District and say thank you and farewell to all the staff who leave us.

244 Sig Sqn (AS)
RAF, Brize Norton

From an 'Oldish' Soldier
WO2 (RQMS) D. Nixon

Capt Ron Hails (QM 34 Sig Regt V)) asked if I was interested in a six month S Type engagement at Brize Norton. My instant reply was yes! Back in uniform, full time, was a far cry from running a business in civvy street.

No sooner had I arrived in Brize Norton when hostilities ended in the Gulf and I found myself winging my way to the shores of Cyprus with **Maj A. J. Hunt** and **SSgt Roy Holcombe** to carry out a recce for Lion Sun 8/91. Having never served in Cyprus, it was an opportunity not to be missed, or should I have chosen to go to Portugal with Alpha Tp?

The RQMS Department was in the hands of **Cpl Carl Mast, LCpl Crichton Johnstone, Sig 'Geordie' Rees** and **'Scouse' Bohanna** when **WO2 (RQMS) Chris Charlton** and **Sgt Andy Hilton** had gone to the Gulf. Without the help and hard work of the department lads during all the annual inspections which hit us life would have been trying; I would like to thank them all for their support and dedication.

During my six months stay I have thoroughly enjoyed the rigours of 244 Sig Sqn (Air Support), the 500 mile round trip each weekend and especially the Squadron's 50th Anniversary Celebrations last June.

I would like to thank **WO2 (SSM) Ian Brereton** and his wife **Julie, SSgt Graham Smith, Sgt** Baz **Wilkinson** and especially **Maj Alan Hutt** the Sqn Comd for allowing me to be part of his globe trotting Red Hand Squadron, if only for a short, memorable six months. Good luck and best wishes to you all.

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj P. J. Oldfield**
2IC/OC M/A Tp — **Capt A. G. Hill**

QM **Capt W. N. White MBE**, OC Main Tp **2Lt D. J. Duggan**, OC Sp Tp **Capt R. L. Munro**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) McCaffery**, Ch Clk **SSgt (ORSQMS) Warne**.

We would firstly like to say welcome to **Capt Andy Hill** who has just arrived from 28 Sig Regt.

We say goodbye and good luck to **Capt Jim Richardson** and family.

SQUADRON EVENTS

This month has seen the climax of the football season and this year has been most successful. On returning from Norway the skis and bergans were back on the shelf and the football boots dragged out from moth balls. In one of the more crucial games, against 3 Fd Wksps, the team keeper, **Sgt Gary Lopez**, was still in Norway so in came **Cpl** 'The Cat' **Connelly** and due to his performance between the sticks the team won 3—2 putting us back in contention for winning the league. This result meant our last game of the season against 29 Tpt and Mov Regt RCT would decide who would win the league. Our scoring duo up front of **Sig Alford** and **Whitford** started scoring early in the first half and by the end of the game it was 6—1 to us, with **Cpl Kemp** also managing to score one. This result meant the team had won the Salisbury Plain Services Football League Div 2. Well done to the Football Team!

MAIN TROOP

The Troop is glad to see **Cpl Batts** back from the Gulf—congratulations on a job well done and good to see you home safe and well. We also wish to welcome **LCpl** 'Dusty' **Millar** (this must be a bit of a change from a Belize beach eh?) and **LCpl Cartlidge**.

The last few months have been relatively quiet, but the Troop is now getting back into gear since returning from Norway and has recently been involved in two exercises; the Squadron's Sarum Strike and a troop defensive exercise Main Defender 1 which was co-ordinated by **Sgt Bob Goode**.

Sarum Strike ran well but quietly, though the more recent troop exercise was far more eventful. The troop was subdivided under the competent control of **Cpls Chapman, Pete Ellwood** and **Brian Parry** and then dispersed. Other than the numerous ambushes and night moves the highlight of the exercise was when **Sig Lockyer** found himself coming to a rather rapid halt one morning (we all believe you—the tree definitely moved). **Sig Mike Crisp** also gave **Cpl Parry** a slight problem after an unexpected talk in the early hours with **Sgt Goode**, which resulted in his blue force being short of one man for a few hours. **Cpl Chapman** would like to thank **LCpl Mark Goodman** for the fine art work on the side of his vehicle—watch out revenge is sweet. The most entertaining part of the exercise was when **LCpl** 'Taff' **McTavish** caught **2Lt David**' I'm not the enemy at the moment' **Duggan** and **Sig Stuart Firth**, and allowed them to sample the delight of being PoWs for a few hours. Hope the handcuffs didn't hurt sir. The exercise was rounded off when the final ambush went slightly wrong resulting in **Sgt Mark Baxter** doing his **Carl Lewis** impression, followed by half the Troop waving their rifles.

Standing, L to R: LCpl McTavish, Sig Jenkins and Duff look after their newly found prisoners

SUPPORT TROOP

Once again we find **Lt** (now Capt) **Bob Munro** absent on duty. Congratulations on your promotion and we all hope that the pillow we sent comes into its own during JDSC. We have also seen the safe return of **Sgt Ramsay** from the Gulf and since you no longer require your DBs, **Cpl Storey** (233) asks if he can borrow them. Nice to see you in one piece **Ray**.

The Troop has also deployed on a short adventurous training exercise in the Lake District with **SSgt Stringer** accompanied by characters ranging from **Sig Maclaren** to **LCpl Rick Taylor**. The remainder of the crew included **Cpl** 'Geordie' **Storey, LCpl** Scouse **Carr, Sig Burke, Owen** and **Alford.** Although neutral observers may have thought the bunch lacked motivation they did manage to complete Scafell, via Bow Fell, and return to Greater Gandales Campsite in one day despite atrocious weather (only because they were Arctic Trained!). After further climbs in the Scouts Crag and Hodge Clae areas the training/holiday was brought to a perfect finish with a 5—3 win in a challenge match against a co-located Army Youth Team.

The Troop would like to congratulate **Sgt Rob** and **Gill Hood** on the birth of baby **Emma**, and wish bon voyage to **Cpl Stewart** on his return to Hereford and **Cpl Paul Urquhart** and **Mrs Urquhart** to Berlin.

Finally welcome back to **Sgt Nick Middleton** from yet another Arctic exercise.

SQUADRON ATHLETICS

On 10 May the Squadron held its annual Athletics competition at Andover Athletics Stadium. The event was run as an inter-troop competition and to this end various tactics were employed to ensure victory.

Firstly, Mike/Admin Tp used the most devious of all tactics by introducing one of their own men to act as overall score controller and points allocator, notably Chief Clerk **Warne**.

Next was 'Swamping' Support Tp under the subtle and polite leadership of **SSgt Stringer**, aided and abetted by **Sgt Nick Middleton**, who persuaded the majority of their troop to take part in every event.

Finally, but not always last came Main Tp under the careful and unbiased guidance of their Tp Comd and **Sgt Baxter** who, using the 'form technique', attempted to select the best competitor for each event. Needless to say Support Tp won the day, thanks to the likes of **LCpl Ken Birkett**. And to put the icing on the cake Support Tp won the Chain of Command race—well done **Sig Alford, LCpl Birkett, Sgt Rob Hood** and **2Lt Dave Wilson**.

Maj Paul Oldfield presents Sgt Hood with the Inter Troop Competition Trophy

The Sqn Comd presents the high point trophy to LCpl Birket

THE MORRISON CUP

After a quick night recce by **Sgt Lopez** the Athletics team arrived feeling confident (or was it a hangover!). The day started well with **LCpl Paul Culleton** taking second place in the 5,000m—it seemed as though lady luck was about to shine on the team. **2Lt David Duggan** won the 400m, **LCpl 'Taff' McTavish** took second place whilst guesting in the hammer and **Sig Andy Lockyer** got a second in the javelin. Further solid results by **Sig Eddie McKeown** (triple jump), **Cpl Mark Haworth** (200m), **LCpl McTavish** (discus) and **LCpl Birkett** (400m hurdles) ended the morning session.

After the break a win by **Cpl Paul Storey** in the 5,000m, backed by **Sig Steven Jenkins** (100m), **Sig Swayne** (800m), **Sgt Gary Lopez** (Long Jump) and **Sig Chamberlain** (High Jump) meant the final relay was going to be the deciding event for second and third place. The 4 × 400m runners of **LCpl Birkett, Sig Swayne, Cpl Haworth** and **2Lt Duggan** rounded off the day with a fine win and ensured the Squadron took the runner up position overall. Well done lads—better luck next year!

ROYAL SIGNALS WINDSURFING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Squadron's Windsurfing team recently took part in the Corps Championships at Browndown.

Outstanding performances by the QM, **Capt Bill White MBE** (2nd place in the veterans competition) and **LCpl Chris O'Connell** (best novice), upheld the units usual high standards in this sport.

The team ended up in third place overall. Well done to the QM, **Cpl Pete Ellwood** and **LCpl O'Connell**.

Guest appearances by **Cpl Paul Woodruff, Sig** 'Arfur' **Lowe** and **Gary Christie** ensured that the Squadron was well represented.

251 Sig Sqn
Aldershot

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES
Sqn Comd **Maj R. G. Drake**
2IC **Capt D. Mitchell WRAC**
A/B Tp Comd **2Lt S. A. Mendonca** WRAC, SOO **Capt D. Jepson**, TOT **Capt J. Gerrard**, CDSO **WO1 Skelton**, SSM **WO2 K. Woodcock**, Supvr Exch **Sgt Phipps**.

Op Granby has kept us on our toes and brought a dramatic increase in the workload.

EXERCISE CHICKERELL CHALLENGE
OIC Ex **2Lt S. A. Mendonca WRAC**
2IC Ex **WO2 Woodcock WRAC**
SQMS **Sgt Allen**, Instructors **Sgt Perch, LCpls Northmore, Parker**, Drivers **Sig Ridsdale, Ptes Parsons** (41 Sqn RCT), **Dawson** (41 Sqn RCT).

We decided to break away from the usual amalgamated camp with 10 Coy WRAC. We were lucky to get Chickerell Camp in Weymouth as the venue and to choose the right two weeks as far as the weather was concerned. We shared the camp with A Coy, 2 Para who proved to be extremely helpful. They provided the guard 24 hours a day and also helped show **LCpl Northmore** the ropes by finding some good climbs in Swanage.

The camp consisted of two four day packages and each week there were four syndicates to rotate through the following activities: windsurfing, canoeing, climbing and a (hilly) coastal walk! There were also inter-syndicate sports in the evenings which were great fun and enjoyed by all. (The spectators/DS especially enjoyed the relay events in which the sack race was most entertaining!)

WEEK ONE—(THE HEATWAVE WEEK)
All that can be said is—'You were warned!' Sun tan lotion was included on the kit list and as soon as the first group arrived we advised that sunblock and aftersun should be purchased. Those who listened had an enjoyable week and were able to take full advantage of all the activities on offer. The windsurfing was a popular activity and we didn't lose anyone out to sea although **SSgt Clark** tried to get to France (she had to come back because she didn't have her passport tucked into her wetsuit!). The SSM was thinking of tying elastic on to the boards to keep track of everyone as it was quite windy at times.

We were also lucky to have the opportunity to try clay pigeon shooting a couple of times in the evenings. A Coy, 2 Para ran the range next to the camp and so for a moderate fee of £3 for 25 rounds some of us had a go at hitting the flying frisbees that flew out of the traps! **LCpl Adamson**—from SHQ proved to be a hot shot and hit nine out of ten in her first attempt! (The onlooking members of 2 Para just gulped!)

The Sqn Comd visited during the first week and tried his hand at windsurfing and shot at a few clays in the evening!

SECOND WEEK
The changeover day went relatively smoothly and a busload of pale faced troops arrived to replace the rejuvenated red faced ones who told tales of a 20 mile hike and canoeing in the dark?

The activities took off again starting with the SSM's favourite 'character building' swim test—on the sea front in front of all the tourists. The water was freezing and it was amazing to see how fast everyone went around the two markers and under the canoe so that they could get dressed again. **Ptes Ducker** and **Tingle** tried to impress the Troop Officer with their singing throughout their coastal walk but I'm afraid she just took them along a windier route to drown the din as they sang out of tune.

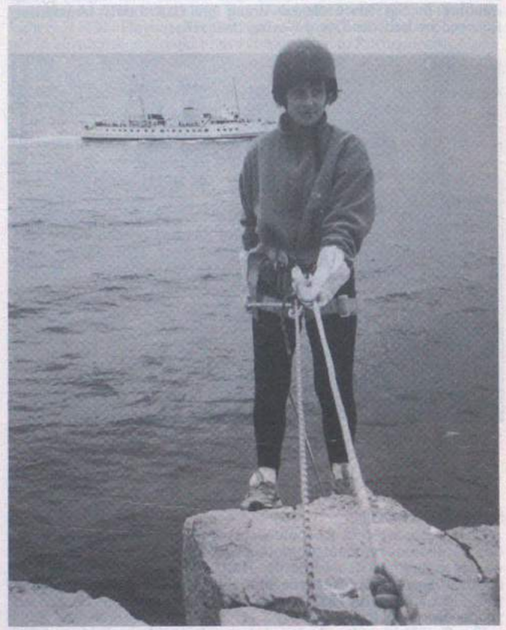
2Lt Mendonca, Cpl Vincent, LCpl Northmore and **Pte Booth** took up 2 Para offer to have a go at scuba diving and had a great time at HMS *Osprey*.

All in all this year's camp was enjoyed by all who attended and gave everyone an opportunity to have a go at some pursuits that they do not usually get the chance to do.

SQUADRON SPORTING RECORD
Since last April the Squadron has entered most of the district competitions and leagues netball, hockey, volleyball, rounders, cross country and swimming.

It has also taken part in the Mayor's Mini Marathon at Andover coming third in the mixed team race which raised money for charity.

The Squadron was away on their annual summer camp at Weymouth during the Inter-Unit athletics but **Pte Elder** from 251 Sig Sqn entered the individual event and is now in training for the Inter Services team.



Sgt Lewis looking none too happy about stepping off—she did enjoy herself really!

Pte Buckwell *(left)* and Sgt Phipps from the military exchange looking cool on the windsurfers!

254 Sig Sqn (UNFICYP)
BFPO 567

SHQ
PERSONALITIES
Sqn Comd **Maj F. T. Riley**
2IC **Capt P. J. Watt**
SSM **WO2 W. Henderson**, SQMS **SSgt D. Forbes**, Chief Clerk **Sgt A. B. Rose**, Stores Acct **Sgt R. Clatworthy**, FSO Clerk **Mr C. Wilkinson**, Typist **Mrs S. Hiscock**.

Despite our commitments most have completed adventure and military training.

EXERCISE APHRODITES AMBLE XXII
After the fun of watersports came the gruelling military training exercise in the Episkopi area.

Ex Aphrodites Amble XXII was a two, three day military training exercise held over the period 6-11 May. The exercise started off with a range day at Akrotiri Ranges where all sections completed an APWT and an NBC Basic Signalling skills scenario test.

On completion of this phase the sections were then taken onto the Episkopi training area to complete a two day map reading march including a first aid and a weapon skills stand. For those who could map-read they would cover 55km and for those that couldn't—near 70km was in order. Congratulations to the winning team from Commcen Tp who won the competition overall and the march phase by only six minutes.

RADIO TROOP
PERSONALITIES
Tp Comd **Lt Paul Levesque**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Mick Halford**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Larry Will**

The Squadron recently hosted the UN Signals representatives from the various sectors at the Force Signals Officers Conference.

Each sector takes it in turn to host the conference which also provide the opportunity for us to get to know one another.

At the same time, Radio Tp carried out a VHF radio compatibility trial which was of interest and value to all participants.

While all this was going on, Canadian **Sgt Larry Will** was setting up a barbecue at the Sqn Club—'The Wire Inn'.

In the end the day was a success and we look forward to the next conference held by UNMP Coy.

ARRIVALS
Welcome to the following new members: **Lt Paul Levesque, MCpls Barron, Rosseau, Cpls Gagnon, Landry, Rosberg, Sig Adams** and **Gambles**.

DEPARTURES
A fond farewell to the following: **Capt Wood, MCpl Belanger** and **LCpl Rose**.

UNFICYP MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION
The UNFICYP Military Skills Competition was held on 18 April on the UNPA. All of the contingents on the island were invited to participate and the result brought forth 12 teams. The competition comprised various activities designed to test a soldier's fitness; physically and mentally, pitting teams against the clock and each other. For the competition Support Regiment fielded two teams, 'A' and 'C', who, along with the other 10 teams were trying for a spot among the top three finishers. The Squadron led in both teams with **Capt Wally Wood** and **SSgt Dave Forbes**. Overall the A team came third with some very good scores.

TECH AND LINE TROOP
PERSONALITIES
Tp Comd **SSgt (FofS) Carl Shead**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Phil Skene**
Wksp Sgt **Sgt Si Norris**, Line Sgt's **Sgts Paul Jennings, Taff Bryant**.

ARRIVALS
Welcome to **SSgt (FofS) Carl Shead**, his wife **Marion** and family for their first tour on 'Paradise Island'. Also to **Sig All Hayhurst** from 662 Sig Tp and **Sig** 'Shuggy' **Wray** from 259 Sig Sqn on six month tours—again!

FAREWELLS
Farewell to **WO2 (FofS) Gi Whiteford** and his family after three years on the beach, **Sig Mesmer** and **Galloway** back to 662 Sig Tp and 259 Sig Sqn respectfully after completing six month tours.

UNFICYP SAA
Although Support Regiment, of which 254 are part, didn't fair too well in this competition, one bright note was **Sgt Paul Jennings** coming out overall 'Best Shot'—Well Done!

DASH 4/91—SWIMMING
0530 hrs saw the Squadron awake (well maybe not) for the Intertroop Swimming Comp. Full of smiles or was it yawns? the first runners set off on the Relay Phase (just to get to the pool). **Cpl** 'Seb' **Carmichael** reach the pool tagging **Cpl Steve Bancroft** for a sprint length up the pool securing second place for the Troop 'A' squad. Troop 'B' squad propped up the field.

The real swimming started after a short break with good wins for **Sig Ev Galloway** (Back Stroke) 2IC **Capt J. Watt** (Breaststroke) and the 'A' Team Relay squad consisting of **Sig All Hayhurst, Sgt Rab Binnie, Cpl Steve Bancroft** and **Sig Ev Galloway**—yes he did have three shredded wheat.

Overall it was an excellent Troop effort ably assisted by members of SHQ with Tech & Line/SHQ winning by 21 points.

COMMCEN TROOP
PERSONALITIES
Tp OC **WO2 (YofS) Doughie Mac Taggart**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Mick Hodkinson**
Day Cpl A Shift **Cpl Ginge Morgan**, B Shift **Cpl Pete Smales**, C Shift **Cpl Trev Cotter**.

ARRIVALS
The Troop welcomes the following new members: **Cpl Trev Cotter** and **LCpl Mark Andrew**.

DEPARTURES
We say farewell to the following members: **Cpl Geordie English, LCpl 'Dinger' Bell, Sig Mark May** and **Smudge Smith**.

DASH COMPETITION
The Dash Competition was an Intertroop, Tri-Part Sporting Competition consisting of six-a-side hockey, football and orienteering. The Troop started off well by winning the hockey event if only by goal difference over the Tech/Line Tp. Tech Tp narrowly won the orienteering competition from Commcen Tp and Radio Tp respectively. Going into the final event Tech Tp were virtually assured of winning the trophy, but due to the hard work of Commcen 'A' and 'B' teams in the football the Commcen managed to draw on points with Tech/Line Tp. The overall competition was given to Commcen Tp due to winning more events.

BRITCON MEDAL PARADE
The BRITCON Medal Parade is a Bi-Annual event where members of the British Contingent of the United Nations Force in Cyprus receive medals for service with the UN.

On the evening of 26 May a number of Squadron personnel marched on to the airfield in Nicosia to receive their medals.

The Parade started with the arrival of VIPs from the British High Commission and the Force Commander **Maj Gen C. Milner OMM CD**. After a number of general salutes the Force Commander presented the UN medals. Once the parade marched off there was a drive and fly past by vehicles used by the Contingent. Squadron members receiving their medals were: **Sgt Rab Binnie, LCpl Neil Howard** and **Sig 'Skids' Skidmore**.

SAFE AND SKILLED DRIVING COMPETITION
The competition was a fierce, competitive affair with Tech and Line Tp being the overall winners, closely followed by Radio Tp and Commcen Tp respectively. It was a closely fought event all the way through and was only decided on the final phase of the competition which was the cross country driving. With determination and a bit more luck than the other two teams, Tech/Line Troop took the onours. The individual winner for the best driver was Commcens' **Cpl Paul Miller** closely followed by **LCpl Ted Rogers** of Radio Tp. The event was a great success with all the drivers enjoying it.

662 Sig Tp
BFPO 58

Tp Comd **Capt Les Rix**
2IC/AO **Capt Kim Thurlow WRAC**
SSM **WO2 Dale Ikin**, OC Maint Sect **WO1 (FofS) Peter Martin**, OC Comms Sect **WO2 (YofS) Chris Rogan**, SQMS **SSgt John Williams**, Chief Clerk **Sgt Steve Gorman**, Station Comd FSS Cape Greco **SSgt John Smith**.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

As usual postings in and out abound. Welcome, first of all, to the new Tp Comd **Capt Les Rix** and his wife **Chris**. Welcome also to **Sgt Richard Docherty, LCpl Joe** and **Elaine McGinness, Sig Doug** and **Sally Anne Easby** and young **Sig Chris Parton**, who have joined us just in time for the Cyprus summer.

The Troop said goodbye to **Capt Nick Naylor** and his wife **Barbara** in fitting style, by carrying him straight into the Bitsa Bar following a beach landing in the RIB. The Troop sent him on his way to 13 Sig Regt in style.

Goodbye and good luck to **Cpl Paul** and **Pte Kati Murphy**, both off to 15 Sig Regt and possibly the AAC for **Cpl Murphy, Sgt Mick Senior** finally off to 11 Sig Regt following a spell on 'active service' in the Gulf, **LCpl David Frost RPC** off to Civ Div and young **Sig Dean Whitworth** off to 2 Inf Div.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Cpl Tim** and **Trudy Pickersgill** on the birth of their daughter **Amy** and to **LCpl Brian** and **Andrea Peach** on the birth of their son **Christopher**.

Congratulations also to **Cpls Rick Hogan** and **Tom Rothera** on their recent promotions.

TROOP HOCKEY

by Sgt Steve Gorman (Player Manager)

The Troop Hockey Team surprised all members of the unit and probably the ESBA by reaching the final of the ESBA Minor Units Cup. This despite having a poor showing within the league.

From the outset nobody gave the team, under new management, a hope as they were drawn against the Un Sp Regt, now favourites, after they had demolished HQ Dhekelia 3—1 in the prelims.

It was off to Nicosia on 3 January to play like demons and the team showed true resolve to come back twice from behind and force a draw 2—2. So 17 February saw the two sides square up at Dhekelia and after a hard, bruising match, we went through on a well taken penalty by **Sgt Keith Tillman**.

Semi-final day saw the team, lean, mean and hungry taking on 1 Sqn 9 Sig Regt with their abundance of Army Players at Ayios Nicolaos, this was another match where people had written us off. The match was hard fought and injuries abounded, but two well executed goals by **Mr 'Mac' MacKay** and **Cpl Kev Murphy** made sure that we reached the final. Although we were forced to withstand some tremendous pressure by 1 Sqn in the second half result 2—1.

17 April saw the final at Dhekelia and the team, all fired up to go, failed to realise their potential from other games and in a very scrappy match we went down 4—0.

The warning for ESBA next season is we intend going all the way.

On a lighter note we said farewell to four staunch members of the team: **Capts Nick Naylor, Kim Thurlow** (WRAC), **SSgt Des Watson** and **Cpl Phil Leach**.

The team for the season was: **Capts Nick Naylor, Kim Thurlow, SSgt Des Watson, Sgt Bob Wymer, Keith Tillman, Gary Corrigan, Mark Bradley, Cpls Neil Inman, Steve Ellis, Kev Murphy, Phil Leach, Rick Hogan, Mr 'Mac' MacKay, LCpls Eddie Edwards, Rick Powell** and Yours Truly **Sgt Steve Gorman**.

TROOP FOOTBALL

by Sgt Bob Wymer

The 90/91 football season saw mixed fortunes indeed for the now established troop football team. The Gulf war affected the league dramatically with the arrangements of fixture (war's hell!). So it was a case of play when you had the chance, and not when you could field a full side (here come the excuses). To mention individual matches might be embarrassing, so I'll opt for poetic licence and talk of a couple of individual highlights.

Special mention has to go to **Cpl** Ozzie 'JC' **Chapman**'s goal-keeping whose cat-like reactions were . . . interesting. Also **Sgt Russ Dodd**'s £3,000 investment to get his eyes fixed deserves a mention; talking him through ball control was like playing the golden shot! Yes, that was after the operation.

As you may have guessed we didn't win a lot but we enjoyed ourselves. Next season we start with a new strip, courtesy of Fosters Lager, maybe our luck will change with it.

TROOP ORIENTEERING 90/91

The Team: (Present) **WO1 (FofS) Pete Martin** (League Planner), **SSgt John Williams** (New Team Captain), **Sgt Frank Grant, Cpl Steve Ellis, LCpls Brian Peach, Johno Johnson** and **Scouse Keelan**. (Past) **Sgt Mike Scott, Cpls Mick Garbett** (Old Team Captain) and **Andy Maynard**.

Once again another excellent result and a fitting end to the season with the team emerging as the Combined Services (Cyprus) Orienteering League Champions, for the second year running, and a clear 1,033 points ahead of our nearest (forever snapping at the heels) rivals, 259 Sig Sqn. (Even if they did get some attached help!)

The early part of the season was given a healthy boost by **Cpl Mick Garbett** now posted, and by **Sgt Mike Scott** who was so keen to run he almost missed leaving Cyprus. Many thanks to you both for your efforts. Thanks also to **Cpl Andy Maynard** who, although not a points scorer, always attended every event he could manage.

SSgt John Williams, who battled throughout the season with **Sgt Al Piper** (259) to become the league champion, lost it on the final league event, (never needed a 1,000 free points anyway!), and finished the season as runner up. The latter part of the league saw some of the older team members coming good in their own right, with **Sgt Frank Grant** going on to win an event. It was nice to see some new talent coming on to the scene in the form of **Cpl Steve Ellis** who has already made his mark in Cyprus, and no doubt will be one of the men to beat next season.

Finally on to the Championships, a two day event held in the Troodos Mountains. The first day proved that time spent on recce is time well spent, the team, with the exception of our solid as a rock runner **WO1 Pete Martin**, ran its worst race of the season, and stood no chance of making a clean sweep, and was cast aside by the rest of the teams. Then came the second day: the relay event, **SSgt John Williams** was leading the attack, with the fastest time of the day, giving the team a four minute buffer, handing over to **WO1 Pete Martin** who increased the lead by another 1.5 minutes. The last leg was run by **Cpl Steve Ellis** who brought the team home six minutes ahead of the Queens Own Hussars, and 16 minutes ahead of 259 Sig Sqn. A nice end to a very hard season. Many thanks to all team members and also to the B team, **LCpls Brian Peach, Johno Johnson** and **Scouse Keelan** for all their support.

Left to Right: LCpl Peach, Sgt Grant, SSgt Williams, Cpl Ellis, WO1 (FofS) Martin and Brig Almonds

The Winning Team
Left to Right: Sig 'Woody' Wood, Cpl Paul Miller, Sig Dave Weir, LCpl Andy Sargeant and Sig 'Nige' Brennan

633 Sig Tp
BFPO 12

PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd **Capt Ian Hunter**
FofS **WO2 Phil McGiveron**
YofS **WO2 Chris Whitehead**, Tp SSgt **SSgt Dickie Bird**.

As usual a large proportion of troop members, some 20 plus Gozomies, have left since the last entry. The Troop continues to work hard towards the coming Commcen moves with **Sgt Steve Parnell** leading the Telemechs in all the line and MDF preparations and **WO2 (FofS) Phil McGiveron** attempting to clear all the SWS and JASPAR paperwork from his desk (including those that keep bouncing back from MOD!). Systems and the TX Site are gradually gearing up towards the move with **Sgt Pete Richardson** heading the TX team and **Sgt Steve Smith** Systems. It is rumoured that **Steve Smith** may come out of his shell for the occasion.

Another successful trip to English Cay was enjoyed by most but not by **SSgts Pete Richardson** and **Dave Carvell** who managed to get ambushed by a shoal of Barracuda. The Tp Comd was last seen chasing a volleyball out to sea whilst **Sgts Don Cunningham** and **Smudge Smith** climbed a palm tree and got stuck! Next time use the volleyball to knock the coconuts down.

The temperature has been in the mid to high ninties. Everyone worked on their tan, before the rainy season started.

SYSTEMS

Systems has seen a complete set of new faces over the past two months. The crew now consists of **Sgt Steve Smith, Cpls Garratt, Lithgow** and **Taylor**. So it's the blind leading the blind, with BFBS the most reliable circuit we hold.

We have had a visit from RAF System Control Training School. They came to gather information to make their 'Pre Belize' courses more relevant. The team was led by **Chief Tech Eric Shrive** who attended to everything with gusto.

LINE SECTION

The crew: SNCO i/c **Sgt Steve Parnell, Cpl Billy McKeegan, LCpls Dave Cascarino, Steve Dickinson, Sig Taff Lougher, Steve Reeves, LCpls Tosh Pope** and **Tyrone Mathews**.

It has been an up and down past few weeks for the Telemechs, the pending Commcen re-location has created some extra work, but apart from that all is normal.

New arrivals in the section include **LCpl Cas Cascarino** and **Sig Steve Reeves**, who was lucky enough to be selected from a cast of thousands for special duties—one months guard duty; stag on **Steve**.

We have said goodbye to **Sig Lee Street**, and by the time these notes go to print, **LCpl Steve Dickinson** will be posing elsewhere too, at 11 Sig Regt on his RSDCC.

Cpl Billy McKeegan and **LCpl Charly Mathews** left their hectic work schedule and took R & R in the Bahamas. **Sig Tosh Pope** continues to play a starring role.

On the social front, the Mechs have figured prominently, especially **Taff Loughers** with his artful performance at the dart board, beating our tamed TX Site Radio Tech **Sgt Richardson**, two of the remaining three semi finalists in the troop are Telemech's too, **LCpl Cascarino** and **Cpl Billy McKeegan**, the fourth being a Commcen type; may the best Telemech win!

Special mentions to **LCpl Charley Mathews** on winning the golden blanket award, and also to **Sgt Steve Parnell** who would rather swim rivers instead of crossing them on horseback like everyone else, what a cowboy!

COMMCEN PERSONALITIES

Sgt Fergi Anderson, Cpls John Sullivan, Dave Hughes, Mark Langton, Marv Marvin.

We would like to say welcome to **Cpl Marv Marvin, LCpls Woodfine,** 'Rocky' **Walker, Sig** 'Wil' **Scarlett** and 'Monty' **Lamont**.

We say farewell to **Cpls** 'Mitch' **Mitchell, Tony** 'Rip van' **Baines, John Sullivan, LCpls McAleese, Sig Edmonds** and **Fisher**.

BANANA BANK RANCH

The Troop took a trip to the Banana Bank Ranch to practise their equestrian skills. First prize in the dressage section went to **LCpl Josh McGarvey** for his immaculate turnout; his mount made sure he wasn't the 'belle of the ball' for long! When it came to the dismounting drills there was one clear winner from the start, **Cpl Dave** 'has anyone seen my horse' **Eyes**, who was seen dismounting with a half twist, double piked back somersault, which gained him a '10' across the board from our panel of judges.

TRIP TO ENGLISH CAY

A Troop trip to one of the Cays has become a monthly occurrence. The weather was very hot, the beer was very cold and **LCpl Woodfine** sat in the shade with his factor 25 anorak on, busily recording every vessel that passed the Cay.

GAMES NIGHT

A games night against the Catering Section was organised.

BELIZE ZOO TRIP

A trip to the Belize Zoo was arranged. Although the zoo is small and in need of considerable repair it was an enjoyable visit. The customary visit to J.B's on the return journey was also enjoyed by everyone.

TX SITE (HAMPTON COURT)

First we say cheerio to **Cpl Mal Pryke** who leaves us shortly for, sshhhhh you know where, and **Sgt Billy** 'BFBS' **Smart** who is returning to 16 Sig Regt.

We welcome into the section **Sgt Pete Richardson** and **Cpl Shaun Taylor,** have a good tour.

Cpls Mal Pryke, Shaun Taylor and **Gaz Clapham** all notched up very 'respectable' times in the APC 10km race, under the watchful eye of **WO2 (FofS) McGiverson.** What a bunch of athletes at Hampton Court!

RADIO SECTION

As usual there has been a lot of comings and goings within the section. The gone homies are **LCpls Mick Leonard, Tim** (TFW) **Williams, Daz Arris, Dusty Millar** and last but not least **Mac McGrorey**. We would like to thank the 5 AB for manning the Rear Links for the past seven months. The new arrivals are **LCpls** 'Toyah' **Wilcox,** 'Willie' **Whitelaw** and the 30 Sig Regt boys who are joining the troop replacing the Airborne lads. They are **Sgt Tony Allen, LCpls Brooksbank, Thomas, Sig Tower, Milne, Bond** and **Challonder. Cpl Roy Inns** Radio Section organised several very enjoyable trips which included two brewery visits, horse riding at Banana Bank Ranch, a Cays trip and a visit to one of the many Mayan Ruins, where they got lost!

There has been upheaval at work due to the change over of the RLD's, a PRE and keeping the stations manned. We had an exercise at the end of April which stretched manpower.

BRITISH FORCES BELIZE TRIATHLON

A triathlon was held recently at Airport Camp; the Troop team consisted of **Cpl Shaun Taylor** (swim), **WO2 (FofS) Phil McGiveron** (bike) and **Cpl Si Lithgow** (run). Again 633 won in a very good time. **Cpl Mal Pryke** took part in the individual event and did very well. Congratulations to them all.

Standing: Cpl Hughes and Sgt Anderson
Kneeling: Sig Deacon, Cpl Underhill and Sig Burns

NATO FSS
Shetland

NATO FORWARD SCATTER STATION SHETLAND
A SAD FAREWELL TO SHETLAND

It is with sadness that I pen this final report from Shetland. For those who have not served with ACE High, outlined in the following paragraph is a brief history of the system:

Soon after the formation of NATO, in the latter part of the 1950s, it became necessary to provide a backbone of communications stretching from as far north as Norway, through the United Kingdom and Europe and, finally, to Turkey and Cyprus. One such link of this chain was FSS Mossy Hill situated here on Shetland. It utilised 'over the horizon' techniques such as 'tropospheric scatter' to link Norway to mainland Scotland. Why Shetland? Because we had valid subscribers in the form of RAF Saxa Vord to the far north of Shetland. This is a Radar Operational Unit who required access to military communications. This was provided by analogue 'line of sight' transmitters/receivers from Saxa Vord via a relay station at Collafirth Hill to Mossy Hill, thus gaining access to the UK mainland. The ACE High System has proved its worth over the past 30 years. All stations were manned by Host Nation personnel and therefore the UK element was the responsibility of Royal Signals. Now, unfortunately, with advances in technology, parts of the ACE High System are closing down. In fact the link from RAF Saxa Vord via Collafirth Hill to Mossy Hill has been lost since December 1990. The main bearer between Norway and Scotland, via Shetland, closed down comms on 5 March 1991.

NATO FSS Shetland was divided between four locations:

MAYBURY

The Administrative Support HQ at Maybury provided the living accommodation and amenities for the staff of Mossy Hill and for the administrative staff who provided the Host Nation support to the three stations.

MOSSY HILL

FSS Mossy Hill was the largest station in the UK and provided a line of sight link to Collafirth Hill and Tropospheric Scatter links to Norway and Mormond Hill near Fraserburgh in Scotland. The station was commanded by a WO1 (FofS) who had 10 technicians and 6 PSA powermen as staff. It was completely self-sufficient, having its own power supply and water supply. Physical security was catered for by a Sergeant and 6 Constables of the MOD Police.

COLLAFIRTH HILL

FSS Collafirth Hill, affectionately known as 'Moonbase Alpha', provided a Line of Sight microwave relay between Mossy Hill and Saxa Vord. It had a SSgt R Signals as commander and eleven men which included drivers, powermen and labourer. Physical security was provided by a Sergeant and 6 Constables of the MOD Police. Single soldiers lived on site and married men were accommodated in Married Quarters at Urafirth some 8 miles away.

SAXA VORD

The closure of FSS Saxa Vord was reported on page 146, April issue.

Since the Army took over the responsibility for the ACE High System it has been commanded by a Royal Signals Officer. Initially by TOTs who after a short time were supported by an RSM and latterly by an RD Officer supported by a WO1 Foreman.

For those who have served in Shetland and for the numerous visitors to the unit, the Maybury Club will hold a special affection. The club has been an inherent part of both the unit and local community since it was first opened. Wherever you go on the Islands and further afield, it is not unusual to meet someone who has heard of the Maybury Club. Civilian honorary membership has outnumbered the military, and a strong bond of friendship has flourished between the military and civilian communities.

The club is renowned for the high standards of entertainment and food at functions, due to the hard work of the military members. Events are always well supported and frequently oversubscribed.

The unit, through the club, has been at the forefront in supporting charities, whether it is a children's charity, the Lifeboat Institute or the Corps Museum the Maybury Club has been very generous. One annual event, funded by monies raised by the Wives Club raffle/auction, is the local senior citizen's Christmas dinner. This year saw £700.00 raised and an extremely good time had by the 80 senior citizens who attended the dinner.

It is easy to understand that for many of the local community the closure of the club is shrouded in sadness.

So to all our civilian friends Adieu.

On a happier note, and to prove that Shetland has a certain attraction, the Corps has a considerable ex-member representation on the Islands that number amongst their ranks a previous OC, Foreman of Signals, Site Chief from Saxa Vord and TA from Mossy Hill to mention a few.

To mark the official closure of Mossy Hill Commander Central Region Signal Group, **Gp Capt Ferguson RAF**, carried out the 'Big Switch Off'. After the formal switching off ceremony, Comd 2 Sig Bde, **Brig C. A. Brown ADC** commenced the demolition of the site by swinging the first hammer!

A unique occasion; representatives from all three NATO sites and the Domestic Site together at NATO FSS Mossy Hill
Back Row L to R: Cpls Lang, Bowser, Kelly, LCpl Walker and Sgt Jones
Centre L to R: LCpl Dilling, Sgt Thompson, LCpls Shaw, Aitchison, Cpl Pattenden, Mr Sinclair and Sgt Bannigan
Front L to R: Sgts Crumlish, Duncan, Capt Tarrant, WO1 (FofS) Wilson, Sgt Geddis and Mrs Walters

Tayforth Universities
Officer Training Corps

PERSONALITIES

RSO	**2Lt Fiona McKinnon**
PSI	**WO2 Dave Chrystal BEM**
Sigs Junior Under Officer	**Kevin Struthers**

SIGNALS CADRE: INVERNESS CAMERON BARRACKS
From: OCdt Richard Prime

The 'Lightning Strike' team flew to Heathrow, to compete in the UOTC Signals Competition, in Blandford, on Friday 15 March 1991. The Signals Cadre was due to start on the following Monday, at Cameron Barracks, Inverness, with an Advance Party leaving Dundee, on the Friday night, to set up the equipment and make sure that all the monitors and antennae had been tuned into the Ninja Turtles, on BBC One.

The victorious 'Lightning Strike' team returned to Cameron Barracks, on the Sunday—clutching the cup (Tayforth A team) and a plaque from one of the stands (Tayforth B team)—ready to begin the Cadre, in earnest, on the Monday. **OCdt Rich Prime** started the week's instruction with an introductory lecture on the types of radio waves and their relevancy to the planned VHF exercise between Inverness Police HQ and that of Tayside Police, in Dundee. This was followed by a comprehensive demonstration by **JUO Kevin Struthers** and **OCdt Prime**, on the wide range of radios and antennae to be used on the practical exercise, on Thursday 21 March. Instruction was overseen by the RSO, **2Lt Fiona McKinnon** and **WO2 Dave Chrystal**.

Mornings were especially hectic as the instructors tried to cover the large volume of information relevant to the practical exercise. Tuesday involved a complex lesson on Path Profile Analysis, by the instructors, on the theory behind finding the best route for the radio signal between Inverness and Dundee, given that the Himalayas and the Rockie Mountains were in between the two cities. This lesson was also attended by the RAC Cadre, who were to provide additional mobile stations on the exercise, with the VRC 353s, in their Ferrets.

The whole of Wednesday was spent poring over the relevant Ordinance Survey maps, planning the route of the radio waves, between Inverness and Dundee. These plans had to take into consideration the limiting factors of radio set ranges, terrain, antennae types and ranges, and proved to be a taxing and challenging exercise, in itself, for the officer cadets, in assessing a rapid and reasonable comparison of possible alternative routes to be made, before the recce. Several possibilities had to be ruled out due to lack of land clearance or inaccessibility of the target site, due to heavy snow.

Thursday was the Exercise day, with the first station leaving Cameron Barracks at 0600 hrs—**OCdts Rich Prime** and **Adrian Crockett**—for Tayside Police HQ, in Dundee, callsign O. Mobile stations were provided by the RAC Cadre, in Ferrets, and Signals Cadre personnel in Landrovers, down the A9. Mobile Ninja Signals personnel were **JUOs Tony Matheson** and **Kevin Struthers**, and **OCdts James McGovern** and **Andy McLauchlan**, aided by **Cpls Hitchock** and **Farrell**, from 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt. Inverness Police HQ was manned by the RSO, **2Lt McKinnon**, the RSWO, **WO2 Chrystal** and **OCdts Sean Ferguson** and **Karl Laban**, callsign OB.

The mission was to provide VHF comms between Inverness and Dundee, in the event of a breakdown in civilian comms, in time of war. Technical difficulties abounded, resulting in some technicolour language, preventing the establishment of comms until after 1400 hrs, and the exercise was extended from 1700 hrs until 0200 on the following day. When Endex was called the equipment was packed away quicker than that and the return to Dundee, and a few hours kip, was conducted with all the aplomb of the Monaco Grand Prix. There was no rest for the RAC Cadre, however, which was moving through Dundee to Barry Buddon to provide enemy for a TAPOC. The Signals Cadre dispersed on Friday 22 March for a well earned rest.

Thanks must be extended to **Cpls Hitchcock** and **Farrel**, for their efforts on the instruction and input on the exercise recce and implementation. They both joined us from 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt.

Tayforth Signals Cadre 1991
Trying to look chuffed after a hard days night
Left to Right: LCpl XXXX, OCdt Karl Laban, SJUO Tony Matheson, WO2 Dave Chrystal, 2Lt Fiona McKinnon, OCdts Adrian Crocket, Sean Ferguson, 'Gruesome' McGovern, Richard Prime, Sean McLoughlan, LCpl XXXXX and JUO Kevin Struthers

OCdt Sean Ferguson and SJUO Matheson test the rebroadcasts at Cameron Barracks, Inverness

THE ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

Admiral	Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB MBE
Commodore	Col P. J. Pritchard
Vice Commodore	Lt Col C. K. Powell

Rear Commodores: Offshore, Lt Col J. A. Grierson; Dinghies, Lt Col M. J. P. Collins; Windsurfing, Lt Col C. D. McK Kemp

CONTACTS

Yachtmasters: UK; Lt Col A. Davies, Blandford Mil 2344
BAOR; Maj N. J. Cory, Korbecke Mil 257
Cyprus; Maj R. C. T. Cuthbertson, Ayios Nikolaos 7466

Secretaries: General; Maj G. M. Lewis Taylor, Bulford Mil 2308
Dinghy Racing UK; Capt D. C. A. Ellis, Blandford Mil 2489
Dinghy Racing BAOR; Sgt Avey-Hebditch, Korbecke Mil 359
UK Windsurfing; Capt D. J. Gilchrist, Tidworth Mil 2403
BAOR Windsurfing; Capt P. J. Daisey, Korbecke Mil 393

SEA VIEW REGATTA

The RSYC Sea View Regatta was held this year on 4 and 5 June, in a week that must have been the coldest start to the month for some years. Nonetheless, the wind held throughout the Regatta and all 11 entries enjoyed good sailing over a series of eight races, with spinnakers being banned from only the last race, when the wind had risen to a force 5.

Once again the regatta attracted support from BAOR in the form of two entries from 22 Sig Regt, and some new (and old!) faces were present in the form of **Capt George Odling** of 8 Sig Regt making his first foray into the class with an equal sixth, and **Maj Pat MacCulloch** from ACC Harrogate making a return with fourth.

The Bridge Crew must have been one of the highest powered seen at Sea View in many a year, with two, two stars, two, one stars, two full Colonels and **Maj Stephen Galpin** to feed them. Our thanks to **Gens Alexander, Hild, Brigs Blake, Webb, Cols Holbrook** and **Pritchard** for all their work on the competitors' behalf.

First overall and winner of the Inter Unit Trophy was **Capt David Ellis** of the School of Signals, second and winner of the Robinson Salver for Best Soldier Helm was **Cpl Paul Downie** of 22 Sig Regt, and third was **Capt Rupert Sawyer** of 71 Sig Regt (V).

TRIANGULAR REGATTA

This year was the turn of RSYC to host this regatta on the 6 and 7 June, consecutive with our Corps regatta, and it is debatable whether it should be a veil or a shroud that be drawn across the outcome. The final result was Sappers first, Signals second and Gunners third, after some very close racing.

The outcome of the match was really decided in the Signals first race against the Sappers. This was the Signals second race, (their first having been against the Gunners) and the situation was that they were leading at the first mark with all four boats, plus the opposition carrying a penalty for an infringement on the start line. By the end of the race the Sappers had turned this around to a Sapper win by dint of dogged persistence on their part, and unforced errors and lapses in tactics on Signals part. So, once again our congratulations are due to the Sappers on holding on to the Glover Trophy.

On a more positive note, it is good to see that our younger team members are starting to compete with the Sappers on even terms. The Sappers will not be having it all their own way in the future.

WINDSURFING

The Royal Signals UK Championships were held at Browndown Camp, Lee-on-Solent on 30 May-1 June. A very encouraging turnout saw forty individuals and nine unit teams contesting the various events. Of the individuals some 50% had never competed before and of these 10 were junior entries enabling a new award of Best Junior Windsurfer to be presented.

The championships were blessed with fair sunny weather and wind which varied from an acceptable 2-3 on the first day to a gusty 2-4 on the Friday. Saturday morning continued with a force 3-4 but moderated to a light breeze which coupled with a strong tidal current caused the final team race to suffer a shortened course. In all a total of eleven races were sailed, seven individual and four team. Overall an excellent event which gently introduced the novices to open sea racing and provided them with more challenging conditions as their confidence grew. The detailed results were:

INDIVIDUAL

Overall and Lightweight Champion
Sgt Maw 8 Sig Regt
Lightweight Runner-Up and Veteran
WO2 Gillett 8 Sig Regt
Heavyweight Champion
Sgt Finnegan Army Apprentices College Harrogate
Heavyweight Runner-Up
Sgt Fradley Army Apprentices College Harrogate
Novices: Lightweight
WO2 Williams 15 Sig Regt
Novices: Heavyweight
ATCpl Goodbody Army Apprentices College Harrogate
Best Lady
2Lt Clark 243 Sig Sqn
Best Junior
ATCpl Goodbody Army Apprentices College Harrogate
Best Guest
LCpl O'Connell REME 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))

UNIT TEAM

	Pts by Sailor	Pts by Team	Position
8 Sig Regt			
Sgt Maw	3		
WO2 Gillett	14	57	1
Sgt Pett	40		
Army Apprentices			
Sgt Finnegan	11		
College Harrogate			
Sgt Fradley	30	120	2
Permanent Staff			
Sgt Halmshaw	79		
249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))			
Capt White	15		
LCpl O'Connell	50	122	3
Cpl Ellwood	57		
1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (215)			
Capt Gilchrist	26		
Capt Hoal	72	195	4
2Lt Sharman	97		

Lots of new names here and not only in the novices category. In particular its good to see **Sgt Finnegan** showing improving form as his practice and competition gained from the UKBSA circuit pays off.

Maybe BAOR windsurfers won't have it quite so easy later this year when the Corps Wide event takes place on 3-5 October again sailing in Stokes Bay.

The 8 Sig Regt team pose with the Commodore upon retaining their UK team title. The sailors *(R to L)* Sgts Maw, Pett and WO2 Gillett

RMCS BOAT CLUB

The Royal Military College of Science Boat Club has a dedicated band of rowers consisting of Army, RAF and civilians. The club is located at Abingdon, on the River Thames, and all types of boats are used, from VIII's to single sculls (individual rowing boats).

All club members represent the College on a regular basis, whether the event be a Head of the River race (HOR) or a regatta. A HOR is a four mile, timed, endurance event held in Autumn or early Spring. A regatta is a series of sprint races, usually over 500-2,000m course with crews competing directly with each other. Most regattas are held during the late Spring or Summer.

HOR's provide important training and preparation for the regattas, with the culmination of the season being the four and a quarter mile Mortlake to Putney 'Tideway Head of the River Race' held in March. This year 424 crews entered this event and the RMCS VIII finished 286th.

Competing in civilian regattas is important as winning an event increases the status of a crew. This year the RMCS VIII won its first civilian regatta at Evesham, raising it from novice to senior status. The College VIII will be competing at Henley Royal Regatta this year, the first time in five years. Amongst the crew five are members of the Corps.

The crowds will flock to see **Lt Neil Fraser** as he rows the 2,200m balancing a slug on his top lip (some say its really a moustache but we doubt it!). **Lt Grahame Inglis**, the first boat club mascot, will also be there providing **Lt Geoff Pullen**, Captain of Boats, can obtain a licence for him. The heavyweight of the crew is **Lt Chris Wood**, club secretary, one of the 'powerhouses' of the boat, probably better known for his activities elsewhere. The fifth Corps member in the 1st VIII is **Lt Jim Foulkes**, who as well as taking over as treasurer has taken over as sexual equality adviser.

The College, as well as competing at Henley, also recently took part in the Joint Services Regatta (JSR). Three crews are worthy of mention, firstly, the Senior Coxed IV which beat 12 other forces crews to win (including the RAC, RN Portsmouth, RAF (G), RMAS, REME and Inf boats) and smashed the course record. The crew included **Lts Geoff Pullen, Chris Wood** and **Neil Fraser**. The second race was the Novice 'B' Coxed IV's, in which the RMCS crew were runners-up. **Lts Dave Drinkall, Guy Bennet** and **Owen Bryant** deserve recognition for their enthusiasm by learning to row in three weeks—some achievement!

Finally, the first VIII, rowed against the Army, RAF and Royal Navy service VIII's. The RMCS lost by one length to the RAF, three quarter length to Army but beat the Royal Navy by one and a half lengths.

August will be a busy month with the College first VIII competing in the following regatta's, City of Oxford (17th), Abingdon Sprint (18th) and Gloucester (24th).

Why not come and support us, maybe we can add more victories to those listed below:-

Who said rowing was fun? RMCS (R Signals) Coxed IV) at the JSR
(L to R): Lts Jim Foulkes, Neil Fraser, Chris Wood, Geoff Pullen and Mark Ryan 5 INNIS DG

May 1990	Joint Service Regatta	Winners	Novice VIII's
Nov 1990	Kingston HOR	Winners	Novice Coxed IV's
Feb 1991	Worcester HOR	Winners	Novice VIII's
April 1991	RAF Spring Sprint Regatta	Winners	Senior Coxed IV's
			Senior Coxed Pairs
			Novice Mixed IV's
			Novice Coxed Pairs
May 1991	Evesham Regatta	Winners	Novice VIII's
	Joint Service Regatta	Winners	Senior Coxed IV's
			Novice VIII (Inf/RMCS Crew)

The RMCS BC is becoming more successful, with a further intake from the Corps in October, we hope more Officers will become involved in this energetic and exciting sport.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal GCVO

President: The Master of Signals

Chairman and Treasurer: Major General P. D. Alexander CB, MBE

General Secretary: Colonel A. N. de Bretton-Gordon — **Assistant Secretary: Major G. Schofield MBE**

Welfare Secretary: Mrs P. J. Haw — **Administrative Officer: Mr R. Whittle**

Association Office, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Tel Military System: London District 8245. STD 071 414 8245 Welfare Secretary (direct line) 071 630 0801.

MINUTES OF THE FORTY SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT CATTERICK GARRISON ON 30 JUNE 1991

PRESENT

Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE DL	Master of Signals and President
Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB MBE	Chairman and Treasurer
Brig G. J. Curl CBE	Vice Chairman
Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB CBE DSO	Past President
Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook	Signal Officer in Chief (Army)
Maj Gen D. R. Horsfield OBE	Chairman, Indian Signals Association

And some 111 members of the Association.

IN ATTENDANCE

Lt Gen Raj Batra	Late Indian Corps of Signals
Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon	General Secretary
Maj G. Schofield MBE	Assistant General Secretary
Mr R. Whittle	Association Administrative Officer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Maj Gen D. A. L. Wade CB OBE MC	Chairman, Norfolk Branch

INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed Past Presidents of The Association, **Lt Gen Raj Batra** from India, and the 111 Members of The Association present. He emphasised the importance of The Annual General Meeting and likened it to a meeting of shareholders in a limited company with a turnover in excess of £500,000 per annum.

He also recorded his very warm thanks to Commander, Training Group, and everyone at Catterick who helped make the Reunion such a huge success. With over 1,000 members in attendance, seven new Branch Standards for dedication and such a marvellous turn-out for The Freedom of Richmond Celebration, it surely must go down in the annals of Catterick Reunions.

MINUTES OF THE FORTY FIFTH AUNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Minutes of the forty fifth Annual General Meeting held on 24 June 1990 were approved and signed by The Chairman.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

General

The Corps Committee takes note of all deaths that are reported to RHQ, but the passing of one member recently is worthy of particular mention. **Brigadier Ralph Bagnold** served the Corps with distinction between 1921 and 1945. A Memorial Service was held in St Martin in the Fields in January this year for him. Members would wish to know his Life Membership Number of The Association was 0001.

In his regular contacts with agencies like The Royal British Legion, The Army Benevolent Fund and SSAFA, the Chairman is gratified to constantly hear their views of the kindness shown by our Associatipn to those in need. It is in his view a reflection on what The Association is really all about.

Financial Affairs

The Association finances remain in good health and are covered in detail in the accounts for 1991 prepared by the Auditors and approved by The Corps Committee.

Branch Affairs

The Branch Representatives' Meeting was held in Hammersmith on 13 April 1991 and was attended by some 65 representatives.

The following new branches have been formed: Norfolk, South Staffordshire, East Kent, Glasgow, Tayside and Fife (formerly Dundee), North Africa Signals (affiliation) and 18 Div Sigs Reunion Club (affiliation); and action is in hand to form branches in Grimsby and Hong Kong, and to resurrect the Colchester Branch.

The Chairman emphasised the need for us all to keep recruiting new members, and in particular, the younger element.

Central Committee

The election and re-election of members of The Central Committee appears elsewhere on the Agenda of this meeting. The Chairman wished to record his thanks to the following on their retirement from The Central Committee: **Lt Col R. L. Murray OBE, Maj R. G. Aitken, Mr H. Johnson** and **Mr E. P. Wilds**.

New Museum Appeal

Despite the uncertainties in the Defence Electronics Industry and the recession in general, the appeal goes on. To date, some £324K has been donated mainly by the serving and retired Corps. This leaves us well behind target, and the opening of the new museum has already had to be postponed until 1994. The Association's Grand Prize Draw held on 29 June 1991 will result in a donation to the Appeal of the order of £1,200, and The Chairman recorded his thanks to **Maj** and **Mrs Aitken** for all that they had done for the Draw.

Reunions 1991

The Reunion in Blandford on 19 May 1991 was attended by some 540 members. This Reunion speaks for itself with over 1,000 members and their families in attendance.

Royal Signals Memorial

Minor faults having been repaired by the Contractor, the landscaping and floodlighting finished and the Commemorative Plates fixed to the surrounding walls, The Memorial is now completed. The Chairman was sure all the members would agree that it is a fitting tribute to all our comrades who have fallen since the Corps was formed in 1920. Moreover, it has already become a feature in our Annual March Past at the Catterick Reunion.

***The Wire* Magazine**

We are doing all we can to reduce the costs in producing *The Wire* but as you will see from the accounts, the subsidy last year was of the order of £46K. A price increase in the cost of *The Wire* is therefore inevitable in 1992.

50 Year Badge

The Central Committee have recently approved the award of a 50 year badge to record such a period of combined Regular TAVR, and Active Association Service. Nominations will be considered by The Central Committee at their meetings in April and November.

75th Anniversary in 1995

Some preliminary plans are being made to record the 75th Anniversary of the Corps in 1995. These include an event in The Albert Hall on the nearest Saturday to Princess Royal Day (28 June) and it is hoped that all Regiments will take the opportunity of exercising their Freedom Rights in towns and cities across the UK at which The Association will be represented.

ACCOUNTS

The Annual General Meeting *approved* the accounts for the year ended 31 December 1990.

In response to questions raised from the floor:

Norfolk Branch

The Chairman outlined the functions of The Association Trustee Limited and confirmed that the sale of stocks and shares was simply a routine procedure on the advice of our stockbrokers.

Newark Branch

The Chairman confirmed that the Corps yachts were available for charter by anyone from the Corps—serving or retired—and this of course included Association Members. The Corps yachts were required to be chartered at a profit which was returned to Corps Funds.

Southport Branch

The Chairman outlined briefly The Corps Committee's responsibilities in the management of Corps Funds, the largest of which was that of The Association.

Bournemouth Branch

Chairman confirmed that most contributions to Corps Funds, and the Day's Pay Scheme in particular, were in the form of covenants upon which the tax was claimed regularly.

Salford Branch

The Chairman agreed that The Central Committee would consider Broughton House for a regular donation from Association Funds.

(After Meeting Note—Fortuitously, an appeal from The Home for help in the sale of prints of a recently commissioned oil painting has just been received. We will follow this up in *The Wire* and at the same time, examine ways of helping The Home on a regular basis.)

ASSOCIATION RULES

The Annual General Meeting *approved* amendments to Association Rules as published.

In response to questions from the floor:

Bournemouth Branch

The Chairman confirmed that in the light of the increased Life Membership fee (£10), the issue of plastic membership cards would in future be free.

Bristol Branch

The Chairman confirmed that members of the TAVR who had contributed to Corps Funds, albeit at the reduced TAVR rates, were entitled to free Life Membership of The Association.

Norfolk Branch

The Chairman confirmed that while the new Life Members' fee of £10 was effective at once, any application in the course of documentation at present at the old rate of £2.50 would be honoured.

ELECTION AND RE-ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Annual General Meeting *approved* the election/re-election of Officers as follows:-

Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB MBE	Chairman and Treasurer
Brig G. J. Curl CBE	Vice Chairman
Brig A. M. Willcox	Vice Chairman
Mr T. Smith	Area 1 Representative (Leeds)
Mr C. G. Foster	Area 2 Representative (Coventry)
Capt C. Dyball	Area 3 Representative (East London)
Mr B. Tupper	Area 4 Representative (Brighton)
Mr A. A. Hawke	Area 5 Representative (Bournemouth)

and *noted* the Ex Officio appointments made by The Signal Officer in Chief (Army) of:-

Brig S. G. McK Gordon	Deputy Signal Officer in Chief (Army)
Brig M. W. H. Roberts OBE	Commander, Training Group
Col P. N. Henwood TD	TA Representative
WO1 (RSM) F. S. Payet	RSM, 8 Sig Regt
WO1 (RSM) D. A. Hogben	RSM, School of Signals Regt

FUTURE ASSOCIATION EVENTS

The Annual General Meeting *noted* the following future Association events:-

7 November 1991	Field of Remembrance (Westminster Abbey) Central Committee (RHQ)
10 November 1991	Remembrance Sunday (London)
17 December 1991	Corps Carol Service (London)
10 April 1992	Central Committee Meeting (RHQ)
11 April 1992	Branch Representatives' Meeting (Hammersmith)
TBC	Blandford Reunion (Blandford)
27/28 June 1992	Catterick Reunion and AGM (Catterick)

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

New Museum

A representative of the East London Branch enquired why it had been decided to locate the New Museum in Blandford. In his reply, The Chairman confirmed that such a decision had been taken after very careful consideration by The Corps Committee. Briefly, the financing of the upkeep and maintenance of a new museum depends heavily on subscriptions for entry by the general public. Having investigated this aspect, and on the professional advice the Committee received, it was concluded that Blandford was the most suitable location.

AN ADDRESS GIVEN BY THE SIGNAL OFFICER IN CHIEF (ARMY)

The Chairman introduced **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook**, Signal Officer in Chief (Army) who addressed the Meeting on matters concerning the serving Corps. His address is published below.

AN ADDRESS GIVEN BY LT GEN RAJ BATRA FORMERLY OF THE INDIAN CORPS OF SIGNALS

Lt Gen Raj Batra, former Signal Officer in Chief and Colonel Commandant of The Indian Corps of Signals expressed his appreciation for the hospitality extended to him and **Mrs Batra** since their arrival in UK on 12 June.

He reported on the successful visit by our own Master of Signals to India in February this year, and went on to make some general recommendations towards the maintenance and improvement of the links between our respective Corps.

Lt Gen Batra then presented The Signal Officer in Chief (Army) with a photographic record of The Master of Signals' recent visit to India, and extended an open invitation to us all to visit him at home. Two caveats imposed on such a visit were—come in the winter and not all at once!

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked the Signal Officer in Chief (Army) and **Lt Gen Raj Batra** for their addresses; thanked the members for attending and announced the date of the next Annual General Meeting as 28 June 1992.

ADDRESS BY MAJOR GENERAL R. F. L. COOK SIGNAL OFFICER IN CHIEF (ARMY)

Before I talk on more serious matters may I say what a pleasure it is to see so many of you here at this reunion weekend. It is a splendid Corps occasion and one at which I do not have to ask if you are enjoying yourselves! It is also good to be back again at Catterick which holds so many fond memories for so many of us here. But now let me turn to the events of the past 12 months.

To say that this last year has been an interesting one is perhaps somewhat of an understatement. Change has become the order of the day; old certainties and verities have disappeared; in terms of security and defence the old threat has gone and we have yet to define the new. Thus these are exciting times to be around, even if you are based in the MOD.

However despite the many difficulties and challenges that have faced the Army in the last year I am delighted to be able to report to you that our Corps has emerged with enormous credit from a period in which it has been tested to the full. Through excellent leadership, primarily at unit level, morale remains gratifyingly high and the future is being faced with commonsense, realism and the inevitable robust good humour that is so characteristic of all our soldiers. I am constantly reminded, wherever I go, of what a great privilege it is to serve with men and women such as these.

Now Operations; and I must, of course, start with the Gulf. The initial UK contribution you will recall, consisted of an RAF contingent with Tornado and Jaguar aircraft; but 30 Sig Regt and 244 Sig Sqn were deployed from the outset to provide SATCOM and long haul HF contingency rear links back to Cyprus and UK as well as communications, primarily HF, in theatre.

For some considerable time our signallers were the only sizeable Army element in the Gulf. Then as you know it was decided to send ground forces from Germany; 7 Armd Bde, then 4 Armd Bde and HQ 1 Armd Div with increased combat and logistic support. With the despatch of the full Division our contribution rose to some 3,000 personnel in theatre, more than 25% of the Corps and about 9% of the total British force. These were supported by many more in BAOR

and UK; in sending units, on trials, development and training duties, and on the staffs at JHQ and elsewhere in the chain of command.

We deployed two thirds of our Ptarmigan assets, some 19 Trunk Nodes, one third of our EUROMUX and every SATCOM terminal we could lay our hands on. Ptarmigan really was one of the success stories of the Gulf. The breakthrough was enhancing the system to work over satellite which allowed us to link together the widely separated elements of the force. The LofC in the Gulf extended some 580kms from the FMA at Al Jubayl to where 1(UK) Armd Div concentrated for their operation, and quickly grew more extended to about 1,000kms when operations began. Ptarmigan over SATCOM allowed us to connect all elements of the force in the Gulf, from the elements in contact down the LofC BFME in Riyadh to UK and the sending lines in BAOR.

It was Trunk Node 061, supporting the Brigades in Iraq which took the first Iraqi prisoners. Rather to their surprise 60 Iraqis surrendered to them early on and this provided some welcome TV coverage for the Corps via **Gen Sir Peter de la Billiere** that evening. There are many other war stories emerging—of hitting mines and more prisoners—they will doubtless get larger and taller in the telling.

We supported a large SH force, providing radio and Ptarmigan, with elements from 21 Sig Regt; provided flank and liaison communications to 7 (US) Corps and its US Divisions (the Americans were very impressed by Ptarmigan—especially SCRA, and used it extensively in the 100 hours war): in addition Local Area Networks using EUROMUX were provided in Riyadh and the larger Air Bases such as Tabuk. HF radio also once more came into its own in Saudi Arabia both for back up lines in country and contingency rear links into the DCN.

I could go on for a long time on Op Granby but time simply does not allow. Suffice to say that we can all be extremely proud of the Corps contribution and especially for the professionalism and dedication of all of our officers and soldiers deployed to the theatre. This is recognised in part in the Granby Honours List published yesterday where the Corps earned 29 Honours and Awards. Some have earned United States awards too.

Special Forces operations cannot be described but the Corps distinguished itself very highly indeed in this area too.

The operation is not yet concluded and we still have some 60 members of the Corps in the Gulf as well as some 175 deployed on Op Haven, the international effort to protect and care for the Kurdish refugees. Again, it is 30 Sig Regt and 640 Sig Tp that have had to deploy. Many were on their post Op Granby leave and yet, to a man, they all volunteered to go back. First in, last out really has become the watch word for the Corps.

So much for the Gulf. However, we must not forget that whilst all this was going on in the middle east the Army was in the 21st year of a divisional plus sized operation in Northern Ireland and the Corps continues to play a major role in the Province. Mercifully we have not suffered any casualties this year but the bombings and shootings go on and the pace of life for the security forces is undiminished. There are also ongoing commitments to Belize, Cyprus, Hong Kong and the Falkland Islands.

The other major topic that will be uppermost in your mind is the restructuring of the Armd Forces. You will have heard the Secretary of State announcing the reduction of the Army by 44,000. This is the result of the momentous changes that have happened in Eastern Europe in the last eighteen months to two years. The Cold War is officially ended, Germany was unified last October and will soon move its capital back to Berlin, the Warsaw Pact has formally ceased to exist as a military alliance and Arms Control is being overtaken by unilateral national force reductions in NATO. Allied governments are therefore all looking for a Peace Dividend and to reduce substantially the resources they commit to Defence.

It is out of these considerations that the Options for Change exercise was born which will define the ORBAT for a New Model Army. It will be smaller as we have already heard but we hope qualitatively better too. We are well on with our planning for the Corps ORBAT which will take into account the exciting new role for the Army in providing NATO's Rapid Reaction Corps, details of which have also now been made public. The RRC will have operational tasking in the Central Region, and Northern Region as well as in the Centre and this means training in areas such as Turkey and Northern Italy as well as in Norway, a task the Army can empathise with and enjoy.

The final details of the ORBAT must await the formal announcement by the Secretary of State which may well be before the Parliamentary summer recess in July. All I will say is that the new, more flexible role of the Army will provide great opportunities for the Corps and that I remain optimistic for the future of both the regular and volunteer elements.

Last year the Corps was some 1,200 soldiers short of its establishment, over the past 12 months we have maintained this position. The latest figures actually show that we are some 1,182, or 10% short but this now includes the WRAC that we are now allowed to count in our figures. Additionally, of course, the situation was affected by the Gulf with many soldiers withdrawing their notice to terminate and PVR falling markedly.

I am pleased to be able to tell you that the officer manning situation in the Corps has also shown signs of stabilising in the past year. However, we have failed to achieve more than 60% of our requirement at RMCS for the past five years, so there are no grounds for complacency. Anything that you here can do to assist in the recruiting of the high quality young men and women that we need will be much appreciated. I believe we still offer a very worth while career.

You have heard me mention the WRAC and so this is the moment perhaps to tell you that, in line with the MOD policy to offer wider employment to women, we have taken the lead. Since October last year, the female officers permanently employed with us have become full members of the Corps. They wear our cap badge and are now choosing some of the uniforms they will wish to wear as a result of an Army fashion show held a few months ago. I attended this media event and have given my recommendations but I believe those may have been considered impractical by the Dress Committee.

In April the first girls were commissioned directly into the Corps from RMAS and we are currently running joint manning for the non-commissioned girls working with us and these too will be absorbed into the Corps from the WRAC by next April. Our first female Apprentices should join his Autumn; I saw the first female Radio Ops in a unit in Germany a couple of weeks ago.

A mention of CIS (Communication Information Systems) in passing. As you know there is now an integrated Army CIS structure under me since I took on my second role as DGCIS(A), bringing together the two disciplines of Information Systems and communications. This new organisation is working very well indeed as was amply demonstrated during Op Granby. The Army now has a firm focus for all aspects of policy and management of CIS in MOD and increasingly in the Commands; and a Corps sized engineering resource to provide and manage much of the infrastructure for CIS in peace, TTW (Transition To War) and war.

We are developing and refining the organisation on functional lines in the light of experience, as a result of current studies into the reorganisation of the MOD, and the setting up of the 3 Star IGDT (Inspector General Doctrine and Training) organisation which came into effect from 1 April this year. The Corps is an integral part of this organisation and I am confident that we will emerge with an enhanced ability to provide and progress an integrated CIS for the Army.

Turning to sport. Op Granby of course has had a considerable effect on all sport in the Army this winter. Many inter Corps matches were cancelled and the absence of some of our top level sportsmen on operations has led to a lower success rate in team championships this season. Skiing, where 22 Sig Regt finished only seventh in the Princess Marina Cup, Squash where the Corps team were relegated from the Inter Corps 1st Division and Canoeing where 16 Sig Regt were unable to defend their Army Championship were particularly badly affected. But never fear, we will be back next year.

I have a further point that will be of great interest to the assembled gathering. I was very fortunate at the beginning of this month to pay an official visit to our Allied Signal Corps in Malaysia. Apart from the fact that I was superbly looked after in true Malaysian style, as many of you here will recall with great affection I'm sure, I had the opportunity to host a supper party for some 33 ex members of the Corps. A few names that come to mind are **Col Eddie Tay** who was commissioned into the Corps in 1958, Ex **RSM Jaafar**, who was a LCpl in 19 Air Formation Sig Regt, and I can assure you he hasn't lost any of his skills when he called the party to order, and lastly **Lt Col Martin Kam** who served with 7 Armd Bde in 1963, not only did **Martin** recall the last trip by an SOinC(A) back in 1966 but he is one of the main driving forces behind this overseas Ex R Signals Club. There were a host of others and there will be a fuller report in *The Wire* but I have been asked to pass on sincere good wishes from all our ex comrades in Malaysia and should anyone wish to get in contact with old friends the address will be published in *The Wire* or you can get it from RHQ.

Before I close I would like to mention our Colonel in Chief who has again given us so much of her time. We have greatly appreciated her visits to Harrogate, Northern Ireland, 40 Sig Regt in Scarborough, 35 Sig Regt and only last week HRH was in Scotland with 32 Sig Regt. Of special note was her additional visits to see the families of those involved in Op Granby in both Blandford and BAOR: these visits were a tremendous morale boost for our families and very much appreciated.

In conclusion let me say again that in spite of all the many challenges it has faced, and continues to face, our Corps is in cracking form and in very good heart. We are well placed to face what are exciting times ahead if we keep our nerve and produce the vision necessary at all levels to grasp the new opportunities that are only just around the corner. I am confident that we will.

THE ASSOCIATION REUNIONS 1991

BLANDFORD

The Blandford Reunion was held on Sunday 19 May, and was, as usual, well attended by some 560 members and their families. The Dorset Branch of The Association once again ran an efficient reception centre in the Gymnasium and provided welcome refreshments for many who had come from afar. The Church Service was appropriate for the occasion and the local residents were joined by a number of Association members to pay tribute to those who had contributed a great deal in the Service of the Corps and the country. Lunch was taken in the Officers' Mess and in the Junior Ranks Dining Room after pre-lunch drinks in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. The involvement of all three messes is typical of the generous support from Blandford Garrison to The Association. The School of Signals Main Building was open with various displays of the training provided, video showings of the activities of the Corps and the Museum Shop where many attractive badged items could be purchased. The Museum too was open and our thanks to those who bought tickets in The Association's Grand Draw in aid of the new Museum Appeal. The displays by The Blue and White Helmets, including the original White Helmets, were a fitting lead-in to the Playing of Retreat by The Corps Band and a short Evening Service of a hymn and prayers. The day was brought to a close by a march past by Association Standard Bearers and The Chairman, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB, MBE**, took the salute. The Commander, School of Signals, and all ranks in Blandford Camp are thanked for giving the time and effort to make this important event in The Association calendar a fitting and happy occasion.

CATTERICK

This year, the Serving Corps celebrated their Freedom of Richmond, and The Association were privileged to be invited to take part in the Parade. Some 250 members were on parade, led by 20 Branch Standards, and marched through the streets of Richmond. It was a record turnout.

The parade was followed by an excellent performance given by the Corps Band playing Retreat in the grounds of the Castle. As always, the Castle forms a real life backdrop to the performance, and on a warm, sunlit, evening, what more can one ask for. The ceremony concluded with a lament played by the Pipe Major from the Army Apprentices College—followed by the usual Yorkshire hospitality provided by the Landlord of The Town Hall!

Saturday, 29 June 1991, dawned another beautiful day and the arrival of a further 750 members must surely have been a record for a Catterick Reunion. For reasons of security and to save on transport costs, the events of the day were this year confined to Vimy Barracks. Even then, many members visited the Outstation Museum and the completed Royal Signals Memorial in Helles Barracks—on their flat feet.

The afternoon events were all centred upon a new style arena, and as always were of the highest order. The Association remains indebted to the performers in the arena and the wives and soldiers of the Garrison for their many stalls around it. It was sad that the weather broke just 20 minutes before the Playing of Retreat, and although the rain abated by 1800 hours, the Corps Band were restricted to a shortened performance of the Sunset Ceremony.

Entertainment on Saturday evening was as good as ever—witnessed by the looks on some of the faces at Church the following morning!

Morning service included the dedication of no less than seven new Branch Standards (South Staffordshire, Norfolk, Glasgow, Chester, Manchester, Shropshire, 602 Sig Tp (SC)), and a moving address was given by the Deputy Chaplain General, **The Venerable G. H. Roblin**. Members then marched past The Royal Signals Memorial. The Master of Signals, accompanied by our special guest, **Lt Gen Raj Batra**, formerly of The Indian Signal Corps, took the salute.

Except for the Annual General Meeting, which was well attended, the March Past was a fitting conclusion to a memorable weekend. We are all however, very conscious of the fact that without the help of Commander, Training Group, his Officers, Soldiers and their Wives—we would never begin. In these days of stringent financial limitations, budgets to keep within and the ever constant threat from a security point of view—it is amazing that we manage to keep the show rolling. It is to the Commander and all concerned therefore that we record our very warm thanks for all that was done to make Catterick 1991 such a resounding success.

And last, but not least, our thanks to you all for coming and your unfailing support to our Association.

BLACKBURN BRANCH

President	**Lt Col John Lewer R Signals (V)**
Chairman	**SSgt Ian Lorrimer**
Secretary	**Maj (Retd) Arthur Hudson**
Assistant Secretary	**Miss Jill Hargreaves**

We have an active branch with a regular attendance of some 12/14 members one of whom is **In-Pensioner D. Young BEM.**

Doug Young enlisted into the Corps as a Wireless Operator in September 1938 and saw service in North Africa 7 Armd Div Sigs. An attachment with the 11th Hussars took him to Europe and Berlin with the Occupation Forces.

In 1947 he was posted to the UK—56 Armd Div (TA) as a PSI—Troop Sergeant. A year later he was off to foreign shores again back to North Africa—Tripoli with 3 RHA. After three years he was off again this time further east—Malaya with the 2nd Malay Regt.

From the heat of the east to the cold of the north in 1954 saw **Doug** in Norway serving with NATO HQ here again he did a three year tour returning to England—Birmingham University Officer Training Corps as the PSI where he remained until demob in 1960.

Doug informs me that having spent some 23 years in the Corps he never did do a guard duty—quite unique I imagine.

The main venue for our monthly meetings is The Barracks, Canterbury Street, Blackburn, the home of 93 Sig Sqn (V), 38 Sig Regt (V) Sheffield.

There is close liaison between the Branch and the Regiment because some members are TA members of the Squadron; we also have similar close ties with other Squadrons and local RSA Branches. Branch visits to the Regiment whilst on Annual Camps are actively encouraged, these are hosted by the respective Squadrons.

The Branch also has an active entertainment committee who arrange some really good trips to local places of interest. We are also well represented at the Annual Reunion in Catterick. All in all a very lively and active Branch. Much of this is due to the hard work and effort put in by our secretary and Chairman.

BRIGHTON BRANCH

The whist drive was enjoyed by those who attended, our thanks to **Bob** who ran it for us. Our thanks go also to **John** and **Audrey** for the food and to **Dave Wren**. The fifty club was won by **Gordon Holloway**, well done **Gordon**, mine's a pint.

Derry Powell has been into hospital again and is now back home. We wish him a speedy recovery.

The Blandford trip was an excellent day out enjoyed by all; the weather held and all the displays went ahead. **Brian** and **Carol** did an excellent job with the organisation of food and drink and the trip itself, many thanks to you both.

On Saturday 18 May, 884 Sig Tp (V) held their annual Bounty Dinner at the Black Lion Hotel, Brighton, a very enjoyable evening was had by all. There were a number of guests from Squadron HQ as well as some Brighton Branch association members present. Various presentations were made on the night. **Capt Simon Malik** was dined out and presented with an assorted box of action man gadgets. He in turn presented the Troop with a beautifully polished steel helmet. The first recipient of this was **LCpl Smith** who on 29 May signed on for a one year engagement and his first posting is 11 Sig Regt, good luck **Smithy. Pte Monajemi** received an award for best all round soldier and **Martin Feather** received best tradesman award, (used to be the D11 cup which was presented by **Eric White** when he retired), well done to you both! **Martin Feather** also received the Yeomans Shield on behalf of Alpha Detachment. Well done all.

On Tuesday 21 May **Tony Allibone, Brian Vardy** and **Maj Ian Cobbold** visited 265 Sig Sqn (V) HQ for a sort of reunion evening and met up with several old friends from when we were serving in the Regiment. We met the Sqn Comd and four former Sqn Comds, **Maj Chris Robinson, Maj Colin Smith**, who incidentally was the first regular officer to command a Squadron in 71 Sig Regt (V), **Maj Ian Cobbold**, (our chairman) and **Maj Dave Hewer**. Our thanks go to **Maj David Hannam** and members of the Squadron for making our visit so enjoyable.

GLASGOW BRANCH

From: Mr Bill Taylor, Chairman

The first inaugural meeting took place at Jardine Street TA Centre on 30 April 1991 and was attended by 49 members. **Maj Gordon Schofield** made the long journey from London to be in attendance and briefed us on the Association Charter, brought us all up to date on Corps News and gave us invaluable guidance as to how to proceed in the future. The evening was well supported with enthusiasm and many old acquaintances were made after the meeting over a few iars.

The second meeting of the seedling branch took place on 31 May under the Chairmanship of **Capt M. W. A. Besant**, QM 32 Sig Regt (V). At this meeting, attended by 35 members, some important decisions were taken which will chart the way ahead:

It was unanimously agreed that the Branch would henceforth be titled the Royal Signals Association Glasgow Branch.

It was also agreed to take up the kind offer of CO 32 Sig Regt (V), **Lt Col Michael Anderson** to make Jardine Street TAC our firm home base from which to operate.

The following were elected to get the Branch fully functioning, pending full elections: Chairman—**Mr Bill Taylor**; Treasurer—**Mr Eric McWaters**; Secretary—**Miss Ivana Hamilton**.

The Branch will meet at the Jardine Street TAC on every third Tuesday of each month at 1930 hrs (except in the month of July).

The official title and address of the Branch are: The Royal Signals Association Glasgow Branch, c/o 32 (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V), 21 Jardine Street, Glasgow G20 6JU.

It was agreed to commission a new Standard for the Branch.

WAY AHEAD

The Glasgow Branch was represented at the Catterick Reunion. The new Standard was dedicated at the Church Service during the Catterick Reunion on Sunday 30 June 1991.

The Branch can only survive with the full support of membership—ex Signallers in Glasgow, come and join us NOO! There are some 70 members on the books and we await more membership.

APPRECIATION

Finally, our Branch owes its birth and existence to CO 32 Sig Regt (V), **Lt Col M. J. Anderson**, not only whose idea it was to start a Branch, but he has also continued to support us so enthusiastically. We are also grateful to **WO2 (RSM) T. A. Mortlock** for all the spadework. Indeed, we are most fortunate to have the Ante Room in the Officers' Mess Block dedicated to the Branch as well as the exclusive use of the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess Bar after our monthly meetings.

GUERNSEY BRANCH

Twenty eight members and guests assembled at La Villette Hotel on 3 May and, after dinner, were entertained to an interesting and witty talk by member **Bill Clarke** about a recent visit to Australia and New Zealand. **Bill** has visited relatives many times and it was interesting to compare the cost of the journey today with that of the first venture in 1966!

The Branch was represented at the ceremony on 5 May to mark the laying-up of the Island's RASC/RCT Association Branch standard at the church of St Michel du Valle.

In the parade held at St Peter Port on 9 May to celebrate the end of the occupation in 1945, the Branch Standard was carried by **Len Barbe** and we were very happy to welcome **Cliff Woods** and **George Severs** of West London Branch, who acted as escorts. Later, members of both branches were entertained by the Island RAF Association at their club and it was there that Chairman **John Rudkin** was presented with a plaque by **Dave Ross** on behalf of West London colleagues.

An increasing number of members of mainland branches are visiting Guernsey, particularly for occasions such as Liberation Day. Anyone intending to come is invited to contact Branch Secretary **Len Barbe**, so that we can offer hospitality or assistance.

MANCHESTER BRANCH

It all started one Sunday in June at a monthly Branch meeting. The Branch Standard Bearer commented on the fact that the Branch Standard was getting 'tatty' in its old age.

At the meeting in July **Maj Jack Holmes** offered to purchase a new Branch Standard and Staff, this kind gesture was warmly received by the Branch and its members.

A Dedication Dinner was arranged for 23 February; the place, 42 Sig Sqn TA centre in Manchester. Planning began in earnest.

Dinner was a five course meal with wine. The new Standard was paraded in front of the members and their guests and **Maj Jack Holmes** presented it to the Chairman **Mr Ron Taylor** who in turn presented the old Standard to the OC 42 Sig Sqn, **Maj M. Davis**.

Thank you to all those concerned with the arrangements for the dinner, in particular **Maj M. Davis, Capt Bradbury** and his staff, **SSgt T. Smith** NRPS SQMS 42 and **SSGt J. McGreggor** for all their help and support. I would also like to thank those members of the Manchester Branch who gave up their time to 'set up' the drill hall and to those who helped to clear up on the Sunday.

SHROPSHIRE BRANCH

Magistrate for the high jump. Our present Branch President, **Maj J. Wall MBE JP** is at the 59 realising an ambition to make a parachute jump in aid of Shropshire Playing Fields Association, needless to say all the Branch Members have signed up to support **John** in this worthwhile cause.

Another year has come and gone and with it our Annual Branch Dinner which was held in a Hotel just outside Market Drayton.

The committee for the Grand National Draw would once again like to thank all those people who sold the Draw Tickets the lucky winners were as follows:

Ticket Number	Horse	Name		
09274	Seagram	**D. Wilson**	Hartlepool	1st Prize £150.00
12799	Garrison Savannah	**D. Powell**	Stafford	2nd Prize £ 75.00
03796	Auntie Dot	**K. Southwell**	Stafford	3rd Prize £ 25.00
03804	Over the Road	**K. Evans**	Bicton Heath	4th Prize £ 10.00

As a result of your excellent effort we were able to pass on to RHQ the sum of £300, so if you did not win this year better luck next year.

WEST LONDON BRANCH

In May five of our members, all ex-boys, accompanied by their wives (members of our industrious Ladies Section) enjoyed a very pleasant week in Guernsey which co-incided with the Liberation Day celebrations. A plaque was presented to the Guernsey Branch as recognition of our recent but very happy relationship. It will be left for Guernsey's Secretary, **Mr Len Barbe** to give an account of the visit. However, we have to record the honour accorded **Cliff Wood** and **George Severs** who were invited by the Guernsey Branch to act as Escorts to their Standard on the Liberation parade.

The party returned just in time to join the rest of us for the Blandford Reunion—always a most enjoyable day. We were agreeably surprised by the weather. It smiled on us and warmed us at the Display and the Ceremony of Retreat. We thank our host Regiment for a wonderful day out which gives us so much pleasure and pride in our Corps.

Several of our Branch attended Founder's Day at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, when **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother**, was the Reviewing Officer. The occasion was one of large hats, frequently blown across the lawns, grey toppers and many recognisable faces among the In-Pensioners. A welcome experience for those of us who until then had only had the privilege of marching into Chapel on the hallowed gravel of the great hospital.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during May 1991:-	
Profit from Grand National Draw (RSA Shropshire)	£300.00
In memory of Michael David Shunburne	£265.00
Army Apprentices College Association Service held at St Albans Church	£ 70.00
Bequeathed by the late Cyril Geoffrey Payne	£ 53.12
E. (Ernie) W. H. Huntley BGen, PAF (Retd)	£ 20.00
Anonymous	£ 20.00
Lt Col A. Alexander	£ 18.00
Col (Retd) J. S. Agar	£ 10.50
Mr N. H. Chadwick	£ 10.00
Certo Cito Lodge	£10.00
A. Prince	£ 9.00
	£785.62
The following donations were gratefully received during June 1991:-	
All Saints Garrison Church, Blandford	£ 80.00
Mrs R. Cathmoir	£ 25.00
Capt F. Shore ERD	£ 25.00
'Gillespie'	£ 10.00
Miscellaneous	£ 3.00
	£143.00

DEATHS

Bradford—Mrs G. J. widow of **Brig F. W. P. Bradford MBE**—died 19 May 1991.
Cooper—Sgt W. T. Cooper—served 1960-1982—died 24 March 1991.
Dooher—Sgt P. J. Dooher—served 1964-1986—died 23 June 1991.
Hale—Lt Col H. J. Hale—served 1938-61—died 6 May 1991.
Harris—Cpl F. Harris—died 8 June 1991.
Herberts—Maj D. Herberts—served 1931-1961—died 21 May 1991.
Hughes—WO2 R. T. Hughes—served 1960-80—died 25 May 1991.
Myshrall—Maj E. S. Myshrall—died 22 May 1991.
Peacock—WO2 E. Peacock—served 3 April 1929-50—died 7 June 1991.
Robinson—Lt Col R. J. Robinson MBE—served 1944-82—died 17 June 1991.
Shaw—Maj N. D. Shaw—served 1936-70—died 14 June 1991.
Shove—Mrs L. Shove, wife of **Lt Col R. L. J. Shove**—died February 1991.

OBITUARIES

Donohoe—T. Donohoe. It is with regret that we record the death of **Mr T. Donohoe** who died recently, aged 81 years. A life member of the Association he joined the Corps in 1928 and served until 1954. He saw service in India, Dunkirk and the Middle East and was a prisoner of war from 1942 until 1945.

Eve—Maj F. Eve. It is with deep regret that Shropshire Branch announce the death of one of our founder members of the Branch, **Maj Frederick** (Derek) **Eve. Derek** was a tower of strength in the Branch, holding the Offices of Branch President and Chairman over a considerable number of years.

Born in Liverpool the son of a clergyman, he enlisted into the Corps in 1939 in the trade of Teleprinter Operator, saw action in France with the BEF and was left behind at Dunkirk. He joined up with the French Army and then made his way back to England aboard a coal carrying tub which took three days to reach Falmouth. He was commissioned in 1942 while in India and again saw action with the Gurkhas in Burma. He left the army in 1946. He rejoined the Corps as a TA Captain and served with 2 Sqn 58 Staffordshire Sig Regt becoming Squadron Commander at Newcastle-under-Lyne. In 1967 he was appointed PSAO to 58 Staffs Sig Sqn, he also served as PSAO to 95 Shropshire Sig Sqn in Shrewsbury where he retired at the age of 66 in 1981.

Derek spent a lifetime with the Corps and was an active member of the Royal British Legion, he was the President of the Wem Branch for more than 20 years and in later years Chairman of Shropshire Royal British Legion. He will be sadly missed by all his many friends.

Goodman—Maj Andrew G. Goodman MBE TD DL. It is with regret that we announce the death of **Andrew Goodman**.

He was best known in the wider High Peak than in Glossop. As a founder officer of 2nd North Midland Corps Signals TA he maintained a keen interest in the town.

Andrew Goodman devoted a lot of energy to voluntary work, locally and nationally. One of his particular interests was Glossop and District Royal Signals Old Comrades Association where he held office as Chairman and President over the years. He attended 45 reunion dinners and will be very sadly missed at the 46th reunion in October this year.

Jenkins—Harry Jenkins. It is with regret that we announce the death of **Harry** 'Jeeves' **Jenkins** of Richmond, Yorkshire, on 28 April 1991. **Harry Jenkins** joined the Corps in 1932 and after technical training in Catterick he saw service in India, Persia, Nigeria and Continental Europe, in addition to UK. He was present at the D-Day landings and was Mentioned in Despatches. Leaving active service as a WO1 Foreman of Signals he became a Ministry of Defence Instructional officer and worked in Catterick in that appointment until 1976. In retirement he was an active member of the Catterick and Richmond Branch of the Association, and until 1987 was the jovial host of Aglethorpe House where he and his wife **Joyce** provided bed and board for tourists and visitors to the Dales. **Harry**'s happy attitude to life gave him many friends who will miss his pleasant and cheerful company. Our sincere sympathies are extended to his wife and family.

Stagg—Maj C. E. Stagg. Cyril died on 26 May, aged 84 years. As a young man he worked for the Ministry of Works as an electrical engineer.

On the outbreak of war **Cyril** was a supplementary reserve officer. He joined 3rd Divisional Signals, and was posted to 7 (Gds) Infantry Brigade Signal Section.

Having survived the evacuation of Dunkirk he was one of the first to land in Normandy on D-Day with 3 British Infantry Division. **Cyril** was a founder member of the 3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club, Chairman from 1958-1971.

On de-mobilisation, he returned to the Ministry of Works, later the Department of the Environment, and returned to Germany.

He retired to Farnham where he became founder member of the Lions Club and was energetically involved in the welfare of the elderly and served on the Parish Council.

Cyril's relationship with his wife **Kath** spanned 70 years from their schooldays.

He will be deeply missed as a friend, a member of the 3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club, and as a caring family man. We send our condolences to his family.

Wilder—Leslie Wilder. It is with great sorrow that Leeds Branch report the death of **Leslie Wilder**, late Treasurer of the Branch, which occurred on 19 April, aged 71 years. **Leslie** joined 49 Div Sigs in 1939 and remained with them until he transferred to the Parachute Regiment on its formation as a radio operator. He served in Sicily, North Africa and later in Arnhem where he was taken prisoner, escaped and was recaptured. **Les** returned to Leeds after demobilisation. He rejoined 49 Div Sigs on its reformation where he reached the rank of WO2 (SSM). He saw the transition from 49 Div Sigs to 49(WR), amalgamation with 50 Div and finally 34 Sig Regt (V). He was an enthusiastic and devoted member of the TA. He hung up his boots in 1968 when he went on to join the ACF.

He was a very active member of the Association and gave the Branch his full support. He became Branch Treasurer, which appointment he held until his death. Our thoughts and prayers go to **Mary** his wife. He will be sadly missed by his many friends.

REUNIONS

DENBURY NEWTON ABBOT JUNIOR LEADERS REUNION

The Triennial Reunion in and around Newton Abbot will take place on 27 and 28 September 1991.

The programme will cover Friday evening and all day Saturday.

The reunion will be on much the same lines as 1988 when approximately 100 attended and this may well be the last reunion under the present system so it is hoped that all the regular attenders and some new ones will be able to make the dates.

Any enquiries in the meantime to **Sam Ward**, 56 Seymour Road, Newton Abbot, South Devon. Tel: (0626) 52101 or daytime (0392) 51056.

DENBURY CAMP 1964

East Side, Nig Wing
L to R: Ken Counsell, Tony Palmer, Ian (Jock) Ward, Brian Jones, Tony Davis, Charlie Hebden, Ian Forman, Slats Campbell and Keith Jones

Photo by Steve Cross.

TRUCIAL OMAN SCOUTS

The first all ranks reunion of former members of the Trucial Oman Levies, Trucial Oman Scouts and Army of the United Arab Emirates is to be held at the Connaught Rooms, London, on 26 October 1991 at 2000 hrs. There will be a buffet and dress is smart casual. The guests of honour will be **Col Stewart Carter OBE MC** and **Mrs Carter**. All those who served in any capacity with the above units will be welcome and should contact **T. J. Ward**, 44 Weller Avenue, Rochester, Kent ME1 2LG if they wish to attend. The cost will be £27.50 per head.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31 December 1990

1989			1990	
		INCOME		
251,242		Receipts from Corps Fund	201,167	
12,048		Subscriptions and Donations	77,604	
80,124		Investment Income (gross)	77,894	
—		Whernside	17,272	
16,881		Interest on deposits	20,277	
30		Other Income	3,612	
	360,325	TOTAL INCOME		397,826
		EXPENDITURE		
(34,313)		Running Expenses	(35,427)	
(107,198)		Corps Activities	(130,989)	
—		Silver, paintings, statues	(37,444)	
(13,075)		Reunions	(15,597)	
(173,136)		Benevolence	(188,934)	
	(327,722)	TOTAL EXPENDITURE		(408,391)
	32,603			(10,565)
	80,006	Profit on Sale of Investments		20,343
	112,609	EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		9,778
		ACCUMULATED FUND		
	894,196	Brought forward 1 January		£1,006,805
	£1,006,805	Carried forward 31 December		£1,016,583

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 1990

1989			1990	
		INVESTMENTS AT COST		
677,164		Listed	743,214	
5		Unlisted	5	
162,547		Investment in Whernside Centre	162,547	
	839,716			905,766
	3,087	Loans		1,095
		CURRENT ASSETS		
67,058		Sundry debtors	46,364	
14,908		Income tax recoverable	4,460	
96,963		Cash	75,449	
178,929			126,273	
		CURRENT LIABILITIES		
(14,493)		Sundry Creditors	(16,551)	
(434)		Book overdrafts	—	
	164,002	NET CURRENT ASSETS		109,722
	£1,006,805			£1,006,805
		Represented by:		
	£1,006,805	ACCUMULATED FUND		£1,016,583

P. D. ALEXANDER CB, MBE
Major General
Chairman

A. N. de BRETTON-GORDON
Colonel
Secretary

15 May 1991

Notes to the Accounts—31 December 1990

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

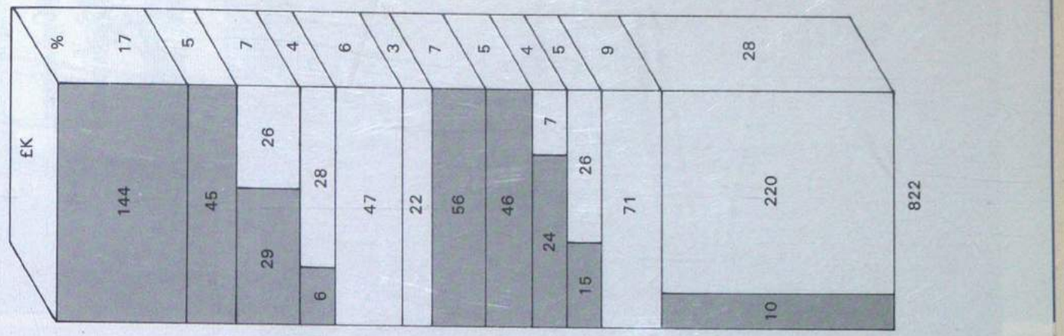
(a) Basis of preparation
The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

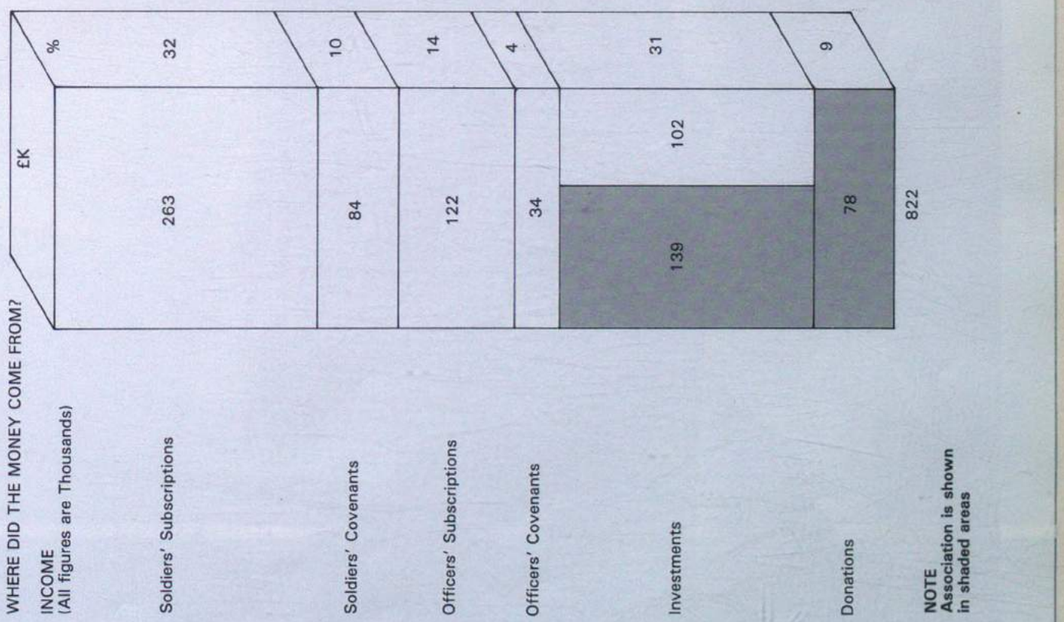
(b) Investments
Investments are carried at cost and no provision for any shortfall between market value and cost is made unless there has been a permanent impairment of value. The market value of investments shown in Note 6 on the middle market value prevailing on the balance sheet date. The market value of investments listed overseas is translated at rates of exchange at the balance sheet date.
During 1989, the Association acquired an interest in the Whernside Centre. This investment is carried in the Balance Sheet at cost and the underlying interest in the property is not depreciated as the buildings are subject to regular maintenance. The investment will be subject to periodic professional valuation.
Day to day operation and maintenance of the centre has been vested with the Ministry of Defence however the Royal Signals Corps Fund, Officers Fund and Association Benevolent Fund have ultimate responsibility for the ownership and upkeep of Whernside.
Cash distributions arising from the operation of the Whernside Centre are, at the discretion of the Royal Signals Finance Committee, paid in proportion to their investment to the Royal Signals Corps Fund, Royal Signals Officers Fund and the Royal Signals Association Benevolent Fund.

(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 investment income includes imputed tax credits.

(d) Fixed assets
Expenditure on certain fixed assets is written off in the income and expenditure account in the year in which it is incurred; consequently the Association Benevolent Fund, the Corps Fund and the Officers Fund have title to assets which are not shown in the balance sheet, the approximate insurance value of which is £1,879,000.

CORPS AND ASSOCIATION FUNDS—1990





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THE wire

The Royal Signals Magazine

October 1991

Corps Goods Available from the Museum Shop, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH

Telephone enquiries to Blandford Military 2248 STD (0258 482248).

Price list with effect from 1 September 1991.

	UK £
Blazer Badge	9.55
Blazer Button—Large	1.90
Small	1.80
Belt, Italian leather, reversible Black/Brown engraved with Corps Badge	12.50
Bookmark	0.50
Brooch, white with gold Corps Badge	3.05
Cap Badge	2.55
Car Badge, 2" × 2", silver badge on enamelled Corps Colours	4.85
Clip board with Corps Crest	3.10
Cocktail Mat Set, six, blue acrylic with Corps Badge	11.15
Coasters, leather, set of 4, with Corps Crest	2.00
Corps Badge, on foil, framed and glazed, 11" × 9"	6.25
Corps Records and Cassettes—Information Sheet Available	6.20
Credit card holder, leather, with Corps Crest	2.80
Crystal Engraved with Corps Badge	
Brandy Glass	9.00 ea
Brandy Glass, Cut Crystal	14.50 ea
Sherry Glass	6.50 ea
Whisky Glass	8.45 ea
Whisky Glass, Cut Crystal	14.50 ea
Wine Goblet	7.90 ea
Decanters, Plain	35.00
Decanters, Cut Crystal	52.00
Bud Vase with engraved Corps Crest	19.90
Rose bowl 5½" diameter with engraved Corps Crest	20.50
Gilt Oval Cufflinks, engraved with Corps Badge	13.90
Hipflasks	14.50
11½" Jimmy, cast bronze, height including plinth	59.25
Keyrings—Bullet	1.30
Leather	0.50
Corps (enamelled Corps Badge, with leather tag)	1.65
Corps Badge	1.50
Ladies Marcasite Brooch	25.95
New Ladies Scarf, Dark Blue with White Jimmy in one corner	9.25
Lapel Badge (Association Members only)	2.25
New Medal Holder	2.00
Mug, white china with Corps Badge in blue	2.45
Pendants, white with gold Corps Badge	4.95
Pennant, embroidered Corps Badge with gold trimming	27.40
Presentation Pennant on metal stand	15.35
Postcards	.20

Prints:	Unsigned	Signed
Frontier Ambush	8.50	12.50
Smith George Cross	8.50	12.50
Palace Guard	8.50	12.50
Imphal Road	8.50	12.50
Dhofar Incident	8.50	12.50
Catterick Parade 1987	8.50	12.50

Photoprints	15.00
Statuette, 6½" Pewter Royal Signals Soldier with SA80 Rifle (by BARTON)	27.50
Statuette, Royal Signals Officer in Full Dress (9" tall)	59.25
Statuette, Royal Signals Soldier with SA80 Rifle (9" tall)	59.25
Silver Plated Teaspoons with Corps Crest	2.20
Sticker, Corps Badge on Corps Colours, good quality—Large	0.50
Medium	0.50
Small	0.45
Stickpin, 9 carat gold, Corps Badge, can be used as brooch/tie pin	68.30
Stickpin, sterling silver Corps Badge, can be used as brooch/tie pin	17.60
New Sports/Leisure Wear, Excellent Quality, various sizes/colours	
Sweat Shirts with embroidered Corps Badge	13.50
Sport Shirts with embroidered Corps Badge	11.35
V/Neck Sweater with embroidered Corps Badge	14.50
Rugby Style Shirt Corps Colours and embroidered Badge	18.00
Tablemat Set, six, blue acrylic with Corps Badge	30.55
Tablemat, large 15" × 11½", blue acrylic with Corps Badge	9.85
Tankard, 1pt, polished pewter, lightweight with Corps Badge	14.60
Tankard, ½pt, polished pewter, lightweight with Corps Badge	12.55
New Tea towel Blue Signals Design on White Background	2.00
Thimble, Bone China with Corps Badge, Gift Boxed	1.75
Tie, Corps Colours in polyester, 3" width	5.20
Tie, Corps Colours in Pure Silk, 3" width	10.95
Umbrella, golf size, Corps Colours	14.50
Wall plaque, 'Royal Corps of Signals', shield, 6" × 7"	12.40
Watch strap, Corps Colours, Nylon	1.45

Prices inclusive of VAT. Overseas orders will be less VAT. Bulk orders from PRI's will attract a discount.

Please Note: **Postage and Packing not included.**

Cheques made payable to: Royal Signals Corps Fund.

The Royal Signals Magazine *October 1991 Vol. 45 No: 5*

The Wire

All correspondence and matter for publication in **The Wire** should be addressed to **The Editor, The Wire**, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Tel No: London District Ext 8246 STD 071-414 8246.
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Remittances should be made payable to: Royal Signals Association

Editor Lt Col M. Q. M. Greaves
Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs

The Wire is a member of the Association of Service Newspapers

THE PRICE OF *THE WIRE*

Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB MBE—Chairman, Royal Signals Association

The Wire went up in price from 70p per copy to £1 per copy about two years ago, at the beginning of 1990. As previously warned, the price has to go up again at the beginning of 1992. Despite inflation, we have held the price steady—although at some cost to Association funds. Notification of the new price, £1.30, appears elsewhere in this issue, but I thought that a word or two of explanation to readers would be appropriate.

The Wire is published by the Royal Signals Association and is kept going by a large subsidy from Association funds. This subsidy is a perfectly fair charge, since *The Wire* clearly contributes to the well-being of the Corps, but we have to keep it in reasonable bounds. This is particularly so at a time when the serving Corps is shrinking somewhat and our major source of income, the One Day's Pay Scheme, is already producing us less income.

In 1991, the subsidy was heading towards £50,000 and this really was beyond reasonable bounds. By careful control, we are now on target to keep this year's subsidy well below £40,000. Limiting the size of *The Wire* has saved us on production and postage costs and, although it has increased the load on the editors, it has proved thoroughly worthwhile. But even £40,000 is too high a price, at a time when demands on welfare funds are increasing due to the recession. The increase in the price of *The Wire* by 30p per copy will save us a further £6,000 per year. For a magazine of this quality, I judge that this will not be an unreasonable price increase. We intend to maintain the high quality of our magazine and hope that no subscriber will be deterred by the price increase.

We are constantly searching for ways to reduce the cost of publishing and distributing *The Wire* and I am grateful for the many suggestions which have been made by members of the serving and retired Corps. We will be maintaining the present size, frequency and quality of *The Wire*, and also our ability to produce an occasional special issue with extra colour photographs when a particular event merits it.

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OUR COVER PICTURES

Our Front Cover: *Chieftain* coming fourth in the European Championships. Please see article on page 369.

Our Back Cover: Sig Springett, 205 (5 AB Bde) Sig Sqn, demonstrating the tactical deployment of a satellite station as part of the 1991 Royal Tournament.

A ROYAL VISIT TO 32 SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)

On Saturday 22 June the Regiment was visited by the Colonel in Chief **HRH The Princess Royal GCVO.**

Firstly Her Royal Highness accompanied by the Commanding Officer visited East Park Home in Glasgow, a home for handicapped children which is strongly supported by the Regiment. At the home she was shown a number of new developments which had been undertaken recently, and met a number of the children, who greatly appreciated HRH's visit.

The Princess Royal in the Physiotherapy Room at the East Park Home for Handicapped Children

Her Royal Highness then arrived at Regimental Headquarters in Jardine Street escorted by the Commanding Officer and The Lord Lieutenant, **The Rt Hon The Lord Provost of Glasgow Mrs Susan Baird CBE** who presented the Master of Signals **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE DL** to the Colonel in Chief. The Master then presented the Signal Officer in Chief **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook, Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon** the Regimental Secretary, **Col Sir David McNee QPM** Honorary Colonel of the Regiment and lastly but, by no means least, **2Lt E. Scott-Park** who was not only ADC for the day but was planning officer for the visit.

Her Royal Highness then signed the visitors book and proceeded to the new Computer Suite, the Anderson-McNee Room. This suite is to provide an opportunity for members of the Regiment to work with 'state of the art' technology and become computer literate. The project was driven by the CO **Lt Col Michael Anderson** and the Honorary Colonel **Sir David McNee** in conjunction with two civilian firms who generously donated the equipment—Unisys and Wang.

We now have around £100,000 of computer equipment, laser-jet printers and software. It is hoped that it will be expanded in the future and that it will encourage people to join a Regiment which can offer up to date technology and high-grade facilities.

Her Royal Highness unveiled a plaque to commemorate its opening and met and talked with a number of young soldiers operating the various equipments. Her Royal Highness then presented the BEM to our hardworking, long suffering Chief Clerk **SSgt 'Joe' Sharma** before members of the Regiment.

The Princess Royal presents the BEM to SSgt Joe Sharma

SSgt Sharma's family were also there to witness this memorable occasion and **SSgt Sharma**'s daughter **Vanessa** presented Her Royal Highness with a bouquet of flowers. **The Princess Royal** then met and chatted informally with members of the Regiment including the Regimental Pipers and an element of the Queen's Gurkha Signals Pipes and Drums. Her Royal Highness then adjourned to the Officers' Mess where she met the Regimental Officers and their wives during a buffet lunch. Prior to her departure, the Commanding Officer presented Her Royal Highness with a copy of a Pipe tune by our Pipe Major **Mortimer**, to mark her visit to the Regiment.

The Princess Royal showing a keen interest in our Computer Operators Pte Ashley Cummings, Sgt Bob McGinlay and Cpl Allison Nicholson

The CO, Lt Col Michael Anderson presents WO2 Norbahadur Gufung, The Pipe Major of Queen Gurkha Signals, to the Princess Royal

Her Royal Highness then departed to Edinburgh after what had been a most happy and enjoyable visit which will be remembered with affection by all those who were present.

That evening the Officers held their Annual Ball in the Royal Scottish Automobile Club preceded by a beating of retreat by the massed Pipes and Drums of the Regiment and Gurkha Signals.

The Sergeants' Mess and JRC also held functions on the same evening which concluded a most successful day.

STATEMENT BY THE SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF (ARMY) ON THE ROYAL SIGNALS ORBAT POST OPTIONS FOR CHANGE

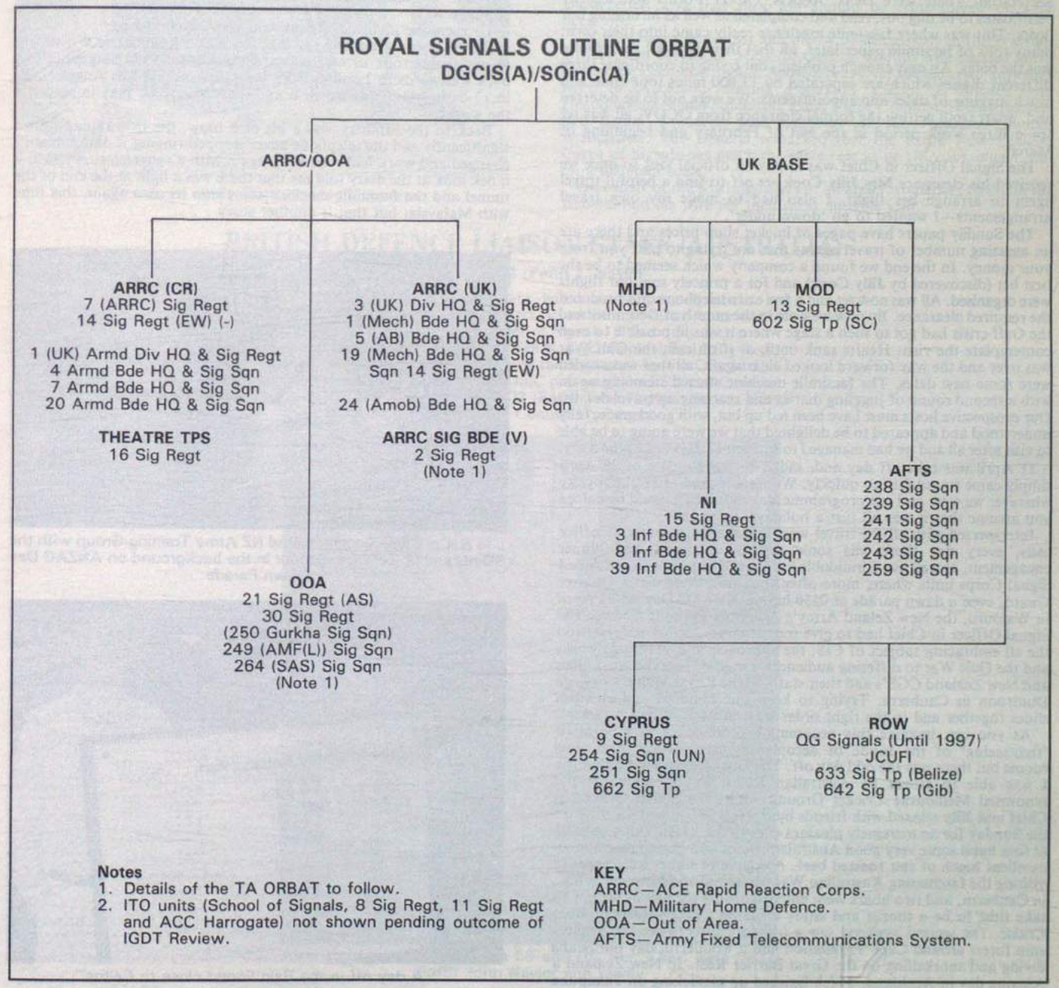
All of you will, by now, have been briefed on the new Royal Signals Order of Battle that was made public by the announcement in Parliament by the Secretary of State for Defence on 23 July 1991, and subsequent articles published in newspapers and other media reports.

The aim of this short statement is to clarify the outcome of the Options For Change Study as far as the Regular Corps is concerned, and to correct some of the erroneous facts that have been published as well as to complement what has already been briefed to you through the Chain of Command. What you will have seen and read in the media so far is deliberately short and uncomplicated as it is primarily for public consumption, but you will realise that the full picture is much more involved and is the result of many months of negotiation and planning. There are still significant issues to be resolved and as future staff work progresses so the finer details will be addressed and the Chain of Command informed. I cannot yet be specific about future unit locations, the timings for the changes or, indeed, give you any details of our Territorial Army Order of Battle, although planning is well advanced, the staffing is not yet complete, but I am hopeful that I will be able to publish a similar statement in the next issue of *The Wire*.

In essence the Regular element of the Corps will consist of the units listed on the following diagram.

This new Order of Battle reflects considerable change for us. We will, in line with the rest of the Army, be smaller but as you can see not dramatically so and I strongly believe that we can all look forward to an exciting and challenging future, especially with the newly announced ACE Rapid Reaction Corps role. We will be a well balanced organisation, capable of contributing effective CIS support to a strong and flexible Army for its UKLF, NATO and worldwide tasks.

Let me finally reassure you that in implementing the revised Corps structure every effort will be made to minimise disruption to individuals and both PB 11 and our Manning and Record Office are already working hard on this matter.



— From our "In" Tray —

ROUND THE WORLD IN 17 DAYS

by Maj I. M. G. Strong MBE

Life in the Ministry of Defence is not all long hours, bedsits, lunchless days, telephones ringing and, nowadays, facsimile machines 'beeping' and looking at a computer screen—well, not for 17 days in April anyway.

It was one day in June 1990 the Signal Officer in Chief said: 'If you can get the authority for me to visit Australia and New Zealand you can come with me'. This had been sparked by an invitation to the General from his old Commonwealth Brigade friends at the 70th Anniversary celebrations in Blandford in May 1990. Most people have heard about carrots and this was almost the ultimate, I had never been to the Antipodes and had a great hankering to go 'down under'. Dreams of balmy days on the Great Barrier Reef, barbecues on Bondi Beach, and Fosters lager was all too much.

I discovered an obscure organisation in the MOD called OCOV, 'the Office for the Coordination of Overseas Visits for senior officers;' it is run by an RAF Sergeant on behalf of the Chiefs of Staff Secretariat. There were DCIs, AGAIs, OCOV Forms and security certificates to be dug out, read and completed as well as informing our hosts. This was where facsimile machines really came into their own; many rolls of facsimile paper later, all that there was left to organise was the dates. An easy enough problem, but trying to coordinate three different diaries which are separated by 13,000 miles took time and much juggling of dates and appointments. We were not to be deterred and, apart from getting the formal clearance from OCOV, all was set for a three week period at the end of February and beginning of March.

The Signal Officer in Chief was to pay an official visit so once we received his clearance **Mrs Jilly Cook** set off to find a helpful travel agent to arrange her flight. I also had to make my own travel arrangements—I wanted to go 'down under'.

The Sunday papers have pages of bucket shop prices and there are an amazing number of travel agents that are trying to part you from your money. In the end we found a company which seemed to be the best bet (discovered by **Jilly Cook**) and for a princely sum our flights were organised. All was now set and a few extra telephone calls produced the required clearance. By now we were in the month of December and the Gulf crisis had got to such a stage where it was impossible to even contemplate the visit. Hearts sank until, as if on call, the Gulf War was over and the way forward looked clear again, all that was needed were some new dates. The facsimile machine started steaming again with a second round of juggling diaries and rearranging travel details. Our prospective hosts must have been fed up but, with good grace, fully understood and appeared to be delighted that we were going to be able to visit after all and we had managed to squeeze 17 days out of the diary.

11 April was take off day and, sadly, the return date of 28 April simply came round far too quickly. We were looked after like royalty wherever we went and our programme was as full as it could be before you assume that it was all just a holiday.

Interspersed with all the travel were an amazing number of office calls, every day there was some sort of luncheon and dinner engagement, as well as a formidable list of excellent visits to our Allied Signal Corps units where, more often than not, there was a Quarter Guard, even a dawn parade at 0530 hrs on ANZAC Day on 25 April in Waiouru, the New Zeland Army's All Arms Training Centre. The Signal Officer in Chief had to give four separate formal addresses on the all embracing subject of CIS, the approach to his Options work, and the Gulf War to differing audiences, ranging from the Australian and New Zealand CGS's and their staffs to the Royal Military College Duntroon in Canberra. Trying to keep one hundred and eighteen slides together and in the right order was, in itself, a major task.

As you can imagine this programme produced a great deal of 'sightseeing' of the inside of aeroplanes, cars, offices and hotel rooms but there was the odd day off. The first weekend in Melbourne I was able to attend an Australian Rules 'Footy' match at the renowned Melbourne Cricket Ground whilst the Signal Officer in Chief and **Jilly** relaxed with friends by the sea. We joined together on the Sunday for an extremely pleasant visit to the Yarra Valley to taste at first hand some very good Australian wines and champagne and an excellent lunch of spit roasted beef. A couple of hours were spent in visiting the fascinating Australian War Memorial and Museum, whilst in Canberra, and two hours were pinched during the day in Sydney to take time to be a tourist and enjoy a famed Sydney Harbour Boat Cruise. The second weekend saw a trip to Cairns to see the tropical rain forest around Cape Tribulation and a wonderful day out Scuba diving and snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef. In New Zealand a relaxing day in Auckland, which finished up picnicking on Takapuna Beach with two dozen oysters and a beautifully chilled bottle of Chablis, ended a memorable visit, even if it had been a bit of a whistle stop tour.

There are far too many people to list here to thank for organising such a mammoth trip but, as always, a number of individuals spent a great deal of time and effort in making the trip very enjoyable and successful. Sincere thanks go to **Col Bernie O'Day**, Director of the Australian Corps of Signals, **Lt Col Gary Barnes**, who was the long suffering escort officer for the whole of the Australian part of the trip and **Maj Ken Beal** who had the unfortunate task of coordinating the programme. In New Zealand thanks must go to **Lt Col Dick Cooper**, the New Zealand equivalent of the Signal Officer in Chief, who was also the permanent escorting officer; **Bryce Patterson** for making us so welcome at the Hamilton Branch of the Signals Association and the Colonel Commandant of the Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals, **Brig Tony Mortiboy**, with **Cheryll**, was a constant watchdog and provider of much needed sustenance at the most appropriate moments.

To everyone involved—thank you very much indeed.

Oh yes, I can genuinely say that this was a Round The World trip as our flights took us out eastwards to Australia via Singapore and back westwards to London from New Zealand via Los Angeles—all in 17 days, but it was worth it and there was some play in amongst the work!

Back to the Ministry was a bit of a blow, the in tray had grown significantly and the telephone never stopped ringing, London hadn't changed and work had started up again with a vengeance. Ah well, a quick look at the diary told me that there was a light at the end of the tunnel and the facsimile machine came into its own again, this time with Malaysia; but that is another story . . .

L to R: Col Clive Sinclair, Comd NZ Army Training Group with the SOinC and Lt Col Dick Cooper in the background on ANZAC Day Dawn Parade

A day off in the Rain Forest close to Cairns

SIGNAL OFFICER IN CHIEF VISITS NEW ZEALAND

From Maj J. O. Thomson, School of Signals, Waiouru, New Zealand

The three lonely Brits viewing Canberra

Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook, Signal Officer in Chief (UK) and **Mrs Cook** visited New Zealand over the period 22 April till 1 May of this year. The main purpose of his visit was a meeting between the two Signals Corps which, he noted, have always been closely associated. Their brief tour took them through the North Island, meeting many past and present Corps members.

While in Wellington he spoke to Army General Staff on NATO, the Gulf war and options for change regarding information systems in the Army. He highlighted the increasingly larger part that satellites and support computers are playing and the importance of allied interoperability of equipments, especially as a result of experiences in the Gulf war. From Wellington **Gen Cook** and his wife travelled to Linton Camp in Palmerston North and then on to Waiouru to visit the School and The Queen Elizabeth II Army Museum.

While in Waiouru **Gen Cook** gave the memorial address at the ANZAC Day Dawn Parade. There was a good turnout from soldiers and families despite the cold rain of the Waiouru winter. Lit by steaming flood lamps he acknowledged the close ties that the two countries had maintained and the sacrifices that the ANZACs had made over the years many miles from home. He reminded the service that many British and Turkish soldiers also lost their lives in the Dardenelles, and that they too should be remembered on such occasions.

After a hearty breakfast and plenty of discussions in the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess the General and his wife headed north to visit the Hamilton Signals Association. Over the next two days they were in Auckland visiting Papakura Camp, 1 Brigade and Headquarters Signal Squadron, Land Force Command Headquarters and Signal Squadron and members of the Auckland Signals Association. The General remarked that the Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals has much the same role as its UK counterpart, but on a different scale.

On behalf of the Kiwi signallers of all ages I would like to thank the General and his wife for their most amiable visit.

BRITISH DEFENCE LIAISON STAFF (AUSTRALIA)

From: WO2 (FofS) J. Naylor

Two of the BDLS posts are based at Simpson Barracks in Melbourne, Victoria. The barracks, in addition to other Army units, contains 126 Sig Sqn, the School of Signals, 2 and 6 Sig Regts.

During April the SOinC **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook** visited 2 Sig Regt. After being briefed on the role of the Regiment by the CO, **Lt Col Steve Ayling** RA Signals, the SOinC presented the LS and GC medal to BDLS Exchange Officer **WO2 (FofS) John Naylor**. He was then shown a display of Regimental Comms Equipment.

After the presentation of the LS and GC the SOinC with WO2 (FofS) John Naylor and family

RMCS SHRIVENHAM GRADUATION DAY—12 JULY 1991

The RMCS Shrivenham Graduation Day held on 12 July 1991 was very much a Royal Signals affair this year. Under the ever watchful eye of the Commandant, **Maj Gen S. Cowan CBE** overseeing his third and last Graduation Day, five members of the Corps received Masters Degrees and 10 received their first Degrees. **Maj Jim McKee** was awarded The Encore Oasis Decanter for his dissertation whilst on the DIS course and **Lts Neil Makepeace** and **Tim Carmichael** won third year College prizes. **Tim Carmichael** rounded off three thoroughly good years at the College by gaining a First Class Honours Degree and also winning the Royal Signals Corps Prize as well as the Commandant's prize. The Graduates and their families were joined by the DSOinC, **Brig S. G. McK. Gordon,** for the ceremony and after lunch much enjoyed watching a fine display by The White Helmets. Regrettably the wind was too strong for the Blue Helmets to drop in but the cognoscenti much enjoyed seeing the Regimental Colonel in full flight with his camera.

The Commandant of RMCS Maj Gen Cowan joins the DSOinC, the DS, the Royal Signals Graduates and their families for the traditional group photograph

THE LATE SGT A. F. FULLER

Our photograph shows Brig A. E. G. Truluck, Comd School of Signals receiving the medals of the late Sgt Anthony Frederick Fuller from his widow, Mrs Oliver Fuller, in the Corps Museum on 14 August. Sgt Fuller served in the Corps from 1939-59 in North Africa, Italy, Greece and Austria.

MUSEUM APPEAL

The Royal Signals BAOR contribution to the New Museum Appeal amounted to a magnificent £103,500. A quite remarkable achievement in a year of unprecedented turbulence.

PRIZE DRAW 1991

The proceeds of the Association's New Museum Appeal Draw amounted to £1,236.50, and this has been passed to the New Museum Project Team. In his reply, **Brig R. L. Stonham,** has asked that his very warm thanks be conveyed to all members of the Association who contributed to this generous donation.

The results of the Museum Appeal Prize Draw held at Catterick on 29 June were as follows:

1st Prize	£500	Shropshire Branch Fund (Ticket Number 14975)
2nd Prize	£250	**Mr Reaney,** 34 Timins Lane, Freshfield, Liverpool (Ticket Number 17797)
3rd Prize	£100	**D. G. Dean,** Flat 4, 25 Lornie Street, Reading (Ticket Number 15270)
4th Prize	£ 50	**W. E. Metters,** 78 Berweeke Avenue, Winchester, Hampshire (Ticket Number 18112)
5th Prize	£ 50	Preston and Blackburn Branch Fund (Ticket Number 17089)
6th Prize	£ 50	**G. Spencer,** 20 Chesterfield Road, Brimington, Chesterfield (Ticket Number 18486)

ROYAL SIGNALS RECRUITING AND PUBLICITY EVENTS OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1991

October			
8-9	Drivex '91 Silverstone	While Helmets	
12	RAF Linton On Ouse	White Helmets	
16-17	Showman's Show, Newbury	White/Blue Helmets	
November			
9	Lord Mayor's Show, London	265(KCLY) Sig Sqn, 68(ICCY) Sig Sqn	
21	Exeter Lights (Noddy Train)	30 Sig Regt RIT	
December			
6	Plymouth Lights (Noddy Train)	30 Sig Regt RIT	

KEY
TGRIT = Training Group RIT
KAPE = Kee the Army in the Public Eye

The calendar is accurate at the time of going to press but you are advised to contact the Units concerned to ensure that there have been no changes before embarking on long journeys. Confirmation and information can be obtained from the Units concerned on the following numbers:

Display Teams (White/Blue Helmets, Quicksilver, TGRIT)	(0748) 832521 Ext 2556
Corps Band	(0258) 452581 Ex 2445
30 Sig Regt	(0258) 452581 Ext 2558
71 Sig Regt (V), 68 Sig Sqn, 70 Sig Sqn, 256 Sig Sqn	(0322) 529225
34 Sig Regt (V)	(0642) 232626
36 Sig Regt (V) (44 Sig Sqn)	081-478 1941
37 Sig Regt (V)	(0272) 519898
5 (AB) Bde HQ & Sig Sqn	(0252) 349503

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Many of you renew your subscription by making a payment each year by cheque or postal order. If you are one of these, will you please return the counterfoil below, with your payment by 1 December 1991. We have to define our printing commitment for the February 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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THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO RETIRED OFFICERS WHO PAY THE ANNUAL FLAT RATE SUBSCRIPTION TO CORPS FUNDS.

— Movements —

WOs and SNCOs
AUGUST 1991

Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 R. E. Bolt	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO1 M. J. Campbell	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO1 W. Heelan	32 Sig Regt (V)
WO1 A. S. Houghton	DSS(AD)
WO1 (YofS) D. J. Keig	School of Signals
WO1 G. F. Manning	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
WO1 M. A. Orange	13 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) P. Gaffney	RAO
WO2 (FofS) D. M. Gunn	14 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) C. Newby	55 Sig Sqn (V)
WO2 (FofS) C. A. Plumb	RSA Larkhill
WO2 (FofS) K. Thompson	8 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) P. Wilson	BDLS Australia
AWO2 (FofS) N. B. Cullen	8 Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) I. Nicholson	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
AWO2 (YofS) G. Sutherland	PATA
SSgt (YofS) A. R. Campbell	1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
SSgt (FofS) M. J. Drake	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt W. Gray	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
SSgt (YofS) C. F. Harden	HQ 2 Sig Bde
SSgt M. Holland	11 Sig Regt
SSgt W. M. Kerr	School of Signals
SSgt B. D. Payne	Comms & Sy Gp
SSgt G. C. Ritchie	55 Sig Sqn (V)
SSgt J. E. Stanford	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt J. J. Treen	School of Signals
SSgt F. Vaughan	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
SSgt P. Warhurst	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt D. Watson	21 Sig Regt
SSgt D. A. Wright	7 Sig Regt
ASSgt A. C. Cox	16 Sig Regt
ASSgt W. O. McPhee	34 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt R. A. Powell	16 Sig Regt
ASSgt D. A. Whitaker	16 Sig Regt
Sgt F. H. Anderson	8 Sig Regt
Sgt A. J. Barry	School of Infantry
Sgt A. Butler	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt N. R. Coatsworth	1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt T. W. Comyns	21 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Docherty	662 Sig Tp
Sgt R. Dodd	251 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. R. Eaton	241 Sig Sqn
Sgt K. K. Enfield	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt P. R. P. Farrington	PATA
Sgt K. Fudge	8 Sig Regt
Sgt P. R. Garside	9 Sig Regt
Sgt T. G. Hagan	HQ AFCENT
Sgt S. Hartland	2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt M. A. Hayter	Comms & Sy Gp
Sgt M. E. G. Heelan	7 Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Hellewell	36 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt B. J. Horrocks	28 Sig Regt
Sgt S. L. Jones	School of Signals
Sgt R. J. Kenna	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. M. May	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt S. McDonald	11 Sig Regt Depot
Sgt N. J. Middleton	40 FD Regt
Sgt P. Newman	28 Sig Regt
Sgt S. P. Oliver	32 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt G. K. Owen	13 Sig Regt
Sgt T. J. Perry	16 Sig Regt
Sgt W. Phillips	210 Sig Sqn
Sgt K. T. Phillips	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt P. D. Richardson	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt A. B. Rose	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt R. S. Sant	ACIO Shrewsbury
Sgt G. Sheppard	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt A. K. Sparks	7 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Spencer	Comms & Sy Gp
Sgt J. C. Spicer	HQ Int & Sy Gp (BAOR)
Sgt K. F. Tunstall	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt A. K. Welch	38 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. J. Whitty	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt J. M. Williams	9 Sig Regt
ASgt T. D. Bennie	AA Coll Harrogate
ASgt A. S. Fox	7 Sig Regt
ASgt M. A. Giles	11 Sig Regt
ASgt P. Rogers	Comms & Sy Gp
ASgt W. Ryan	AA Coll Harrogate

SEPTEMBER 1991

Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 J. Clark	21 Sig Regt
WO1 G. E. Cook	40 Sig Regt (V)
WO1 P. J. Cuckow	HQ 12 Sig Bde
WO1 E. C. Dale	HQ 11 Sig Bde
WO1 S. J. Dunlin	31 Sig Regt (V)
WO1 (YofS) H. Elkan	8 Sig Regt
WO1 G. N. F. Knight	22 Sig Regt
WO1 (YofS) A. C. Reynolds	School of Signals
WO2 A. Bird	14 Sig Regt
WO2 C. Calow	School of Signals
WO2 (YofS) B. D. Colvin	30 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) P. A. Forryan	School of Signals
WO2 W. J. Gillan	13 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) T. Hall	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
WO2 J. C. D. Harradine	30 Sig Regt
WO2 S. Hilton	31 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 P. F. Jones	13 Sig Regt
WO2 K. W. Lodge	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) D. G. Long	School of Signals
WO2 M. I. Parsons	15 Sig Regt
WO2 D. G. Skimming	30 Sig Regt
WO2 R. J. Spencer	Sheffield UOTC
WO2 (FofS) D. A. Stewart	HQ Int Corps
WO2 J. Williams	14 Sig Regt
SSgt J. N. Arden	22 Sig Regt
SSgt A. S. Burnett	8 Sig Regt
SSgt D. Cawkwell	SHAPE
SSgt P. W. Collins	7 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) S. R. Elsworthy	225 Sig Sqn
SSgt I. R. Emerson	241 Sig Sqn
SSgt T. German	37 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt A. P. Gillard	229 Sig Sqn
SSgt M. James	251 Sig Sqn
SSgt A. M. Jenkins	HQ 2 Sig Bde
SSgt B. H. Lauder	8 Sig Regt
SSgt W. T. Laurie	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) C. J. F. MacKenzie	Comms & Sy Gp
SSgt R. E. Maddison	22 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) I. McNelly	210 Sig Sqn
SSgt A. R. Monk	39 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt M. K. W. Richards	13 Sig Regt
SSgt T. A. Tulloch	QG Sig Regt
SSgt N. P. Widdup	14 Sig Regt
SSgt M. E. Wright	3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
SSgt S. J. Young	11 Sig Regt Depot
ASSgt D. B. Gill	39 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
ASSgt R. R. Hayes	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
ASSgt R. L. Hutchinson	16 Sig Regt
ASSgt N. T. Thomas	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt A. D. Allen	19 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt A. J. Anderson	238 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. R. Bain	School of Signals
Sgt A. T. Barnett	16 Sig Regt
Sgt H. J. Bevan	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt B. Blain	1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt G. T. Bryson	19 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt G. B. Burns	13 Sig Regt
Sgt K. Carter	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. M. Carver	RAF Mount Pleasant
Sgt J. Crabb	14 Sig Regt
Sgt C. M. Dale	15 Sig Regt
Sgt C. J. N. Daniels	36 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt D. Dorian	28 Sig Regt
Sgt I. J. Elborn	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt K. O. W. Evans	11 Sig Regt Depot
Sgt A. D. Ferris	JCUFI
Sgt T. C. Frankel	7 Sig Regt
Sgt J. V. Garhard	28 Sig Regt
Sgt C. Gibbons	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. A. Jeffery	8 Sig Regt
Sgt A. A. S. Lindon	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt T. Mahoney	QG Sig Regt
Sgt I. M. Matthews	School of Signals
Sgt J. J. McMahon	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt W. McReath	School of Signals
Sgt C. J. Meehan	251 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. Morecroft	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. P. Paine	56 Sig Sqn (V)
Sgt L. C. Parker	40 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt I. H. Pennell	School of Signals
Sgt M. F. Potts	School of Signals
Sgt S. K. Rideout	40 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt A. P. Rimell	HQ AFNORTH
Sgt M. Robson	JSSU (FI)
Sgt N. Ruddiman	22 Sig Regt
Sgt G. A. Rumble	JCUFI
Sgt R. J. Squires	2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt J. R. Stillie	15 Sig Regt
Sgt M. A. Sudell	Comms & Sy Gp
Sgt J. W. Vincent	School of Signals
Sgt F. T. Walker	7 Sig Regt
Sgt J. R. Warren	1 Scots Guards
Sgt P. L. Warren	School of Signals
Sgt W. V. Webb	School of Signals
Sgt L. A. Webster	640 Sig Tp
Sgt D. A. M. White	SHAPE
Sgt B. Wilkins	633 Sig Tp
Sgt B. Wilkinson	633 Sig Tp
Sgt K. A. Williams	19 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt R. J. Young	School of Signals
ASgt D. Bousfield	640 Sig Tp
ASgt S. L. Martwich	JSSU (FI)
ASgt N. J. Smith	12 AD Regt RA
ASgt D. A. Tuck	NORTHAG Air Sp Radio Sqn

NOTICES

DEATHS

August—Maj R. G. August—died 17 July 1991.
Billett—CQMS J. N. K. Billett—served 1940-46—died 2 August 1991.
Carroll—Lt Col J.E. Carroll MBE—served 1941-71—died 22 August 1991
Conway-Gordon—Capt R. C. Conway-Gordon—died 2 December 1990.
Cragg—Sig R. Cragg—served 1942-47—died 9 June 1991.
Crane—WO2 L. Crane—served 1939-1970—died 30 August 1991.
Domoney—LCpl R. C. Domoney—served 1943-47—died 26 July 1991.
Emary—Lt C. R. N. Emary MBE—died 24 April 1991.
Goldstraw—E. Goldstraw—died 11 August 1991.
Gordon-Wilson—Maj M. Gordon-Wilson—served 1926-34—died 13 July 1991.
Hastie—In-Pensioner (LCpl) J. C. Hastie—served 1939-41—died 7 July 1991.
Higgins—WO1 J. A. Higgins—served to 1977—died 16 March 1991.
Howarth—In-Pensioner (Sig) B. Howarth—served 1943-45—19 August 1991.
Linington—SQMS (FofS) F. Linington OBE—served 1937-49—died 6 August 1991.
McCloskey—Lt S. I. McCloskey WRAC(V)—died 19 August 1991.
Mecready—Maj W. Mecready—died 27 September 1991.
Murch—Dvr E. T. Murch—served 1945-47—died 2 July 1991.
Roberts—Capt W. F. Roberts—died 10 August 1990.
Scott—Lt Col M. D. Scott—served 1939-68—died 12 June 1991.
Shaw—Lt J. C. H. Shaw—died 11 November 1990.
Sumner—Lt Col G. J. C. Sumner—died 6 November 1990.
Tyrrell—Lt A. W. Tyrrell—died 29 November 1990.
Williams—Capt F. W. J. Williams—25 August 1990.
Woolveridge—In-Pensioner (Sgt) V. H. Woolveridge—served 1931-1951—died 10 September 1991.

OBITUARIES

Conteh—Sig Robert Steven Conteh. It is with much regret that 33 Sig Regt (V) announce the death of **Robbie Conteh** on 2 August 1991. **Robbie** joined Royal Signals in March 1987 at the earliest opportunity aged just 17 years and one day: training as a junior at Catterick where as a boxer he was able to 'persuade' his famous uncle **John Conteh** to attend for the Regimental Boxing Evening. After training as a Combat Powerman at 8 Sig Regt he was posted to 3 Sqn 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

He boxed for the Regimental team and was a very popular and effective member of the Regiment. In late 1989 his illness was diagnosed and he returned to the UK and was attached to 33 Sig Regt (V) near his home in Liverpool.

Despite his illness **Robbie** spent every available moment with his TA Squadron where his constant good humour, wit and personal courage made him deeply loved and respected by all.

Although attending painful and prolonged treatment at Woolwich he would turn up at the most unexpected of places when his Squadron was training—such as the top of Snowdon or on exercises.

Robbie was one of life's fighters who never gave in or made allowances for his illness. Constantly surrounded by friends and his devoted family, standing room by his hospital bed was hard to find.

Edwards—WO2 J. E. Edwards died on 6 June 1991, aged 74 years.

He joined the army in 1931 as a boy and served in the Corps until 1959.

His postings included India where he was stationed for seven years, Cyprus for five years and BAOR as well as home postings. He finished his service in the appointment of RQMS. **Mr Edwards** leaves a widow and children who mourn the loss of a good husband and father.

Griffin—WO2 Peter Griffin. Tragically killed on 26 August 1991 whilst jogging in Dorset.

O'Connor—LCpl Peter Matthew Charles O'Connor. It is with great sadness that we report the death in a road traffic accident of **LCpl O'Connor** in the early hours of Friday 19 July 1991. A young technician serving in his first tour at 7 Sig Regt, **LCpl O'Connor** deployed, very shortly after arriving from training, to the Gulf and served with Trunk Node 023 in Saudi Arabia.

He was already showing great talent, and continued to shine at work on the return to Herford and in the long task of refurbishing the Op Granby vehicles.

Always smart, cheerful and alert, **LCpl O'Connor** was a fine example of a Royal Signals Soldier, and a talented, determined technician. More than this he was a popular friend and colleague who will be greatly missed, and whose loss was, and is, a profound shock to us all.

Samways—Cpl P. Samways. Phillip served in the Corps from 1967-79. He died on 31 July 1991 aged 42 years as a result of an accident. He is survived by his wife **Roz** and their two children.

Shaw—Maj (Retd) N. Shaw. It is with great sadness that we report the death of **Norman Shaw** who died in June this year after a long illness.

Norman entered the Woolwich Academy in 1934 and was commissioned into the Corps in 1936. After Catterick and Aldershot he was posted to India where he remained on secondment until the end of 1947. He then served in London, Egypt, Cyprus and Singapore, before retiring to Herefordshire in 1970.

He joined 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn as an RO in early 1971 at a time of great change. With his very likeable personality and an abundance of good humour he soon earned the respect and affection of all Squadron members who often sought his advice and counsel.

Norman was a full member of the Hereford family. Well supported by **Joy** they dedicated themselves to the well being of the Squadron. He was greatly loved in Hereford and will be much missed by his many friends throughout the Corps and by everyone in '264'.

Starkey—Capt T.J. Starkey. Trefor Starkey served in the Corps from 1962-1967 following Welbeck College (Entry number 13 1959-61) and RMA Sandhurst. He died in Lyon, France on 25 July 1991 aged 48 years.

MEMORIAL DEDICATION FOR SIG STEVEN POLLITT
by Cpl Revill

On Friday 12 July 1991 a memorial dedication was held to commemorate the untimely death of **Sig Steven Pollitt**, who collapsed in Vimy Barracks on 19 March 1991.

His parents, relatives and friends attended the ceremony and were met at the gates by **Cpl Revill.** They were then taken to the 3 Squadron HQ and met **Capt Shelagh MacLeod** and **WO2 (SSM) Clive Young.**

After coffee the mourners visited the Troop lines, meeting **SSgt Jimmy Lewington**, C Troop Comd, **Sgt Steve Rogers**, D Troop Sergeant, and the members of the trade training course. **Sig Pollitt** had, during his time in 3 Squadron, been a member of both these Troops.

At midday a dedication ceremony of a cherry tree, planted in **Steven Pollitt**'s memory, was held. It was performed by **Rev Ken Tibbo**, during which the heavens opened and within seconds all without umbrellas were soaked through. 'From water there is life'.

Afterwards a buffet lunch was held in the Corporals' Mess. **The Pollitt Memorial Cup** was unveiled. It will be presented to the highest placed 3 Squadron team in the annual regimental military skills competition, the Gordon's Cup. **Steven**'s mother was presented with a framed photo of her son with his course.

The relatives left to return to Rochdale, comforted by the knowledge that **Steven** will not be forgotten in the Squadron.

THE LATE COL C. P. S. DENHOLM-YOUNG

A memorial service for the life of **Col C. P. S. Denholm-Young OBE** will be held in the Wesley Memorial Church, New Inn Hall Street, Oxford at 1400 hrs on 23 October 1991.

Those wishing to attend should apply for tickets to the Assistant Regimental Secretary, RHQ.

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 17 December 1991 at 1800 hrs.

It is hoped that members of the Corps and their families especially those serving in London TA Regiments, Association Branches, Chelsea Pensioners and Yeoman Warders, will attend this Service in the Corps affiliated London Church. Light refreshments will be available in the nearby Church Hall after the Service for all those who are able to stay.

Those wishing to attend the Service are asked to inform Regimental Headquarters so that seats may be reserved and the refreshments ordered. Since the overall capacity of the Church is only 350, allocations will be made on a first come, first served, basis.

THE CHOIR

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 rehearsal on the afternoon of the Carol Service. Music will shortly be available and choristers are asked to study it before the final rehearsal. Aspiring singers, including boys voices, should contact **Lt Col John Chambers**, LSOR8, Room 120, Northumberland House, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BP. Tel: MB 80463 or 071-218-0463.

REUNIONS

OLD WELBEXIAN ASSOCIATION

The next President's Dinner will be held at Welbeck College on Saturday 23 November 1991.

The dress will be Mess Kit for serving officers and Black Tie for retired officers. The cost will be approximately £12. Limited accommodation is available on request.

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 Ext 30.

Applications should arrive at least two weeks prior to the Dinner.

RUGBY REUNION—7 SIG REGT

It is intended to hold a reunion weekend over the dates 14, 15 and 16 February next year for those who were involved in Rugby in 7 Sig Regt over the years gone by. The Reunion will take place in the Regiment in Herford. I would ask anyone interested to give wide publicity to this event, especially to ex-members of the Regiment who have left the Corps. For further details contact **Capt A. Hickling**, 7 Sig Regt, BFPO 15.

PERSONAL

Friends of **WO1 (RSM) B. A. Thomas**, late of 37 Sig Regt (V) will be pleased to know that he has made a good recovery from his accident prior to his retirement. He is now working as a financial adviser with a well known Financial Services Company and would be pleased to hear from serving and retired members of the Corps, and those who may wish to seek his advice. He can be contacted on 0272-732779.

FOR SALE

IN AID OF THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND
A SOLDIER'S DREAM

A children's book which is the story of a young lad who joins the army during the Napoleonic Wars and has a dream with an amusing consequence. Mr John Ryan of 'Captain Pugwash' renown has illustrated it.

The book, including p&p costs £2.75 and should make a good stocking filler and due to the illustrations will be enjoyed by all the family. It is only available by mail order. All proceeds go to the Army Benevolent Fund so please make cheques/postal orders out to the Army Benevolent Fund. Orders to:- **Peter Stewart-Richardson**, Creake Abbey, North Creake, Fakenham, Norfolk NR21 9LF.

A CHRISTMAS STOCKING GIFT FOR 1991 'GENERAL SALUTE'

or A Laugh with Senior Army Brass

The Army Benevolent Fund is producing a Christmas Stocking Gift for 1991. The paperback contains a collection of some 100 and more lighthearted service life anecdotes provided by serving and retired Senior Army Officers including some distinguished ladies. Most tales are particularly designed to draw a smile from the reader at the gentle expense of the teller. Many anecdotes are cartoon illustrated.

A short concluding section takes an equally lighthearted but pictorial 'peep' at the 'other sort of Army Brass', or those who have across the years established 'General Salute' as a ceremonial ritual.

The cost will be £2.95 per book excluding packing and postage (60p UK only). Overseas postage will be charged extra. The entire profit from the sale of this paperback will be used to help soldiers, ex-soldiers, and their dependants when they are in need.

Several distinguished Signallers feature.

Orders to: **ABF Project General Salute, c/o HQ 2nd Infantry Brigade, Risborough Barracks, Shorncliffe, Kent CT20 3HR. Tel: Folkestone 49541 ext: 2049.**

ROYAL SIGNALS COMMEMORATIVE POSTAL COVERS—NEW SERIES COMMENCING 28 OCTOBER 1991

A series of Commemorative philatelic covers is planned under the title 'Army Communications'. The series will depict signal equipment from the Peninsular War to the present day, but designed for general interest.

The first cover, on the theme of the 180th Anniversary of the battle of Arroyo Dos Molinos in Spain will be date-stamped by BFPO 28 October 1991. Covers can be ordered from the Royal Signals Museum Blandford Camp as follows: Standard Envelope £2.50 each; 'Flown' Envelope £3.50 each and Special Envelope £5.00 each.

Each envelope contains an insert with description and illustrations of the theme depicted. Orders should be placed with **Royal Signals Museum Shop, School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH.**

AIRBORNE FORCES COMMEMORATIVE COVERS

A pictorial series of philatelic covers are being issued over the four years 1990-1993 to commemorate the major events in the history since 1940 of the British Airborne Forces. Each cover will be produced in:

A Standard Edition with on the cover artwork, a definitive stamp and a special British Forces Postal Service date stamp; and an historical insert card. Price £2.75.

A Red Devil Edition of 1,500 of the Standard covers signed by the Team Captain of The Parachute Regiment Display Team 'The Red Devils'. Price £3.75.

A Special Limited Edition of one thousand Standard covers signed by a distinguished personality (CV insert card included) closely connected with Airborne Forces. The first 'Special' was signed by Mr Winston Churchill MP, grandson of the great war-time Prime Minister. Price £5.25.

You will like to know that every cover issued will have been flown and parachuted by serving members of Airborne Forces.

These prices will remain constant and include the cost of packing and postage. Profits will be donated to Airborne charities. The first three covers were issued on 22 June, Remembrance Sunday 1990 and 10 February 1991. To obtain the covers of your choice please contact: **The Philatelic Officer, The Airborne Forces Museum, c/o RHQ The Parachute Regiment, Browning Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2BU.**

CORPS CHRISTMAS CARDS

Royal Signals Christmas Cards are on sale at the Museum Shop, Blandford.

There are two types of cards this year.

The traditional high quality embossed crested card with Corps coloured ribbon on the side. Size 6" × 4". Price 5 for £3.00.

An Officer in full dress uniform c1938 with the Catterick Headquarters Mess in the background. Coloured. Size 4½" × 6¼". Price 4 for £1.00.

Please make cheques payable to 'Royal Signals Corps Funds'.

Op Prosperous. Personnel who served in Namibia during Op Prosperous are advised that the following are available from PRI 30 Sig Regt: Op Prosperous Ties £7.90, Op Prosperous Sweatshirts £15.38, Op Prosperous Pullovers £17.45, including p&p.

Royal Signals Mess Dress. Very good condition comprising jacket, waistcoat and trousers. (Chest 38, Waist 32, Leg 32). Will suit someone of average build 5'11". Rank up to Staff Sergeant. Price £65. **Mr P. Engering,** 26 St Catherines Drive, Leconfield, North Humberside HU17 7NU or ring 0964 550822.

WANTED

Any SNCO who wishes to sell his Mess Kit for cash should contact **WO1 F. McAleer** (call Mil 2548), Tango Troop, 1 Squadron, 8 Sig Regt, Catterick. (Good rates paid for serviceable Mess Kits.)

THE ARMED FORCES ART SOCIETY

The Armed Forces Art Society exists to help people in the Services who draw and paint, make sculpture or engrave glass by holding an exhibition in London each year at the National Army Museum in Chelsea at which about 400 works go on show. Many of the exhibitors are professional artists who have served in the Forces thus ensuring a high standard of work. This also provides a great opportunity for the less experienced to see their work in a major exhibition and to benefit from professional advice. The Prince of Wales, a distinguished watercolourist, is the Society's Patron.

The dates for this year's exhibition are:

Private View:	Wednesday 20th November	3pm to 9pm
Open to Public:	Thursday 21st November to Tuesday 27th November	11am to 5pm
	Sunday 24th November	2pm to 5pm

Further details can be obtained by sending a sae to: The Assistant Secretary **Capt Bill Blake,** D Block, Duke of Yorks HQ, London SW3 4SE.

GUIDE DOG—HONEY

Do you remember the article on page 481 October 1990 *Wire* (8 Sig Regt notes) about Guide dog puppy 'Honey'? **Capt M. P. Nisbet WRAC** is pleased to report that Honey is now a qualified Guide Dog. She, and her new owner live in Middlesbrough and settling down well together. **Capt Nisbet** sends her grateful thanks to everyone who contributed towards her training.

Remembrance Day is Sunday 10 November

THE COST OF *THE WIRE* FOR 1992 IS £1.30 per copy; £7.80 per annum.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS 1992 CALENDAR

To promote the good name of Royal Signals in the Army, within our own family circles and also outside in the commercial world, the Corps has decided to publish its own high quality full colour calendar for 1992 again but this year it will be cheaper!

BUY THE CALENDAR AND SUPPORT YOUR CORPS

This calendar which has been printed to a high standard will illustrate many of the finest traditions and achievements of the Corps in operational, training, sporting and social situations. With one page per month it will feature many of the capabilities which have made our Corps famous, and which we would therefore proudly wish to share with our colleagues and friends. For example, electronic warfare, Ptarmigan, the White Helmets and winning Army Sporting Championships.

The Royal Signals 1992 Calendar, which will be available in October 1991 has a space daily for jotting appointments and is intended to grace any wall in the office, the crew room, or at home. It will make an excellent Christmas Gift or Christmas Draw Prize and at £3.50 (10.00DM) is a modest price to pay for a present which will be appreciated for 365 days of the year. This is, in Army terms, still a unique undertaking and an excellent way of expressing to your colleagues, family and friends your pride in Royal Signals.

Who would have a wall without one—at Home and Away?

CALENDAR ORDER FORM

Regimental Headquarters Royal Signals
56 Regency Street
London SW1P 4AD

Please send me ..... copies of the 1992 Royal Signals Calendar.

I enclose a cheque (£3.50 or 10.00DM each) for .....

Name .....

Address .....

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REPORT FROM ULSTER

XV 15 Sig Regt BFPO 801

RHQ
CO — **Lt Col G. M. S. Shipley**
2IC — **Maj J. P. Hudson**
Adjt **Capt F. P. Roberts**, RSM **WO1 (RSM) B. C. Howe.**

Although operations overshadow all activities, the contents and flavour of our notes from two of the Squadrons show that life is not all hard work and that we do enjoy both sport and adventurous training. At this point the Adjutant would like to make the point that the high incidence of adventurous sail training reported in these notes is totally unconnected to the fact that he runs the Army Sailing Association (Northern Ireland) yachts.

In the RHQ we said goodbye to **Sgt Paul Lincoln** and his family, who have gone to UK, and welcomed **Sgt O'Neill** from BAOR.

225 SIGNAL SQUADRON
SHQ
Sqn Comd — **Maj I. R. Fielder**
2IC — **Capt D. J. Luckett**
Ops Adjt **Capt V. S. Bright**, ORS **Sgt Smith.**

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

The Squadron said farewell to **WSgt Marie Cottam** to BAOR, **Cpl Bob Hodgson**, who having completed his 22 years has gone to spend his last six months in UK, **Cpl Ian Foulkes** who after much pestering is posted to AFNORTH (Norway)—only because the antarctic doesn't have any vacancies. To **Sgt Steve Thompson** to UK, with best wishes for his forthcoming marriage. The SSM, **WO2 (SSM) M. A. Orange** also left on promotion to WO1 for BAOR as RSM.

Welcome to **Cpl Steve Simpson, LCpl Shirley** and **Cpl John Hayden** all into the Commcen, other new faces include **Sgt Nige Mandella, Cpl Bob Ackland-Snow, WLCpl Jus Coyd** and **WLCpl Michelle McDiarmid** all to Delta Troop and **WSgt Liz Thomson** to Echo Troop.

OTHER NEWS

Congratulations to **Cheryl Green**, wife of **LCpl Nigel Green** on the birth of their baby girl. Also to **Wendy Wright**, wife of **Cpl Tim Wright** on the birth of their baby boy.

HOCKEY NI FIVE-A-SIDE

The Squadron entered a team for this year's five a side competition at RAF Aldergrove on 12 April. The games were played on a league basis and, against stiff competition the Squadron were runners up, losing only one game to the winners, NI Regt AAC by 1—0. Teams members were **SSgt Taff Gillespie** (GK), **Cpls Charlie Brown, Ali Taylor** (Capt), **Dave Longmuir, Max Roberts, Steve Gilbertson** and **LCpl Tommo Thomasson.**

ADVENTURE TRAINING

In May the Regiment held an adventurous training exercise in the Lake District. It took the usual form of hillwalking, windsurfing and rockclimbing.

The parts were divided into groups. The first group went windsurfing with **SSM 'Taff' Williams** and **SSgt 'Tiger' Howarth.** The second group enjoyed a leisurely stroll with **Sgt Tommy Burns.'**

On the third day the groups joined forces and attempted 'Jakes Rake'—a climb which was guaranteed to maintain our interest. **Sig Jameson** and **LCpl Steve Lyne** managed to leave hand and eyebrow prints along the entire climb!

All in all a good week for all—we look forward to the September session!

GOLF TROOP

Billy and **Ruth McCreath** are leaving us. **Billy**'s off to attend his FofS course and the workshop will remember him for his legacy of a trail of dismantled computers in his quest for knowledge.

WO2 (FofS) Dave Long (the milky bar kid) has served his sentence and is being taken into care by the School of Signals. The workshops thank him for all his hard work.

Farewell to **Ian** and **Heather Elborn** and **Ian** who leaves us to start his chopper course at Middle Wallop—let's hope the Army Air Corps will be able to adjust to the mellow yellow Elborn approach to life.

Finally we say goodbye to big **Jeff Jefferson**, although now he is a lot smaller after his detachment commanders course. Good luck on your T1.

ARRIVALS

We offer a warm welcome to **Sgt Clive Turner** and his wife **Cathy**, and hope they enjoy their tour as our 'oldest rigger in town'—keep up the PT, we will make you awesome yet. Welcome to **Sgt Craig Collins** and his wife, **Asuncion**, and **WO2 (FofS) Steve Elsworthy** (see our reference to 'huddles' and sports afternoons).

SAILING

SSgt Ian Richardson (yes that's him) and **Sgt Jeff Land** have had an intense competition to see who gets the coveted 'Capt Pugwash' award for swerving off on a variety of sailing trips at the slightest provocation.

CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to **Sgt Mick Swift, Cpls Gary Wilson, Chris Youles** on their recent promotions. Also congratulations to **Cpl Paul Irwin** on passing his T1 entrance exam.

The Troop send their best wishes to **Cpl Simon Pell** and his wife **Angie** on their birth of their baby daughter **Jenny**.

233 SIGNAL SQUADRON
SHQ
Sqn Comd — **Maj I. W. R. Seraph**
2IC — **Capt M. G. Billingham**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) M. I. Parsons**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) D. I. R. Murray**, Clerk **LCpl W. Berkery.**

The past few months have seen some personality changes in the SHQ team, with the departure of **WO2 (SSM) Jeff Williams** to take up an executive blanket-stacking appointment as RQMS in BAOR, we wish **Jeff, Jean** and family all the best for the future. His successor **WO2 (SSM) Mich Parsons**, is now firmly established in the chair (having lowered it), and we hope that both he and **Mavis** have an enjoyable tour in the Province.

The SQMS Department has also had a change of management with the departure of **Sgt Pete Farrington** on promotion, to wild and windy Wales and we are sure that **Pete, Lesley**, and the family will enjoy life in the slow lane after a full tour in Northern Ireland. The current SQMS, **SSgt Dave Murray**, arrived in the corridors of power via a spell as Chief Brinton Systems Controller, and was only too happy to hand over the sleepless nights and the pager to **Sgt Mick Scott** in Tech Troop.

INDIA TROOP

The troop has been busy with both sections Victor and Whiskey personnel being involved in major upgrades as well as move of buildings.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **SSgt Mick Brooks** on his marriage to **Angela, LCpl Mick Bremner** on his promotion to Corporal, and to **Cpl Norm Ritchie** and **Sig Jammy Husain** on eventually being presented with their GSM!

WELCOMES AND GOODBYES

Welcome to **Cpl Si Graham** and family who return to the Province, and **LCpl Rick O'Neill** and **Sig Dave Berry** on his first tour. We say goodbye to **Cpl Al Harris** and **Bergit**, who have departed to the Commcen. Farewell to **SSgt (FofS) Mick Milne** and **Judith** to 259 Sig Sqn, enjoy the skiing, and welcome to his replacement **SSgt (FofS) Jon Whitmore** and family from Blandford and to **Sig Blakey** on posting to the reserve.

Sgts Gorman, Doody and LCpl Wald 'splashing out' on WO2 (SSM) Williams leaving gift

TECH TROOP
SYSTEMS CONTROL

A warm welcome to **Sgt Bob Buckingham** and his wife **Julie** just arrived from sunny Blandford and **LCpl Andy Lloyd** straight from 11 Sig Regt. Farewell from all of Systems to **Sgt Bain** and his family. We wish him all the best, honest, on his FofS course. **Cpl McIntyre** and his wife **Heather**, plus the little one, who have now left us to go to the School of Signals. Congratulations to **Sgt Nige Wardell** on his recent promotion.

DC WORKSHOPS

Congratulations to **Sgt Flather** on his recent promotion, and a warm welcome to **WLCpl Heselden**.

INSTALLATION SECTION

We would like to wish **SSgt Pete Warhurst** the best of luck in his posting to 4ADSR. He will be sorely missed especially since he is the only person in the section who knows the combination to the refreshment fridge!

TECH TP SAILING ADVENTURE
Skipper — **Cpl Rob Gray**

This is a tale of sailors five who braved the sea and are still alive. Twas on the day of 20 July and the year of 1991 that the crew of our good ship set off for a jolly jaunt upon the sea. When out of Province we set sail for Portpatrick bound, no sign of fear was to be found. Within a few hours, a port in sight, all traces of sea sickness were not in sight. The sails came down then into port—a perfect docking or so we thought. When all was stowed and tidied up a bit of shore leave and a bit of a sup. Up the next morning, very first thing to a hearty breakfast and hear the birds sing. We left our moorings and headed out for Campbeltown or so we planned. On leaving port the engine failed so very quickly we changed to sail. The engine started yet again and so we thought was the last of our pain. Out past the headland for Aisla Craig and a tack for Campbeltown was surely made. The wind was fading and moving around so by our engine we were bound. The engine alas would not start and gave little more than a cough and a spurt. So by the wind we had to go, the changing tide pushing us to and fro. Further away and time would fade so a contingency plan we made. To head for an island was decided—Scalda its name was not easy sided. As we drew closer the night drew in, our chances by now growing pretty thin. On rounding the island we passed the buoy and we thought that things were going fine, the depth gauge was bit dodgy but we plodded on quite doggedly. The tide was strong the wind was not, so near a rock we hit a spot of bother but we cleared that but this was not the end of that. The night was in and not a light to port was seen as we thought there might have been. A radio we did not have to aid us in our plight so flares were used so to set our plight and showed our distress in hope of sight. We made it into shallow water and anchored off just like we oughta. Without a wind or radio or sight, we were anchored off for the night. Just then as we thought all was lost the lifeboat came at no extra cost. We were towed to Campbeltown where we were headed for anyway. The next day dawned and low and behold repairs were made and sails were fold. The following day all being well we sailed back home on a swell. So hence we returned from the high sea, me and my crew, my crew and me. Take from this adventure what you will but we all returned safe with a bit of a thrill.

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn BFPO 807

PERSONALITIES
Sqn Comd — **Maj D. McDowall**
2IC — **Capt I. Standen**
AO **Maj J. L. Godfrey** 15/19 H, AOPS **Lt A. Gordon**, RSM **WO1 (RSM) P. Whitehouse**, FofS **WO2 (FofS) J. Abernethy**, YofS **WO2 (YofS) P. Forryan**, CC **SSgt (ORSQMS) M. Cole.**

REGIMENTAL DUTY LUNCH

After much discussion about getting Regimental Duty personnel serving in the Province together for a lunch, 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn organised the first occasion.

The invitations went out to all those holding an RD type appointment, guests included **Majs McDowall, Buckley, Olive** and two RSMs from the Brigade.

The RQMS, **WO2 Mick Ara**, organised the function and the RSM **WO1 Pete Whitehouse** took this opportunity to bid farewell to **WO1 (RSM) Bill Heelan** and **WO2 (SSM) Mick Orange**, and to welcome **WO1 (RSM) Bob Stonier** and **WO2 (SSM) Mick Parton.**

NEWS FROM SHQ

SSgt Bickerstaffe, the BTNILO, has left SHQ to join TM Tp. **LCpl Steve Upsall**, after many weeks of intensive training, has gone to do his Det Comd's course.

Now that the Sqn Comd, **Maj McDowall** has given up drinking coffee life is less busy for **Sig Townsend. Cpl Marty Briody** continues to demonstrate real style on his driving lessons. After all if you're going to have a near miss what is wrong with just missing a Rolls Royce?

The Squadron has renewed its enthusiasm for all sports and has been well represented by **Cpl Marty Briody**, playing for the football, rugby and cross-country. **SSgt Mick Cole** has taken over the football team with the intention of trying to win a few more games this year. As a Blackpool supporter his qualifications for the job are debatable but we must wait and see.

Elsewhere on the sporting front **Sig Bobby Townsend** has eagerly joined the new boxing team not realising that it necessitates so much training. He is also confused as to why everyone volunteers to spar with him! The SHQ five-a-side football team continues to take part in the Inter-Troop League although the results would improve dramatically if we could get **Cpl Marty Briody** to pass the ball!

Congratulations to **WO1 (RSM) P. Whitehouse** on his recent marriage and our best wishes for the future. We say goodbye to **Sandra** our civilian typist who after nearly three years has moved to a new job. We all wish her well. Hello to our new typist, **Mrs 'Jimmy' Samuel**, we hope you enjoy working with us.

COMMS TP
PERSONALITIES

Cpl Andy Thompson, LCpls Andy Horkins, Martin Johnson, Helen Sainsbury, Paul Stokes, Sig Mark Conti, Adey Crabtree, WPtes Sheridan Hardman, Carol Smith and **Sue Wilson.**

We welcome the following new arrivals into the commcen clan, **WPte Sheridan Hardman**. Also **LCpl Paul Stokes** and **Sig 'Tom' Conti** both from 30 Sig Regt.

Congratulations to **LCpl** 'Johno' **Johnston** on his marriage to **Jennifer. Cpl Russ Craig** was Best Man. He has now gone to 9 Sig Regt. Finally a special mention about **Sig** 'Crabbers' **Crabtree,** who decided he was unsure about leaving the Army, so he tried his hand at rigging one Saturday night . . . and is now seen hobbling to work on a pair of crutches.

COMMS TRIALS TEAM

We say farewell to **Cpl** (now Sgt) **Bennett** and wife **Tracie** who have made a huge move from Londonderry to Londonderry (3 Royal Anglian RLD).

CYPHER TEAM
PERSONALITIES

Sgt Gerry Garnett, Cpls Drew Collins, Andy Corlett, Dave Parkes and **Pete Gait**.

On the sporting front, the 'Old Man' has made more comebacks on the football field and has just won his second NI Minor Units Cup winners medal for cricket. 'The Taig' is busy getting the rugby club in order for the new season. He is the only player who can be relied upon to go to the game in a CMV and come back with a sick chit or in an ambulance. **Cpls Pete Gait** and **Andy Corlett** have now got the bug and are enjoying the pre-season training!

TM TROOP

Troop Comd **WO2 (FofS) Abernethy**
Troop SSgt **SSgt Mick Gaylard**
Radio Sgt **Sgt Andy Forbes**, Line/Rig Sgt **Sgt Steve Maycock**, Hele Tele **Sgt Phil McMullen, Sgt Steve Ruxton.**

FAMILY NOTES FROM TM TROOP

We are proud to introduce some new additions to the family. Welcome to **LCpl Hopkins**, and also to **Sig Turner**.

LINE SECTION
PERSONALITIES

IC **Cpl Craig Wrath**
LCpls 'Higgy' Hignett, 'Bolts' Bolton, Terry Brice, Sig Dean Sutton and **Watts.**

LCpl 'Higgy' **Hignett** is now a much happier man now he has actually got his leave approved after submitting seven applications. He then signed for his eight year bonus; then signed off! Talking of leave, **LCpl** 'Bolts' **Bolton** has returned from two weeks on the mainland with a broken hand, he now swears this is the reason he has yet to pass his BFT. We have temporarily lost **LCpl Terry Brice** to the BTNILO where the seats are comfy and offices are warm. **Sig Watts** is enjoying his Class 1 at Catterick, we hope.

QM DEPT

We bade farewell to **Sgt Trev Tilley** RAOC and his wife **Jan**. They are posted to Hong Kong. Lucky them. We say hello to **Sgt Tony Bromilow** RAOC who arrives fresh from the AMF.

Congratulations to **Sgt Sammy Ahmed** RPC on his recent promotion and posting to Colchester, there is life in the QM Dept after all.

MT SECTION

Welcome to the Troop: **LCpl John Harvey** RCT, **LCpl** 'Polly' **Pollitt** RCT, and **Sig Hynd**.

Farewell to **LCpl** 'Geordie' **Moore, Cpl Paul Walker, Cpl Mark Brown** and last but not least **LCpl Andy Sparkes** on his way to civ div.

RIGGING SECTION

The enormous task of completing the maintenance on all the hill top sites, some 30, is coming to an end. Naturally this was not achieved without a couple of amusing incidents. While rigging at one of the sites the maintenance team of **Cpl Neil Roome** and **LCpl Jake** 'Canada' **Jacobs** were attacked. It came in the form of a monster goat named Billy.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FORM — PAGE 307
(*Wire* rates for 1992 are £1.30 per copy, £7.80 per annum)

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TRANSFER OF ASSETS	–to the next generation.

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

OUR ADVICE is free and does not commit you to any action: we only ask that any arrangements you decide to make be made through us. It is based on over 42 years of examining clients' problems, analysing them and advising on them. It is not delivered by persuasive salesmen, but is given in writing for you to study at your leisure.

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– News from Headquarters –

School of Signals Blandford Camp Dorset

NO 1 R SIGNALS WARRANT OFFICERS' COURSE

The first Royal Signals Warrant Officers' Course was held at the School of Signals during 15-26 July 1991. The aim of the course is to enable Staff Sergeants, selected for promotion, to carry out, in barracks and in the field, the administrative and Mess duties of a Warrant Officer and the duties of a Squadron Sergeant Major.

The syllabus includes service writing, service funds, training, mess management, unit administration, military law, Corps matters and defence of a communications site. Successful completion of the course is a pre-requisite for promotion for all Staff Sergeants and the first course certainly produced some banter, especially between Foremen, Yeomen and others.

No 1 Royal Signals Warrant Officers' Course
Fourth Row L to R: SSgt Barrett, AWO2 Bartlett, SSgt Butler, AWO2 Case, AWO2 Dos Martyres, AWO2 George, AWO2 Grantham, AWO2 Hall
Third Row L to R: AWO2 Hatfield, SSgt Lifton, AWO2 March, SSgt Minton, AWO2 Morgan, SSgts Mullen, Nicholson
Second Row L to R: AWO2 Parsons, AWO2 Patterson, AWO2 Pickard, SSgt Piddock, AWO2 Reith, AWO2 Showell, SSgt Skimming, AWO2 Stratton
First Row L to R: AWO2 Thomson, AWO2 Truby, AWO2 Whiteford, SSgts Williams, Wood, AWO2 Woodcock, AWO2 Wright

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE VISITS BLANDFORD CAMP

Rt Hon Tom King MP visited Blandford on Friday, 5 July to see for himself something of the tasks that the Corps undertakes.

The Secretary of State was briefed on the Corps and the roles and responsibilities of Blandford. He went on to open the new ACISA building which houses ACISA (part of DCIS(A)'s organisation), the Army CIS Group looking after the Battlegroup CIS project, and the HQ CIS Group looking after HQ CIS projects including the Desert Interim CIS System (DICS).

Later he went on to see satellite, radio and EW detachments of 30 Sig Regt, some recently returned from the Gulf war.

Finally, he had lunch in the Sergeants' Mess, where he met representative groups from all the organisations located at Blandford. The Secretary of State addressed all those present, speaking of the change that was taking place in the world and the effect that it was having on future requirements for Defence Forces. He spoke of Options for Change and finished by confirming the importance of communications and information technology support to the Army.

The Secretary of State addresses officers, warrant officers and seniors at the Blandford Sergeants' Mess

News from Regiments

1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 32

Since the Regiment's return from the Gulf, RHQ Tp has been subjected to a workload, the like of which has never been seen before. **LCpl Cameron** was asked to lend a hand to our ever busy ORS, and slowly but surely, the huge pile of CR's, insert slips and abridged reports disappeared. On the docs side of life, things were very much the same. **Cpl Hall** started the task of returning documents to various regiments with great gusto, sports afternoons were cancelled, late hours called for and out trays began to look like mobile filing cabinets. Whilst **Cpl Hall** was beavering away, **Sig Dean Fisher**, was trying to work out the best way of handling terms of service, a job he has inherited from **Sig** (now LCpl) **Andy Little**, who did the right thing and left Verden to join 212 Sig Sqn in Osnabruck; well done on your promotion.

Cpl Dave Harries, decided that the easiest way to ensure his work load was reduced was to go on leave and hand over to other members of RHQ but 70 days leave! It must be said that he has accomplished this task to an amazing degree of efficiency again today. Whilst most people have been in a state of controlled panic, **Pte Julie Lamb** has sat at the same desk for the last nine months (often invisible due to the amount of files) efficiently filing and going about her work. This has been a very trying experience for poor **Julie**, who has had to endure the Superintendent Clerk's valiant efforts to stop smoking. As this is being written, our Superintendent Clerk, **WO1 Graham Manning** is in the process of handing over his appointment to **WO1 John Chapman**. All members of RHQ are very grateful to **Mr Manning** for the help and advice he has given to the Troop over the past two years. He will be missed and we wish him and his family the very best for his next tour. At the same time we would like to welcome **Mr Chapman** to the chair. We wish our chief scribe and his family the very vest and hope their stay in Verden is a happy one. When one goes they all seem to go. **WO1 (RSM) Brian Dalton** is now beside himself with excitement as his chuff chart is nearly complete and the pips beckon. Congratulations to the RSM on his commissioning. All in RHQ wish him the very best in his new appointment, we hope both he and his family enjoy their tour in Herford. All the members of RHQ would like to congratulate the CO **Lt Col J. E. F. Kirby** on his recent award of the OBE for his services on Op *Granby*.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

We congratulate the undermentioned personnel in the Regiment who were also honoured for services on Op Granby.

COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES MIDDLE EAST COMMENDATION

SSgt Tanser, LCpls Benson, Stein and **Cpl Tallentine**—REME.

GOC 4 ARMD DIV COMMENDATION

Capt May

GOC 1 ARMD DIV COMMENDATION

LCpl Fallows

NEW YORK GULF PARADE

Report by Lt K. S. J. Russell

It was a wet Thursday in Germany when the Adjutant called for me and asked whether I would like to go to the New York Ticker Tape Parade the following week. After a period of considerable thought (about two milliseconds) I agreed. The following Tuesday **Sig Walker** and I went to Gutersloh to join the rest of the BAOR contingent.

We flew by C130 to UK where we met up with the UKLF contingent at South Cerney. It was here that we got reintroduced to the delights of drill by the RSM of Old College, RMA Sandhurst. After two days of rehearsals we flew to Maguire Airbase in Newark from where we were taken to our accommodation at Stevens Institute of Technology.

Once we had settled in and been briefed we were free to do some sightseeing until the rehearsal on Sunday.

The day of the parade was hot and sunny with temperatures reaching the mid 80's. We formed up in Bridge Street just off the end of Broadway and at 1500 hrs set off. The entire route was lined with crowds 20 deep on both sides and the air above us was full of ticker tape.

After the parade we were taken to the USS *Intrepid*. Here about 10,000 people were entertained by the USO and various celebrities. After dark there was a huge fireworks display although unfortunately this was on the other side and therefore the effect was slightly dampened by the tower blocks in the way.

All in all it was a once in a lifetime opportunity that all participants enjoyed immensely.

1 SQUADRON

FAREWELLS, WELCOMES AND CONGRATULATIONS

Since our last report there have been a number of postings in and out of the Squadron. We have said farewell to **Capt Martin Girard** and **Gyl, Capt Andy Addison, Lt Phil Wheeler** and **Sally, Lt Adam Parsons** (now AAdjt), **WO2 Dave Bradshaw** and **Ilene, SSgt Neil Arden** and **Ann, Cpl** 'Kitch' **Kitchener** and **Sue, LCpl** 'Hammy' **Hamill, LCpl Keith Moffat** and **Birgit, LCpl** 'Dino' **Whitehouse, Sig** 'Taff' **Llewellyn** and **Sig** 'Sevy' **Seville**.

Posted in: **Capt Sean Sullivan**, the new Canadian Exchange Officer, **SSgt Lance Thornton-Granville, LCpl Wakeham** and **Sig Heathcote**.

Congratulations on being leading lights in the post-Granby baby boom go to **Sgt Martin Garner** and **Catriona** (a son called **Dalton**), **Sgt Mick Ginty** and **Tracy** (a daughter called **Leeanne**), **Sgt Colin Dawson** and **Angela** (a son called **Jonathan**), **Sig Lee Davis** and **Sarah** (a son called **Christopher**). Finally an announcement . . . **Sgt Garner** wishes to make it known that his new son is not named after the RSM: *It is a family name!*

MAPLE LEAF TROPHY

As a parting gesture **Capt Martin Girard** presented the Squadron with a very fine Canadian trophy. The Maple Leaf Trophy will be awarded annually to the Troop which has gained the most points in the monthly inter troop sports competitions.

SQUADRON DINNER NIGHT

By tradition the squadron management dine out the departing Canadian in style. Not wishing to abuse tradition we followed suit and on 10 July we all gathered in the Sergeants' Mess in Mess Kit to say farewell to **Capt Martin Girard** and his wife **Gyl**. The mess played their part well with good food and wine and everyone had a marvellous time. Special mention should be made of **SSgt Neil Arden**'s speech making. We thought he was posted to 22 Sig Regt not parliament.

LS & GC PRESENTATION

The day following the farewell dinner the squadron seniors and officers gathered in the mess for the presentation of the LS & GC to **SSgt Graham Miles** by the Master of Signals.

2 SQUADRON

PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd	**Maj S. Croft**
2IC	**Capt J. Perrett**

Armoured Troop Comd **Lt K. Russell**, Rover Troop Comd **Sgt D. Tate**, Line Support Troop Comd **Sgt J. Natella RCT**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) A. H. Reeds**, FofS **SSgt (FofS) R. C. Windows**, YofS **SSgt (YofS) A. G. Trask**, Training SNCO **SSgt P. Dixon**, SQMS **SSgt S. J. Johnson**.

GAMES NIGHT

All work and no play leads to low morale, so the Wives Club organised a Games Night with lots of prizes. The SSM, **WO2 Andy Reeds** and his wife **Linda, Babs Dixon, Sgt Colin Milne** and **Edith, LCpl Thompson** and **Julie** all worked incredibly hard to ensure a packed crowd had a fun-filled night. Games included hopping up the corridor in a size 16 boot, throwing hoops over **Sig** 'Jacko' **Jackman** and a general knowledge quiz.

PROMOTIONS, DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

PROMOTIONS

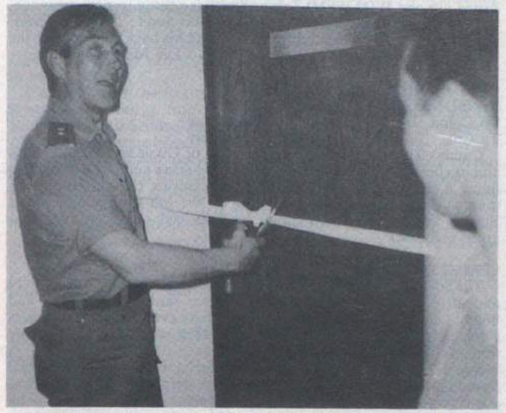
Congratulations are extended to **Cpls** 'Chalkey' **White**, 'Rooster' **Staff** and **LCpl** 'Moz' **Morris** on their well deserved promotions.

DEPARTURES

Sadly the squadron has lost some of its stalwart members: **Sgt Greg Terry** and **Debbie, Cpl Bradford** and **Julie** (how will RHQ cope without her typing skills?) and **LCpl** 'Matt' **Thomas**—all away to the AAC Harrogate. **Cpl Gary Oldfield** has gone to the sun and jungle in Belize and **LCpl Madeley** has been lost to 249 Sig Sqn.

ARRIVALS

A warm welcome to **Sgt** Geordie **Rigg** and **Sig Cattanach**—we hope you enjoy your stay here.



The CO declares 2 Sqn Bar open

201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 30

PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd	**Maj A. D. Forster**
2IC	**Capt N. J. Griffiths**

YofS **WO2 (YofS) George Greig**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) Rod Whateley**, FofS **SSgt (FofS) Jay Allen**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) Dave Cox**, C Clerk **Sgt Dougie Maher**, A Tp Comd **Lt S. G. Hutchinson**, B Tp SSgt **SSgt Rick Skelland**.

The Squadron has just completed its first post Granby deployment, at BBGT Sennelager from 8-12 July 1991. The exercise proved highly successful allowing us all, staff and signallers alike, to shake out and renew our old working acquaintances. With the Brigade FTX, Ex Highland Monarch, in October/November the Squadron has a clear goal for which to aim.

VISIT OF COMD COMMS 1 (BR) CORPS

On Wednesday 29 May **Brig M. G. Taylor MBE**, Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps visited the Squadron. During the visit an inter-troop Military Skills Competition was held with teams from each department. Devised by the 2IC, **Capt Neil Griffiths**, the event included the assault course, command task, recognition stand and written trade tests. The Brigadier was treated to a first class competition which, whilst testing the participants, proved to be a highly enjoyable and rewarding morning. Prior to his departure, Comd Comms presented a trophy to the eventual winners, SHQ 'A' team. Well done to them.

BAOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Having achieved Champions 4 Div Minor Unit, the Squadron team went on to the BAOR competition in good heart and hopeful of possible qualification for the Army finals. The competition was again held in Sennelager, on 22 June. Despite tremendous efforts from all concerned, including several personal best times/distances, the increase in standard proved too much and the team had to settle for a disappointing but respectable fifth place. Some notable performances were:

Long Jump	1st **Sig Steve Lowery**
Discus/High Jump	2nd and 4th respectively, **Sig Reg Perrin** (new personal best in both disciplines)

Thanks to **Cpl Spike Forbes** for the hard work and dedication shown in training the team.

SWIMMING

Having trained hard under **Cpl Bob Taylor**, the team took part in the 4 Div Inter Unit Swimming Championships held in Hameln on 20 June. Thanks to some gutsy performances, particularly from **Capt Nick Pratchek**, the team were in with a strong chance of finishing in the top two however, an unfortunate disqualification in the last event (4 × 50m Freestyle Relay) pushed them into third place overall. Although this was good enough to earn the Squadron a place in the BAOR finals, work commitments sadly prevented our participation.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **Cpls John Evans** and **Spike Forbes** on their recent selection for promotion to Sergeant; well done.

FAREWELLS AND HELLOS

During the past few weeks we have said farewell to several members. Our best wishes and thanks go with them and their families: **Lt Mike Rogers**—5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, **SSgt** (now WO2) **Dave Showell**—UOTC, Leeds, **Sgt** (now SSgt) **Hoppy Hopkins**—3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, **Sgt** (now Mr) **Les Ellam**—civilian life.

We welcome the following new members and their families: **SSgt Rick Skelland** and his wife **Maggie** and daughter **Bianca, Sgts Paul McCauley, Dougie Maher, Sig Ian Amos** and his wife **Jutt** and son **John** and **Sig Steve Girling.**

We hope that they have a happy and successful tour.

ATHLETICS

4 DIV CHAMPIONSHIPS

As a result of the movement in Div boundaries during Op Granby the Squadron was invited to participate in the 4 Armd Div Athletics Championships which were held at the BAOR Stadium, Sennelager on 10 and 11 June. With the standard of competition high, some exceptional personal performances were recorded, steering the team to an excellent victory in the minor units event earning the Squadron a place in the BAOR finals. The following results deserve a special mention:

400m Hurdles	1st **Dvr Stan Boardman**
5000m	1st **SSgt Pat Barclay**
4 × 400m Relay	1st **Cpl Spike Forbes, LCpl Dave Jack, Dvr Stan Boardman, Cpl Wobbly Owen**
Triple Jump	1st **Dvr Stan Boardman**
Long Jump	1st **Sig Steve Lowery**

LCpl Anderson, on behalf of SHQ A Team, receives the trophy from Comd Comms, BAOR

201 SIG SQN

Adam Jacques (ex LCpl who served in the Corps from 1981-89) has recently joined the Royal Signals Association. He would very much like to get in contact with friends who served with him at 201 Sig Sqn and also **LCpl Gary** and **Mrs Pat Tanner**. Please write to him at 55 Exeter Road, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 8LP.

207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 37

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES
Sqn Comd — **Maj M. J. Dyer**
2IC — **Capt R. A. Mulholland**
A Tp Comd **2Lt T. M. Mountford**, B Tp Comd **2Lt K. McKenzie**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) W. Drain**, C Clerk **Sgt T. Mahoney**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) Cole**, YofS **WO2 (YofS) W. Riding**, FofS **SSgt (FofS) G. Blondel**.

HONOURS
In addition to awards printed in August *Wire* **Sgt T. Mahoney** received a GOC's commendation for his work with the rear party based at the Squadron's home in Soltau. The work was carried out under difficult circumstances. He is shortly posted to Hong Kong and we wish **Tommy** 'Scouse' **Mahoney** and his family all the best.

A TROOP
June started and continued with a party. We said goodbye to **Cpl** 'Lofty' **Lofthouse, Cpls Kev Wyatt** and **Steve Brannan**.

CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations to **LCpl Mick Murphy** and **Garrie** and to **Sig Wayne Black** and **Rhona** on their marriages.

MT/LINE TROOP
PERSONALITIES
Tp Comd — **Sgt Steve Roberts**
Cpls Bob Bruce, Keith Brodie, LCpls Ian Pickavance, Tony Burt, Jock Hay, Pte Richie Hodge, Sig Foo Harris and **Dvr Mark Bingham**.

CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations go to **Pte Ritchie Hodge** on the birth of a daughter, well done.

SQMS DEPT
The news of the cease fire further increased our already trebled work-load, as stores were centralised prior to being returned to the Ordnance. Ammunition was handed in to be counted by **LCpls** 'Daz' **Bartleet** and **Paul Greenwood**, who spent many hours sat amongst piles of hot, sweaty, primed grenades wondering why no one was visiting them!

CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations to **Cpl John Cook** on his selection for promotion to Sergeant.

FAREWELL
Farewell to **SSgt (SQMS) Paul Alexander** and **Susan** and new son **David**, on his posting to UK.

SUMMER CAMP
A selected handful embarked on the treacherous journey to Moosbach, a quiet area of Bavaria between the unspoiled beauty of Sonthofen and Kempton.

Activities were soon organised, consisting of top roping and abseiling, canoeing, windsurfing, water skiing and trekking.

Hidden talents soon surface, **SSM** 'the balancing man' **Drain** and his exploits on the windsurfers. **LCpl Pete Green**, formed a strong bond between his canoe, a bridge and a German fisherman. **WPte Toni Kitcher**. Who needs rope for abseiling when your hair will do? **Cpl Andy Spinks** and his novel way of catching a baseball bat. **SSgt John** 'Quincy' **Coles** and his quick response to a nose bleed.

Cpl Vic 'Bangkok' **Hayes** demonstrated the art of correcting a canoe with a paddle slap, not with a great deal of success unfortunately. He surfaced finally, but lost his glasses in the process. **Sig Djie Knowles**, for his bike riding. How do you break the chain on a mountain bike, find a girl to give you a lift to the shops and find one that's open at six at night **Djie**. 2IC **Capt Mulholland**, for setting a fine example of how to spend two months' wages in 24 hours (when's the barbecue).

Other talents that came out were the vast amount of people that follow Formula One racing. **Sig Foo Harris** and **Fritz Fitzmaurice** leading the championship table so far. Myself, **Cpl Pete Clark** for mastering the German language. Whilst only a little lost, I approached a shop assistant and asked her the way to the town of Fishen. She led me the length of the shop and pointed out the wide selection of tinned fish.

We also found a great deal of dancers that moved their legs with much rhythm in the strangest of places. 2500m up a rock isn't the ideal place for a disco. The week was a welcome break.

212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 36

SHQ TROOP
Sgt Mick Parrish's beaming countenance still illuminates the admin office. The FofS **Mick Dighton** is getting the technical equipment sorted out and **WO2 (SSM) Trevor Smith** is getting to now everyone. The 2IC **Capt Nick Romans** got through his audit. The Sqn Comd, **Maj Tim Inshaw** has been oiling his bat (and his back) to open for the Squadron cricket team, runners up in the 3 Div Minor Units Cup.

COMMS TROOP
PERSONALITIES
Tp Comd — **2Lt Rich Rumsey**
Tp Cpl — **Cpl Bill Walters**
Comms Tp still remains a combination of Oscar and Papa Troops and has been run by **WO2 (YofS) Bob Pemberton** and **Cpl Bill Walters** doing a sterling job as Troop Sergeant. During the past couple of months the Troop has been working on the job of regaining all its Panzers and changing their colour schemes back to rather unfamiliar green and black.

SUMMER CAMP
The Squadron will split into two halves and travelled to Bavaria on 13 and 20 July. Activities undertaken were; mountain walking and biking, climbing and canoeing. During these events certain members stood out for various reasons. **Sig Stan Holt** seemed to spend more time off his mountain bike than on it!

Stories were told by the climbing group of a situation where the 2IC found himself suspended several feet above the ground after cascading down the drop-off point and into the forest.

WELCOME AND FAREWELL
The Squadron, particularly Comms Tp, would like to welcome **2Lt Rich Rumsey**. Fond farewells are in order for **Cpl Kev Potts** who is leaving us after spending the majority of his time with the Squadron on Granby 1.5. Also **Sig** 'Herbie' **Hancock** is leaving us to join 207 Sig Sqn. We wish them every success in their new units.

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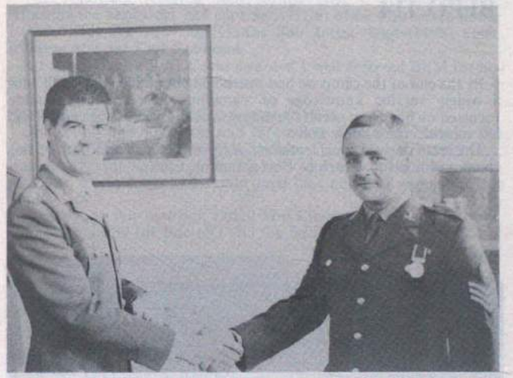
2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
York

The Regiment recently played host to the players and staff of Lincoln City Football Club. The team arrived at Imphal Barracks on Monday 15 July little knowing what was in store for them. **WO1 Terry Moorhead; WO2 Dave Smith APTC** put them through a demanding training programme designed to improve the team's stamina, team spirit and discipline.

On 24 July six local charities were presented with cheques totalling £6,000, the money raised during 'Race the Sun 91' which took place in May.

Early this year the Regiment learned that **Daniel Scott**, son of **Cpl Scott**, was suffering from a potentially fatal heart condition. The National Health Service was unable to operate on **Daniel** before early 1992, by which time irreparable damage could be done to his heart and lungs. The Regiment decided to raise the £6,000 required for his operation. Within a week money started pouring in from: sponsored car washes, Dutch auctions, sponsored runs, swims etc. The money was raised within that first week! Such was the generosity of donations that the Regiment not only paid for the operation but was also able to donate over £9,000 to the Killingbeck Children's Heart Surgery Fund to enable other children to benefit.

A cheque for £9,234.89 was presented to Killingbeck Hospital at Imphal Barracks on Saturday 27 July.



The CO, Lt Col Gordon Hughes congratulates Sgt Murphy on his award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

ATHLETICS
In May the newly formed Regimental Athletics Team won the Zone E Athletics Championships, qualifying them for the Army finals in July. After much hard training the team went to Aldershot to compete in the finals. There the team gained fourth position and was the first placed UK Major Unit. Not only was it a fine team performance but also 18 personal bests were achieved!

RHQ
Ops Offr — **Capt Simon Renfrey**
Air Adjt — **Capt Paul Kelly**
Ops YofS **WO1 (YofS) Mike McCarthy**, TOT **Capt Ken Smith**, Regt FofS **WO1 (FofS) Terry Moorhead**.

Cpl John Barclay still has a grin on his face—he is posted to 21 Sig Regt on promotion. The best of luck to him and **Kim**.

We welcome **Cpl Brian Abbott**, on loan from RGJ and **Sig Eric Wallace**, fresh from training. We bid farewell to **Pte Helen Sturgess**.

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES
Sqn Comd — **Maj Terry Canham**
2IC — **Capt Stu Gray-Cowan**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Ray Cory**, FofS **WO2 (FofS) Steve Cadywould**, YofS **SSgt (YofS) Graham Pardew**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) Chris Hardwidge**.

HAIL AND FAREWELL
We say goodbye to **SSgt Billy Watts** who moves to 4 Div on promotion and **LCpls Stu Ross** and **Evans** on posting to 7 Sig Regt and 1 Inf Bde respectively. We welcome **SSgt Stu Thompson** and **Sgt Tom Davies**. Although he is not moving anywhere (yet) we also congratulate **SSgt Taff Williams** on his recent promotion to WO2. How do you do it Taff?

RACE THE SUN PRESENTATION
After our recent victory in the Race the Sun Inter Squadron Cup, the time had come to total up our sponsorship money for our adopted charity, Northfield School for Children with 'Special Needs'. On 5 July therefore, some 20 members of our 'Race the Sun' team visited Northfield School where, at a special assembly, the Sqn Comd, **Maj Terry Canham**, handed over a cheque for £900 to the headmaster, **Mr Bob Ford**.

The money will be used to buy camping equipment to enable the children to face challenges of their own! During the visit the team was given a tour of the school to see how the children were helped to overcome their various handicaps. Eventually berets, the SSM's stick and other removable items were recovered in time for the presentation and a 'thank you' song from the children.

ROMAN TROOP NEWS
by LCpl Tim Knowles
LCpl Steve Burrell and **Mrs Burrell** have a daughter and are posted to 21 Sig Regt. **Sig Stu Dixon-Dawson** is going to civvy street. Welcome to **LCpl George Crawford** and our newest B3 **Sig Mac McCarthy** and to **Cpl Dave Eyes**, from 633 Sig Tp. Well done to **Les Lester** on his stripe.

ADVENTURE TRAINING
EXERCISE QUAY SAIL
It seemed too good to be true! We had been ordered to go on adventurous training for two weeks so the offshore sailing fanatics amongst us lost no time in booking two Victoria 34 yachts from JSASTC. Under the firm direction of our skippers, **Maj Terry Canham** and **Cpl Si Hadley** the crew formed up at Gosport ready for the off. Each week we were to visit a variety of ports, including Cowes, Yarmouth, Poole and Bucklers Hard in the Beaulieu River.

The first week gave us mixed conditions which rapidly became too much for **Sig Stolly Stolarek**. Other worthies included **Sig Mark Langhorne**, who steered a firm course for the planet Zarg, and **Sig Mick Walden**, who is still working out drill movements for the command 'Ready About'!

The second week brought a new crew and improved weather conditions. **LCpl Jez Woolen** proved that you can do amazing things with Compo. **SSgt John Duckworth** became expert at catching rapidly lowered Genoas, covering himself with only the odd gallon of seawater in the process!

During the training we covered some 250 miles and most of the novice crew promise they will be back for more. Special thanks to **Lt Col Tony Cudlip** of JSASTC and to **Maj Terry Canham** for organising the exercise and for telling us that he had never sailed through fog before, after the event!

Cpl Linda Kirkcaldy steers out of the Needles Channel. LCpl Jez Woolen and Sig Chris Gerry look impressed, but the skipper, Maj Terry Canham and mate, Cpl Rob Pitt have seen it all before

2 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd **Maj Tony Rock**
2IC **Capt Ray Duffy**

Ops Offr **Capt Matt Hanson**, Eagle Tp Comd **Capt Gavin Grant**, Falcon Tp Comd **Lt Grant Hume**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) Derek Payne**, FofS **SSgt (FofS) Russ Baldwin**, YofS **SSgt (YofS) Dave Carr**, Tp SSgts **SSgts Falcon, John Duckworth** and **Geoff Watts**.

ARRIVALS

The Squadron welcomes **SSgt (YofS) Fowler, SSgt Dave Carr, Cpl Reg Varney** and **LCpl Whitehouse**.

DEPARTURES

Fond farewells to **WO2 (YofS) Kenny Sirr**, and congratulations on promotion, have a good tour with 5 (AB) Sig Sqn; **SSgt Bob Clair**, who is off to 22 Sig Regt. We may see you back soon when you disband!

ADVENTURE TRAINING
by LCpl Young

Having decided that hill walking and rock climbing were the things for me, I waited eagerly at the Training Wing on a Monday morning in July for the transport.

After some fantastic planning by our intrepid expedition leader, **Capt Gavin Grant**, we arrived at our Nissan Huts on Bishop Monkton training area a mere three hours late. The accommodation was quite good, even if it was lacking in a few of the 'mod cons' like heating, lighting and electricity! (It was then that I wondered why I had not put my name down for Wales instead!)

Having overcome these small set-backs, the hill walkers set off to explore the area, led by **SSgt Dave McMillian**. We did not actually find any hills, since the surrounding locale was quite flat, but we did find all the swamps and thorns!

Over the next few days we split into two groups with **SSgt Dave McMillian, WO2 (SSM) Derek Payne, Sgt Al Donaldson** and **LCpl Stan Stanwick** trudging across the countryside in search of a little refreshment. The rest of us, led by **Capt Gavin Grant**, attacked the rock faces.

The first day's climb was lost, due to a misunderstanding over grid references. We waited at one grid reference while **Capt Grant** waited at another with all the gear but a good time was had by all when we did get underway.

The hill walking party, having worked out that the spot heights were in metres and not feet, finally understood why they were taking so long and changed their plans accordingly.

The week ended as normal, with a relaxing drink to soothe away the aches, pains and blisters (not to mention sunburn). Thanks go to **Capt Grant** and **SSgt Dave McMillian** for a very enjoyable week.

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 114

2 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd **Maj Richard Thurston**
2IC **Capt Gordon Elliott**

SSM **WO2 (SSM) Peter Rixon**.

The tragic and untimely death of **Lt Prince**, in a motorcycle accident, was a great shock and loss to the Squadron, and our condolences go to his wife **Doreen** and his family.

Congratulations to **LCpl Davis** and **LCpl Bailey** on their recent promotions to JNCOs.

FLYING FALCON

The deployment of the Div Main Armoured Headquarters ran into a problem during the Exercise, it was still in Al Jubayl.

A much reduced Headquarters using Div Rear wheeled vehicles was set up with vivid imagination needed for the teach-in on an armoured headquarters. With many new faces it was an excellent opportunity for the old timers to get used to everything green and for the new lads to settle down and listen to the war stories and how it was in the old days. Communications were excellent and the exercise executed professionally and the 'new' 2 Sqn emerged with a new unity and identity.

CCF CENTRAL CAMP, ST MARTINS' PLAIN

After arriving in the pouring rain to find that we were going to be living and working in a camp that was condemned in 1950, things had to get better. Luckily they did. With final recces and rehearsals completed, the eight-strong Signals Training Team, led by **Lt Eric Baker**, waited with bated breath for the first cadets to arrive.

Subjected to a gruelling three hour programme, the cadets came into contact with the rest of the team who were, **Sig Frankie Clark** on 351, **WPte Sam Moger** and **Sig Lee Hirst** on 12m masts, **Sig Pete Clements** on 320s, **Sig Jas Craine**—telling war stories in the CP, **LCpl** 'Boxy' **Box** on the vehicle command task and **Sgt Stevie Haresign** on 349s.

By the end of the camp we had instructed about 800 cadets, all with a widely varying knowledge of signalling. The training, mainly focussed on hands-on use of the radios, was enjoyed by the cadets who left us with more know how.

The team derived much satisfaction from having been part of this camp and hope to return to Folkestone next year.

The Team

THERE'S NO DRAM LIKE DRAMBUIE Liqueur

204 Sig Sqn (4 Armd Bde)
BFPO 17

Sqn Comd **Maj Charles Turner**
2IC **Capt Don Pawlow**

Ops Offr **Capt Justin Hodges**, Comms Tp Comd **Lt Charles Cooper**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) Pete McElwee**, YofS **WO2 (YofS) Geoff Robinson**, FofS **SSgt (FofS) John Hiorns**, SQMS SSgt **(SQMS) Kev Hallett**, Chief Clerk **Sgt Trev Glover**.

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE PAST

Yes it's true! 204 (4 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn have an entry in *The Wire* at long last! You would have been forgiven if you had thought the Squadron had ceased to exist. Twice thwarted by different organisations losing submissions and then to cap it all the Gulf operation conspired to create our annoyed silence.

But we have persevered, we have conquered. We will not dwell on previous events. It is sufficient to say we have had a rather busy period. Deployment and active service in the Gulf saw the Squadron almost triple in size. Many good men, too numerous to mention, made a superb effort in difficult and trying conditions. The following received well earned GOC's Commendations, reflecting the hard work and enormous effort of all who served in the 4 Armd Bde Sig Sqn—**SSgt (YofS) Bob Jonas, SSgt (FofS) Steve Johnston** and **Sgt Carl Robinson**.

The following received well earned GOC's Commendations, reflecting the hard work and enormous effort of all who served in the 4 Armd Bde Sig Sqn—**Sgt (YofS) Bob Jonas, SSgt (FofS) Steve Johnson** and **Sgt Carl Robinson**.

Sgt Andy Gabbitas ACC was awarded a well deserved BEM for his works at Main HQ 4 Armd Bde.

HANDOVER/TAKEOVER OF SQN COMD

On 12 July the Squadron said farewell to **Maj Dick Crombie** on posting to MOD. **Maj Crombie** became OC in January 1989 and numerous Flying Falcons, Summer Sales and one conflict later we all wish **Sue, Dick, Katie** and **Jamie** good luck and best wishes for the future.

Welcome to our new Sqn Comd **Maj Charles Turner** and his wife **Marion**, from 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn.

Maj Crombie 'the Squadron Leader', being wheeled out of camp

FAREWELLS

We have said 'Goodbye' to 2IC **Capt Phil Davies, Caroline** and **Oliver**. They are off to Canada attached to the Canadian Defence Forces. We wish them the best of luck. If they think they've got clean away from Munster they could be mistaken . . .

A MASS OF VISITS

On 2 July the Squadron was visited by Comd Comms BAOR **Maj Gen J. O. C. Alexander CB OBE**. He spent the morning touring the Squadron meeting all the soldiers at their places of work.

10 July saw a visit by the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB OBE DL**. Representatives from the rest of the Regiment who served with the 4 Armd Bde Sig Sqn during Op Granby were in Munster in order to meet him at a curry lunch. Earlier in the day the Master of Signals presented **Mrs Melanie McElwee** with a GOC's Commendation for her outstanding community work in Armagh, Northern Ireland.

The Master of Signals presenting Melanie McElwee with the GOC Northern Ireland Commendation

EXERCISE ROAMING TRIANGLE 1
ADVENTURE TRAINING IN THE HARZ MOUNTAINS

Thirty of the Squadron went to the Harz Mountains for a week of Adventure Training. Canoeing, Top Roping and Abseiling, Mountain Biking and Trekking which produced a good number of laughs and a lot of valuable training.

CANOEING IN THE HARZ
by Sgt Steve Goodyear

Under the watchful eye of **Sgt Steve Goodyear**, day one began with the usual breathtaking dip in the Oakerstausee much to the concern of **Sig Max Maxwell**. For most, this was their first experience of canoeing . . . it showed. The introductory 'seal bunch' brought out a smart pair of bulging eyes from **Sig Alf Ramsay** and unintentional capsize drills from **Sig Jim Sinnet** and **Mark Jarret**. Still on flat water day two was spent on the Oderstausee trying some games to gain confidence and getting extremely wet, especially when seal launching without spraydecks; even the Sqn Comd could not resist having a go.

The Oker river on the last day proved to be a different experience and a little too much for **Sig Jim Sinnet** who had an argument with at least three under water boulders in the first five minutes. **Sig Mark Jarrett** and **Nick Wareham** were competing to see who could stay afloat the longest. All in all the week proved to be a very enjoyable and worthwhile time.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Back in May a wicked gleam came into **Capt Don Pawlow's** eyes. 'We've been asked to organise something for the Youth Activities this summer. I've got just the thing!' So it happened on Wednesday 7 August, 20 youngsters aged between 10 and 15 turned up to participate in an overnight 'survival' course. **Capt Don Pawlow, Sgt Cottam** and their merry band taught topics including snaring, preparing and cooking food, night 'patrolling', navigation and improvised shelters. What fun was had by all when in 'thunder, lightning and in rain' the shelters were put to the test that night; wow, did it rain! By the morning all the kids had survived, but the 2IC has not been the same since.

The youngsters being taught one or two principles. They just loved the cam cream

206 (6 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 106

PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj Nick Corbin**
2IC — **Capt Neil Cary**

A Tp Comd **Capt Neil Selby**, B Tp Comd **Lt Paul Bosher**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) Allen**, YofS **WO2 (YofS) Crosby**, FofS **SSgt (FofS) Newsome**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) Ellis**.

VALETE AND SALVETE

These past months have produced a number of comings and goings. Firstly, we said goodbye to **Sarah** and **Steve Osman**, who leave us to go to NORTHAG, and to our SQMS, **Jeff Treen** and his wife **Vicky**, we wish them well in their new life in Blandford. In their place we welcome **Paul** and **Ellaine Ellis** and we hope that they enjoy their time with us. A final farewell was also made to **Chris Scales** who will be reading this as he lazes on a Cypriot beach. Lastly we welcome the new B Troop Comd **Paul Bosher**, who joins us after three years at that august seat of learning, RMCS.

CO'S VISIT

On 12 June the Squadron received a visit from the new CO of 3 Armd Div Sig Regt, **Lt Col Baxter**. The Colonel's first undertaking on arriving in the Squadron Club was to present the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **Sig Christopher Scales**. He then joined the Officers and SNCOs for the inevitable curry lunch.

A light lunch was followed by a whistle-stop tour of all the Squadron departments and visited the Brigade Main complex.

LS & GC Presentation—Lt Col R. Baxter talks to Sig Scales

EXERCISE CHALLENGE TRIANGLE
by WO2 (SSM) Allen

Ex Challenge Triangle was instigated in February when the Commander of 6 Brigade challenged us to meet him at the top of the Hindelanger Klettersteig in Bavaria before the end of July. The task fell squarely on the shoulders of the SSM and, after some serious soul-searching and sense of humour failures, 41 men deployed to Bavaria on 26 June.

Unfortunately the Klettersteig was closed due to snow (yes, that's right, it snowed in June!). Alternative activities were arranged which included the Hochgrat-Mittagberg walk, the Rubihorn-Geesalpe walk, abseiling and mountain biking. Highlights of a superb week spent in the 3 RRF hut in Weitnau included **Sgt** Chalky **Meeks** 1m ascent of a rock face, **Sig Lightfoot's** crossing of a knife-edge on the Stuiben and **Sgt Stumpy Gaston's** seven points of contact on the same knife-edge. A thoroughly good week was had by all despite the disappointment of not being able to do the Klettersteig.

At the top of Rind Alphern

EXERCISE RHINOS EMBARK TRIANGLE

The six man crew set out from camp in two waves. The first wave departed pursued by **SSgt** 'Dee' **Boulton** and **Cpl** 'Dum' **Burt** with the remaining supplies. After the necessary administration we were introduced to the Skipper **LCpl** 'Monster' **McCaffery** and the boat—*Flamingo*—a 56ft Bermudan sloop with 100m² of sail which weighs 22 tons and was built in 1935 for the 1936 Olympics although no-one ventured to comment on her performance!

Early the following morning we 'slipped our berth' and effortlessly set out for the open Baltic. Effortlessly because there was insufficient wind to sail and so we were 'under steam'.

The weather promised some sun and wind and didn't let us down. The wind however, was intermittant and gave us great chance to scale the immense learning curve with such simple 'hands-on' experiences as: Don't try to pull in the foresail without the aid of a winch! When using a winch ensure you've wound round it in the correct direction! Don't sit directly beneath the boom when the mainsail is dropped! Don't try to come between the boom and its intended position when changing direction! Other little life savers included: ensure you change direction at the correct buoy and so avoid steering through the Bundeswehr's Naval Artillery Impact Area!

During a few of the becalmed periods the crew made a vain attempt to catch a few fish, but by the end of the trip **SSgts Boulton** and **Newsome** had caught none and lost one set of lures and weights. That evening we motored into Sonderborg and relaxed after a good day's sailing. The following morning, bright and early, we slipped out and set sail again. There was a small and informal competition to attain the highest speed, which was won by **SSgt Boulton** with 7.6Kts whilst **Cpl Burt** came close with 7.6Kts and the 'alternative' FofS pushed in a range of world beating speeds from 0.3 to 1.2Kts, at times with engine assistance!

Throughout the remaining days we saw some remarkable feats, none more remarkable than that of first 'monster' and then **Sig Bates** working in the Galley! and **Sgt Newholm** sleeping without giving a low vis warning!

The final day was taken up with getting the boat 'ship-shape' for handover to the next crew, a much enjoyed excursion which we thoroughly recommend to anyone of even the slightest nautical inclination.

PLEASE NOTE INCREASE IN COST OF *WIRE* MAGAZINE. DETAILS ON PAGE 307

4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

RHQ
ARRIVALS

Lt Col C. J. Burton OBE from MOD. **LCpl** 'Titch' **Petre** from 21 Sig Regt. **Sig Chris Wilson** and **Pat Holker** from training.

DEPARTURES

We say goodbye and good luck to **LCpl Paul Clark** and his wife **Gena** to Civ Div.

THE LAST FEW MONTHS

Congratulations to our new CO, **Lt Col C. J. Burton**, on his being made OBE.

We must also mention **WO1 (SC) John Boyd** who tied the knot with **Martina** on 20 July 1991 and are now enjoying married bliss, moving from one quarter to another!

A few 'lucky' people have been getting a sun tan at Mercury Lodge recently under the pretence of adventure training. Participating in this were **Sig Dave Fleet, WPte Linda Harvie, Sig Chris Wilson** and **WPte Kirsty Brookes**. Staying behind to get some work done were **Cpl Mark Garfield**, who recently returned from a swan in a Brigade Signal Squadron, **Cpl Jon Sharples** and **LCpl Garry Gibb**. **Sgt Ray Pritchard** managed to take some of his long lost leave he has been telling us about for the last two years. Also, after returning from the easy life in Detmold, we would like to congratulate **Sig Ady Priestley** on his recent engagement. Finally a long awaited return to work by **WLCpl Karen Manzie** after a successful tour of Scotland.

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON
EXERCISE VERDON QUADRANT

For a change, and with great delight, elements of HQ Sqn found time to get away and enjoy themselves. Here is our 'hot off the press' report on Ex Verdon Quadrant (or HQ's Gaul Soiree).

After months of organising, phone-calls and collecting equipment, Ex Verdon Quadrant got under way on 18 May. The intrepid expedition members of HQ Sqn were a mixed bunch comprising RCT, RAMC, REME and Corps. With vehicles loaded and ready to go, we set off in high spirits for Baden-Baden, our first night's accommodation, courtesy of the French Army.

Our arrival in France on day two was the start of our long drive to the Gorges du Verdon in the South of France. Sadly, time was short so, with the exception of rest and food, a picturesque France was enjoyed through the windows of our moving landrover—with the exception of **Dvr Byrne** who saw very little of France. The Golden maggot award definitely went to him.

Two long days saw us at our destination, a camp site next to Lac Ste Croix, nestling between the rocks of the Lower Gorge. It was an extremely good site and offered the sort of location ideal for a group of soldiers, who were all attempting to convince the locals that we were a school trip. But, as you can see, the approach was unconvincing.

The first evening **Capts Derek Cleeton** and **John Walker** briefed their respective groups on the activities for the following day. Climbers and canoeists alike, armed with compass, map, lots of water and the essentials, set off to explore what is the most beautiful and scenic region of France. Interlocked in the beauty of the Verdon Gorges are climbs and stretches of water to suit all-comers from the novice to the expert. The groups can boast that it has climbed, canoed and walked the Grand Canyon du Verdon.

The next two weeks were devoted to improving and practising our new found skills in rock climbing and canoeing. It was with a feeling of some regret that we checked all the kit on completion of the expedition, prior to departing for Herford, at the end of our very successful adventure training camp. The team of course posed for the mandatory group picture.

All went well with the journey home. Some browner and more experienced adventurous trainers returned to unit.

1 SQUADRON
SHQ TROOP

Tp SSgt — **SSgt Jim MacLachlan**
Power NCO — **Cpl Pete Stidwell**
MT NCO **Cpl Steve Wardle** RCT.

DEPARTURES

We bade fond farewell to **Cpl Matt Hearn** posted to Jaguar Troop, also to **WO2 Alf Ramsey** who has moved on to greater things and become the RQMS (Tech).

ARRIVALS

A big welcome to **WO2 (SSM) Graham Reith** and **LCpl Graham Keith**, both back from the Gulf.

The Troop has reached the end of a busy period which included the servicing of some 77 generators and 56 vehicles as well as the preparation for RSIT. Well done to all the lads in the Troop, and a special mention to **LCpl Daz Kemp** and **Sig John Parr** for their hand work. We are now on a leave period, after which we deploy on summer camp—just for a change to the Mercury Lodge in Nesselwang for a week of adventurous training. The rest of the local news: **LCpl Daz Kemp** married the lovely **Fiona**—the Troop would like to wish them all the best for the future. **Sig Pat Holker's** wife **Tammy** recently gave birth to twins, so many congratulations to them.

KIWI TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt Mark Hanby**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt Doug McDonald**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Kevin Falconer**, Tp Cpl **Cpl Trev Cartledge.**

DEPARTURES

Farewell to **Cpl Kev Peters** on his posting to 8 Sig Regt for his T1 course. Good luck!

ARRIVALS

Welcome to **Sig Rob Maskell** who joins us from 8 Sig Regt.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to 'Scouse' **Williams** and **Pete Tierney** on their well earned promotions to Lance Corporal. Well done!

The Troop has worked extremely hard over the last few months, achieving excellent results on exercise and on RSIT. We now move on to a more relaxing period, with leave followed by summer camp.

PANTHER TROOP

We say farewell to **SSgt Kenny Sykes** and welcome to **SSgt** 'Woodie' **Power**.

1 SQUADRON CHARITY CYCLE RIDE

On a sunny Wednesday morning in July eight cyclists and a support team of two drivers and a medic left Herford for a charity cycle ride to Roydon in Essex, to raise money for the 'Quest for a Test' cancer charity. The event was masterminded by **Sgt Dave Butler** (congratulations on your promotion). The team cycled in relays, with two cyclists on the road at any one time. We arrived in Zeebrugge 21

The charity cycle team—before the event

hours later averaging 28.9km per hour throughout the 24 stages of the 520km cycle. Following the ferry crossing to Felixstowe we left for Roydon at 0230 hrs on Friday morning. The average speed remained at 28.9km per hour on the second leg despite the more hilly terrain.

On arrival in Roydon a cheque for £664.39 was presented to **Mrs Jean Pitt**, the founder of the charity. After a photo session long enough to give anyone an appetite the team was given a reception including a traditional English breakfast by the staff of 'The Crusader' pub in Roydon.

The journey back to Herford, although completed in the minibus, was not entirely uneventful, as the exhausted cyclists had to push the minibus 200m to Nettetal service station.

All in all a successful event, raising money for a worthwhile charity. Our thanks to the saddle sore cyclists **Sgt Butler, LCpls Clarke, Williams, Wilday, Sig Farrow, Hodgeskinson, Parr** and **Yeates**, our drivers (and part time cyclists) **Cpls Stidwell** and **Sturley**, and our medic, **LCpl Robinson** who **Sig Farrow** tried to provide with a bit of business by falling off his cycle twice!

2 SQN
FAREWELLS

The Squadron has had its fair share of farewells over the last two months, no fewer than two officers, one SSM and two SNCOs. We say goodbye and good luck to **Capt Tony Picknell** off to Catterick after 18 months in the chair as Tp Comd A1 and **Lt** (now Mr) **Paul King** (Tp Comd A3) to civvy street (the roster is going to miss you!). Our SSM **Chris Callow** leaves having spent time between RQMS in the Gulf before his latest return, he will be sadly missed in the Squadron who all wish him the very best as RQMS at the School of Signals. We also see two of our SNCOs off to the School for a little Yeoman's indoctrination, **Sgt Steven Townsend** and **Sgt Ian Lawton**; best of luck guys.

HELLOS

As can be guessed there are quite a few fresh faces amongst the hierarchy of the Squadron. Namely, **WO2 (SSM) Ray Bray, 2Lt Stewart Moffat** as Tp Comd A3 and **SSgt (FofS) Ian Flippance**; we hope you enjoy it.

JAIL HOUSE ROCK PARTY

Thanks to the efforts of **Sgt Steve Martin** and his entertainments committee the Squadron enjoyed an excellent night's entertainment, the DJ all the way from Krefeld was a real hit with the crowd.

3 SQUADRON
SHQ TROOP

Best wishes are extended to Sqn 2IC, **Capt Bob O'Hara** who is still out there in the Gulf with the UN. Hurry home and show off that tan. Welcome to **LCpl Briggs** and **Sig Graham** and **Payton**, (the power behind the Squadron) and to the new YofS, **SSgt (YofS) Paul Rose**, we finally got one, hope you have a pleasant tour in Herford. Finally farewell to **WO2 (FofS) 'Minnie' Minton** and his family on their departure to SHAPE.

NOVEMBER TROOP

The Troop says 'au revoir' this month to **Cpl Jimmy Gray**, off to HQ Sqn, **Cpl Mark Riley**, off on his T1, the power section, now in SHQ Troop, and **Sig 'Stimmo' Stimson**, who is promoted to civvy street. Good luck and thanks to everyone.

Ten fearless pioneers flew into the unknown territories of America to conquer the Smoky mountains in Tennessee. They trekked for 10 days through the wilderness to find the lost city of Gatlinburg, where they were greeted by the sign 'All you can eat for $9.99', a strange custom but one that went down very well after the dried eggs they had been eating.

Suitably replenished, they moved deeper into South Carolina to do some white water rafting on the Nautahala, Ocoee and Chatooga rivers—all of which are in the top 10 white water rivers in America. All in all an extremely enjoyable expedition.

TM TROOP

The Troop would like to welcome back from the Gulf **Sgts 'Geordie' Merrie** and **Dave Morley**. Is it true that **Dave Morley** complained as much about conditions in the Gulf as he does about conditions in 4 ADSR?

Congratulations to **Sgt Mick Watkins** and wife **Monika** on the birth of their baby daughter. A warm welcome to **LCpl Mick Temple** on his arrival from the factory and farewell to **Cpl Ted Heath** and **Debs**, and **Cpl Dave Richardson** and **Helen**. Both are to leave shortly for their T1 courses and after four years each with the Troop will be greatly missed by everyone.

200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 41

From: 200 Sig Sqn
ALPHA TROOP

Many members are away on various detachments. **Cpl** 'Ollie' **McGrail** with BATUS, **Cpl J. C. Craven, LCpl** 'Scouse' **Netherwood** and **Sig Ken Park** on the same continent with 2 Royal Irish Rangers and 15/19th The Kings Royal Hussars. **Sig** 'Faz' **Fazackerley** is still sunning himself with the UN in Cyprus.

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

Welcome back to the Troop Comd **Capt John Charnock** from his jaunt in Kuwait.

Farewells and best wishes to **SSgt** (now WO2) **Ray Bray** on his promotion and posting, **Sig Tris Mutton** and his wife **Frauke** on leaving for civvie street.

BRAVO TROOP
SQUADRON SUMMER CAMP
EXERCISE IRON QUADRANT

Most of the training was conducted in the Allgau region of Bavaria, an excellent environment for a wide variety of outdoor pursuits. The Mountain Trekkers climbed many peaks and ridges, many over 1800m above sea level. A two day expedition took some groups over the Aggenstein at 2,000m. Everyone was tested and on one occasion even the 2IC was 'positively confused'.

The rock climbers were hampered by wet weather but still managed a number of demanding climbs. Despite a severe degree of difficulty for more often than not **Cpl Ellie Churchward WRAC** and **Pte Sarah Spalding WRAC** led the way.

The majority of the canoeists reached a proficient standard and a few are likely to become instructors. They gained experience of 'white water' and completed lengthy stretches of the Biretach and Iller. The rain did not seem to bother them.

Social activities were not forgotten. **LCpl Dougie Cockburn** and **Capt Joe Cooper** performed ably as quizmasters.

EXERCISE FIRST LEAP

Fifteen volunteers, from the Squadron took to the skies on Sunday 19 May to undertake their first parachute jump.

The weekend started on the Saturday morning at the Parachute Centre at Bad Lippspringe for a fun packed day of throwing with everyone jumping out of a wooden box, shouting 'One Thousand, Two Thousand, Three Thousand, Check Canopy'.

The day continued with a series of lectures and lessons on canopy handling, DZ orientation, the water drills, reserve/emergency procedures and last but not least, the fitting of the equipment.

Sunday morning, the day of the jump, everybody was there and raring to go (some were wondering what they were doing there).

The jump time was set for 10 am. This came and went, it was then set for 3 pm but the winds were too high so another hold was put on the jump. The winds remained high all afternoon.

Once they were sorted out, kitted and put into groups of eight they started the long walk out to the aircraft.

The jump went well and everybody seemed to enjoy it. I'm sure they all have their own story to tell. Some even said that they would like to do it again. All the course did extremely well and impressed their instructors, but I must give a special mention to our two ladies, **Ellie Churchward** and **Lorraine Russell** who, despite the disadvantage of build, did very well both on the ground training and on the jump. **Lorraine** was named best student.

BRIGADE SPORTS CONCENTRATION

The Brigade Sports Concentration, in which the Squadron entered, was held over the week 15-19 July. Here are just a few reports and some of **Cpl Duncan**'s excellent photos.

BASKETBALL

The first five **SSgt Bill Singh, LCpls Sean Davis, 'H' Hornsby, Cpl Cliff Smith** and **Sig Steve Crosswell** were to play 37 Fd Sqn RE. The first ball did not go at all well with 37 running up 24 points to our eight. We could catch up in the second half—nearly—with the final score of 39 points to 24.

In game two with **Sig Dave Dacey** coming into the first five in place of **Steve Crosswell**. Against A Sqn 4/7 DG? We won 48—10. **SSgt Bill Singh** and **Cpl Cliff Smith** being top scorers.

Thanks also to those on the bench: **Sig Gilles Gilchrist, 'AB' Brown** and **Bob Williams**. Runners up in our league but going no-where.

Sig Daz Duraz speeding through the competition in the basketball

VOLLEYBALL

The following were chosen to represent the Squadron at Volleyball in the Brigade Sports Competition: **Sgt Latimer, SSgt Price, Sgts Cross, Russell, Cpl Smith, LCpls McArthur, Taylor** and **Sig Hall**.

They started the competition as outsiders but within the first day the team won their first three matches in the league, three games to nil.

The following day was the big test when they met 31 Engr in their last match in the league. The team played well and won two games to one. This ensured them a place in the semi-final against 114 Pro Coy. This game was played in the afternoon having got off to a shaky start the team won three games to one to gain a place in the final against 31 Engr.

Wednesday morning arrived and everyone knew this was going to be an extremely hard match. Nerves got the better of us and 31 Engr won the first game 15—10. The Squadron came out convincing winners in the end, three games to one. The team played exceptionally well and thanks must go to **Cpl Smith** and **LCpl Taylor** for their good performances.

FOOTBALL

The football competition was held on 15 July at the Garrison Football pitches, with the teams being sorted into leagues of four.

Game one was against 41 Ord Coy, the team came through to win 3—2. The next game was our local tank Regt 4/7 DG who beat us, easily, 5—0. Last was B Sqn 4 AFA who only needed to draw to qualify for the quarter finals, we walked through 3—0. Our best game so far.

In the quarter finals we played 11 Sqn RCT. Within the first minute we were two goals down, and this was not going to be an easy victory. It wasn't. We lost by a large margin, to the eventual winners.

4 ARMD DIV REGATTA

The Squadron participated in the 4 Armd Div Regatta at Kiel. The team consisted of Skipper **LCpl** 'Harry' **Harrison**, Mate, **Capt John Charnock** and crew, **LCpl 'H' Hornsby, Sig** 'Shad' **Williams** 880 and **Pte** 'Pez' **Perry**. We had an excellent week, **Sig Williams** did particularly well coming second in the first of the crew races. We came third, a good effort for a novice crew.

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, 19 Queen Elizabeth Street, London SE1 2LP Tel: 071-403 8783 or 071-962 9696

SSAFA
SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND AIRMEN'S FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 29

PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj D. M. Steele**
2IC B Tp Comd — **Capt J. C. Gillespie**

A Tp Comd **2Lt C. A. Ford**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) D. E. Hall**, YofS **WO2 (YofS) C. K. Luckham BEM**, FofS **SSgt (FofS) H. Barclay**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) M. J. Wood**, SSgt A Tp **SSgt N. W. J. Barnard BEM**, Sgt B Tp **Sgt T. Crane**, MT Sgt **Sgt K. Baxter**, URS **Sgt K. Bullen**, Chief Clerk **Sgt S. M. Hayes**.

GULF NEWS

For those remaining in Doha the main project was restoring a school in Kuwait City where the team, led by **Sgt Ginge Coburn**, earned the praise of the staff as a result of the effort they all put in.

Following **Tom King**'s announcement of the thinning out of British forces in the Gulf, the Squadron reduced to Troop size. This Troop, commanded by **Capt John Dakin**, said farewell to the rest of the Squadron in mid-June. Since then swimming pools and air conditioned porta-cabins were erected and **Bobby Davro** brought a CSE show to the camp. However, Doha and all the new facilities had to be hastily evacuated due to an American ammunition store exploding in the shared camp. The only casualty in the Troop was **LCpl Shaun Collins**, who was blown off a wall when a petrol tanker exploded. He returned to Germany with injured feet.

4 ARMD DIV/BAOR TRIATHLON CHAMPIONSHIP 91

With half the Squadron away and with only eight days training we entered a team for the 4 Armd Div/BAOR triathlon championship. **Cpl 'Al' Sparling** led the team and was in front position after the swimming. However, **Cpl Pete Farmer** soon overtook him in the 40km bicycle ride. **LCpl Sean McKay** and **Pte Mark Tunley** then showed their true form, overtaking **Cpl Sparling** in the second half of the 10km run. The team finished in that order.

The team were 4 Armd Div Minor Units runners-up and BAOR Minor Units runners-up. An excellent achievement for a new team, which has qualified for the Army championships in the UK.

ARRIVALS, DEPARTURES AND PROMOTIONS

WO2 (SSM) Duncan Hall joined the Squadron in early April and went straight to the Gulf. He has now taken over the reins from **WO2 (SSM) Roger Fairfield**, who has moved to Bielefeld with his wife **Karin**. Our thanks go to them for all they have done for the Squadron over the last four years, especially when so many were away in the Gulf. Instead of being allowed to slow down in his last few months in the Army, he took the very active part of Families Officer of the Rear Party earning the gratitude of the 'Granby' wives. We wish them all the best in their future.

SSgt Mick Boyle has also left, this time for Berlin. He will be sorely missed, not only for his skill as a footballer and as a triathlon competitor, but also as the 'Resup King' of Kuwait. Our best wishes for the future go to **Mick**, his wife **Tracey** and their children.

Farewells also to **Cpl Mark Pryke**, **LCpl Mat Mathews** and **Sig Adam Hughes** on their postings to the UK. We also lose **Sig** 'Shades' **Saidy** on the completion of his Army Service.

The Squadron welcomes **Cpl Vince Body**, **Cpl Pryce**, **LCpl Rob Goldsmith**, **Sig Stephen Slater** and **Jim Murphy**. Congratulations go to 'Smudge-downstairs **Smith**' who has been promoted to Corporal and to **Andy Workman** who is now a Lance Corporal. Other new arrivals include a daughter **Korina** to **Cpl Chris Willets** and his wife **Gaby**, and a son **Kevin** to **Pte Mark Holmes** and his wife **Monica**.

Cpl Hamish Milne, LCpls Jim Swain, Steve Francis, Sig Dave Hewitt and Cpl Joe Killen—A five man rebro det!
WO2 (SSM) Duncan Hall—A secret Star reporter?

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BFPO 15

FAREWELL TO THE CO

The CO, **Lt Col Bob Hussey** arrived at work on the morning of Thursday 4 July to attend his leaving parade, at which 90% of the Regiment were on parade.

Having seen the Regiment march past, the CO went round and said goodbye to each member on parade (including Corps Lighting Troop's Special Sub-Aqua Squad (Special SAS)). He then made a farewell speech in which he thanked the Regiment for its great strength in overcoming hardship, and its close-knit environment and family atmosphere, before being presented by **Sig** (LCpl 10 seconds later) **Scott Nicol** with an original painting of Herford.

Finally the parade marched off, and after saying a separate farewell to the Seniors, **Lt Col Hussey** was driven out of camp, sitting under a set of rugby posts on top of a Panzer. Unknown to many, the CO surreptitiously returned to camp in order to plant a 'Flowering Cherry' tree as Regimental tradition dictates.

The Regiment would like to wish the best of luck to you, your wife **Louise** and the children, for the future.

Lt Col Bob Hussey, planting a 'flowering cherry' tree on leaving the Regiment

Sig (LCpl 10 seconds later) Scott Nicol presents the CO with a painting of Herford on his leaving parade

The CO congratulates Sig Brad Bradbury on receiving a commendation for his work on Op Granby

The CO congratulates LCpl Duncan Cupit on receiving a commendation for his work on Op Granby

SUMMER CAMP NESSELWANG

It soon became apparent that this was no holiday, the various groups of people taking part in particular activities became easily recognisable. The cyclists began to walk like saddle sore cowboys, and spent their evenings pouring over maps. After a planned 20km ride turned into a 60km ride, which included hills. **SSgt Evans** was banned from the planning committee, and appointed cyclist MTO. **Sgt Brudenall**'s brand new mountain bike was lost. After attempting to break the record for man powered flight by gaining as much speed as possible on a bike, and stopping it dead whilst launching into flight himself.

Reports of UFO turned out to be **Cpl Nash** wearing his cycling gear, pear shaped helmet and wrap around sun glasses. Corps Lighting Troop made good use of the available bikes and took pride in being the only safety-conscious group on the road, wearing the safety helmets provided. They also managed to get some early practice in for their APWT's.

Those taking part in top rope and abseiling under **LCpl Cowen**'s watchful eye developed 1000 yd stares and were found in the evenings, in corners shaking and staring at the ceiling refusing to look down, or plotting climbing courses around the lodge walls. **Cpl Yerkess** overcame his fear of mountains falling on him and began thinking about climbing them. **Cpl Fuller** developed a serious case of vertigo and insisted on climbing in traditional hob nail boots, thus ensuring he did not get high enough for the vertigo to affect him. **LCpl Holland** was convinced that with a pair of DM 150 climbing boots he would be able to climb anything and fell off enough times to make him change his mind. **2Lt Gibson** and **LCpl Marcovic** had the honour of naming a climb after they were the first to conquer it, it was rumoured that nobody else had thought it worth bothering with.

The canoeists were seen walking around with black bin liners full of wet kit on their backs. **Sig Orange** was so impressed by **Sig Pay** tapping the bottom of his canoe whilst upside down that he forgot to help him out, going through life and death situations with that type of person was the basis for life-long friendships. **Sig Pay** diagrees. **LCpl Welland** was the only canoeist to break any kit although with **Cpl Donovan**'s SBS style seal launches it's a wonder no more than a paddle was damaged.

DON'T SAY GOODBYE

SAY HELLO.

If you're about to leave the Services the prospect of Civvy Street could be as daunting as it is exciting. After all, you've got to resettle, make new friends and generally take on a new life.

Why not say hello to the Royal British Legion. We can be a great help by providing a link with the past and a friendly social environment with sporting and recreational facilities for people with similar backgrounds to your own.

In fact, you don't have to wait until you leave the Forces to join because membership's open to you now. Either way your membership will ensure that we're always there to help ex-servicemen and women in need.

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The walking party with their sore feet and aching limbs walked gingerly around the lodge and could be seen planning the next day's walk in the evenings each suggesting a higher and longer walk, each afraid to admit he was still tired from the previous one.

There were rumours of the Squadron's SNCO's being lost on the Nebelhorn at one point; however, the photographic evidence has yet to appear.

Finally the Squadron would like to thank **Lt Williams** and his team for their kind help and advice which made the stay most enjoyable and worthwhile.

MAN TROOP

Tp Comd — **2Lt Gibson**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt Johnson**

We say goodbye and good luck to **Sgt Dave Brudenall** who goes to Blandford for his Yeoman's course, **LCpl Alistair Munro** who is off to Cyprus and **Sig Keith** off to Berlin. Thanks for all your hard work within the Troop over the last couple of years.

Welcome to **LCpl McKenzie, Sig Duffield** and **Livingstone**, we hope you will enjoy your time with us.

A5 TROOP

Tp Comd — **Capt Graham Deans**
Tp YofS — **SSgt (YofS) Nick Hawley**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Frank Evans**, Tp Sgt **Sgt 'Ginge' Rogers**.

Throughout the week various inter-section competitions took place, including an assault course, a march and shoot competition and a platoon support range. Eventual winners were 2 Sect, Alpha Pl, led by **Cpl Chas Base**, with 3 Sect and 1 Sect (both of Alpha Pl) coming a very close second and third respectively. A special award should have gone to **LCpl** 'Batco' **Harber** (Platoon Signaller) for his amazing voice procedure and radio work, but unfortunately we couldn't find a wooden spoon to give him.

The week's activities ended with an escape and evasion exercise which saw 4 Sqn hunting HQ Sqn. The first evaders caught were **Sig** 'Elmo' **Barkworth, LCpl Rodge Rogerson** and **2Lt Bobby Strawbridge** who were duly treated as POWs should be treated as, **Cpl Bob Parker** kept trying to tell them. Others soon followed, but most made the correct RV uncaught only to be confronted by the hunters under **2Lt Tarquin Shipley**'s eager command.

The end very nearly in sight we had to descend a tricky abseil on an island then tab up a hill to reach the barbecue and decent food that awaited us. A thundering journey back to Herford and the promise of a night under the duvet ended an enjoyable but hard week in Vogelsang.

CORPS SAILING REGATTA

Cpl Mac Parker, aided and abetted by **WPte Sharon Marshall**, 'tactically deployed' to BKYC to take part in the Corps Sailing Regatta. This event took us to Sonderberg, Aarhus and Nyborg to name but a few places, on a series of 'legs' covering a 10 day period. We eventually finished at BKYC where **Lt Col Kirby** (CO 1 ADSR) threw a lavish barbecue and all the teams were given the opportunity to let each other know where we all 'went wrong'.

Congratulations to **Capt Andy Bristow** on clinching the championship, but don't underestimate the powers of 7 Sig Regt 'Intruders'.

The Troop welcome **Sgt Tim Edwards** and his wife **Sue, LCpls Mutch** and **Moreland**, both from 8 Sig Regt. Also congratulations for **Cpl Garry Steel** and **Sara** on the birth of their son **Stewart** and to **LCpl Steve Welland** and **Britte** on the birth of their son **Dale**.

BATTLECAMP

Two bleary eyed platoons of warriors from 4 Sqn, and a gaggle from HQ Sqn headed off for a week of battlecamp in Vogelsang early on Monday 15 July. Those who had been to Vogelsang before were wisely apprehensive, the novices being content with ignorance is bliss.

On arrival we climbed out of the transport and eagerly waited for our DS to give us instructions. For some, the week started easily on the ranges, but for others, it was straight into the CFT. With blisters and insect bites everyone went through the week enjoying the multitude of ranges that **WO1 John Mold** had arranged.

Morale was high as we did daily battle with the dreaded Fig 11 enemy. The ranges included anti-ambush drills, section attack with SA80, battle inoculation, booby-trap range, FIBUA and platoon-in-support range. On the live section attack range **Cpl** 'Robo' **Robinson** (Line Tp) had two extra distinguished riflemen in his section; **Lt Col David Wills** (CO) and **WO1 (RSM) Mick Bohanan.**

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

ARMY INTER-UNIT ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS
by LCpl McCall and OCdt Southern

We set off to Aldershot with a vastly reduced athletics team. It didn't take long before the ham butties came out and the minibus attempted to drive backwards instead of forwards, because nobody could find out where the reverse gear was.

The big day dawned sunny and hot and the athletics got under way. 8 Sig Regt were up against the best: there were teams from as far afield as BAOR and Northern Ireland.

The competition commenced with the high jump. **Pte Laughlin**, brought in at the last minute, gave an admirable performance finishing in sixth place. **Cpl Best**, in the 3,000m, also finished sixth against some extremely tough competition.

A majestic victory from **LCpl McCall** in the 800m, followed by a second position in the 400m, put 8 Sig Regt firmly in the running (no pun intended).

An unexpected first position in the long jump from **Pte Waldron** strengthened the competition as did **OCdt Southern**, finishing third in both the 100m and 200m. **Pte Nield** gained a hard fought third position in the 1500m with **Pte Waldron** completing an impressive track performance with 8 Sig Regt with a fourth position in the 100m hurdles.

Unfortunately, with our prize thrower **Cpl Kernaghan** elsewhere, the shot putt and javelin events were entered nobly by **Ptes Clarke** and **Price**. They achieved fifth and sixth position respectively.

8 Sig Regt WRAC Athletics Team 1991

After 11 events 8 Sig Regt was sharing first position with NI and the WRAC Centre. Temperatures began to rise and it wasn't because of the sun . . .

With only two events to go, the pressure was on. After a struggle to find a discus thrower, **Cpl Best** volunteered, finishing in sixth position. Yet again it was left up to the last race, the 400m relay, to decide final positions in a close competition. **OCdt Southern** ran a strong first leg with **Pte Roddis** maintaining our position. **Pte Nield** put in an impressive performance before handing over to **LCpl McCall** in third position. Again **LCpl McCall** produced the goods to finish in second position.

8 Sig Regt finished in third place overall after some fine performances and an enjoyable day. Congratulations and well done to all the girls who took part.

Final Results: 1st WRAC Centre, 2nd NI, 3rd 8 Sig Regt, 4th 10 Coy, 5th 12 MOD, 6th B Coy WRAC, 7th 15 Bn RAOC.

2 SQUADRON VISIT DENT
by Sig Frost

Sometimes we do things that we have never really understood, until we do them. The week at Dent was to be no exception. Not many of us knew quite what to expect but we were all ready and willing to have a go at finding out. On the first day we arrived just before dinner and had a brief on the coming week's activities. We were then split up into teams for the orienteering competition, which proved to be a very valuable experience. Myself, a member of a team of three, took part in a few river crossings, ran up a few hills and had a couple of frustrating moments as **Sig Ulley** guided us with the map, we claimed victory by two points.

On the second day, Section B tried its hand at rock climbing. If anyone is considering a visit to Ingleton, the Indoor Centre (North face of Everest?) is well worth a visit. Even if your arms feel as if they have turned to concrete and your fingers have been stripped of skin, there is nothing more rewarding than nearly reaching the top and having the thrill of watching the ground get very close, very fast!

After a good morning's climbing, the team decided to go for a refreshing walk around the waterfalls at Ingleton. Although in parts the hills were steep and the valleys deep, it was well worth it because of the scenery.

Half the week had gone already. Command tasks were the order of the day and the most enjoyable one was the night life. Grown men and women, with blindfolds on, attempting to walk around a course while holding on to a rope and evading obstacles. Blind and oblivious to what the obstacles actually were, or how many of them there were but if everyone had as much fun as I did, they had a good time.

The day of reckoning—abseiling at an old disused quarry. We were shown the abseil we were expected to attempt. It looked daunting at first, but it came naturally once we got the hang of it. **Cpl Al Shields** decided to promote the 'look, no hands club'. 'Mind you, it's not the fall that kills you, it's the landing' they say.

The last day was a cold July morning and dressed in only thermal suits and waterproofs, we headed off over the North Yorkshire border. On arrival we were surprised that there was not a cave to be seen but after a gentle stroll, we came upon a couple of holes in the ground. Helmets on, and with a quick equipment check, we set off under ground into the coldest, wettest, muddiest and most uncomfortable place that I have ever felt excited about. Once underground we experienced thousands of years of this planet's history within our view and at our very fingertips. Some of the members were a little reluctant, especially as in one part of the cave we had only 12 inches of gap to squeeze through. The return to Catterick came all too soon. Thanks for great fun—Please can we go back again soon?

Brig S. G. McK. Gordon, DSOinC, presents Sgt Ken Lewis with his LS & GC during his visit to 8 Sig Regt on 30 May

INTER-SERVICES FENCING
by Sig Pinnock and LCpl Holtby

The Inter-Services Fencing Competition was held at Earl's Court on 17 and 18 July 1991 as part of the Royal Tournament. Two members of 8 Sig Regt, **Sig Pinnock** and **LCpl Holtby** were both selected to represent the Army in the Intermediate Men's Foil and Ladies' Epee teams respectively.

The men's foil competition consisted of two pools of five competitors, each competitor fighting each member of their pool in turn. An Army defeat in the first duel was put down to a warm up. In the second clash, a stunning Naval defeat of 5—1 raised hopes but not for long. Things soon went downhill. The culmination of complete failure of two weapons and the demise of a body wire helped **Sig Pinnock** to a first pool knockout.

LCpl Holtby, a newcomer to the sport, was delighted to be selected and turned up with high hopes. After winning her first match she was over the moon. Unfortunately, it was her last victory and indeed the only victory the ladies' epee team had. Oh well, we all have our bad days (but did we all have to have it *then*?). Never mind, there's always next year.

LCpl Holtby hauled herself and her rather bent and scarred epee over to where our men were fighting and abjectly confessed the ignominous defeat to a couple of our men's team. 'Oh you won one, oh well done! That's better than we are doing at the moment'. Oh poor Army.

The best thing **LCpl Holtby** found about the fencing fraternity is the informality and good sportsmanship that abounds. People from all ranks and services enter the various competitions and everyone gets to know everyone else. Even at high level competitions first names tend to be used (even by the presidents judging the bouts); this has helped to make competitions like the Royal Tournament so much less intimidating to newcomers.

A thoroughly good time was had by all, victors and vanquished, see you all next year!

Sig Pinnock goes to battle

OPENING OF CATTERICK SERVICES PARACHUTE CENTRE

23 July was supposed to be a day etched on the minds of all parachute fanatics in Catterick Garrison. The GOC NEDist and 2 Inf Div, **Maj Gen H. M. Rose** was due to make the first parachute jump to open the new Catterick Services Parachute Centre. An experienced parachutist, **Maj Gen Rose** was obviously as disappointed at the unseasonal weather as his fellow jumpers, the members of the Royal Signals Parachute Display Team, the Blue Helmets. All stood in the pouring rain staring, ever hopeful, at the grey sky and, indeed the weather turned so bad, and visibility reduced more by the minute, that not even the plane managed to put in a guest appearance.

After a thorough tour of the drop zone and nothing left to see, a reluctant GOC was forced to leave after keeping his feet firmly on the ground. With luck his next visit should be more fun.

The bad weather seemed here to stay until eventually on the first day of August the skies cleared, winds dropped and the first students were trained and raring to go. Many congratulations to **Capt Bridget Perks** and **OCdt Terry Southern**, both of 8 Sig Regt, on their successful first jump and there is no truth in the rumour that **Bridget** now wishes to trade OC Quicksilver post for the soon to be vacant OC Blue Helmets post!

The centre is open to all service personnel, their dependants and MOD civilians, Mondays-Fridays only. Anyone interested in further information should contact the courses clerk, **Mr Brown** on Catterick Mil 2564.

Maj Gen H. M. Rose commiserates with members of the Blue Helmets

OCdt Terry Southern and Capt Bridget Perks before the big jump

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Some say that heat makes you lethargic, but that is definitely not the case here. We have just organised another large fund raising event. This time in the form of a sponsored swim from Dhekelia Garrison to Ayia Napa, some 16.5 miles. As part of the 75th Anniversary of Communications in Cyprus celebrations, the 'It's A Knockout' competition proved to be a popular event for spectators and competitors alike.

DEPARTURES

WO1 (RSM) Chaz Dale has recently left the Regiment and been replaced by **WO1 (RSM) Dave Chrystal**.

WO1 (RSM) Chaz Dale reluctantly hands over to WO1 (RSM) Dave Chrystal after two enjoyable years

1 SQN
COMMS TP
BIRTHS

Some members of the Troop have produced the goods; some more than others. Firstly congratulations to **LCpl Ken Resoun** and **Ruth** on the birth of their son, **Joshua** and to **LCpl Mick Madden** and **Andrea** on the birth of their own Troop, twin boys, **Connor** and **Declan**.

MARRIAGES

1991 has been a good year for weddings. **LCpl 'Zac' Wiseman** (nee **Fazackerley**) and her husband **'Paddy'** and **LCpl Marcia Oldale** (nee **Craig**) and her husband **Chris** (Blue job). We would also like to congratulate **LCpl Debbie Cadman** on her impending marriage to **Sgt Andy Baughan**.

RAFT RACE

It's that time of the year and once again Comms Troop entered another vessel in the annual all island raft race in aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital. The theme was the 75th Anniversary of Communications in Cyprus and the Regiment's beginnings in Egypt, so needless to say 'Sheiks' and 'Harem girls' were the order of the day. The team rowed well and earned second place overall in a field of about 60 rafts. Well done to the team, **Sgt Sean Curley, Sig Smudge Smith, Ptes Pauline MacPhail, Kate Bayliss** and all who helped build the raft.

SPLASH PARTY

The Troop Summer Ball took place at the Corinthia Beach Hotel by, (yes you've guessed it) a swimming pool. The theme was based on free swimming lessons, courtesy of our cheap rate instructors, **LCpls Brian Wilson** and **Bedborough**. Entertainment was provided by our very own Troop Rock Band 'Freestyle' **(Sig 'Megsy' Morgan** and **LCpl Jo Webber)**, who are soon to leave the Army and play professionally. The whole night was very well organised by D Shift.

TM TROOP PIG ROAST
by SSgt John Middleton

The annual Pig Roast, which took place on Monday 17 June, is a thank you to our local workers for their hard work during the year.

The afternoon commenced with a Troop photograph followed by the Pig Roast. During the proceedings we took the opportunity to say happy birthday to **LCpl Michelle Watkins**, who was presented with a cake by **LCpl Dave Catt** RPC.

Despite the water shortage and against the advice of our fire appliance expert, **LCpl Steve Pettifer**, the annual wet uniform competition went ahead courtesy of two old stalwarts from Radio Workshops, namely **Sgts Dave Hizzet** and **Ray Neal**. TM Troop entered into the spirit of the competition and after much deliberation the winner was probably **LCpl Lorna Russell**.

Comment from newly arrived **Sgt Paul Gardner**. 'This is great, nothing like this has ever happened to me'. Pig Roast 1992 will be organised by **Sgt Paul Gardner** perhaps?

TRAINING AND SUPPORT TROOP

The Troop would like to congratulate **Sgt West** on his marriage to **Lena**, we hope that all your troubles will be little ones.

KARTING

The Regiment organised a Kart Race Meeting on 30 June and invited four man teams from all units within the ESBA to compete Victory went to the MT Section whose team was—**Cpl Clarke Stanley-Jones, Sig Simon Brice, Pte Deeon Wynn-Greensmith** and Guest Driver **Miss Samantha Harper.**

Don't jump into a four tonner with these drivers if you have a weak heart!

Sgt Dixie Deakin from LAD was the winner of the senior individual race—well he did prepare all the karts.

24 HOUR SPONSORED BFT

All pledges were collected (24 BFTs are easier than collecting sponsorship money) and the final total was £1,795.85 which was raised for BLESMA.

The CO presents the cheque on behalf of the Regiment to WO2 (SSM) Dave Wilson who organised the event

QM'S DEPT
WELCOMES

Welcome to **Sgt John Williams** and his family, **Paula** and daughters **Kayleigh** and **Danielle**.

GOODBYES

Time to say goodbye to **Sgt 'Moonie' Chris Andrews** and his family, **Marion, James** and **Stuart**. We thank **Chris** and **Marion** for all their hard work and support over the last two and a half years.

On 25 July and 1 August members took part in the Troodos Walkdown (Stagger Down). This event entailed walking from the Troodos Leave Centre to the Trimkalini Dam, approx 14 miles. The first members, included **WO2 Dick Taylor, Sgt Chris Andrews, Cpl Rob Bayliss** and **Cpl Danny Ford**, completed the 14 mile course in four hours, stopping at Trimkalini Dam and using the Dam as their

first waterhole; the second waterhole was the Dam Restaurant 50 yards away. The first phase went well and was enjoyed by everyone.

The second phase took place on 1 August starting from the Leave Centre at approx 0915 hrs, the first team away being **LCpl Rick Helliwell** and **LCpl Kelvin Guest** followed by **LCpl Jeff Higgins** and **SSgt Muir** and finally watched by **Sgt** 'Where the . . . have you gone?' **Williams**. The first team to arrive at the Dam was **Cpl Jeff Higgins** and **SSgt Fred Muir**, followed shortly by the second team, **LCpl Rick Helliwell** and **LCpl Guest** excelled at using a compass to arrive at the Dam location looking very fresh. The rumour being that their compass was fixed to the dashboard of a Cyprus Forestry Commission vehicle.

The Sergeants' Mess Summer Ball was ably arranged by **WO2 (RQMS) Dick Taylor** and what a memorable evening it turned out to be, from Capt Woo and his Chinese dragon, Aden Donovan (BFBS) and his Roadshow and the Timelords, an excellent 11 piece band, casinos, cocktail bars, you name it, it was there. An excellent night.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Mrs Jean Edwards** and her husband **Cpl Bill Edwards** on the birth of their baby son, **Matthew**, on 6 August 1991.

ANNIVERSARY 'IT'S A KNOCKOUT' COMPETITION

As part of the Regiment's 75 Anniversary Celebrations of Communications the Unit held an Inter-Squadron and Department 'It's A Knockout' competition on Sunday 9 June 1991. At four o'clock the five teams, which included the three squadrons of the Regiment, Civilian Wing and 33 Signals Unit RAF, paraded around the arena to show off their colours to a very large and supportive crowd. Competition began with the Fils Rouge event which required the teams to rescue their Arabian Princesses from the clutches of the 'Evil Abdul', **Sergeant Walt Disney**, by means of rapid movement in a highly decorated carriage and a gallant Arab prince. A good throwing arm was a must in this event and the combined team of **Sgt Roger Bartrum** and his wife **Janice** was clearly superior to all others and easily won this event for 2 Sqn.

In addition to the Fils Rouge four other games were played and once again 2 Sqn was very much to the fore, especially in Game One 'The Great Balloon Race', where it decided to play its Joker. A resounding victory shot them into a big lead which they did not yield. Game Two had the teams in a five booted plank race which had the crowd in fits of laughter as they struggled to move as one over the course. Game Three saw the teams moving buckets of water along a course with the collector being held back by means of a long elasticated rope and a slippery mat. Even at 5.30 in the afternoon the heat was sufficient to reduce the runners to a crawl by the end of this game.

The final game was called 'The Pyramid Game' and this required the teams to collect 10 pieces of a jigsaw from a tank filled with foam chippings and then assemble them into a frame in the shape of a pyramid. In an attempt to make the jigsaw easier to assemble, the figures 75 in recognition of the anniversary were emblazoned across the middle. However, some of the teams found the assembling difficult and one has to feel sorry for young **Paul Gibbard**, a teenage member of the 3 Sqn team, who tried every different combination before finally getting it right. His effort epitomised the sheer determination shown by all of the plucky competitors.

Both Civilian Wing and 33 Signal Unit RAF played their Jokers in this game and both benefited well by coming first and second respectively, thereby doubling their points.

The CO presented the winners' trophy to SSgt Steve Shannon of 2 Sqn

The CO **Lt Col N. C. Jackson MBE** presented the Winner's Trophy to **SSgt Steve Shannon** and the team from 2 Sqn who were worthy winners of the competition.

The final positions were:

1st Place	2 Squadron	31 points
2nd Place	Civilian Wing	23 points
3rd Place	1 Squadron	22 points
4th Place	3 Squadron	16 points
5th Place	33 Signal Unit RAF	14 points

MARATHON SWIM

On Wednesday 31 July, a unique event took place in Cyprus, when a joint RAF and Royal Signals team from C Troop, 2 Sqn, swimming in relay, successfully swam from Dhekelia Garrison to Ayia Napa's 'Golden Beach', a distance of 16.5 miles, in just under 10 hours.

The swimmers were RAF: **Cpl John Jarvis, JT Pete Haskayne** and **JTs Natalia Warre-Dymond** and **Trish Jones**. Royal Signals: **LCpl Chris Telling** and **Sig Bryon Marshall**.

Throughout the event the team was supported by a 43ft boat the *Lady Nelson* skippered by **Chris Koullapis**, and a ski boat, owned by **Mr Roger Martin**.

The aim of the event was to raise money for the St John The Merciful Home for the Aged in Larnaca and a children's play group in Ayios Nikolaos.

The swim commenced just after 6 am from a point just to the east of the Garrison Yacht Club and the swimmers must have picked the worst day of the year to swim (or so it seemed). Instead of the normally expected calm sea for that time of the morning, a steady breeze was blowing and, the sea was fairly choppy.

Our team of swimmers standing at the water's edge must have been having second thoughts, but it was now or never and the decision to go was taken. After loading all the supplies, the swimmers and support people aboard the *Lady Nelson*, it was up anchor and the swim commenced.

The main problem that faced them was the wind. As it started to freshen the swell increased and each swimmer had his or her work cut out as they battled with the ever increasing waves. At one point they all had to change boats to a smaller one that was capable of coping with the swell. Despite this and one or two other slightly worrying moments, the swimmers finished just after 4 o'clock.

The Troop has raised in excess of £C1200 from this event and wish to express their heartfelt thanks to all of the people and to the local firms who gave their support. A special mention goes to **Cpl Tony Parslow** (RAF) who personally raised £C470 in sponsorship and donations.

Personnel from C Tp 2 Sqn after the charity swim
Back Row L to R: J. T. W. Natelie Warre-Dymand, Cpl John Jarvis, Flt Sgt Glyn Hall, LCpl Chris Telling, JTW Trish Jones
Front Row L to R: JT Pete Haskayne, Sig Byron Marshall

***THE WIRE* HAS BEEN INCREASED TO £1.30 per copy; £7.80 per annum commencing February 1992.**

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Catterick Garrison

COCKTAIL PARTY

The Regiment's annual cocktail party took place this year on a glorious May evening in the splendour of the Bowes Museum, County Durham, and what began as a chaotic sequence of bursting zips and vanishing braces, ended with an outstanding display from the Corps Band.

If this has stirred the imagination enough to make you read on, then good.

Due to the distance of the Bowes Museum from Catterick, the principal hosts of the evening left earlier than planned.

Purpose built almost 100 years ago by **John Bowes**, son of the 10th Earl of Strathmore, the outside of the Museum and its gardens resembles a French Chateau of the 17th Century, a design chosen by the Museum's French co-founder **Josephine Bowes**, Countess of Montalbo.

The company passed through the marble and quartz granite pillars of the entrance hallway into the brightness of the Italian Room. It was here amongst such 16th Century masterpieces of Giovanni Antonio's Canaletto, that the cocktail party took place.

The two principal guests for the evening were the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE DL** and the Chairman of Durham County Council, **Cllr G. W. Terrens**. It was a relaxed and friendly party, with most taking the opportunity to appreciate the magnificent surroundings.

Later guests took their seats in the driveway to enjoy the music and display afforded by the Corps Staff Band.

The theme was Durham, and under a glorious early summer evening sky, the band performed magnificently. A fitting finale to a memorable Regimental Cocktail Party.

Lt Stocker, WO2 Cook and Capt Smith keeping their guest 'rivetted'

ZONE B SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

SSgt (SSI) Mariner to **Lt P. A. Smith** (jiffed swimming officer) one Monday afternoon . . . 'Sir, the Zone B Championship's on Wednesday, who's in the team?' 'What Zone B Championships' . . . and so began the saga of 11 Sig Regt's swimming team.

The Regiment had qualified from the District Championships a month earlier because they were only one of two minor units to turn up. Nobody actually went into the water, and the then assembled 'team' had been confidently assured by **Lt Wheatley**, that they had a bye to the Army Finals at Sandhurst in July. The team and **Lt Wheatley** then disappeared but not before dropping **Lt Smith's** name to the SSI as 'the man holding the fort'.

Pressed to swim for the Regiment, were **Lt Smith, Lt France, WO1 (RSM) Douglas, Sgts Hamilton, Howland, Green** and **Sig Nichols**.

Despite the setback of not having a butterfly swimmer a valiant attempt was made to snatch the minor units championships, but we had to settle for last place. This is not to say there were not some outstanding individual performances. The RSM, clad in trunks bought for the occasion, was only three quarters of a length behind the man who came second to last in the two lengths breaststroke. **Lt France** was so fast nobody saw him remove his goggles and toss them into the neighbouring lane. Praise must be given to **Sgt Green** who swam two lengths freestyle whilst trying to snort his goggles. Finally thanks from **Lt Smith** to the competitors. As **Sgt Hamilton** said 'It's not the winning that counts, it's the explaining to the CO afterwards why you didn't!'.

1 SQUADRON
4 TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**Capt Steve Wheatley**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Geoff Hodgson**

Tp Cpls **Cpls 'JR' Ewing, Shorty Green, Dave Lloyd,** Domestic Engineer **Jean The Clean**.

CHARITY

Troops undergoing basic Military Training with the Regiment support a charity in their own time. The charity is always chosen by the Recruits and 4 Troop, which formed on 2 April 1991, selected 'Candlelighters'.

Candlelighters is based in St James's Hospital, Leeds and works to raise money for Leukaemia research, with particular emphasis on its effects on children.

The event undertaken by the Troop was a sponsored Bed Push which took place in the Garrison area and was very well supported by the parents, relatives and friends of the Recruits. The sponsorship, added to the cash which was very generously donated by the general public on the day, amounted to the magnificent sum of £2,420. The cheque was presented to **Mrs Rosalind Simpson**, a representative of Candlelighters at the Pass Off on 7 June 1991.

4 Troop take the opportunity to bid a very fond farewell to **Capt Steve Wheatley** and wish him all the very best for the future as a civilian.

4 Troop in action, working hard to earn the money

3 SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj R. J. Courtney MBE**
2IC — **Capt C. J. Manning**

SSM **WO2 (SSM) D. Parry**, TST **Sgt O'Brian**, Civ Clerk **Mrs I. Cox**, Iron Troop Comd **Lt K. A. Francis**, Kohima Troop Comd **Lt S. S. M. Youngson**, Battleaxe Troop Comd **Lt P. Smith**, Ulster Troop Comd **Lt S. O. France**.

Iron and Kohima Troops passed off the square on 21 June in typical English weather. Spirits were high however and **JSM Grönn** (Kohima) led the Troops past the saluting box and **Maj Gen I. O. J. Sprackling OBE**, the Inspecting Officer. A packed stand of 400 friends and relatives showed their appreciation of a year's hard work by all of the troops.

Several notable sports performances from a number of Junior Leaders are worthy of note. **JLdr Taylor** became Junior British Judo Champion (71kg) for the second year running and was selected for the Commonwealth Team. **JLdr Clubb** ran as a guest in the NE athletics meet, winning the 5,000m. The junior hockey team reached the finals of the Army Junior Championships, finishing fourth overall. Five members of the squadron were also selected for the Army Junior Rugby team, these being **JLdrs James, Powell, Stevenson, Bremner, Jenkinson**. **JLCpl Holliday** won the Army Junior high jump with a height of 1.95m and came second in the NE club event and won the Morrison Cup. **JLdr Barker** won the UKLF Army Junior Novice Skiing Championships and the Junior Ski team came second in the Army Junior Championships held in Aviemore.

Wimbledon '91 was another place where members of the squadron were to be found this year. **Lt Scott Youngson** took 20 junior soldiers for a two week stint as 'cover boys' and they proved to be a great success, delighting the crowds with their humour and patience every time the courts needed to be covered from the rain. They were rewarded when one of the leading players, **Miss Jennifer Captriati**, posed for photographs with them.

The squadron has said farewell to **Maj Steve Smith** and **Lt Peter Cubbin** (Iron) and will shortly be bidding **Capt Charlie Manning** adieu with our best wishes for every success on his retirement. We welcome in advance his successor, **Capt David Smith**, who moves across from Training Adjutant.

BATTLEAXE TROOP—PORTLAND CHARITY DAY

On 6 May Battleaxe Troop attended a Charity Fund Raising Day at Southwell Racecourse in Nottinghamshire. The Troop was invited to the event by Portland College for People with Disabilities which members of Battleaxe Troop have adopted as their charity. Six national charities sponsored handicap and hurdle races and the Guest of Honour was **Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal** who performed the official opening ceremony for the new Grandstand and All Weather Race Track and also inaugurated the Induction Loop System designed and manufactured by Portland.

It was also an ideal opportunity to present a £1000 cheque to Portland College which had been raised by the Junior Leaders of Battleaxe Troop during a gruelling 50km march around Scarborough and a 12 hour football match at Catterick. The cheque was accepted, on behalf of the College, by our Colonel-in-Chief and presented to her by our smartest soldier, **JLdr Bruce** who enjoyed his proud moment.

An account of the very valuable work done by Portland was published in the October 1990 issue of *The Wire* on page 436.

Lt Youngson and Sgt Burgess flank their team and Miss Jennifer Capriati

13 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

RHQ

CO — **Lt Col A. M. Wallace**
2IC — **Maj G. R. Elliot MBE**

Adjt **Capt M. Griffiths**, AAdjt **Lt S. V. Roberts**, RSM **WO1 (RSM) Orange**, Trg YofS **WO1 (YofS) McMahon**, Chief Clerk **WO2 (ORQMS) Duffy**.

1 SQN

Sqn Comd — **Maj J. G. T. Doherty MBE**
2IC — **Capt P. J. Welch**

Tfc Offr **Maj R. W. Mansfield MBE**, Tp Comd **Lt A. J. Clewlow**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) Wright-Jones**.

SHQ TP

The Squadron management team will have completely changed by the middle of September. First to go was **Capt George Stubbings**, replaced by **Capt Phil Welch**. The SSM **WO2 John Clark** handed over to **WO2 Mark Wright-Jones** during the first week of August, on his departure to 21 Sig Regt where he will fill the post of RSM. Finally, the Sqn Comd **Maj Jim Doherty**, hands over in September, to **Maj Nick Naylor**.

We wish those leaving all the best in their new postings and welcome all the new arrivals.

3 SQN

PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj Peter Williams**
2IC — **Capt Mick Brighten**

SSM **WO2 Pete Grainger**.

The past three months have been hectic in the Squadron, with little respite from the many social and sporting events, and some considerable success in the latter.

DEPARTURES

The Squadron had to say farewell to the following large number of personnel: **Capt Ron Clay, WO1 Kent, WO2 Martin Foster, SSgt Chris Gore, Sgt Jim Speirs, Cpl Hamish Ewens, LCpls Geoff Couch, Andy Emmett** and **Wendy Bell**. However, we could not say quite such a simple goodbye to our other two departing members: **WO2 Ray Armstrong** has at last decided to call it a day after 31 years in the Army. He will be sadly missed by all who have known and served with him over that long period of time. Also we say farewell to **WO1 Tom Morrall**, who is going back to UK, to complete his last six months, having almost finished 22 years. We wish **Ray** and **Elsie** and **Tom** and **Wendy** all the best for the future.

HELLOS

The Squadron would like to say welcome to the following new personnel: **Capt Bob Carty, 2Lt Paul McGreavy, Cpl Pounder, LCpls Adams, Baker, Davies, Dent, O'Rourke, Park, Wilkinson** and **WLCpl Parsons**. We hope you all enjoy your stay in the Gross Stadt.

MARRIAGES

Congratulations to the following, who have recently married: **LCpl Rowland** and **WLCpl Watson, LCpl Simpson** and **Dawn**, and **LCpl Knight** and **Racquel**. All the very best for the future.

BIRTHS

Congratulations to **Cpl** and **Mrs Daz Middleton** on the birth of their second child and **Cpl** and **Mrs Howard** on the birth of their second child.

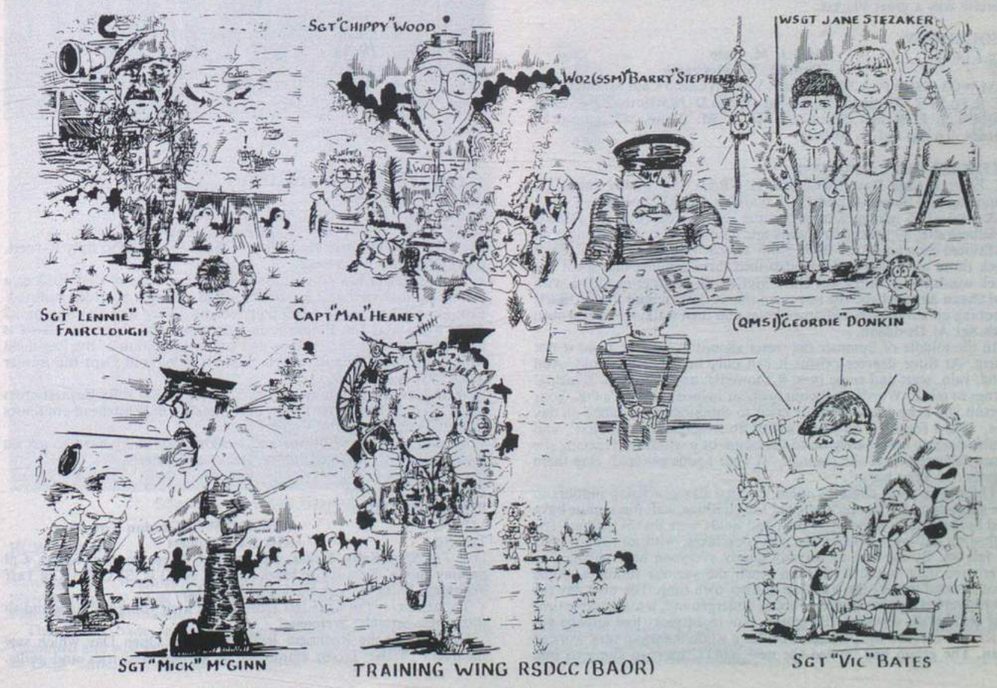
ATHLETICS

Saturday 1 June, saw the Annual Brigade Athletics Championships, which took place in Stadium Barracks. Despite minimal training and preparation, the Squadron performed with some distinction, and finished as Runners-Up to HQ Berlin Infantry Brigade/229 Sig Sqn. Well done to everyone.

SWIMMING

Last-minute injuries deprived us of two of our better swimmers, the swimming team came fourth in the Berlin Infantry Brigade Championships. Praise is given to **LCpl Dave Bell**, who was thrown in at the last minute (literally) to swim the 50m butterfly-leg of the medley relay. Despite never having swam 'Fly' before, he put in a gutsy effort. Well done **Dave**!

The highlight of our team effort was the performance of our 4 × 50m Freestyle relay squad (**LCpl Bob Buchanan, WO2 Dickie Pickup, LCpl Will Clearie** and **Cpl Mac McConachie**), who came second. This race also proved to be a highlight for the spectators as **LCpl Will Clearie** produced, yet again, a devastating windmill technique.



14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 23

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj Steve Turpin**
2IC — **Capt (Mr Jotes) John Stuart**

SSM **WO2 (SSM) Phil Abbott**, SUMS **SSgt Grant Pocock**, YofS **SSgt (YofS) Monty Montgomery**, FofS **SSgt (FofS) Mike Tyson**, Comd W Tp **Lt Claire Holdsworth**, Y Tp Comd **Lt Richard Spencer**, X Tp Comd **WO2 John Bellion.**

The eye of the storm currently lies over 1 Sqn but we are far from idle, as the Regiment passes into its maximum leave period and the majority of people are about to escape to southern parts with dreams of a decent campsite without too many Brits! Within such quiet times the bold few soldier on; **Capt John Stuart**, suffering from promotion exams and **SSgt Grant Pocock** 'minding' the rest, not forgetting of course the dynamic duo in **WO2 Mick Martin** and **SSgt Chris Tyson** who plan ahead to maintain that smooth-run machine everyone knows so well. Both **Lt Richard Spencer**, away on detachment in BATUS, and **Lt Claire Holdsworth** taking some well earned leave, have managed to leave their Troops just when they thought they would get useful work from them.

It is said that 'absence makes the heart grow fonder'—those of us who remain would like to challenge that old adage and place it in context, as yet more of our Armoured Vehicles return from the Gulf. The laborious task of cleaning and handing back to their rightful owners has now begun, and the repair, rebuilding, and repainting of those to be retained is in progress. It has been rumoured that the Armoured Intercept and Vampire Vehicles are 'chameleon' in nature. However, we do still have some 'Sandy' ones, but not for long! The fondness that is now felt for those particular absentees is the fact that they remained absent for so long.

Ex Flying Falcon has been and gone with the Squadron producing a somewhat reduced Armoured intercept complex from W Troop ('plus') ably led by **Lt Claire Holdsworth** and **SSgt Fitz Fitzpatrick** both on their first exercise with EW assets under command. The exercise was a great success.

2 SQUADRON

Sqn Comd — **Maj J. M. Gale**
2IC — **Capt D. W. McCreath**

SSM **WO2 (SSM) P. A. Woodward**, V/K Tp Comd **Capt M. Finneran**, OC R Tp **Lt R. Freeman**, YofS **SSgt (YofS) D. Marriott**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) N. J. Barnett**, Sqn Clerk **Mrs L. M. White**, MT Sgt **Sgt P. Cornes**, Tp Sgt **Sgt D. Morris**.

EXERCISE DUET DIAMOND

OC Exercise **Capt Dave McCreath**, IC TR&A **SSgt Paddy Shiels**, IC Canoeing **Cpl Shean Arundel**, IC Walking **Sgt Al Davidson**.

A total of 55 managed to attend the Exercise based at the AMTC in Silberhutte; 30 for the first week and 25 on the second including an additional attachment of three from a local Bundeswehr unit. Each week those attending were divided into three groups; one spent the week windsurfing with **Capt Dave McCreath**, another canoeing with **Cpl Shean Arundel** and the last spent the week with **SSgt Paddy Shiels** climbing up mountains and down holes and then walking around both with **Sgt Al Davidson.**

In the middle of Summer the water should at least be tepid if not warm. At three degrees celsius it can only be classed as cold. Add wind, rain, sleet and snow (yes, it snowed!), and the word 'freezing' comes to mind. Words of encouragement helped, like, 'It's OK, your wetsuit will keep you warm', or prior to climbing in the canoe on day one, 'Oh, I forgot. You've all got to do a swimming test first', and whilst clinging desperately on to the boom of a windsurfer, seeing the shore disappear over the horizon, 'If your hands get cold, clap them together to keep warm'.

Those who went climbing spent the first day practising indoors in the gymnasium. Whoever designed the climbing wall there must have had Spiderman in mind, half the hand holds were on the ceiling! The following day was spent on the real rock faces, with no rubber mats to fall on. By the end of the day nearly everyone had managed to overcome their initial fright and reach the various summits. Some even decided to take the sport up in their own time. The next day the group were given the chance of going underground, a memorable time was had by all, especially the guide. Not in 14 years had anyone got stuck and blocked the passage, but, for a while, he was a very worried man. The group had invited the new AMTC barman along to join them. He got stuck around his midriff whilst being simultaneously pushed and pulled through a narrow gap. Eventually with a lot of sweat and several grazes he was pulled back out. On the last day the hills and holes were given a miss, a walk around the Oderstausee lake was overseen by **Sgt Al Davidson**.

The canoeists all became film stars. After their initial paddle work and capsize drills, they were enticed to the top of a dam wall 70ft above the water level. After a couple of slides down the wall minus their canoes (the wall was covered in green slime) they all follow their fearless instructor off the top in canoes. Within minutes several tourist buses had stopped at the top of the dam and out came the video cameras. Always willing to oblige, they all trudged back up again and again, a new tourist attraction was born. The saying 'Mad dogs and Englishmen' is all well and good, but a member of the group on the second week was a soldier from the German Army.

Most of those who spent the week windsurfing had already dabbled at it before, so spent most of the week consolidating their skills prior to taking the Army Sailing Association level one exam. It can only be said that wet suits were a necessity, the water was bitterly cold. Overall the Exercise was a great success. Let's hope we can all do the same thing again next year.

The Windsurfers, dry and warm at last

4 (TRG AND SP) SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj Les Plumb**
2IC — **Capt Paul Connors**

SSM **WO2 (SSM) Gary Hailstone**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) Billy Barnett**, Clerk **Miss Zoi Whitehead**.

The Squadron has gone through what can only be described as a metamorphosis in that it has been retitled, re-roled and reconstituted. Post Op Granby the old HQ Sqn became 4 (Trg and Sp) Sqn on 22 April when **Maj Les Plumb** took over command. More emphasis is now being given to the training and support function of the Regiment with **Capt Paul Connors** as OC Support Wing and **Capt Bill Souter** as OC Training Wing.

WO2 Gary Hailstone returns as SSM with **SSgt Billy Barnett** cross posted in as SQMS from 1 Sqn. Fortunately **Zoi Whitehead** continues in post as the Squadron Clerk.

All Troops have reformed and working extremely hard to get on their feet, or REME permitting, tracks and wheels.

4 SQN MT TROOP
PERSONALITIES

MTWO — **WO2 (MTWO) Gordon Townsley**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt Dave Gilbert**

Dvr Trg **SSgt Keith Fisher**, Tp Sgt **Sgt Steve Cooper**, Stores **Cpl Sammy James**, Details **Cpl Mark Gibson**, NCO IC SVG Bay **Cpl Taff Williams**, NCO IC Veh Park **Cpl Phil Hay**.

To members who have left recently we wish you good luck and to those new arrivals; Welcome!

On 13 July the Regiment held its annual Open Day which saw members of the Troop employed in various activities and stalls.

Without a doubt the 'Noddy Train' (Courtesy of 7 Sig Regt) proved an enormous success judging from the fact that the theme music 'Thomas the Tank Engine' is still echoing around Block 14.

TM TROOP
PERSONALITIES

TOT — **Capt Gavin West**
FofS — **WO2 (FofS) Bob Hamilton**
Admin SSgt **SSgt Mick Laybourn.**

The workload prevent the Troop from indulging in a Treasure Hunt on May Day, an event excellently organised by **Sgt John Brockman**. However although the **Laybourn** clan covered the town in half an hour the eventual winners were **SSgt 'Dutch'** and **Margaret Holland**, ably assisted by their children **Paul** and **Sarah**—obviously seven and a half years in Celle is an advantage!

The Troop are losing many of the stalwarts, **WO1 (FofS) Phil** and **Carol Martin** are leaving for 7 Sig Regt where **Phil** is to assume the position of Technical Adjutant on commissioning. SSgt **'Dutch'** and **Margaret Holland** and **Sgt John** and **Pam Brockman** leave us for six months in the UK before civilian life. **Sgt Spud** and **Fran Murphy** go to 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt, and we lose both **Cpl Bob Pace** and **Simon** and **Colette Crowther** to their T1 course. Best wishes from all members of the Troop go to you all.

The Troop welcomes **LCpl Andy Mileham** from training—have an enjoyable tour. Other new additions are **Jorden Dick** son of **Sgt Andy** and **Jo Dick**, and **Alex Mountfield**, to **LCpl Bud** and **Rebecca Mountfield**. Congratulations to both couples and, don't worry, babies do stop crying one day!

On the marriage scene congratulations to **Sgt Simon** and **Robyn Lazenby** on their recent wedding, to **Cpl Jamie Chambers** on his engagement to **Marie Smith** and to **Cpl Paddy Duffy** on his engagement to **Tina Mayo**.

END OF AN ERA

Wesendorf has closed! Lots of soldiers will have fond memories of this small base. It could not be handed back without the help of **SSgt** 'Stu the Pay' **Hermelin**. He 'volunteered' to abseil down the inside of a Comms Tower and disconnect the cabling which could not be reached. The Pay Corps rigging again.

SSgt Stu Hermelin Rigging

RCP TROOP

On the sporting front the Troop ably assisted the Squadron in winning the Regimental Athletics trophy, with some good performances by **LCpl** 'Smudge' **Smith** (Hammer and Shot), **LCpl Phil Dixon** (Steeplechase) and **Sig Lee Turner** (Shot).

The Troop bade farewell to **Cpls Toms** and **Graham** and **Sig Campbell** and wishes them well in their new units. Congratulations go to **LCpl** 'Smudge' **Smith** on his recent promotion.

FRENCH IDEAS

Five members of the Regiment spent three days in July on exercise with 54 Regiment de Transmissions, a French Regiment with a very similar role to our own. We had the chance to see all their equipment at close quarters, and observe their procedures. It was interesting to discover that although they go about their job in a completely different way from us, they have all the same problems we have with command and control, tasking and reporting etc. The way in which these problems were described raised our hopes that we would be told how to overcome them. Unfortunately the similarities between our regiments extend further, and they also have no proper solutions. It was, however, a very worthwhile visit, and we look forward to continuing the relationship.

The photograph shows the team with our French liaison officer *Left to Right:* WO2 (SSM) Paul Lancaster, WO2 (SSM) John Richardson, Capitaine Christophe Guyonnet, Maj Bernie Hewitt, Maj Chris Sanderson, Sgt Cliff Buckley

Government Communication Headquarters

Radio Officer

GCHQ requires experienced Radio Officers. If you are coming to the end of your time in the Services and are scheduled for discharge in the next 12 months and are looking for a career which will build on the training you have received, contact GCHQ. We require skilled and motivated staff, with a high sense of purpose, to study our communications across the whole spectrum, from DC to light. To qualify you require a minimum of 2 years recent and relevant radio operating experience. We would prefer you to be capable of reading morse at 20 wpm, but if not, full training will be given at our Training School.

For candidates without experience, you need to hold one of the following qualifications:

BTEC National Diploma (or HNC/HND) in a Telecommunications, Electronics Engineering or similar discipline.City and Guilds 777 (advanced level) or other qualifications incorporating morse skills would be advantageous, but not essential. MRGC or equivalent Radio Operating Certificate.

Age limit for experienced Radio Officers 18-45.
Age limit for candidates who do not possess the full range of skills 18-40.

When your training is completed you can look forward to:

● Good career prospects ● Competitive salaries (reviewed annually)
● Varied work (opportunities for moves within the UK and overseas)
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Training period: Between 29 and 52 weeks (depending on background and experience). **Salary** after training (over 5 years) £13,756-£19,998 with prospects for further promotions. Salaries include an allowance for shift and weekend working.

GCHQ is an equal opportunity employer
APPLICANTS MUST BE BRITISH NATIONALS.

For further information and application form contact:
Recruitment Office, Room A.1108, GCHQ Priors Road, Cheltenham, Glos. GL52 5AJ or telephone (0242) 232912 or 232913

GCHQ

16 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

1 SQN
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd	**Maj J. A. Harris**
2IC	**Capt P. J. Doherty**

SSM **WO2 (SSM) L. Twigg**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) T. Talbott.**

The erstwhile 2IC **Capt P. J. Doherty** was dragged to the Gulf for three and a half months. The bulk of his workload devolved on **WO2 (SSM) Babs Davies** who during this period bailed out to the Ulster Defence Regiment on commissioning.

Fortunately help arrived in the form of **WO2 (SSM) Lisa Twigg** who came from Ulster. Prior to that she saw service with 238 Sig Sqn so she is no stranger to the quirks of the Corps. The headquarters bade a sad farewell to **Cpl Carol Matten** who left on promotion to Sergeant and was replaced by a fit and enthusiastic **Cpl Tina Edwards**, equally determined to maintain the high standards of—fitness—'no pain—no gain'.

Finally our misemployed Switchboard Operator **WPte Lucy Newcombe** who performed the role of girl Friday for many months eventually attended and passed the staff clerks course and now beavers away deep in the bowels of the MOD building in London.

CHARLIE TROOP

Tp Comd	**Capt P. J. Doherty**

FSgt Conlan, Sgt E. Pomeroy.

Sadly **FSgt Len Weetch** has left JHQ and gone to RAF Boddington for his final tour. It was with our heartfelt thanks and in true Charlie Troop tradition that **Len** and his wife **Heather** were sent off in July this year. A warm welcome is extended to **FSgt Pete Conlan** and his wife **Jean** and **Ptes Parker** and **Matthews.**

Farewells also to **Pte Wendy Dewar** who has returned to civilian life and **Pte Mulvey** (nee **Arnold**) who has left us for Bielefeld on marriage. On the subject of marriage **LCpl Stracky Wilson** (nee **Strachan**) has recently tied the knot.

Lined up for the vows are **Pte Sheila Chalmers, LCpl Paula Roberts** and **Pte Kate Docherty** and **LCpl Natalie Defriend** and **Pte Jo Kerr** have announced their engagements. There must be something in the water at Telephone House.

OSCAR TROOP

Tp Comd	**Capt R. Waller**
Admin SSgt	**WSSgt Joseph**

YofS **WO2 (YofS) Heeles**, FofS **WO2 (FofS) Heeles.**

Of late we bade farewell to **Sgt Linda Halligan** who is off to Belize for six months acclimatisation before embarking on a two year tour in Cyprus. Already in Cyprus **Cpl Elaine Musgrave** who is keeping a place for **Linda** by the pool. A less warm climate faces **Pte Mandy Lee** who is off to 238 Sig Sqn in London and **Pte Cheryl Nichols** who departs to civilian life.

A warm welcome to **Sgt Dave Whiting**, arriving all the way from Berlin and also to **Sgt Bernie Bernstein** joining us on detachment from Blandford.

Many congratulations to **Sgt Pete Boon** and **Cpl Tracy Johns** both of whom have received Op Granby awards. **Pete**'s BEM and **Tracy**'s commendation are reflections of the many hours of hard work put in by the Troop as a whole and as we cannot all be singled out for recognition we are agreed that it could not have happened to a more deserving duo.

Ex Saddle Sore
Left to Right: Cpl Spearing, LCpls Potter and Matheson

EXERCISE SADDLE SORE

One of our charities is Cerebral Palsy which prompted **WCpl Claire Spearing, WLCpl Paula Matheson** and **WLCpl Michelle Potter** to join the Regimental Summer Camp in Bavaria, by a slightly less conventional means of travel; **Claire** cycled all the way with a little physical support but a lot of moral support from **Michelle** and **Paula.** Every turn of the wheel and each flexing of the knee clocked up a nominal sum for the cause. A total of 365 miles was covered and a magnificent sum of DM 3,000 was raised which was a tremendous tribute to all three girls, the back room staff who helped and the generosity of all the sponsors—Well done all!

LETTER FROM BIELEFELD
4 SQN
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd	**Maj D. A. Dunbar**
2IC	**Capt A. J. Steel WRAC**

SSM **WO2 (SSM) Spinks WRAC**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) Letford BEM.**

EXCHANGE TROOP

Tp Comd	**2Lt K. M. Broomfield WRAC**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt McNamara**

Sgt McNamara has been running the troop—literally—and has medals from the Herforder Marches, Hermanslauf, Berlin 25km and Rheindahlen 40km march to prove it and to add to the other odd few she possesses.

EST

FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Waterson**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Plant**

We said farewell to **WO2 (FofS) Allen** in July.

EXERCISE LIONESS SUCCESS III

From 3-14 April a lucky seven from 4 Sqn went to the Regiment at Krefeld for the last CO WRAC Cadre Course.

The 'magnificent seven' who all achieved a pass on the course are: **LCpl Wood, Ptes Cooper, Gill, Jones, Marshall, Read** and **Scott.**

SQUADRON FITNESS CAMPAIGN

Each year we enter a team in the Quadrant Cross Country League, although our numbers have been depleted this season due to 'Op Granby' our regular runners: **Sgt** 'Bernie' **NcNamara, Cpls Alison Randall, Jackie Bausor** and others made a team, we even managed to encourage some of the unit wives to come along. Special congratulations go to **Cpl Alison Randall,** who entered as an individual in the Army Cross Country Championships held in Aldershot where she achieved 12th placing. The final race of the season loomed, on a wet muddy day in Detmold. It was a crucial race between first and second placings for Bielefeld 4 Sqn, and Herford 4 Div and Sig Regt. Bielefeld 4 Sqn never looked in any danger and won by two points ahead of Herford 4 Div and Sig Regt.

Next on the agenda was the Herforder marches in which both a male and female team were entered coming fifth and first in their respective competitions. On we moved to the Hermanslauf—a small matter of 35km from Detmold to Bielefeld. Fortunately this event took place during a Corps long weekend so most people were no longer walking like penguins by the time we returned to work on the Wednesday.

Herforder Marches, 4 Sqn team
Left to Right: Cpl Cook, LCpl Jane, Capt Lawrence, Sgt McNamara

The Rheindahlen Allied Marches were next, due to commitments only one walking team was able to go and it completed the 40km March. **Pte Gill** does a very good chat up line and the remainder of the team did not have to wait often for her!

RCZ MARCH AND SHOOT

For this endeavour we joined up with girls from the Regiment. On the first morning things got off to a good start, breakfast was at 0415 hrs—but no Chef. The team were able to catch up on lost sleep on the ranges because on arrival it was discovered that it was not due to fire until the afternoon. Detectives Crockett and Tubbs have no serious worries about being replaced by our likely mob; mind you, at the end of the first day they were in second place. The second day dawned and off went the Marching team in good heart singing as they went. They came in after 1 hr 37 mins which proved to be one of the faster times of the competition, unfortunately not quite fast enough to clinch first place from 68 Sqn RCT overall. Well done on attaining second place.

The 4 Squadron Cross Country team
Left to Right: Sgt McNamara, Cpl Bausor, LCpl Jane, Mrs Evans, LCpl Powell, Cpl Randall, Mrs Dolan

VIP VISIT

We have been host to **Brig G. Ramsay** Director WRAC, **Brig A. Field** Deputy Controller Commandant WRAC and **Col M. S. Wing** Commander WRAC Berlin and BAOR.

NEWS FROM THE GULF

The Regiment is still heavily committed to Op Granby 2 providing the bulk of the manpower to the Logistic Support Group Headquarters Signal Squadron in Al Jubayl. June and July have been particulalry busy for the Signal Squadron.

Having lost the services of the Squadron Admin Officer, **WO1 (RSM) Barry Spiers** assumed the role and had the most important of tasks of helping to administer the run down plan. Needless to say he became popular instantly.

TM Troop shouldered the brunt of the move of the Logistic Support Group HQ and **WO2 (FofS) Stumpy Rowe** clocked up a lot of mileage. **Cpls Mick McEwan** and **Scouse Holmes** looked after the telephone side of the affair and once the move had been completed, a visit to Bahrein was arranged.

Having dispatched the Headquarters **Capt Pete Doherty** and his SQMS staff with the aid of some 40 third country nationals had the unenviable task of putting the camp back into some semblance of order acceptable to the port authorities. This as it transpired was to be a task of some three weeks. Having emptied the barracks of its order acceptable to the port authorities. Those versed in the local custom will not be surprised to learn that the handover never actually took place and that the QM and Coy are now back in Krefeld. Meanwhile **WO2 (RQMS) Wayne Sweeting** accompanied the Headquarters to its new location to look after the tech side of the house.

The ownership of JVC (SATCOM) Troop changed hands several times during the tour but finally ended up with one time squadron 2IC **Capt Jim Binkie Forest.**

RCZ WATERPOLO AND SWIMMING

This year's competition was again hosted by the Regiment. After some last minute repairs by the PSA, the heating was switched on, ready for the competition to take place the following Tuesday. Alas, gremlins had other ideas, and burnt out the pump. Practice on Monday lasted all of six seconds!

Tuesday morning dawned, a clear but cold morning, forecast to deteriorate rapidly about noon.

At 1000 hrs the programme was altered to allow for two seven minute halves, as opposed to the programmed four Quarters.

Four teams participated but enough to make the event worthwhile. Played as a league, the final positions were as follows:

1st — RCZ Champions, 16 Sig Regt
2nd — 28 Sig Regt
3rd — 30 AESG/52 Sqn RE
4th — 21 Sig Regt

Every player deserves credit, the day was cold, and so was the water, but such was the spirit of the competitors that a really enjoyable day was the result.

Prizes were presented by the CO **Lt Col Tony Elford**, RCZ Water Polo Chairman.

Most of the squad had thawed out by the next day, and travelled to JHQ for the RCZ Swimming, which was held at the Blue Pool. Again, four Major Units entered, all Corps Regiments, and the results were as follows:

1st — 16 Sig Regt
2nd — 21 Sig Regt
3rd — 28 Sig Regt
4th — 13 Sig Regt

Victorious in both events, the squad is pictured here surrounded by the CO, and **Capt Peter Coleman**, Secretary of RCZ Waterpolo.

Special mention is made of **SSgt** (now WO2) **'Taff' Griffiths**, who captained the squad successfully, yet again, and will take them all to Berlin to compete in the BAOR finals.

RCZ WATER POLO AND SWIMMING CHAMPIONS 1991
Back Row L to R: Capt P. H. Coleman (Secretary RCZ Water-Polo), Cpl Cooper, Sig Love, LCpl Pickering, Sig Shaw-Rolands, WO2 (SSM) Tedby, Sgt Davies, WO2 Griffiths, LCpl Dunn, Cpl Harden, Lt Col A. H. G. Elford (Chairman RCZ Water-Polo)
Front Row L to R: Cpls Keen, Hurd, Sgts Collins, Isles, SSgt Cox, Cpls Parr, Maynard, Sig Hook

21 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

MASTER OF SIGNALS VISIT

The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE DL**, paid a short visit to the Regiment on 10 July 1991. He received a briefing on the Regiment and its role on Op Granby; followed by a demonstration, by Kilo Tp, on modern cabling techniques. The highlight of the visit was a visit to a 'montage' of sports and leisure activities enjoyed by the Regiment; this gave us an ideal opportunity to show off our considerable collection of silver!

Before departing the Master of Signals presented the 'Soldier of the Year Award', to **Cpl Fellows**; the 'Sportsman of the Year Award' to **Sig Smith**, and possibly more poignantly 'The Birtwistle Pennant for Merit in Sport', this was received on behalf of the Regiment by **SSgt Neil Killen**.

The Master of Signals presents the 'Soldier of the Year Award' to Cpl Fellows

The Master of Signals presents the Birtwistle Sporting Pennant to SSgt Neil Killen

The Master of Signals presents the 'Sportsman of the Year Award' to Sig Smith

The Master of Signals tries 'GB4' for size under the watchful eye of Cpl Farrell

2 SQUADRON

Ex Deci Bran was 2 Sqn's attempt to walk the Southern half of the GR20 through the Corsican mountains. We finally arrived at the scenic town of Vizzavone, our start point, and this meant a meal and bed for the night.

The next day was a straight 17km dash, or crawl, to the next refuge. The weather was excellent and we progressed well until the last 2km. That was the start of the great monster back breaking climb. **Sigs Ned Fraine** and **Willie Rushton** reached the top first. Withdrawal symptoms were beginning to set in.

Day three, the big push, but sadly, in the wrong direction. We then trekked up and over Mount Formicola and down the wrong side. Two hours later, one brew, and a marked lowering of morale, we finally caught sight of our refuge.

Rested and refreshed by morning we set off for the refuge at Asinal. Whilst on the mountains the weather closed in and visibility was down to 10 miles. This was by far the most treacherous part of the walk and so it was probably for the best that those members of the team who suffer from vertigo could not see exactly how far they could have fallen! By the time we reached Asinal it was raining heavily, the refuge earned its name that night.

Second to last day and the sun was back. With the promise of our first village since we started, the four Lancashire lads, **LCpl Tatlock** and **Sig Rushton, Fraine** and **Rigg** set off early and at a cracking pace. A somewhat depressing number of kilometres later, they slacked the pace and bimbled the last part to the local watering hole. This was where they were found some time later by the rest of the group. Spirits high and replenned we spent our final night on the trail.

The last day was refreshingly easy. We walked the last 13km off the mountains and into Conca at just after 1300 hrs. Some refreshments and a few group photos later we moved off to the coastal town of Porto Vechio for a few days rest.

An award to **Sig Fraine** for taking 36 scenic photos of sunny Corsica throughout the walk before realising there was no film in the camera.

3 SQUADRON
H TROOP (RAF BRUGGEN)
BATTLE DAMAGE REPAIR (BDR) DEMONSTRATION

On 8 May, H Troop hosted visitors from Communication Project Division (CPD), Eggerton and some on RAF Stations, who were shown some of the daily activities carried out by an Airfield Troop. The highlight of the day was a BDR demonstration which covered the rapid repair of both copper and fibre optic cables. The repair of copper cables is nothing new and is regularly practised, however, the repair of fibre optic cables was carried out by using the new system, designed by British Telecom and manufactured by Eggerton. This equipment may one day be in service with the Army. The demo went well and both the representatives from Eggerton, CPD and the lads were impressed with the performance of the equipment.

ARRIVALS

Recent arrivals include **Sgt Tony McClean** from Benbecula and **Sig Richards, Rickards** and **Tuck** straight from the factory. Congratulations to **Cpl Danny Boland** and **Clair** on the arrival of **Daniel**.

DEPARTURES

The following personalities have done their bit here and leave for pastures new, **SSgt Steve Dobson** and **Sig Shaw** both to sunny 259 Sig Sqn. We wish them both good luck in their new posts. To **LCpl Rushworth** and **Sig Gallivan**, we wish them well in civvy street.

Cpl 'Stottie' McLay and Sig 'Ces' Cecil putting it to the test

4 SQUADRON
POTTED SPORTS COMPETITION

On Tuesday 2 July it was decided to hold a Potted Sports competition. Eight teams took part in a variety of events including: The Giddy Race, Throw the Welly, and Hockey Dribble.

The day was gloriously sunny as the teams assembled to do battle. At 0900 hrs **WO2 (YofS) Pete Martin** blasted the whistle and frantic activity ensued as the teams competed for the next three hours. At the end of the day and with the points capably totted up by **SSgt (FofS) Steve Wilks** the winning team was: **Sig Dave Aitken, Nick Barnard, Oz Faramus, Jase Hawkksworth** and **Si Staddon**.

The day was rounded off by a tug-o-war competition in the afternoon. SHQ were resoundingly thrashed by I and J Troops with J Troop running out as overall winners thanks to their 'Ringer' **Cpl Bob Harvey**.

Winning Team

NCOs' DINNER NIGHT

The Squadron held a NCOs dinner night on Friday 5 July in the Train Bar for two reasons.

First and foremost the occasion was to dine in the Sqn Comd, **Maj I. W. Griffiths**, who, although he has been here since January had not yet been dined in.

The guest of honour was the CO 3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt, **Lt Col H. H. Ham**; the evening was a resounding success.

4 SQUADRON
FAMILIES DAY

On 14 June, a Friday preceding the middle weekend of Ex Flying Falcon, the majority of 4 Sqn returned from the field to recharge their batteries (or so they thought) by way of a couple of days rest and recuperation. Despite rumours to the contrary, the minority that had stayed in camp, with **SSgt (SQMS) Gary Foster**, had beavered away to provide a day's entertainment described rather loosely as a 'Families Day'.

On offer was a mini assault course, sack, egg and spoon races, tug-o-war, a display of Iraqi equipment plus several detachments deployed showing life in the field and last but not least the customary barbecue.

The mini assault course designed by **Cpl Paul Hanlon**: the obstacles included cam nets, poles, raw eggs, tyres and ladders—the event was thoroughly enjoyed by all, especially the children.

Following the sack and egg and spoon races the tug-o-war started; this was surely the highlight of the day as the OC, **Maj Ian Griffiths**, and SSM, **WO2 Joe Fairbairn**, were pulled around the compound quite unceremoniously by a team of under fives, maybe with a bit of training they might someday take on the wives team.

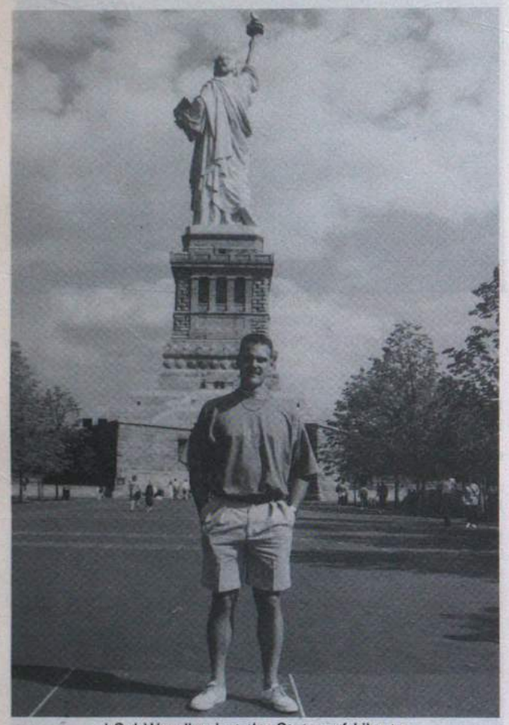
OPERATION WELCOME HOME
by LCpl Woodland

After having been selected from a cast of thousands to go to New York for the homecoming of Desert Storm I left RAF Wildenwrath at 0930 hrs on Tuesday 4 June on a short Hercules flight to RAF Brize Norton.

We left RAF Brize Norton on Thursday at 1930 hrs for McGuire Air Force Base and arrived at our home for the next five nights, the Stevens Institute of Technology; this is situated almost due West of the Empire State Building across the Hudson river in the Borough of New Jersey.

We had to be on parade at 0900 hrs on the Friday morning for a formal welcome and briefing; our time was then our own until the following day. Three of us went into the town of Hoboken and decided that the best place to be, on a day when the temperature was just over 95°, was on the water. After a short tube

ride we caught the circle line ferry for a sight seeing tour of the Statue of Liberty; what a magnificent sight. However, in the heat, the 355 steps to climb to get to the top was exhausting. We caught the last ferry back to Manhattan where we found Chinatown which was excellent, but better still was Greenwich Village (of '9½ Weeks' fame). The Village was quite a place. Apart from the Taxi in the Wall Bar where an actual yellow cab is sticking out of the wall, the most fascinating part was the church bazaar. Most people think of small village halls, vicar's wives and the White Elephant stall in Surrey, not in America. This was different, you could get any sort of foreign dish you required or almost any item you fancied. The most astounding thing of all was the local preacher who had replaced all his pews with one armed bandits and stood on the church step calling people in to gamble. During the evening we met **MS2 Jack Moore** a cook on the USS *Wisconsin*, he invited us to the ship the next day for a personal guided tour. Saturday was another scorcher and wearing desert combats we strolled along the two mile queue and jumped straight on board the



LCpl Woodland at the Statue of Liberty

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Four point seven million people were drinking in the down town area of Manhattan on the afternoon/evening of the 10th and approximately 60 bars closed early when they ran out of beer. All that was now left to do was get aboard a Tri-Star of American Trans Air and leave JF Kennedy airport and the city of New York.

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The expedition consisted of a team of runners from 1 RTR Hildersheim running nonstop to Romania to raise funds, a party of sixth form pupils and teachers from Windsor School with the purpose of making twinning arrangements with a local school and finally there was us, a rare mixture of soldiers and civilians from all over Germany, Holland and the UK.

Three members of the Regiment were involved in the expedition, **Cpl Dougie Wood, Sig Nigel Penney** and myself, **Sgt Paul Wareham.**

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ARMY INTER-UNIT TEAM ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS 1991

The Army Inter-Unit Team Athletic Championships took place at Aldershot on Wednesday 17 July.

As expected the fight for the major units title proved to be a repeat of the BAOR round of the competition with defending champions 21 Sig Regt (AS), 1 PWO, and 50 Msl Regt RA all fielding their strongest teams, whilst the main opposition from UK came from 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt and 94 Loc Regt RA.

The Gunners got off to a fine start with Army hammer champion **Gunner Mark Sterling** and his team mate from 50 Msl Regt RA making no mistakes to take maximum points. **LCpl 'Jonah' Jones** and **Sgt Dave Yates** of 21 Sig Regt gave little away however, and took second place points in both strings to give their team a firm base on which to build. Another early event gave the strong PWO pole vaulters a chance to score well, however their 'star' vaulter **Cpl Bob Lyons** failed to clear a height leaving the way clear for brother and rival **Sgt Steve Lyons**, and **Cpl Andy Ingham**, both of 21 Sig Regt, to take maximum points in perhaps the most technical of all the disciplines. Meanwhile the Signallers' discus pair of **Cpls Pete Curtis** and **Dobbo Dobson** were adding to their team's score with yet another 'double first', and by lunchtime '21' had established a 12 point lead over 1 PWO, with the Gunners a further 11 points adrift in third place.

The afternoon saw some fine performances both on the track and in the field events, but the gaps continued to grow, and it was interesting to see that the Signals team—with four of the Army's top five decathletes in their squad—had the depth of talent to withstand the absence through injury of their top decathlete, Irish international SSgt **Neil Killen**. **Killen** broke a thumb in training some weeks ago, and has also been troubled by a thigh muscle strain, but he assures me he will be fit to take part in the Inter-Services Decathlon championships in UK next week.

As the day progressed the outcome of the team event became more and more predictable, but this did not detract from the high quality of the athletics, and the final relays were a fitting climax to an excellent competition. The 4 × 100m saw international sprinter **Cpl Clarence Callender** assert his dominance to snatch victory for 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt, while the final leg of the 4 × 400m saw **Cpl Viv Henry** of 21 Sig Regt (AS) make up a 15m gap on **Cpl Dave Prew** of 1 PWO. This spirited run typified the tremendous rivalry which exists between these two teams, and with neither athlete prepared to give an inch, the battle was fought along the length of the final straight, with victory on this occasion going to **Prew** by a vest. Congratulations to 21 Sig Regt on retaining the Army Challenge Shield, and to 1 PWO and 50 Msl Regt RA for ensuring a clean sweep for BAOR.

Final team placings were: 1st 21 Sig Regt 231 pts; 2nd 1 PWO 198 pts; 3rd 50 Msl Regt RA 170 pts; 4th 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt 135 pts.

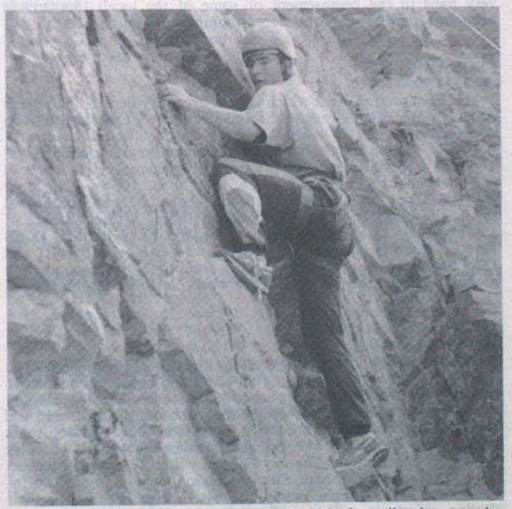
22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

1 SQN

The Squadron reformed on 7 May. Individual introductions and farewells are not appropriate apart from saying a fond farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Brian Cullen** and a warm welcome to **WO2 (SSM) Geff Woodcock**. To members of the old Squadron, we wish you well. The most significant event is the influx of WRAC. A more bright, capable and cheerful lot we could not have wished for. Welcome to you all.

The first girls to deploy on exercise with the Squadron were **Ptes Norman** and **'Jock' Kay O'Hara.** Under the guidance of **LCpl** 'China' **Cooper** they were introduced to the realities of radio relay operation.

The new Alpha Tp had formed with the line section containing 13 linemen of whom only four had previous line experience. To redress this **Cpl** 'Stew' **Sells** and **Cpl Sullivan** set about organising Ex Long Lay. Training began with a vengeance. **Cpl** 'Scouse' **Walsh** shunned pole crossings. **Cpl Welsh** disappeared frequently to set rabbit traps and gained the 'Hem the Hunter' award for catching nothing but a cold. **2Lt Jason Gunning** grasped the art of crimping.



Sig Warren looks for the next hand hold before disc leg sets in

2 SQN REFORMATION

To mark the reformation of the Squadron in April a special day was organised on Tuesday 28 May by **WO2 (SSM) Bob Stonier.** Activities included a parade, an inter-troop potted sports competition (won by Echo Troop), the opening of the new Squadron Club, and a families barbecue. The rain held off and a good day was enjoyed by all. The Squadron Club was actually the brainchild of the previous SSM, **WO2 (SSM) Martin Smith.** The Squadron is now busy refurbishing its detachments. Delta and Echo Troops deployed on Ex Flying Falcon in June.

SUMMER CAMP
by Sig Tarquin Coxwell-Brown

The Squadron indulged in an arduous adventurous training camp near Bernkastel-Kues on the Mosel. Ironically none of the original organisers actually attended due to postings and courses, but **Lt Fiona Say** and **Sgt John Dill** were willingly volunteered to keep the ball rolling. The advance party departed at an absurd hour in the morning, followed closely by a convoy of cars led by **Cpl Richardson** in his limited edition Lada turbo injection. A remarkable number got lost or were caught in heavy traffic leaving a handful of intrepid pioneers the task of setting up camp. After three valiant efforts to erect a marquee the team realised that more than six men were needed for this job. The following day the four teams went their separate ways.

SSgt Terry Murrell and **LCpl Jason Meek**, complete with bone-crushing bikes, disappeared into the hills. The promised gentle incline turned out to be a most unpopular long steep hill. After that life became fun with an exciting downhill stretch. **Sig** 'Sanchez' **Crooks** used the downhill stretch to practise for the Tour de France.

The rock climbing, led by **Sgt Mark Anderson**, proved to be an interesting experience. There were those who could find hand holds, those who couldn't and, then there was **Sig 'Moz' Murray** who decided to make his own as he went along. An excellent display on how to test hand holds and the principle of leaning back when climbing, **Sgt Anderson** came close to trouble when a large rock came away in his hand.

There were many looks of concern when the sluice was about to be experienced but soon discovered that it was quite safe.

A SAIL AROUND FYN

For the Regiment's first adventurous training trip of the year, the Corps yacht '*Quicksilver*' was taken from Kiel round the large Danish island of Fyn and back to Kiel — a distance of some 200 miles. Bright sunshine and strong winds made for a fast, exciting and pleasurable sail. The ports of Juelsminde and Kerteminde were visited during the five day trip.

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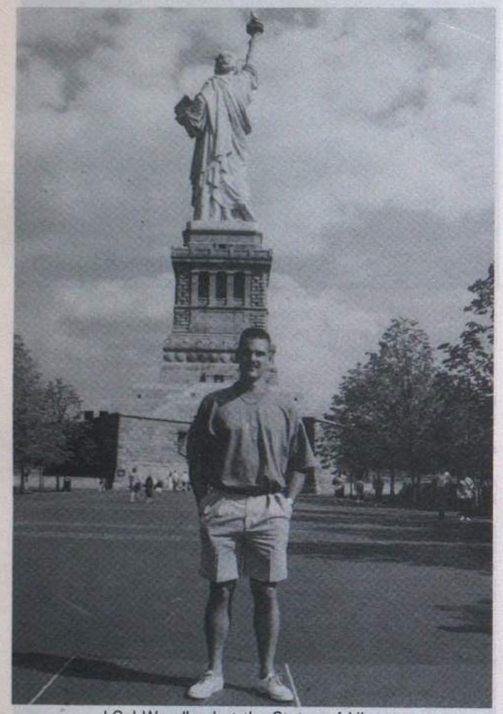

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The Army Inter-Unit Team Athletic Championships took place at Aldershot on Wednesday 17 July.

As expected the fight for the major units title proved to be a repeat of the BAOR round of the competition with defending champions 21 Sig Regt (AS), 1 PWO, and 50 Msl Regt RA all fielding their strongest teams, whilst the main opposition from UK came from 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt and 94 Loc Regt RA.

The Gunners got off to a fine start with Army hammer champion **Gunner Mark Sterling** and his team mate from 50 Msl Regt RA making no mistakes to take maximum points. **LCpl 'Jonah' Jones** and **Sgt Dave Yates** of 21 Sig Regt gave little away however, and took second place points in both strings to give their team a firm base on which to build. Another early event gave the strong PWO pole vaulters a chance to score well, however their 'star' vaulter **Cpl Bob Lyons** failed to clear a height leaving the way clear for brother and rival **Sgt Steve Lyons**, and **Cpl Andy Ingham**, both of 21 Sig Regt, to take maximum points in perhaps the most technical of all the disciplines. Meanwhile the Signallers' discus pair of **Cpls Pete Curtis** and **Dobbo Dobson** were adding to their team's score with yet another 'double first', and by lunchtime '21' had established a 12 point lead over 1 PWO, with the Gunners a further 11 points adrift in third place.

The afternoon saw some fine performances both on the track and in the field events, but the gaps continued to grow, and it was interesting to see that the Signals team—with four of the Army's top five decathletes in their squad—had the depth of talent to withstand the absence through injury of their top decathlete, Irish international SSgt **Neil Killen**. **Killen** broke a thumb in training some weeks ago, and has also been troubled by a thigh muscle strain, but he assures me he will be fit to take part in the Inter-Services Decathlon championships in UK next week.

As the day progressed the outcome of the team event became more and more predictable, but this did not detract from the high quality of the athletics, and the final relays were a fitting climax to an excellent competition. The 4 × 100m saw international sprinter **Cpl Clarence Callender** assert his dominance to snatch victory for 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt, while the final leg of the 4 × 400m saw **Cpl Viv Henry** of 21 Sig Regt (AS) make up a 15m gap on **Cpl Dave Prew** of 1 PWO. This spirited run typified the tremendous rivalry which exists between these two teams, and with neither athlete prepared to give an inch, the battle was fought along the length of the final straight, with victory on this occasion going to **Prew** by a vest. Congratulations to 21 Sig Regt on retaining the Army Challenge Shield, and to 1 PWO and 50 Msl Regt RA for ensuring a clean sweep for BAOR.

Final team placings were: 1st 21 Sig Regt 231 pts; 2nd 1 PWO 198 pts; 3rd 50 Msl Regt RA 170 pts; 4th 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt 135 pts.

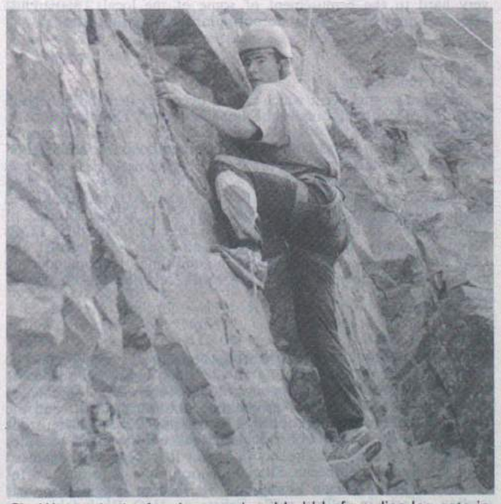
22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

1 SQN

The Squadron reformed on 7 May. Individual introductions and farewells are not appropriate apart from saying a fond farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Brian Cullen** and a warm welcome to **WO2 (SSM) Geff Woodcock**. To members of the old Squadron, we wish you well. The most significant event is the influx of WRAC. A more bright, capable and cheerful lot we could not have wished for. Welcome to you all.

The first girls to deploy on exercise with the Squadron were **Ptes Norman** and **'Jock' Kay O'Hara**. Under the guidance of **LCpl 'China' Cooper** they were introduced to the realities of radio relay operation.

The new Alpha Tp had formed with the line section containing 13 linemen of whom only four had previous line experience. To redress this **Cpl 'Stew' Sells** and **Cpl Sullivan** set about organising Ex Long Lay. Training began with a vengeance. **Cpl 'Scouse' Walsh** shunned pole crossings. **Cpl Welsh** disappeared frequently to set rabbit traps and gained the 'Hem the Hunter' award for catching nothing but a cold. **2Lt Jason Gunning** grasped the art of crimping.



Sig Warren looks for the next hand hold before disc leg sets in

2 SQN REFORMATION

To mark the reformation of the Squadron in April a special day was organised on Tuesday 28 May by **WO2 (SSM) Bob Stonier**. Activities included a parade, an inter-troop potted sports competition (won by Echo Troop), the opening of the new Squadron Club, and a families barbecue. The rain held off and a good day was enjoyed by all. The Squadron Club was actually the brainchild of the previous SSM, **WO2 (SSM) Martin Smith**. The Squadron is now busy refurbishing its detachments. Delta and Echo Troops deployed on Ex Flying Falcon in June.

SUMMER CAMP
by Sig Tarquin Coxwell-Brown

The Squadron indulged in an arduous adventurous training camp near Bernkastel-Kues on the Mosel. Ironically none of the original organisers actually attended due to postings and courses, but **Lt Fiona Say** and **Sgt John Dill** were willingly volunteered to keep the ball rolling. The advance party departed at an absurd hour in the morning, followed closely by a convoy of cars led by **Cpl Richardson** in his limited edition Lada turbo injection. A remarkable number got lost or were caught in heavy traffic leaving a handful of intrepid pioneers the task of setting up camp. After three valiant efforts to erect a marquee the team realised that more than six men were needed for this job. The following day the four teams went their separate ways.

SSgt Terry Murrell and **LCpl Jason Meek**, complete with bone-crushing bikes, disappeared into the hills. The promised gentle incline turned out to be a most unpopular long steep hill. After that life became fun with an exciting downhill stretch. **Sig 'Sanchez' Crooks** used the downhill stretch to practise for the Tour de France.

The rock climbing, led by **Sgt Mark Anderson**, proved to be an interesting experience. There were those who could find hand holds, those who couldn't and, then there was **Sig 'Moz' Murray** who decided to make his own as he went along. An excellent display on how to test hand holds and the principle of leaning back when climbing, **Sgt Anderson** came close to trouble when a large rock came away in his hand.

There were many looks of concern when the sluice was about to be experienced but soon discovered that it was quite safe.

A SAIL AROUND FYN

For the Regiment's first adventurous training trip of the year, the Corps yacht *'Quicksilver'* was taken from Kiel round the large Danish island of Fyn and back to Kiel — a distance of some 200 miles. Bright sunshine and strong winds made for a fast, exciting and pleasurable sail. The ports of Juelsminde and Kerteminde were visited during the five day trip.

THE CRICKET MATCH

On Wednesday 26 June, under a darkening sky, the sporting gladiators of the Sergeants' Mess gathered to do battle with the officers in the annual cricket match. With both teams straining at the leash, the officers won the toss, but then the law of averages is such that they had to win something. Rumours were rife that their secret weapon **Capt Watson** was in a rush to get away to play golf. He needn't have worried as he was soon despatched. He then decided to umpire at square leg and disgusted the officers support by giving out every time the shout was loud enough. History was made when **Lt Talbot** was given out for being offside. The officers made a late rally and eventually scored 86—6.

After much light hearted banter the Sergeants' Mess opening pair took the wicket (can we have it back for next year?). **WO1 (RSM) Kirk** had a mammoth knock of three and funnily enough, nobody took the mickey! Hearts stopped fluttering when **WO1** 'The Bat' **Beston** started to find the boundary. Aided and abetted by REME, 'The Bat' soon reached 39 (Not Out) and retired 'tired'. On the very next ball the magical total of 87—2 was reached and the amazing sporting spectacle was over for another year.

28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
BFPO 35

From: 28 Sig Regt

OFFICERS' VERSUS SERGEANTS' MESS CRICKET

On 9 July the annual Officers' versus Sergeants' Mess cricket fixture was held in glorious sunshine. The match coincided with a visit by **Maj Gen A. Birtwistle CB CBE DL** who was invited to bowl the first over, faced by **Sgt Guy Whitfield** whose loyalty and career ambitions were put to the test. With everyone bowling a minimum of two overs the Sergeants' Mess completed their innings with a total of 130. Stars included **Sgt Guy Whitfield** (25) and **Sgt Baz Roberts** (19). A mention for **WO2 (YofS) Dai Jones** (Regiment cricket captain) who shocked his team mates by increasing his season's average in not being out for a duck.

With the bit between their teeth the Officers' Mess made a solid start with **Capt Bob Morley** and **Maj Davis Jones** opening, putting on a 22 run opening partnership. However, in the finest traditions a middle order collapse saw the Sergeants' Mess run out comfortable winners by 54 runs.

A thoroughly enjoyable day's cricket with a light buffet, cocktails and a few wistful thoughts of what might have been.

CRICKET

RCZ FINAL

The Regiment with a loyal band of followers, travelled to Rheindahlen to play the favourites, and holders, Rheindahlen Garrison, in this year's RCZ Final.

On a sunny afternoon, Garrison decided to bat first and were quickly in control with 48 on the scoreboard without loss. A quick 'time out' to calm the big match nerves of the bowlers by skipper **WO2 (YofS) Dai Jones** worked wonders and the wickets started to tumble. The bowling of **Sig Frankie Greenwood, Cpl** 'DC' **Coleman, SSgt (YofS) Tony Redman, Sgt Guy Whitfield** and the skipper, was complimented by some superb fielding and catching by veteran wicket keeper **Capt John O'Rourke** (still playing!!), **Capt Stu Macrostie** and that man **Jones.**

The winning team with the CO

Garrison finally ended up with 'only' 93 all out. With 94 required off 35 overs the task ahead seemed a foregone conclusion. At 39 for 5 the doubters were saying 'maybe next year', and Garrison skipper **Maj Miles Stockdale** was showing little loyalty to the Corps by good use of his bowlers.

People in the know stayed quietly confident, 'DC' was still at the wicket and next man in was, you've guessed it, **Jones**! Within 30 minutes the remaining runs had been knocked off, **Jones** not out on 39 ably supported by **Coleman.**

This was a good all round team performance and the Regiment now go forward to play 32 Hy Regt RA in the BAOR Semi Final.

EXERCISE FRAN AVENT

Following on the success of last year, Training Wing organised another package at the Belgian Para Commando Training Centre 17-28 June. This year 50 personnel experienced each week the full range of commando activities including rock climbing, death slides, high wire acts, amphibious training and a variety of underground tunnels.

The week concluded with a series of tests and the presentation of a certificate to proclaim that the holder had survived 'l'initiation de la commando'.

Despite appalling weather, everyone taking part claimed to have enjoyed themselves. Special mention must be made of the Chefs who managed to cook our food as well as taking part in the full range of activities. The support element led by **Maj Peter Robinson** worked very hard to the bemusement of some of the locals. Apparently Majors in the Belgian army do not go around lighting fires!

1 SQUADRON

WELSH 1000 RACE

This is an annual event which is held over very demanding terrain in North Wales and caught the imagination of **Cpl Bartliff** who organised a team.

The day started at 0430 hrs with reveille and breakfast at 0500 hrs. The race itself started at 0730 hrs from Abergwyngregyn at sea level and then up to Chrnedd Llewelyn, a climb of 1064m. The other summits were Chrnedd Dafydd 1044m, Garnedd Ugain 1065m and finally finishing off on top of Snowdon 1085m. A total distance of approximately 25 miles. The team consisted of **Cpl Bartliff, LCpls Wyatt, Stroudley, Brown, Sig Franks** and **Lewis. Cpl Bartliff** and **LCpl Stroudley** completed the event in good time, the remainder are looking forward to next year. They won't be following **Sig Lewis'** short cut again!

FRAN FETE 91

On Saturday 29 June the Regiment held its annual summer fete. The week before saw 1 Sqn erecting all the tents, marquees and other various stands ready for the big day. Although the weather threatened to send us to a wet weather programme, the rain held off and the crowds flocked in making the day a big success. All Squadron stalls proved very successful, with the money taken for various charities beating all expectations. The day finished with a very well organised open air disco and barbecue. Special mention must go to our two In-Pensioners **WO2 Dougie Young** and **Sgt George Higgins** for their sterling efforts in selling raffle tickets at JHQ Rheindahlen on Thursday and Friday. They also brightened up the event with their good humour and stories, and checked the quality of the beer.

FOXTROT TROOP

The Troop sends its congratulations to **Cpl Robbo Robertson** and his wife **Agnas** on the birth of their son **Ben**, and to **Pte Jess Kirkwood** on promotion to Lance Corporal. We say hello the the following new arrivals, **Lt McGinty** our new Troop Comd, **Sgt George Huthart, Cpls Jon Ainsworth, Dickie Bird** and **LCpl Steve Gore**. It is with regret we say goodbye to **Lt Debbie Wadsworth** to AA Coll Harrogate, **Cpl Jim Yule** to 8 Sig Regt for his T1 upgrading and to **LCpl George Crawford** to 2 Div at York. We all wish them well at their new postings.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Cpl Smudge Smith** on his recent marriage to **Lisa** and also to **LCpl Bob Passant** and his wife **Birgit** who have just introduced a new member into their family, a little girl they have named **Jennifer**.

WELCOMES

To a new Troop Comd **Capt Ian Lawrence**, from 211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn, also to **LCpl Tuck Faulds** from 7 Sig Regt and **Sig Baz Whitehead** straight from the factory; welcome to you all. Also welcome back to **Sig Scott Toomes, Joey Maguire** and **Frankie Greenwood** who have been away on various detachments.

GOODBYES

To the erstwhile Troop Comd **Capt Stringer** who, after handing over the Troop, went off on yet another course but is now back in the Regiment.

To **Cpl 'Taff' Carr** and family who are just moving down the road to 16 Sig Regt, also **LCpl Ned Kelly** who is leaving the Army, good luck in civvy street **Ned**. Finally to **Sig Frankie Greenwood** who is shortly going to 30 Sig Regt on promotion and congratulations to him and **Sarah** on their forthcoming marriage.

PAPA TROOP

As with Oscar Troop we were all busy prepping the troop vehicles ready for TUV. Not an easy task. Oscar Troop, unable to field a full AWHQ, borrowed some of Papa's operators and techs for Ex Canary Caper. The exercise was going well until Tp Comd **Lt Donny Robertson** introduced early morning PT for the day shift.

SQUADRON BARBECUE

The Troop's barbecue, organised by **Sgt Pom Pomeroy** was looking good in the planning stages and was soon up-graded to a Squadron barbecue. A farewell was said to **Maj Peter Costello** Sqn Comd 2 Sqn who leaves us for 42 Bde at Preston. He was puzzled to receive an iron box, but a subtle hint from **Cpl Lee Harris** revealed a Regimental Plaque. The occasion was a success.

WELCOME

To **Cpl Rob Campbell** who joins us from Victor Troop. **Cpl Mark Wigmore** and **Sig Ian Preston** from 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and **Sig Diggens** fresh from the factory.

FAREWELLS

To **Sgt Stevie Nobbs** and **LCpl Jennings** to Victor Troop. **LCpls Mottram** and **Anderson** to 9 Sig Regt. **Sig Ritchie Law** to Civ Div, **Cpl 'Steggs' Storey** to 2 Div and **Sgt Kev Enfield** to AA Coll Harrogate.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **Cpl Berry** and **Sgt Pom Pomeroy** on their recent promotions and congratulations to **Cpl Clive Reynolds** on coming off the board and his posting to 16 Sig Regt.

EXERCISE BOREALIS BACKSTOP

by Capt H. C. Britton

Ex Borealis Backstop was an Adventure Training Exercise held within the Arctic Circle (Norway), combined with a vehicle trek from Krefeld through Denmark to the North-Cape (2,600km).

The aims were to carry out as many Adventure Training pursuits as possible, including: high level mountaineering, canoeing to Grade III white water, rock climbing, caving and mountain biking.

Those taking part were: Expedition Leader **Capt Paul Messenger** RPC, Deputy Leader **Capt Ben Britton**, Top Rope/Abseil **Cpl Dave Done** REME, Vehicle and Stores **Cpl Andy Dixon**, Exped Accountant **Cpl Steve Brooker** RAPC, Catering Advisor **Cpl John Morrison** ACC, Diarist **LCpt Neil Shipsey**, Veh Mechanic **Cfn Dave Paterson** REME, **Sig Kev Rynn, Pte Alan Lee** RPC, **Sig Tony Garner, Doug Deritter, Darren Goosey, LCpl Paul Hubery** and **Sig Smudge Smith**.

The Regimental Training Officer **Capt Julian Bunce**, had both been to Norway and knew the way through the mine field of ATFA, BAOR Standing Orders, JSP 356 and CILOR.

So the initial plan was made.

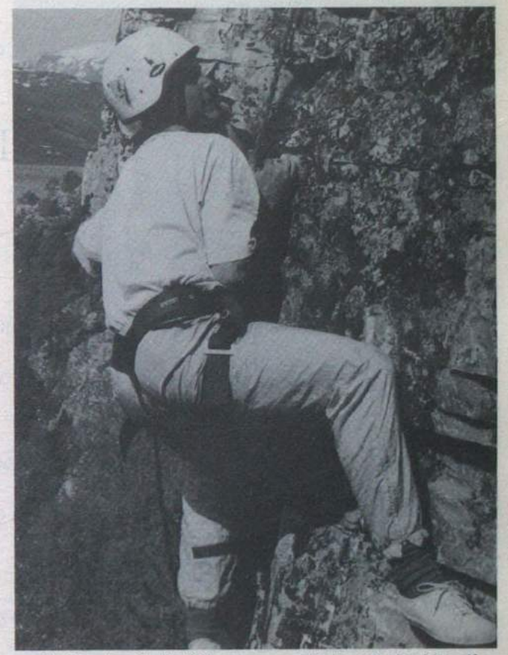
Things proceeded well until 'Op Granby' got in the way. **Capt Messenger** went to Saudi and other qualified personnel seemed thin on the ground.

The decision was taken to continue with the expedition.

The dates were 4 to 27 June. Norway proved to be empty of tourists and we had excellent weather. **Cpl Steve Brooker** RAPC caused a false start by forgetting the travellers cheques on day one.

The North Cape was reached on 13 June, the party having carried out some 'warm-up' adventure training on the trip up. Photographs were taken at midnight, champagne drunk and Regimental flags aired.

Attention then turned to some serious outdoor pursuits. Highlights included **Pte Alan Lee** RPC rock climbing: a new version of the Indian Rope Trick. **Capt Paul Messenger** also managed to discover some unusual routes down from mountain tops. One involved abseiling down a waterfall.



Sig Smudge Smith 90ft up appears to be enjoying himself

Canoeing in very icy water was certainly challenging. There were many thrills and spills, including **LCpl Neil Shipsey** losing his wedding ring in one river. It was recovered eventually.

Food in Norway is extremely expensive and rationing did cause problems. **Capt Ben Britton** hoped to overcome this by catching salmon with his trusty fly rod. Unfortunately the Norwegian salmon refused to be fooled. A vast quantity of cod was caught while at the North Cape which provided food for several meals.

Norway makes a superb training area. Unlimited space, daylight (24 hrs) and warmth and friendliness that is unique. Only the cost of a beer at £4 caused a few grimaces. This unit intends to build on the friendship made in Norway and return.

30 Sig Regt
Blandford Camp

HONOURS AND AWARDS

In addition to the Granby Operational awards published in the August issue of *The Wire*, the following members of this unit are also commended: **SSgt Deeming**—GOC SWDIST Commendation, **Sgt Tubman, Cpl Dewhurst** and **LCpl Wood**—CINC's Commendation.

VISIT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE

The Regiment was visited by **Mr Tom King**, Secretary of State for Defence on 5 July. During the visit **Mr King** was shown the various pieces of communications equipment which were used to good effect in the Gulf. The Secretary of State also spoke to a number of members of the Regiment and although many hints were dropped by the lads, **Mr King** gave away nothing about Options for Change. The visit concluded with lunch in the Garrison Sergeants' Mess.

Tom King speaking to Cpl Bleasdale, flanked by Lt Col Simon Kidner and Capt Stan Grimmitt

VISIT OF THE COLONEL OF REGIMENT (QUEEN'S GURKHA SIGNALS) TO 250 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON
by Sgt Hitman Gurung

On 10 June, **Maj Gen S. Cowan CBE** paid an official visit to 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn.

On arrival in Blandford the General was met by Sqn Comd **Maj A. P. R. Roberts**, SQGO **Capt (QGO) Silajit Gurung** and **WO1 (RSM) C. Redman**. He was briefed on the Regiment by the CO 30 Sig Regt.

The Squadron deployed to the Antenna Field for a Plug-Up exercise. There the General met all the personnel in the Squadron who had been deployed in the Gulf. The General praised them for their excellent deeds.

At the final stage of his visit the Colonel of the Regiment was asked to present a 'Kothimara Khukuri' to CO 30 Sig Regt, on behalf of all ranks Queen's Gurkha Signals, to commemorate the First Anniversary of the reformation of 250 Gurkha Sig Sqn in 30 Sig Regt.

The visit ended with a 'Gurkha Curry' prepared by the SQMS, **Sgt (SQMS) Yogesh Thapa**, Gurkha Chef **Sgt Minbahadur Gurung** and his team.

Maj Gen S. Cowan presenting the 'Kothimara Khukuri' to CO 30 Sig Regt, Lt Col Simon Kidner

OPERATION HAVEN
by SSgt (FofS) Garry Annetts

I got two days notice before departing on Op Haven.

I said goodbye to my wife for the second time on Friday 26 April and headed for RAF Lyneham. I met **LCpl Roy Goddard** en route he revealed that this meant that he had now found someone to help him carry his secure equipment:

Eighteen hours later the plane set down at the NATO air base of Incirlik. In the next two hours I was allotted three different sleeping places.

The reception seemed to consist of horror tales of terrorist activity, various social and tropical diseases that were available. I went to meet the Joint Force Signal Staff of **Lt Col Derek McLean**, the Force Signals Officer, **Capt Percy Beynon**, the Traffic Officer, and **Capt Paul Vingoe** co-opted from his part-time job as OC JCUDET to help on the CIS side, together with **Sqn Ldr Alistair Barnes** from TCW as SO2.

I was tasked with fixing up some flights for us to take a trip 'up-country'. Thus I found my first problem—communicating with the Americans! Somehow we found ourselves on a flight the next day to Diyabakr.

There we met **Sgt John Linck**, the det comd and his crew, some of whom had been snapped by the *Soldier* magazine photographer, which many of our readers will have seen on the back cover of the *Soldier* magazine.

The location that the det was in is one of the most unbelievable sites I have ever seen. It was on a patch of over-crowded land 70 metres wide, sandwiched between the main runway and a live aircraft firing range! It did have one thing going for it—it was not too far to the American cookhouse where I was introduced to 'Meals Ready to Eat'.

The FSO and I hitched a lift to Silopi. There **Capt Neil Stevens** and his crew were receiving orders of a move into Northern Iraq.

Around lunch-time the next day the FSO had hinted that I might like to join the chaps and help to overcome any problems they may encounter setting up—far better at this game than me! **Cpl** 'Titch' **McGiffern** stepped out of a passing car. This was a surprise to us as we were expecting him and his 521 det to be on the road to us. He told us his tale of woe. His Turkish driver took a bend in the road too fast and drove into a mountain gully!

Courtesy of the RM Bde Air Sqn, transport was provided for **Cpl McGiffern** and me to get to the scene of the accident, where we planned to recover as much equipment as possible before nightfall.

MOVING?

Have you told RHQ? Your *Wire* will be sent to your old address unless you tell us of a change.

Equipment recovered, or at least some of it, it was time for bed. I squeezed on to the floor of an already crowded 12×12, right next to the tent flap hoping to be the coolest one in the tent. Well I wasn't wrong! I awoke to a feeling last encountered in BAOR: rain on my face and the knowledge that a fair percentage of my kit was wet!

The last thing I had been expecting, was packing up a det in the rain prior to a move.

Cpl John Douglas drove me from Silopi through some breath-taking scenery, taking as many photos as possible. The journey took three hours over some amazing variations in road surfaces, but one that will stay in our memories for a long time.

Having 'enjoyed' a change of diet—24 hour boxes!.

I returned to Silopi to welcome **SSgt (YofS) Norman Bain** to Turkey.

This had been the most enjoyable part of my stay on Op Haven and not purely because of all the excitement that had been packed into my first 10 days in theatre. The skill and professionalism of all our soldiers in difficult circumstances, combined with immediate friendship and hospitality (even when that amounted to a 6′ × 2′ space in an entrance to a tent!) made this one of the more enjoyable Army experiences so far.

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31 Sig Regt (V)
Hammersmith

Having survived Annual Camp at Wathgill in June, the hardier members of the Regiment volunteered, or were persuaded to volunteer, to enter the annual competition for the Cobham Cup 1991 over the weekend 20/21 July. What started off 16 years ago as a minor inter-detachment competition for 'B' Troop based at Cobham (part of 83 Sig Sqn), is now a full blown Regimental inter-troop competition with an added ingredient reminiscent of the Royal Tournament field gun race! Amongst the appreciative crowd of families and supporters to watch the gun carriage competition on the Sunday were members of the Worshipful Company of Innholders, sponsors of the Regiment, and the Honorary Colonel, **Maj Gen G. R. Oehlers CB.**

'N' Troop's male team and 'B' Troop Cobham, were joint winners of the Cobham Cup.

Without competition from the depleted and 20% newly recruited team from Support Troop of Headquarters Squadron winners of course could never be winners!

RE-CAPBADGING CEREMONY FOR WRAC OFFICERS—A FIRST FOR THE REGIMENT

The Royal Signals have been leading the way towards the successful integration of women into all roles within the Army and the officers in both the Regulars and Territorials are no exception. For some years now the female officers of 31 Sig Regt (V) have been operating alongside their male counterparts in identical roles but as part of the Women's Royal Army Corps. It was therefore a great occasion on 8 July when the women officers of the Regiment were officially transferred to the Royal Corps of Signals during a historic ceremony in the splendid surroundings of the Worshipful Company of Innholders' Hall in the City.

The Regiment was honoured to invite the SOinC **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook** to officiate at the presentation; other honoured guests included the Comd of 11 Sig Bde (of which 31 Sig Regt (V) is a constituent part) **Brig C. T. Garton** and the Commander of the WRAC London District **Lt Col V. E. Trout** WRAC.

The ceremony began with the arrival of the VIP guests with the Wardens and Master of the Innholders. The opening address delivered by the CO **Lt Col R. C. A. 'Dick' Thwaites**, followed. He charted the success of women in the army from their beginnning as nurses in the Crimea to the formation of the WRAC in 1949, to the present day where women serve on an equal basis in all trades and appointments. The SOinC presented the lady officers, who had been hatless up to that point with their new forage caps bearing a new shiny 'Jimmy'. The SOinC was admirably helped in his task by the two hat orderlies **Lt Steve Madigan** and **2Lt Dave Griffiths**. Following the re-badging three Territorial Decorations were also presented to members of the Regiment by the SOinC. The recipients were **Majs Linda Coe, Chris Mote** 2IC of the Regiment and **John Ruske** OC of 83 Sqn (V).

The ceremony was a great success, due in no small part, to the hospitality of the Worshipful Company of Innholders, whose Hall, recently redecorated and renovated, provided a splendid setting for this momentous occasion. It was an evening all in 31 Sig Regt (V), especially the women officers, were proud and honoured to attend.

SUMMER CAMP

'Let's get you lot out of Camp and doing something!' On that happy note the Adjutant, **Capt Graham McNeill**, dispatched the young officers to Whernside Manor for two days of hill walking, rock climbing and command tasks (. . . Memories of officer selection boards came flooding back . . .).

The leadership training centre is run by **Lt Ashley Stocker** and his staff. Much to the amusement of our two American Exchange officers the command tasks ensured no ego was left unbruised as we coped with oil barrels, 'bottomless pits' and 'electric fences' to complete the task. The death slide allowed visiting **Maj Keith Bruce-Smith** (2IC) and **Maj Andrew Cornish** (OC 41 Sqn) to imitate Superman when they volunteered to act as brakemen at the bottom of the hill and were knocked flying by one enthusiastic subaltern.

The hill walking was accompanied by mist and rain which ensured a wet arrival at lunch. During the course of the afternoon's trek much conferring took place as the compasses and maps were eagerly consulted in the absence of visible landmarks—this was real navigation, no roads here!

'We can't put the CP there Sir . . .' How often have the young Troop Commanders chosen to ignore the friendly advice of their troop senior? To understand the wisdom of the advice a trainee Recovery Team under the command of **Capt Mike Atkinson** practised the extraction of a Land Rover bogged down in the best of Catterick mud. With the direction of **Sgt 'JC' John-Charles** of the LAD to guide them **Lts John Russell, Sara Rabenda** and **David Griffiths** provided an impromptu show for the visiting Honorary Colonel, **Maj Gen G.R. Oehlers CB**. After completing the safety checks 'JC' allowed the mud covered subalterns to pull the vehicle free and retire.

Support Troop team members; Ptes Angela Wake, Helen Goode, Nadia Sebti and Sig Grant Hodges and Kevin Spring proudly display their wooden spoons!

STOP PRESS

Congratulations to **Cpls Mike Watkins** from the MT office at 41 Sqn and his bride, **Susan Raynor** from the Recruits team also at 41 Sqn, who were married on Saturday 20 April, a day before **Susan**'s birthday.

Congratulations are also in order for various promotions within the Regiment, firstly to **Sgt Ann Bedwell**, who is now **Staff Bedwell**. And to the three new Second Lieutenants who all joined 41 Sqn, they are **2Lt Fiona MacHugh** (who is engaged to **Lt Ed Middleton** RRW), **2Lt Fiona Ives** (nee **Millar**), and finally **2Lt Ruth Empson** who was one of the first girls to be part of the mixed commissioning course run for the first time this summer at RMAS.

Our thanks also to the two Sergeants who joined the Regiment for this year's Camp at Wathgill, from the US Reserve. And also to the two Majors who joined us as part of the UKS Reserve Officer Exchange Programme UK/US, **Curtis Mayes** and **Stephen Engles**, both from the 87th US Army Manoeuvre Area Command, from somewhere in the deep South.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FORM—PAGE 307
(Wire rates for 1992 are £1.30 per copy, £7.80 per annum)

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V)
Glasgow

TRADE TRAINING

During May the Regiment held what was its last Trade Training week at the Scarborough Training Centre due to its impending closure. The Regiment has thoroughly enjoyed Scarborough throughout the years and its loss will be felt by the Regiment who had a long, happy and successful association with it. During this period no fewer than 180 trade training modules were passed.

EXERCISES

Two Exercises were also held in June, the first being Ex Lowland Saltire which involved the deployment of 52 (L) Bde Sig Sqn (V) to its Brigade HQ and TAORs.

EXERCISE LOWLAND SALTIRE

The Exercise was held over the period of 7-8 June. It involved 52 (L) Sig Sqn deploying to its Tactical Headquarters throughout Scotland, and setting up their commcen communications. This was the first time this had been done in more than two years and proved to be very valuable both in terms of training and logistic support. All the communication systems were tested to varying degrees of success and as expected highlighted a couple of problem areas which were soon corrected.

The Sqn Comd, **Maj David Harvey**, pleased with the success of the exercise, instructed his SSM **WO2 Ron Taylor** to return his Squadron to the TAC. Here under the ever-watchful eyes of **SSgt** 'Chic' **Doyle** and **SSgt** (PSI) **Tony Reynolds**, they off-loaded the equipment and prepared for the next exercise later that month.

EXERCISE RINGING ANVIL

The second and more important 2 Sig Bde Ex Ringing Anvil took place at the end of June during which the Regiment deployed its comms assets throughout Scotland. It had been some time since this scale of exercise had been undertaken and valuable lessons were learned by all who took part. This saw the Regiment deploy to many of its TAOR HQs and to Brigade HQs in Perth and Edinburgh. Some 30 recruits also took part, which gave them a valuable insight into our operational workings.

EXERCISE GOLDEN BOOT

Ex Golden Boot was a competition between HQ and 52 Sig Sqns during the month of May. It took the form of a march of nine miles with two command tasks in between and a surprise element near the end.

The whole exercise was masterminded by **WO1 (MTWO) Ron Hamilton**. The teams consisted of four individuals of male or female. Prizes were given for the best three teams and for the best WRAC team taking part. The teams having arrived at the Start Point were first inspected for dress and equipment by **WO2 (SSM) Derek Morris** and then started off on their Route March. After two miles they encountered their first command task which consisted of rewiring a twin plug socket using limited equipment and restricted time.

This was cunningly devised and overseen by **SSgt (FofS) Pete Crawley**. Their fingers now bloodied and worn to the bone, the teams set off for the next command task some three miles away. Here **WO2 (YofS) John Chilcott** and **Sgt** 'He Man' **Slaney** instructed the teams to construct and work a mould radio system. The only problem was the volume switch which had been left on high. After this stand the team not only bloodied, but now deaf, continued on to what they thought was the finish point. This is where the surprise element came into play. Having rounded a bend in the road they spotted **SSgt** (PSI) **Tony Reynolds** sitting by a landrover with numerous ammunition boxes laid out on the road. He instructed each team to carry the box, using the slings provided if required to the finish point. What they did not know was that each box contained as much concrete and rubble as could be crammed in. For the more intuitive team this was no problem, the contents were emptied out. However there were some who favoured to carry the full box to the finish! At the finish the team were met by **WO2 (SSM) Ron Taylor** who gave them their final time.

On return to camp the points were totalled up and positions allocated. The HQ Sqn Comd, **Maj Anne Sweeney**, presented the prizes to the winning teams before they retired to the JRC for a well earned drink and something to eat.

Congratulations to HQ Sqn on gaining first place with the team of, **Cpl Tony Cryans, LCpls Paul Brown, Briggs** and **Devine**, and well done to 52 Sig Sqn for the best WRAC team consisting of, **2Lt Patricia Baird, Sgt Karen Swan, Ptes Sally Shaw** and **Allison Hannah**.

Ex Golden Boot
Why is that forest over there when it should be in that direction?
L to R: Sgt Karen Swan, 2Lt Patricia Baird, Ptes Sally Shaw and Allison Hannah

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 15th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION

KEEP YOUR UNIT NOTES SHORT AND TO THE POINT PLEASE

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

With this year's annual camp now only a distant memory, the Regiment has returned to the normal training cycle of CMTs (Central Military Training) and exercise preparations.

HQ SQN—HUYTON
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd **Maj Dave Poole MBE**
2IC **Capt Eric Murphy**

OC LAD **Capt Jim Jackson** REME (V), UPM **Capt Barry Sylvester** RAPC (V), QM (V) **Capt George Tinker**, OC MT & D Troop **Lt John Morrison**, OC RRTT **Lt Angela Tiffin**, Messing Officer **2Lt Pauline Claus**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) Tony McFarlane**.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **Lt John Morrison** and **2Lt Pauline Claus** who were commissioned into the Squadron prior to Scarborough Annual Camp. Contrary to popular belief, the appointment of **Lt John Morrison** as OC MT Troop was in no way influenced by the fact that his civilian appointment is that of member of the MOD PRE vehicle inspection team.

SCARBOROUGH

The CO, **Lt Col Rick Brown**, promised the Regiment that Annual Camp would be different this year and true to his word it turned out to be a very eventful two weeks.

Week one was taken up with trade training, detachment commanders and recruit courses mixed in with some 'friendly' inter Squadron sports competitions.

In the first 'friendly' football match between HQ Squadron, Liverpool (read Liverpool/Everton) versus 42 Sqn, Manchester (read United and City), **WO2 (SSM) Tony McFarlane** lasted a full 30 seconds of the game before being carried off on a stretcher. The SSM claims he was 'stitched up' by 42 Sqn because they recognised his star qualities. We doubt this, but he was eventually stitched up for real in Scarborough General Hospital. Needless to say we retained the football trophy for the third successive year beating our old rivals 80 Sqn in a close 'fought' final.

Despite many injuries to our star players we managed a further win in the trailer race and a third place in the volleyball before being eventually pipped at the post by two seconds on the assault course by the overall competition winners, 80 Sqn, to whom we offer our congratulations.

Week two saw the commencement of the military training exercise 'Dragon's Claw' which was held on the Catterick training area. The normal inter Squadron rivalry was soon forgotten in an attempt to dig 'Olympic Class' slit trenches in torrential rain under the watchful eye of the North West District training team. 'This is better than working in a factory' lied **Sig Carleton** to one visitor to his trench, while **LCpl Mick Downey** in his self appointed role as 'Personal Adviser' to **Sgts Frank McCormick** and **Tommy Guy**, was told politely, 'when we want your advice we'll ask for it'.

After a good night's sleep, it was into the military stands competition and an overall victory for the combined platoon led by our own **Lt John Morrison**.

The grand finale was the assault by A and B companies on the defensive positions held by 'Orange' forces in the form of the detachment commanders course. With both sides claiming victory the CO did not dwell too long on the need for 'a lot more practice' before, diplomatically, remarking on the 'effort' put in by all concerned.

The fortnight was concluded with an adventure pursuits day excellently organised by 42 Sqn (V) and a superb barbecue courtesy of 80 Sqn (V).

The Sqn Comd, **Maj Dave Poole** has finally forgiven the 2IC, **Capt Eric Murphy** for catching not only more, but bigger cod than him during their deep sea fishing trip.

42 SIG SQN (V)—MANCHESTER
EXERCISE COMPASS POINT
Report by Lt Gillian Hughes

A Squadron adventure training exercise took place during the weekend 26-28 July in the Snowdonia region of North Wales. Despite arriving well after dark, most members remained awake long enough to sample the refreshments before retiring in jovial mood to the accommodation; a combination of tents and cabins.

Reveille on Saturday was at 0700 hrs, though apparently this was not early enough for some as a spirited game of volleyball was well underway as the stand-in kitchen staff attempted to prepare a breakfast.

Members of No 3 platoon having breakfast at Endex
L to R: Sig Jones DA, Partington, Wray, 2Lt Griffiths, Sgt Ward, Cpl Aarons, LCpls Kearsley and Tierney

Windsurfing took place on the Llyn Padarn lake under the watchful eye of our newly trained instructors **LCpl Steve** 'Spider' **Smith** and **Cpl Kevin Westall** who demonstrated admirable patience with the beginners some of whom to the casual observer seemed more inclined to swim than surf.

The day's activities complete, everyone returned to camp for an impromptu round robin volleyball tournament whilst the 'gourmet' barbecued supper was prepared.

Sunday dawned all too quickly for many after a restless night listening to the field's normal residents—a flock of Welsh mountain sheep bemoaning the human company, but once again after a hearty breakfast, everyone was eager to depart for further activities.

In addition to the activities of the first day a group of a dozen members departed for a local horse riding school for a morning ride. Riders were matched to animals—would 'Rocket' by name mean rocket by nature? Why call a horse Legs? Nothing daunted we embarked on a one and a half hour trek around the countryside during which those who were confident enough to look about were treated to fine views across the Menai Straits and surrounding area.

Cpl Doreen Stringer and Pte Sue Oldham taking a quick breather in the shallows

59 SIG SQN (V)—LIVERPOOL
NIGEMEGEN MARCHES
Report by 2Lt Jodie White

Once again 59 Sqn sent a team, led by **Sgt Gary Fogg**, to Nigemegen for the four day international marches. As a Liverpool team they knew they would never walk alone, however they did not expect to be walking with over 40,000 others.

After a day to recover from the long road journey the team attended the opening ceremony where they were represented by **LCpl Kerry Peers**.

The first day dawned bright and early—at 0330 hrs and it was off for the day's walk. Eight hours and 25 miles later it was getting down to the serious business of taking care of 12 pairs of aching feet.

Next day it was that bit harder to get going. Once on the road the team morale picked up and kept them all moving. Contrary to popular belief Holland is not flat and the third day brought the cry 'Oh no, it's the hills today'. It also brought the team's finest hour when they consistently fought off the efforts of a Danish team to overtake them. The timely presence of an ex-SSM on holiday to cheer the team on means the incident is now recorded for posterity on video.

At long last the final day of purgatory and there were only 25 miles to go. This cheerful thought had the team leaping out of bed and raring to go (or something like that). The feet were sore, the muscles ached, the joints complained, but they were forgotten.

80 SIG SQN (V)—CHESTER
EXERCISE SHROPSHIRE LAD

Fresh from one success as the overall competition winners at Scarborough, the Squadron Commander, **Maj Jean Payne** decided to hold an exercise to practise driving and map reading skills over the weekend of 13-14 July 1991. To add interest to the exercise each team was presented with a 'clue' sheet containing 25 questions with grid references where the answers could be found. The course was 110 miles long and encompassed areas of Cheshire and Shropshire.

Teams were deployed on alternate routes after being rigorously marked by our PSAO **Capt Keith Derrick**, for presentation of vehicles and dress including clean fingernails (a last minute decision when the marking looked close).

The DS consisting of **Capt Steve Watson, SSgt (SSI) Derek Noon** and **Sgt Dawn Smith** collated the points lost or gained on the exercise. Some of the answers to the 'clues' were hilarious and merited points for style. **Cpl Tommy Jenkins** and his team won the event in spite of giving this answer to the following question, 'what is the colour of the electricity poles here?'. Cpl J—'Yellow' real answer 'Blue'. Either we have a colour blind problem or it was a calculated guess! It's a good job there were no technicians in his team!

Another stalwart team led by **Cpl Alison Seaward-Birchall** beat all-comers on the time taken to do the course, by clocking up 115 miles in seven and a half hours (everyone else did between four to four and a half hours). Needless to say they ran out of penalty points.

The exercise was rounded off with a social in the Junior Ranks Club bar where team members could banter over 'sob' stories of the day's events.

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

ANNUAL CAMP

Following an extremely busy and interesting period during the first half of the year culminating in our hugely successful Tattoo there seemed little time left to prepare and load for our Annual Camp, which in TA time was only a matter of days away. Before we had time to blink June saw the Regiment deploy, for the last time, to the Signals Training Centre (STC) Scarborough which has become one of the casualties of the defence review. The Training Major, **Maj Lance** 'Goldfinger' **Byrne**, assisted by the RSM, **WO1 John Hyde** and the YofS, **SSgt Jim Large** however planned to make our last visit to Yorkshire a memorable one. His master plan was to run a series of concurrent and somewhat related military, leadership and adventure training exercises which would not overlap during the first week followed by an ambitious Coast to Coast Comms Exercise during the second week—but would it work. Although the staff work was complicated, this remarkable plan was executed without any major hitch or problem thanks to the splendid organisation and deft management by the planners and directing staff. Each Exercise had its own story to tell and what follows is a week by week account of this unique camp.

Our souper cooks

EXERCISE GOLDEN WARRIOR

Ex Golden Warrior was a mini FTX designed to teach, test and practise basic infantry skills and elementary FIBUA—was the training carried out during Ex Golden Skills enough, would our intrepid warriors survive the hardships and physical demands from night patrols and section attacks to house clearing and ambush drills that awaited them at Catterick. Well the performance of some groups exceeded even the Training Major's expectations as they carried out their tasks with such a high degree of professionalism, enthusiasm and aggressiveness that would have made even an infantry commander both proud and fearful. House clearing turned into an art as **Cpl Jez Kelly** and his intrepid bunch of house clearing specialists displayed latent acrobatic skills—they were later found sleeping under a tree after this exhausting and dramatic interlude, no doubt dreaming of some peaceful trade training!

A triumphant group who made it across the notorious confidence course

EXERCISE GOLDEN CHALLENGE

Whilst half of the Regiment was participating in Ex Golden Warrior the other half continued their camp at a more leisurely pace on Ex Golden Challenge. Ex Golden Challenge was a mini challenge pursuit and leadership exercise which was designed to bring out leadership potential and displays of personal courage, common sense and intelligence. It involved cross country driving over the hair-raising course at Driffield where driving skills were put fully to the test, canoeing, rock climbing and abseiling, rambling, sea fishing and conservation work on the North Yorks Moor Railway. Personal courage was certainly displayed during the rock climbing and abseiling as many members under skilled instruction overcame their fear of heights—**Cpl Charlie Hanson** of HQ Sqn in particular reckons it was an unforgettable and exhilarating experience. Sea fishing provided more food for the fish from our rather green looking anglers and our total catch of just one edible cod proved to be a rather expensive fish supper. Conservation work on the North Yorkshire Moor Railway

proved to be more rewarding and our Honorary Colonel, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB MBE** branched out and cleared a large amount of bracken from the line—**SSgt Bill Taylor** of 95 Sqn suitably impressed commented that the General swung a mean axe!

Ex Golden Challenge
The Hon Colonel and assistants line clearing

WEEK 2
EXERCISE GOLDEN COMMUNICATOR

At dusk on Tuesday 2 July a blanket of fog descended over Scarborough and the STC as the Regiment prepared to deploy into field locations for the concluding phase of camp. Our final view of the STC was sadly through the mist, and all we are now left with is our memories of a camp that has served us and all other Royal Signals TA units well over its long and distinguished life. The local community and the STC facilities and friendly staff will be dearly and sorely missed.

There was little time left to be mournful as minds were now concentrated at negotiating our initial field locations through the mist. The aim was to establish a working trunk link from Scarborough area to the Pennines and maintain the link. After this the plan was to concentrate the Regiment at RAF Cosford prior to returning to our TA Centres throughout the West Midlands. The exercise which was left to the Regimental Officers to plan and execute was declared an outstanding success by the CO **Lt Col Brian Foxon**. The Training Major and YofS were delighted at the smooth deployment despite appalling weather conditions and of the professionalism of the tactical moves to the high standard of communications achieved. Thanks are due to the command and control staff. Annual Camp ended with a barbecue at RAF Cosford where the RAF acknowledged our efforts and treated us to a fly pasts by the Red Arrows, a Tornado aircraft and a Hercules!

Cpl Charlie Hanson being shown the way up the rock face by Sgt Graham Wilkinson

OFFICERS' MESS

At the end of the first week the Officers' Mess held their Annual Camp Dinner Night. The evening was a tremendous success thanks to the efforts of **Capts Dennis Hawksford** and **George Cairns**. Two stalwarts of the Regiment were dined out at this special dinner; we said farewell to **Maj John James** our long serving 2IC who leaves us to take up a TA Staff appointment in WDIST after serving with the Regiment since 1978 and also to the Adjt **Capt Ian Dudding** who leaves on posting and promotion to 13 Sig Regt. **Ian** leaves us on a particularly high note after his major contribution in organising our recent Tattoo. We welcome **Ian**'s replacement **Capt Dave Tarrant**.

A number of promotions were also celebrated and we congratulate **Maj Colin** 'Doc' **Holburn** and **Lts Alan Jacobs, Paul Roden, Richard Morris** and **Joe Watling**.

MEDAL/CLASP PRESENTATION

At the traditional Regimental Parade Comd 11 Sig Bde, **Brig C. T. Garton** presented medals and clasps to the following, **WO2 Blackford, WO2 Edwards** and **Sgt Barley** all serving with HQ Sqn, **SSgt Taylor** and **SSgt Wright** both serving with 95 Sqn and finally **Sgt Baugh** and **Cpl Brown** serving with 48 Sqn. All are congratulated on receiving their awards and for their long and valued service in the Regiment.

Medal Presentation
Our proud medal and clasp recipients

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 so they are available to them throughout their working lives.

Our Employment Officers are situated in Branches throughout the United Kingdom and they maintain close contact with local employers and Job Centres. Their addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Unit/Ship Resettlement Officers, Job Centres and local telephone directories.

During the period 1 April 1990-31 March 1991 the Association assisted 11,322 men and women with their resettlement and placed 4,833 in employment. Of those placed 2,212 were men and women from the Army and 234 were from the Corps.

36 Sig Regt (V)
Ilford

The Regiment has recently returned from a very successful summer camp in Belgium and BAOR. With Squadrons in Cambridge, Colchester, Gillingham and Ilford, and Troops in Bedford, Norwich and Brentwood, it comes naturally to the Regiment to operate over wide distances.

Equipped with Euromux, we took part in Ex Flying Fox in Belgium, and then on Ex Flying Falcon in BAOR.

Some memorable moments made it a special camp; the announcement of engagements between four members of 54 Sqn stationed at Bedford provided excellent reason for celebrations on the day off. Many congratulations to **LCpl John Hawkins** and **Pte Caroline Williams**, and to **Sig Pete Laird** and **Pte Meline Jappy**. Further excitement was caused by the early arrival of **LCpl Byrne's** (44 Sqn) son. Not even a swift dash back to UK could get him there in time, but we were delighted to hear that both mother and son are doing well. Congratulations.

Our CO, **Lt Col Douglas McLay**, was obviously feeling nostalgic for 'matters practical'. Whilst visiting 45 Sqn, he amazed newcomers by shinning up a mast. Admittedly, it wasn't the mast shown in our photograph (featuring **Sig Andrew Gibson**) but a pretty impressive performance none the less!

Back in UK, via the ferry, the Regiment has returned to normal. We welcome all new faces who joined us for first time camp, and we look forward to seeing those who were busy with recruit training joining us next year.

We say farewell to the Adjutant, **Capt Peter Bawden** on posting, and to the RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Frank McCormick**. **WO1 Perkins**, at present the MTWO will take the RSM's place.

If there are any ex-serving members, or soon-to-be ex-serving members of the Corps reading this who feel that they would enjoy a stint with us, we shall be delighted to hear from them.

The RSM being towed out on a rather suspect golf trolley

56 SIG SQN (V)

Formed in 1979 from the Corps Troops the Squadron's original role was to augment the regular Bruin system in the rear areas. Working with 22 Sig Regt and 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt the Squadron is based in Eastbourne (SHQ & 859 Tp) and Folkestone (858 Tp).

We now have the role as the HF reserve Squadron of Commd Comms BAOR providing secure telegraph from landrover based detachments.

PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj Bob Williamson**
2IC — **Capt Brian Heathfield**

SSM **WO2 (SSM) Mal Johns**, 858 Tp Comd **Capt Michael Stewart**, 859 Tp Comd **Lt Sandra Wilkosz**, PSI **SSgt Ian Flooks**, SQMS (NRPS) **SSgt (SQMS) Allen Cunningham**.

In common with most units we were affected by Op Granby, nevertheless our training programme continued.

ANNUAL CAMP

The culmination of every training year is, of course, annual camp. This year it took place in BAOR as part of Flying Falcon.

We deployed in support of 12 Sig Bde's Euromux system. With a Radio Village at Grobbendonk we sent our detachments to the critical nodes and CP sites from Gent in the west to Krefeld in the east.

Atmospheric conditions were appalling and a massive solar flare resulted in heavy magnetic storms, the worst situation you can have for HF radio. However, by dint of hard work and daily updates from Marconi, Radcon calculated the viable frequencies, combined with the excellent skills of our operators we managed to achieve 100% communications.

The first hint that life might become different came on Wednesday 12 June. We received a visit from Comd Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen J. O. C. Alexander CB OBE**. He expressed his satisfaction with our performance so far, and had asked his staff to plan a more demanding second week for us.

Gen Alexander prepares to speak over the net

By Thursday we knew the worst! The orders had come through! There was no change for the Radio Village, poor chaps, they were going to a particularly unappealing hill near Haltern. However, we were to deploy four of our detachments to sites in Berlin, Kiel, Baden-Baden and the Hertz Mountains. There followed some frenzied activity as dets prepared for an exercise well out of range of any support from the Squadron Echelon and the management struggled to pick frequencies, obtain grids and maps and plan routecards. Finally by Friday morning all was completed, the speculation over as to who was going where. Berlin still gives a little thrill. The dets had been briefed and were waiting for the 'off'. The vital signal arrived—staff clearance for the trip to Berlin—and out moved the dets.

Ops Officer Maj Jackie Allan briefing Lts Bob Appleton and John McManus

Comms were due to open at 0530 hrs on Saturday and came up on cue, we maintained communications without significant problems throughout the final phase of the exercise. Though the distances involved prevented the detachments from redeploying, the second phase of the exercise was far from static as the Radio Village, with Radcon and Echelon, went through several moves which was rather a change for many of those involved. Though the complex was unaccustomed to moving they soon got the hang of things.

Camp rushed to its conclusion in a haze of travelling back to base camp, preparing for the move back to UK and, of course, the Party and R & R day. Many tales were told.

LCpl Maddie August serves up Breakfast(?) to Sig Baker

Coming home we were delighted to get the news that our two Officer Cadets had passed out at Sandhurst. Yet another first for the Squadron as **Jacqueline Blake** and **Karen Fletcher** had attended the first mixed TA Commissioning Course at Sandhurst following on from their attendance at the first mixed FastTrack, the four week intensive officer training course.

Finally we say farewell to **SSgt Paddy Conlon**, our senior PSI after an extended tour of seven years, on leaving the Army. We are very grateful for his hard work particularly during our change of role and wish him and his family all the best in civvy street.

Sgt Brian Burns receiving his LS & GC from Archie Hamilton MP

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

46 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
NATIONAL GUARD EXCHANGE
by Sgt Dick Millett

When I received a telephone call from the SSM one Tuesday night last October asking me if I would like to spend a fortnight with the US National Guard I quite naturally said 'yes', put the phone down and adopted the stance of 'I'll believe that when it happens'. Time passed, nothing happened, then hostilities commenced in the Gulf. At this point I wrote off any chance of going until, in April this year, I received instructions regarding the trip which was to take place in June.

A 'plane ticket arrived; you can't get much more definite than that, so I started packing for the unknown. I knew it would be warm but I didn't know what I was doing or what I would need so I packed for every eventuality and the day finally arrived when I met **Sgt Derek Wright** at RAF Brize Norton to board a VC10 for Washington.

The first surprise came at Washington where we were met by our host for the fortnight **Sgt Charles Burton**. We were under the impression that we were going to Ft Cambell in Kentucky so when we were given plane tickets to Raleigh/Durham I was confused. 'No problem' **Charles** said, the National Guard Armoury was in Burlington North Carolina and we were driving from there to Ft Cambell. I foolishly asked how long that would take, 'two days' was the reply.

The convoy started next morning at 6 am, one long line of about 60 vehicles straight down the interstate highway, they certainly do things differently. After a fascinating journey through the Blue Ridge Mountains, an overnight stop in Tennessee, we arrived at Ft Cambell late Sunday. This was the next surprise, the size of Ft Cambell—about 200,000 acres, a mere 24,000 Troops stationed there. Every facility you could think of, 24 hour shops, drive thru' fast food, all the necessities of American life.

We started Monday morning with a move out to an exercise location where we set up what was a large commcen similar to the old BRUIN system and spent the next five days there running comms. I managed to get around most of the vehicles and see what was what, some new kit but a lot of it very old, a bit like our set up, in some respects. The weather was extremely hot so our uniform was discarded in favour of the lighter American issue. A very interesting week. We were stood down Friday night for the weekend so we did some sightseeing in Nashville on Saturday and shopped around the base on Sunday.

Sgt Buck Oakley prepares the new 'MRE' for us

Week two started with a tactical deployment to the field to do the same as the previous week but this time there was an enemy. It rained for a whole four hours which turned the whole area into a swamp. Fortunately at this point we had to leave to clean up and return to Washington for two days sightseeing, flying from Nashville on Wednesday morning.

We had two days in Washington visiting such places as Arlington Cemetery, the Smithsonian Museum, Capitol Hill and the White House, culminating on Friday morning with a trip around the Pentagon, and then flying back in the afternoon arriving to a very wet England Saturday morning.

It was most certainly the trip of a lifetime, most enjoyable, and for that thanks must go to all at C Coy 230 Sig Bn of the North Carolina National Guard and also to **Sgt Phillips** of the liaison team in Washington.

64 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj David Rigley**
2IC — **Capt Mike Green**

Capt David Anson, Lts Bill Carr, Jayne Boulton, 2Lts Vicky Walker, Andy Mould, OCdts Bev Mansel, Alex McLaughlin.

An active period over the past few months beginning with the Brigade Ex Ringing Anvil. Here manpower was stretched to the limit but performance was not impaired due to the excellent input by all, especially by the regular element of the squadron. Synonomous with this **Cpl Cliffe** and **Cpl Marsden's** marriage, a very happy occasion, our best wishes go to the both of them.

Ex Team Mate, free-standing over a weekend this year, proved arduous but rewarding. All three teams did exceptionally well gaining one gold and two silver certificates for teams overall. Individual medals also included a Silver and Bronze for Best Female won by **Cpl Cliffe** and **Lt Boulton** and **Sig Robinson** won a Bronze for Best Young Soldier.

This year's Regimental Walk demanded the same 'frame of mind', once viewed by prospective walkers. Sanity was replaced by 'Gung-Ho?' and even those with inner karma were foiled to some extent. The weather promised by **Sgt Whitehouse** never arrived but due to prior preparation and planning the Trophy did. Well done to the other four members who joined in. **Sgt Horton, Lt Boulton, Cpls Bilton** and **Walker** also received a trophy for the best individual effort on the walk. The male teams put in an outstanding effort as well with **Lt Carr's** team also completing the 38 mile yomp. **Lt Walker's** team also worthy of note for firstly side-tracking the entire REME effort and secondly putting next year's 'Tea-Shop' on the map!

87 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

This year's Team Mate Competition saw 87 Sig Sqn (V) putting forward three strong teams to participate in the tough military skills competition. 87A team, led by **2Lt Bullock** stole the honours by taking the Gold Certificate with the highest marks in the competition. The team comprised of **SSgt Gater, Sgt Rawson, Cpl Hardy, LCpls Orme, Jones, Nesbitt, Roe, Pte Brelsford** and **Sig Moss**. Not content with winning the Gold Certificate, individual honours also went to **Cpl Hardy** whose brilliant efforts gave her the best WRAC Gold award, and **2Lt Bullock** who gained the Bronze award in the best soldier competition.

The efforts of 87B and 87C teams were rewarded with Bronze Certificates for completing the course and achieving over 60% of the marks possible. A special mention goes to recruits **Ptes Dunkley, Rawlinson** and **Sig Harmer**, newcomers to the Squadron. Although they were thrown into the deep end with 87B and 87C, they proved themselves assets to the teams, and finished the course in fine spirits.

The heavens well and truly opened for this year's Annual Regimental Walk. 87 Squadron had a splendid turnout and put forward five teams to tackle the 28 and 38 mile courses.

The teams set off for the circular course from Kilnsey Cragg in the lake district. At 5 am there was a delicate drizzle in the air with low cloud hiding the surrounding hills from view. As the day progressed the drizzle developed into a torrential downpour and all the competitors were drenched to the skin by lunchtime.

Despite the weather doing its utmost to spoil the event, we had the fastest team to complete the full distance, clocking up 13 hours exactly. The team consisted of **Sgts Marvin, Ross, Sig Paten** and **LCpl Roe**, with special praise going to **Pte Dexter** who completed the fastest time for a woman competitor with not a blister in sight!

Our team led by **2Lt Bullock** and **Sgt Cotton** enjoyed the tortuous conditions so much they completed a 42 mile course and managed to collect extra team members as they went! **Sig Drury, Riley** and **Cpl Gill** all joined the team to complete the course.

All those who donned their boots for the walk deserve a pat on the back. The weather can only be kinder for next year.

93 SIGNAL SQUADRON (EAST LANCS)

Two items of news caused celebration within the Squadron ranks since our last contribution. Firstly, the award of the BEM to **SSgt Diane Feest** in the Birthday Honours. **SSgt Feest** is based at our Manchester detachment and holds the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate. Secondly, our Squadron marching teams won the Pedley Cup during the recent Regimental walk competition. The route was over 38 miles of rugged Yorkshire terrain beginning at Kilnsey Cragg and taking in Morton in Ribblesdale, Peny Gent, Fountain Fell and finishing back at Kilnsey Cragg. The team trained hard, in their own time and comprised:

A TEAM

WO2 (SSM) Dolan (Capt), **Sgt Small, Sgt Cosgrove, Cpl Fitzpatrick, Sig Purcell.**

B TEAM

SSgt Feest (Capt), **Lt Fitzgerald, Sgt Moran, LCpl Gibson, Sig Chaffer.**

Well done to everyone for an excellent effort!

39 Sig Regt (SC) (V)
City of London

What more could you ask for when you have a suite of offices that overlooks the Kings Road in Chelsea? The Regimental Headquarters has moved to its new accommodation at the Duke of York's Headquarters. The move caused one or two minor problems for the QM, **Capt Gerry Whelan**, but nothing he couldn't handle. Of course the CO wanted to move in yesterday. Anyway if any of you out there are ever in Chelsea pop in and say hello.

The other major event mentioned in our last contribution was Annual Camp which has now been successfully completed and for which 2 Sqn have written notes. So please read on.

ANNUAL CAMP 1991
by Maj Sandy Monks—2 Sqn Comd—Dundee

The Regiment's Annual Camp took place between 8 and 22 June at Anzio Camp outside Leek, Staffs. This year's camp took the form of a trade training camp, with the added attraction of military training, PT and sports competitions.

The advance party arrived at Anzio Camp on Thursday 6 June and immediately set about transforming an accommodation block into a working trade training school. The main party started arriving on Saturday 8 June from all points of the compass ('When all the work was done,' muttered the advance party). They came from London, Tunbridge Wells, Bletchley, Banbury and Dundee and the one thing they all noticed on arrival at Leek was that it was raining.

'It'll clear up tomorrow', everyone said, but it didn't. In fact it didn't clear up until 22 June when the convoys were five miles outside Leek . . . Nothing daunted, 39 settled into camp and, despite the weather, managed to work and play hard for the fortnight.

The Regimental Training Team ran courses for Telecomms Op TG Classes 3 and 2, T3, T2, T1 Technicians, Technician as well as Drivers' courses, Linemen courses and clerk's courses. The enthusiasm and keenness on the part of all the students was much in evidence—from trainees volunteering for extra tuition in the evenings to huddled groups of soldiers in the cookhouse poring over their Radio Procedure Precis and Murray Code tapes.

Of all the courses run, however, the Driver's Course was the most hazardous to life and limb. White-faced instructors could be seen in the passenger seats of Rovers which were slowly and, in some cases, not so slowly, making their tortuous way around camp.

Perhaps, on reflection, it wasn't a good idea to allow the learner drivers to do a circuit of the camp at NAAFI break . . .

At the end of camp, though, a high pass rate on all courses was achieved and, on the final day, the proud students received their pass certificates from the CO. There was a proud moment, too, for **LCpl Danny Pettman** (5 Sqn) who won the shield for best soldier.

RECRUITS

The middle weekend of camp happily coincided with the final selection weekend for our latest batch of recruits. So it was decided to hold an Acceptance Parade in front of the massed ranks of the Regiment.

The recruits were to receive their Royal Signals berets from **Col G. C. Mitchell TD ADC**, the Regimental TA Colonel, who had kindly consented to be our guest and reviewing officer for the occasion. The recruits acquitted themselves well, the exchanging of combat caps for berets went according to plan, and the recruit cadre marched proudly off, fully-fledged members of the Regiment.

Thanks for their smart turn-out and high level of drill must go to the Recruit Team SSM, **WO2 'Tich' Reynolds** and the Training WO, **WO2 Keith Leighton**.

SPORTS

During camp, the Regiment ran a sports competition, encompassing such delights as the Trailer Race, Softball, the Assault Course, Football and a Gun Run. The Gun Run was the idea of **SSgt Linda Dennis**. The 'guns' were cunningly fashioned from painted oil drums, tyres and painted telegraph poles. They may not have looked quite like the real thing, but to the teams who had to manhandle them over the course, they certainly felt like the real thing!

They also made the Camp Commandant (ex Royal Horse Artillery) do a double-take when he saw them positioned outside the orderly room!

Sgt Robbie Morrison, Sig Hill, Cpl Simpson leading the rest of the team home

The winners of the sports competition were to receive a shield at the end of camp and rivalry was fierce. None more so than in the final of the football when 2 (Dundee) Squadron were playing 5 (Banbury) Squadron. Inevitably, it became a Scotland/England tussle with emotions running high on the side of the spectators and teams.

Scotland was playing under a handicap, though. They had no substitutes to put on, since all their subs were on guard that evening. (Guess what nationality the RSM is?)

However, a saviour was on hand in the form of **WO2 Keith Leighton**, an Englishman born and bred. He volunteered (was bribed) to play for Scotland and his help was greatly appreciated. Even this sterling sacrifice couldn't stop England. The final score was Scotland 2 England 3, with 5 Squadron being worthy winners. In fact, 5 Squadron went on to win every section of the competition (apart from the Trailer Race which was won by 1 Sqn) and were proud recipients of the sports shield. Well done 5 Squadron.

5 Sqn Gun Team with their motivator SSgt (FofS) Bob Pullen

VISITORS DAY

Visitors day took place on Wednesday 19 June, when the Regiment put all they had learned into practice in a 'plug-up' exercise utilising TRC's, radio detachments and Commcen. The visitors experienced a compo lunch in the field and were presumably too polite to say what they *really* thought of compo stew, potatoes and peas! The visitors all had various connections with the Regiment. They were from The Worshipful Company of Skinners, 602 Sig Tp, HQSC, all the TAVRA's in whose areas the Regiment has TAC's and two members of the Staffordshire Police Force who came to give a lecture and ended up as members of one of the visiting groups. These are to name but a few.

SOCIAL

Various social events took place, including an Officers' Mess dinner where the guest was **Brig P. C. Bowser CBE DL**; a Sergeants' Mess dinner; a Games Night in the Sergeants' Mess where the Sergeants beat the combined might of the Officers and Corporals by some vast score to practically nothing, and the highlight of the camp, a Regimental Disco, where 2 Squadron's Karaoke machine provided much entertainment. Favourites were 'Summer Nights' and, for some reason, 'Nellie the Elephant'. The Sergeants' Mess choir led by the RSM, who thought he was Francis Rossi, doing 'Rocking all over the world' was definitely not the highlight of the evening.

Soon, though, it was the final morning and all the vehicles were lined up on the square, ready to return to their respective TA centres. It was sad, in a way, to reflect that the camaraderie that had been built up in the two weeks the Regiment was together would gradually fade away as 39 became 4 disparate Squadrons again. However, it would never truly be lost and whenever the Regiment gets together in the future, Squadrons will meet other Squadrons and people will say, 'Remember that time at Leek when . . .?

RANGE WEEKEND

On Friday 19 July the Regiment gathered at St Martin's Plain for a Regimental range weekend. Even 2 Sqn, all the way from Dundee, managed to beat 5 Sqn, from Banbury, to join the rest of the Regiment for what turned out to be an excellent weekend's training. We were blessed with superb weather, courtesy of the Training Major, or so he tried to convince us. Training varied from APWT on SLR, SMG and pistol to a grenade golf course, assault course, BFT, fieldcraft and introduction to the LMG.

On the Saturday evening we held a 'Regimental Smoker' with 1 Sqn stealing the show with their version of 'This is Your Life'. The unsuspecting victim was **Maj Philip Moore**, formerly Sqn Comd 1 Sqn but now HQ Sqn. The CO's driver **LCpl 'Pops' Popowicz** pranced on to the stage looking like an overstretched Wayne Sleep in a pair of outrageous pink tights with what can only be described as the biggest weapon seen on the ranges that weekend. The first aid trained personnel were kept busy bringing round the female members of the Regiment after 'Pops' performance. Sunday morning saw another warm and sunny day.

WELCOME

The only welcome this time round is to **Maj Alan Briant** who has joined us to be our Paymaster. Welcome **Alan** to the Regiment and we hope you have a long and happy stay with us.

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News from Squadrons

JCUFI
BFPO 655

PERSONALITIES

OC **Maj C. R. Urquhart**
2IC **Flt Lt N. Green**

Tp Comd A Tp **Flt Lt J. Tremaine**, Tp Comd B Tp **Capt A. D. Shaw**, Tp Comd C Tp **Capt K. Smith**, USM **WO2 (USM) B. Martin-Pitt**, FofS **WO2 (FofS) P. A. Court**. (Space precludes mentioning the other 150 plus 'personalities' from all three services who serve in JCUFI.)

By the time this goes to print most of us will have finished our four month tours (six months for continuity posts) in the South Atlantic. A warm welcome is offered to our replacements!

LS & GC PRESENTATION

THE WHAT?

The totally renovated and refurbished bar was opened on 1 May by the OC **Maj Chris Urquhart**. The bar has been renamed the Purple Cygnet, although for some strange reason most people refer to it as 'The What?'. It has been a resounding success and our thanks go out to all who were involved in the work, in particular: **Flt Lt Nigel Green, WO2 Barry Martin-Pitt, CPO** 'Spike' **Hughes, Sgt Keith Arthurs** and the riggers section (RAF), **PO** 'Bungy' **Williams** and the Tx section (RN and RAF), **LCpls** 'Taff' **Duncan** and **Steve Duncan, Sig Bob Menzies** and the rest of ACC, **LRO(T)** 'Daz' **Beck, Sig Alex Cunningham** and the girls from the commcen (RN, Army and RAF).

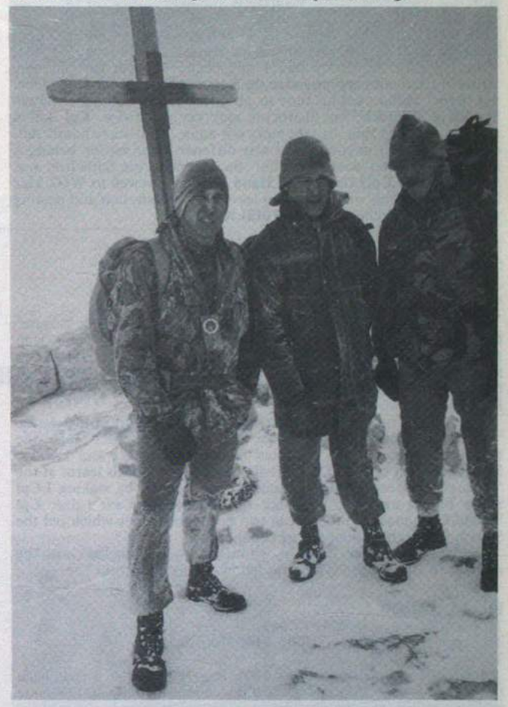
MEMORIAL SERVICES—FALKLAND ISLANDS 1982 REMEMBERED

Services were held at Blue Beach cemetery, San Carlos (to mark the landings of the Task Force on 21 May and also all actions in the conflict up to Goose Green), and at the Liberation Monument, Stanley (to mark all other battles up to 14 June). JCUFI was given permission to hold a service on Mt Pleasant Peak to mark the loss of **Maj Mike Forge** and **SSgt Joe Baker** (Pleasant Peak) and also **Lt Jim Barry** (Goose Green/Darwin). All Corps and many other JCUFI personnel attended. The service was conducted by the Force Chaplain, followed by the laying of the wreath by **Maj Chris Urquhart**. Over 100 people attended this simple but moving ceremony in a bitterly cold wind on the snow covered slopes of Mt Pleasant Peak.

MARCH AND SHOOT COMPETITION

The training started two months before the competition and involved rangework and progressively more difficult marches. Training took place in winter conditions, including a blizzard! In typical Falklands fashion the day of the competition was warm with sunny spells! The JCUFI squad of nine were very tight-lipped about the training methods of the team commander **Capt Tony Shaw**, and team manager **WO2 Barry Martin-Pitts** and the team coach **Sgt Jim McMahon**. **Sig Andy Stephenson** was disappointed at being forced to pull out through injury leaving a team of **Capt Shaw, Sgt Keith Williams, Cpls** 'Fergie' **Ferguson, Paul Henderson, John Sutton** and **John Hayes**. **Cpl John Sutton** describes the action:

Saturday 8 June. The alarm went off at 0730 hrs and I sat up in bed with a feeling of utter dread. Oh no! This was the day of the March and Shoot competition! A few weeks before **Capt Shaw** had been skulking around the unit looking for crazy individuals willing to run across the icy wastes of East Falkland and we were all he could find! After weeks of running through snow and rain and freezing on the ranges I had been selected for the team. At the start of the 15km march (for march read run!) we had the advantage of starting as last team and were straight into a hard climb up Mt William and then across to Tumbledown. On arriving at the ranges on the other side of Port Stanley we found that our time of 1 hr 53 mins had put us into second place, only three mins behind the Infantry A Team. We went into the range phase confident of a good result after all the shooting practice we had done. Unfortunately the shooting was a bit disappointing (or were the plates too heavy for the 5.56mm ammunition from our SA80s?!?!) and we finished in seventh place. The wily Falkland Island Defence Force won the competition having spent many a weekend practising their shooting on the same range and with the same plates using the heavier ammunition in their SLRs. We finished in seventh place (out of 15 teams), tired, but also a little proud of our achievement, particularly the march. I must thank **Capt Tony Shaw** for his hard work as team commander and his kind words of encouragement during the march. Also thanks to **Sgt Jim McMahon** for all the range work and weapon training.



Taking a breather on top of Tumbledown Mountain during training for the March and Shoot competition
L to R: Capt Tony Shaw, Sgt Keith Williams and Cpl Fergie Ferguson

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5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj I. Foxley**
2IC — **Capt R. P. Wilson**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) W. J. Haslam.**

SHQ TROOP

AO — **Capt John Aspinall**
Ops Offr — **Capt Rob Meinertzhagen**
FofS **WO2 (FofS) Lee Wookie**, YofS **WO2 (YofS) Ken Sirr**, CC **SSgt John Richards**, Trg SNCO **SSgt Nick Neilson**.

During June the Troop had a rare chance to take part in some Squadron activities and attended the Summer Camp held at Penhale. **Sgt** 'Egor' **Miller** used his time to carry out driver training although **Sgt Steve Whittick**, his instructor may say otherwise. **Cpl Julian Robson** used his time to tab, run, sub-aqua, wind surf, board sail, orienteer, in fact anything that was different from sitting behind a desk looking after documentation. Back at base the Squadron was supported by **LCpls Davies** and **Hand**. We say farewell to **WO2 Mac McCrindle** and his wife **Julie** who leave us on promotion and posting to NI, and welcome to **WO2 (YofS) Ken Sirr.**

ALPHA TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt Fred Wichelo**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt Eddie Grattidge**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Dougie Craig**.

We welcome **Lt Fred Wichelo** from Shrivenham, **Cpl** 'Scouse' **Ramsden** from TACP and **LCpl** 'Ritchie' **Long** and **Sig Tubb** from Pathfinders. Goodbye and our best wishes and good luck go to **LCpl Steve Brown** who gets his dream posting to Pathfinder Platoon and **Cpls Tom Keville, Tony Philbrick** and **Steve Navse** who all leave us for Civilian Division.

Prior to the run up to Ex Badree we managed to fit in two weeks 'sun'n'surf' near Newquay. While the climbers/abseilers scaled the heights the 'Beach Boys', 'kicked back', windsurfers and kayaks. Meanwhile, out to sea **LCpl Christie** demonstrated skills learnt at the 'Jacques Cousteau School of Subaqua sea-fishing' by staking **LCpl Stevie Brown** out as ground bait for **Cpl Spence Cave**'s line. **Cpl** 'Ahab' **Cave** managed to haul in two huge conger eels which fed the Squadron for the remainder of camp.

Cpl 'Olly' **Oliver** has flown 'down-under' for Ex Longlook with the Australian Army, we wish him a happy four month tour.

BRAVO TROOP

Tp Comd — **Lt Mike Rogers**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt Fred Hutchinson**
Tp Sgt **Sgt Jack Hawkins**

We bid warm welcome to **Lt Mike Rogers** although he has been unable to get his feet under the table because of an unfortunate accident whilst parachuting. The good news is that he has gained his wings. We also welcome **Cpl** 'H' **Hale** who took 10 years to realise the errors of his ways and has now transferred from 3 Para to the Squadron.

Our congratulations to **LCpl** 'Dumper' **Lawn** on his marriage to **Debbie** and to **LCpl Si Ferrer** and **LCpl** Brummy **Ford** on promotion, 'the hardest to get and the easiest to lose'.

M TROOP

Tp Comd — **WO2 (FofS) Lee Wookie**
Tp Sgt — **Sgt John Black**

POSTINGS

We say farewell to **Sig** 'Chooch' **Hornby** after his short stay on the Squadron. We wish him all the best in 1 Div. Welcome to **Sgt** 'Chez' **Chesters** from 225 Sqn, enjoy your stay and good luck on pre para.

Cpl Andy Lothian, Cpl Tam Ewart, LCpl Steve Davis-Morris and **LCpl Carter** are currently preparing for Canada and six weeks infantry training.

CONGRATULATIONS

On promotion to **LCpls Carter, Critchly** and to **Sgt** 'Matt' **Wigley,** who has also recently passed his APTC selection board; well done.

Q TROOP

QM — **Capt Fred Bancroft**
RQMS — **WO2 (RQMS) Steve Clarke**
SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) Dave Greaves**.

The majority of the Troop was involved in Summer Camp at Penhale and everyone was able to get out and enjoy the wide variety of activities on offer, all except our SQMS **SSgt Dave Greaves** who would have liked the odd round of golf but instead was repairing his feet after his first Squadron tab. The QM **Capt Fred Bancroft**, an avid hill walker, decided what better way to have a break than a few days hill walking at Capel Curig. Despite the weather, typical of Snowdonia, the lads enjoyed the challenge, especially the trip over 'Crib Goch'. It was a pity that the mist clouded the view, but better not to see what was below if of a nervous disposition, like **Sig** 'Ginge **Duncan** and **Pte** 'Junior' **Howe**. We say farewell to **Sig Stu Totten** off to 22 Sig Regt and to **Pte Taff Emms** on his way to civilian life and congratulations to **Cpl Les Tobell** on his marriage.

TRIATHLON

LCpl Steve Lynch and **Cpl Robbo Robson** have both been competing in prestigious civilian events and achieving good results. In the Brigade, the Log Bn, the Squadron has been very successful. The first event consisted of a three mile run followed by a 12 mile cycle and then a one mile run. The results were; 1st **Capt Rob Meinertzhagen** 55m 21s, 6th **WO2 Lee Wookey** 58m 14s, 11th **Sig Chris De Burgh** 1hr 0m 50s, 16th **LCpl Mount** 1hr 3m 7s. The team was also placed second overall.

On Friday 2 August **Capt Rob Meinertzhagen, WO2 Lee Wookey, WO2 Ken Sirr** entered a similar event (hence the emptiness of the Ops Cell), together with **Sgt Ron Blackburn, LCpl Steve Lynch** and **Sig Chris De Burgh**. It consisted of a 19 mile cycle followed by a three mile run. The cycle a 'very fast gently undulating route', it contained two very nasty climbs which many competitors chose to walk up and push their bikes. Individuals started on the bike at one minute intervals making the event extremely competitive.

LCpl Steve Lynch competing in the Arborfield Triathlon

LANYARD TROPHY

This year's Lanyard Trophy Competition took place in Dorset, covering a distance of 40 miles following the coastal path from Lulworth Cove via Hardy's monument and back along the coast finishing at Chickerell Camp. The team had trained hard because they were up against much competition from other entrants. From the start at Lulworth the first 600 metres was all uphill and certainly had the teams breathing heavily by the time they reached the top. It was apparent that 249 Sig Sqn and 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt were our real competitors. After about six miles, 2 Div started to feel the pace leaving us and 249 Sig Sqn to battle it out. At the 11 mile point we managed to put a gap between both teams which gave us the breathing space we badly needed. As the competition progressed the gap widened although at one point we were made to quicken our pace believing them to be only five minutes behind us. The Squadron was eventual winner in a time of 10 hours 23 minutes, a lead of approximately 25 minutes. The Team consisted of **Lt Fred Wichelo, Sgt Jack Hawkins, Cpl Chris Bailey, LCpls Phil Smithhurst, Phil Smithson, Steve Lynch, Mo Morris** and **Shuck** and **Sig Elmo Coombes** and **Mick Brown**. Our thanks go to all the Admin staff who gave support throughout the competition and especially to our team coach **SSgt Nick Neilson** whose words of encouragement left nothing to the imagination.

The victorious Lanyard Trophy team

19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209) Colchester

LANYARD TROPHY COMPETITION 1991

It all started in May when a signal from 5 (AB) Bde Sig Sqn asked units to compete in the Lanyard Trophy. Having looked through a very thin file marked 'Lanyard Trophy' it was discovered that a nil return was normally the Squadron's contribution but I marked the file up challenging any of the Squadron Officers to enter and lead a team. Fortunately **Lt Dan Taylor** accepted the challenge so the signal was sent confirming that the unit was willing to enter. This proved to be the only connection between the Lanyard Trophy and **Lt Dan Taylor**.

Volunteers were called for (any unit that can make a 40 mile march with 40lb bergan sound appealing please let me know) and soon a team began to form, although **Sgt Nigel Thomas** denies being a volunteer.

July was soon upon us and the competition loomed ever closer. As no one in the team had competed in this event before, we all arrived at Chickerell Camp a little apprehensive. We were amazed (but not taken in) by other teams comments of not doing much training or practising the route.

The 0400 hrs breakfast was a shock but this was nothing compared to the hill at the start in Lulworth Cove at 0600 hrs. To the sound of Wagner's 'Ride of the Valkyries' coming from **WO2 (YofS) Stu Little** the march started.

The team knew Hardy's Monument was the halfway point but this was soon to be known as Harrod's Point since **Pte Steve Harrod** RPC took great delight in pointing it out to us everytime he saw it in the distance. When we finally arrived at 'Harrod's Point' we were met by **Maj Gordon James** and **Sig** (yes another Smudge) **Smith,** who dished out hot pies, welcome brew and yet more bananas. Feet were quickly checked and powdered and soon we were once again on the road, this time accompanied by the Sqn Comd and his '40lb' camera.

The next 20 miles, blisters, pebble beaches, ploughed fields and the sun took their toll but we kept going and mangaed to finish in fifth position in a time of just under 13½ hours. Our congratulations to 5 (AB) Bde Sig Sqn for not only winning the event but for being able to go out that night and celebrate—we were all in bed by nine o'clock!

Lanyard Trophy Team
Back Row L to R: Sig Dave Harding, Pte Steve Harrod, Sgt Nigel Thomas, Sig John Ross, Si Brown, LCpl Billy Scarff
Front Row L to R: WO2 (YofS) Stu Little, Cpls George Hume, Shaun Aspey, LCpl 'Geordie' Kerridge

EXERCISE PANTHERS PLUNGE

Ex Panthers Plunge in July and August was 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn's annual Adventurous Training exercise held at Tregantle Fort.

The activities included rock climbing, caving, surf canoeing with windsurfing and water-skiing in the evenings.

OFFSHORE SAILING

On Saturday 20 July six members of the Squadron boarded the 32ft yacht, *Robinet*. The yacht belongs to the Royal Artillery and was moored on the River Tamar West of Plymouth. After an instructional tour of the boat we, a totally inexperienced crew, finally set sail skippered by **Capt** 'All Hands On' **Frances Jacobsen** WRAC. Also on board was trusty first mate **Capt Ray Le-Var** RAOC. The remainder of the crew included **Cpl Dave** 'Smurf' **McArthur** RAOC, **LCpl Glen Drew, Sig Coupe** and **Dusty Miller**.

The first day took us through the points of sail, mastering the helm, tacking and jibeing, with a 'man overboard' drill to round off, all of which proved a difficult task due to the lack of wind. The journey was particularly daunting for **Cpl Dave** 'Smurf' **McArthur**, who showed very few signs of life whilst spending a very ill afternoon inspecting the under side of the boat.

Week two sailors

The first port of call was Salcombe which provided us with entertainment. It was at this time that **Sig Coupe** became known as the 'Fish', not I might add, because of his swimming habits. The second day saw an early start and after a really good breakfast we cast off, all except **Sig Dusty Miller** who was busy washing his hair with the crews' only drinking water.

From Salcombe we continued around the coast, our destination being Dartmouth. Again the winds dropped and left us with very little sail power. **Capt Ray Le-Var**, on the other hand, had plenty of wind in his sails, he kept the rest of us amused with his continual barrage of jokes. Early that afternoon we anchored in Halsand Bay to carry out boat maintenance. **Cpl Dave** 'Smurf' **McArthur** was volunteered by the rest of the crew to be hauled 30ft up the mast in the bosun's chair. We also rowed ashore to take the lads swimming.

Dinner was served at sea before we set sail again for Dartmouth Harbour. On the third day we awoke to an extremely bleak morning, the fog was like a huge white blanket covering the River Dart in front of us. This provided the perfect opportunity for a lesson on the art of compass navigation. The wind picked up allowing us to reach up to 6 knots on occasions, we were fortunate to have the wind behind us, as we held the yacht on a steady run.

We arrived ahead of schedule in Brixham Harbour, where the crew went ashore. The afternoon was spent out on the water again, putting into practice our newly acquired sailing skills. Later that evening we returned to Brixham where a curried supper was served by **LCpl Glenn Drew**.

On the fourth day it was time to head homewards towards Plymouth, we had planned on an overnight stop in Salcombe but the weather had other ideas. We spent a very long day and night in force 4 to 5 gales sailing more often than not on a beat. The skipper decided to sail on to Plymouth as we were very behind schedule. The crew cooked a stew which was appreciated by all.

The Robinet eventually slipped into Plymouth Harbour around 0300 hrs.

At 0700 hrs we slipped the Marina in Plymouth, and returned to the River Tamar under engine power to hand over the yacht to the new crew.

ROCK CLIMBING AND ABSEILING

Instructors: **SSgt Andy Waldron, Cpl Andy Thompson, LCpl Terry McDermott** (238 Sig Sqn).

The week's activities started with a Run The Gauntlet Competition, part of the competition was an abseil of about 80ft, prior to this the group attempted a couple of small abseils so as to find out who had the bottle.

Four members of the group admitted to not liking heights or abseiling. By the end of the day all of them had attempted a couple of abseils but only **Sgt Bob Duff** had overcome his fear of abseiling and enjoyed it.

The next two days were spent at Cheesewring Quarry where some interesting and challenging climbs were set up and also included a 120ft abseil. **SSgt Derrick Deegan** showed everyone his agility on the rock by mastering all the climbs, whereas **Sgt Mick Peters** tried one climb and decided it wasn't for him. The abseil proved more eventful with **LCpl Andy Snelle** and **Sig Pinkie Pink** refusing at the first attempt.

By this time most of the others were on their second or third attempt with **Sgt Bob Duff** now having the time of his life. **SSgt Derrick Deegan** leading from the front as always rushed back up for another go but nearly turned upside down. **Pte Kirsty McIntosh** decided to put some of the guys to shame and had a go abseiling, after a little coaxing she went over the edge, this immediately put **LCpl Andy Snelle** and **Sig Pink** on the spot so the two intrepid explorers finally plucked up enough courage to go off the abseil.

The next challenge was a place called Hay Tor; a clump of rock on top of a bare hill with high winds. The climbing was going to be fun with **Cpl** 'Taff' **Hughes** deciding the best way up the climb was to jam himself into the crack until he got stuck (he gave in). **Sgt Bob Duff** wasn't too impressed as there was no abseiling but he attempted a few of the climbs. Again **SSgt Derrick Deegan** showed his agility on the rock until on the final climb he cheated and went off route to get to the overhang of the climb and then up to the top. The day came to an abrupt end when rain stopped play.

Dewerstone was the next venue. This was intended to be a really good day with climbs up to 170ft, but it was not to be, before we even got started the heavens opened so away we went to the nearest cafe.

For the second week we had 14 students. Three days were spent on Cheesewring Quarry with **LCpl Si Brown** and **LCpl Brummy Lewis** both refusing not only the climbing but abseiling as well. **Cpl Mallaney** brought forth roars of laughter as he threw himself on to the rocks. **Cpls Eddie McCabe** and **John Scobie** scaled all the climbs with ease. This time we had no problems with the abseiling apart from the fact that thick mist meant you couldn't see the bottom (it may have helped).

Next day on Cheesewring the sun appeared and **LCpl Si Brown** and **LCpl Brummy Lewis** were given private tuition by **LCpl Terry McDermott** on a very easy climb which they both did several times and **LCpl Brown** deciding to try the abseil.

After completing over three days on Cheesewring the fourth day was again spent at Hay Tor, conditions for climbing couldn't have been better. **Cpls Eddie McCabe** and **John Scobie** and **LCpl Thompson** all awaiting the challenges of the day, so the gauntlet was thrown down to achieve a Hard Very Severe climb that **SSgt Derrick Deegan** had previously climbed, although this time it was to be done up the correct route.

All tried but failed, and some said it couldn't be done so **SSgt Andy Waldron** put on his kit and was the only person who mastered that particular climb.

At Dewerstone the weather was again fine starting with a couple of difficult 100ft climbs. As well as climbing we had a huge traverse between buttresses planned for all the SNCOs and officers. When the group arrived there were a few gulps of fear and disbelief at what lay ahead; nothing but fresh air and a 250ft drop below.

With the Sqn Comd leading the way they all crossed the traverse with cries of relief when they got to the other side and were back on solid ground. After all the officers and SNCOs had been across it was the turn of the climbing group and also the cavers and with only a few refusals everyone who went across admitted enjoying themselves—afterwards. Very few of the students would disagree that both weeks had been very challenging and had, perhaps, even produced some rock-climbers.

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?
HAVE YOU INFORMED RHQ?

TEL 071-414 8242

229 Sig Sqn
BFPO 45

PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd **Maj M. A. Little**
AO **Maj W. A. C. Griffiths**
Ops/Trg Offr **Capt W. E. H. Adsett**, SSM **WO2 R. A. Bailey**, SQMS **SSgt N. Thomas**, YofS **SSgt P. R. Whittle**, Trg NCO **SSgt M. P. Boyle**, Radio Tp Comd **Lt E. G. Wise**, Tp Sgt **Sgt J. Birchenough**, Comms Support Tp Comd **WO2 (FofS) R. P. Moren**.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Farewells and best wishes to **Capt Alan Hooley, SSgt George Greaves, Sgts** 'Bunny' **Hutchinson, Steve Metherell, Clive Quantick, Gordon Whale, Vince Murphy, Cpls Horne, Yafai, LCpl Reid**.

A warm welcome to **SSgt Mick Boyle, Cpls Cameron, Wyatt, Sig Field, LCpl Franklin, Sig Watson, Pte Scargill**.

BERLIN BRIGADE MARCH AND SHOOT COMPETITION
by LCpl 'Skelly' Skelton

The competition started from 229 Sig Sqn at 4.30 am on 20 June.

All the hard training was now about to be put into practice. The first stage of the day was orienteering.

The Squadron did extremely well putting their map reading skills into practice, and coming out with all four sections completing the course with all of the check points.

The second phase, a speed march, was not one of 229's strong points; a disappointing time was achieved.

Day two started in the afternoon, to the relief of all of us. Unknown to the competitors the Urban Assault course lay ahead. With a record time set of 13 min 15 secs by 1 RWF the Squadron teams knew they had a hard task ahead of them.

But from the start of the course 100% was given and a time of 15 min 35 secs was obtained. This won the Corps chaps first place in the minor units.

The team then had time to relax whilst waltzing through the signals and AFV recognition stand.

The last task of the day proved to be the most taxing but comical event. This was a command task which consisted of dragging a 450kg wombat around a 400m course, and then winching it across a 50m ditch. The time achieved was not special, but we were happy with 21 minutes.

The Squadron March and Shoot Team finally cross the finish line

WILMERSDORF FRIENDSHIP WEEKEND
by Sig Ian Reid—Radio Tp

It all started on 27 June with the whole Squadron deploying to Prager Platz in order to set up the three stalls. When the official opening was over our stalls were mobbed by eager crowds. Our first stall was the 'Wheel of Fortune' where the prizes were bottles of spirits. The days were split into two shifts. One comprised **Lt Wise**, our Troop Comd, **Cpls Paul Urquhart, Archie Gemmel, Sig** 'Jono' **Johnson, M. Emblin**, 'Legs' **Walsh** and myself. The other team was run by **Sgt Jake Birchenough, Cpl** 'Baz' **Brooks** and **LCpl** Del **Whyman. Pte Lynne Sheridan, Sig** 'Dazza' **Field** and **LCpl Wayne Skelton** all took their turn in spinning the wheel.

Another favourite stall was the 'Win a Teddy stall' controlled by **WO2 (FofS) Russ Moren**, who was overall winner of the most silly hat competition. **Cpl Mick Hodds** was meant to encourage sales, but scared most of the customers away! **LCpl Simone Rouse, Cpl Ruth Whyman, Sgts Mellow Griffiths** and **Mick Blakley** and his wife **Anne**

The whole weekend was an enjoyable experience for everyone. The beer tent, manned by the terrible trio **SSgt (SQMS) Neil Thomas, WO2 (SSM) Alan Bailey** and **WO2 (SSM) George Bardsley** was an attraction. We all look forward to next year's British/German friendship weekend.

BERLIN INF BDE HQ SERGEANTS' MESS

On Friday 21 June 1991 the Mess dined out **WO1 (RSM) R. C. Young** on commissioning. **WO1 (CY) Dickie Dawson** RN presided and made a speech liberally sprinkled with quaint Naval terms such as 'galley', 'port' and 'heads'. The first term was fairly obvious, being something to do with the kitchen but the translations of 'Cockburns Left' and 'Sore Toilets' are still being worked on. **Mr Young** replied, thanking all Mess members for their kind farewell gifts and for their support during his tenure.

Following the speeches, the RSM was led away, looking slightly bemused, in a set of handcuffs, by two equally bemused looking RMPs. He was marched back in for his Court Martial some five minutes later. Despite a performance worthy of LA Law, **Sgt** 'Scouse' **Whiting** could not get his client 'off' and the prosecution team led by **WO1 Pete Manger** won the day with the votes being counted as 126 for and **Sgt Whiting** against. There's loyalty for you! Once the verdict was announced and before the guilty party was strung up on a hastily built gallows, the RSM was whisked away to the Officers' Mess where he was met by **Capt A. Hooley**. Both returned to the Sergeants' Mess later, in time to see **WO2 (SSM) George Bardsley** re-enact a certain scene from the film 'Bambi'.

The PMC, **WO2 Ellis Page** is to be congratulated on organising an excellent function, with the assistance of his Committee and Mess Manager, **Mr Terry Marsh**. Well, he'd had six other Regimental Dinners to mastermind during his three month stint so this one must have been a doddle.

All Mess members would like to thank **WO1 (RSM) Young** for his sterling efforts in building the Mess into what it is today and to wish him and his wife **Kim** all the very best for the future, assuming that the post of MTO and/or 7 Sig Regt have one!

WO1 (RSM) Young receiving his farewell gift from PMC WO2 Page

238 Sig Sqn
Chelsea Barracks

MIKE TROOP

The Squadron's Technical Department, under the leadership of (TOT) **Capt Lee Brown**, has once again survived the Summer season with distinction.

Mike Troop—the hard core!
L to R: Sgt Al Barnett, Sgt Steve Cherry, Sgt Ally Duncan, Mr Wally Tucker, Cpl Dev Beveridge, Cpl Phil Drake and Cpl Dave Bishop. Where's the TOT?

The Troop's Public Address commitments stretched us further than ever before. In between Buckingham Palace Garden Parties, several charity events and the Queen's Birthday Parade, **Sgt Mick Brown, Cpl Bev Beveridge** and **Derrick Tyrell**, amongst others, appreciated their three weeks holiday at the International Air Tattoo at Fairford. They returned very bronzed and in need of a rest from the social scene.

The Troop welcomes **SSgt Billy McLean** and his wife **Jenny** from 21 Sig Regt for a well earned rest, also welcomed is **Cpl Dusty Miller**, whose driving experiences will act as a warning to the whole Troop.

Sad farewells are extended to the Troop Sports Rep, **Sgt Al Barnett**, whose efforts at this year's Royal Tournament will not be forgotten.

Finally, congratulations to **Sgt Robby Hall**, who has managed to get his full '12 weeks' leave entitlement in before September.

THE COMMCEN MOVE
by Cpl Julie Cook

The time finally came for the YofS long awaited move of the commcen from Horse Guards parade to Chelsea Barracks. To our amazement even **Cpl Rab O'Hara** showed his face at the weekend move thus proving that there is life after 1600 hrs on a Friday for a day worker.

The new commcen was like a DIY nightmare; all the pieces of office equipment were there but no tools or instructions to put them together. I did not realise there were so many variations of the standard army issue desk.

After a weekend of frayed tempers and last minute hitches including an impossible convoy through the centre of London the commcen was open for business on the morning of 29 June.

RQMS DEPARTMENT

RQMS — WO2 (RQMS) C. Thompson
Tech Storeman — Cpl W. 'Butler' Scott
Civilian Storeman Mr 'Billy-Do' Robb.

Welcome to this small but extremely well formed department which, if manning levels were increased by 100% would just have enough to form a five-a-side team. Firstly, we would like to welcome WO2 Colin 'Hump' **Thompson** into the secretive world of paper-shuffling and accounting(ish). He has arrived in station with a defect, which he stoutly refuses to have repaired since he never signed for it in the first place. The RQMS has already made his mark on the Squadron by attacking unsuspecting SNCOs and Signalmen at all times of the day and night with questions on Corps history.

We extend our congratulations to **Cpl William** 'Butler' **Scott** on being granted his extension and also on his engagement to **Karen**.

The new RQMS **Cpl Scott** tried his luck by putting the departmental clock forward 10 minutes, thus allowing for an early finish. Unfortunately, 'the Hump' caught on and put it back 10 minutes without informing **Cpl Scott**. So we should have gained an extra day's work out of him.

Last, but naturally not least (weight-wise) we introduce our civilian storeman—**Mr William** 'Billy-Do' **Robb**, who by some quirk of nature is also of Scottish origins yet supports Chelsea Football Team, using the term loosely of course.

Bill is the proud owner of an extremely broad accent. This is ideal in his work since personnel enquiring after stores cannot understand if their application has been successful or not and usually leave empty-handed.

Finally, we would like to say 'Bon Voyage' to two stalwart members of the department: **WO2 (RQMS) Rod** 'Paddy' **Pylee** and **LCpl Dave** 'Trigger' **North**, who have both retired from the Corps after long and distinguished careers, to attack Civvy Street.

Rod Pylee's enthusiasm and sense of humour will be missed by all those who have been fortunate to work with him. Despite rumours, **Rod** has not set up a corner-shop but is extremely busy marketing finance. We wish **Rod, Gina** and family every success in the future.

A Commcen Team:
Back Row L to R: SSgt Robinson, Cpl Dickinson, Sgt Bamford
Front Row L to R: Pte Parry, Sig Badger, Pte Smith, Cpl Small

241 Sig Sqn
Donnington

PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — Maj Eric Webster
QM/2IC — Maj Tony Morgan
OC Comms Tp **Maj Des Heyes**, SSM/RQMS **WO2 John Mountcastle**, FofS **WO2 (FofS) Pete Bruce**, YofS **WO2 (YofS) Paul Dean**.

AS YOU WERE!

A few years ago NW District's telephone exchanges and Comms centres became part of 240 Sig Sqn—well, they are now once again part of 241 Sig Sqn, so—welcome back NW District. This all came about in April during the re-organisation of districts within UK.

OPERATION GRANBY

As we all know 'Op Granby' reached parts that other 'Ops' never reached and we were no exception. It meant manning many of our static comcens for long hours to ensure that the required level of service was maintained, this we managed to do throughout and our many civilians can only be congratulated on their commitment. It also meant our small military staff was also stretched to the limit but it was made easier by the arrival from the TA of four operators on 'S' type engagements. They were **SSgt Jeff Ashton** (34 Sig Regt (V)), **Cpl Dawn Wright** (38 Sig Regt (V)), **LCpl Clem Cole** (33 Sig Regt (V)) and **Pte Alex Lomas** (34 Sig Regt (V)).

They are excellent ambassadors for the TA, working long hours, always cheerful and fully committed to providing the service required. **SSgt Jeff Ashton** and **Pte Alex Lomas** have already left us and returned to 34 Sig Regt (V), but we thank them for an excellent job done, and wish them well.

The good, the bad and the pretty

ADVENTURE TRAINING WEEKEND

After 'Op Granby' we went on an adventure training weekend at the Leek Training Area organised by the SSM **WO2 Mountcastle**. It was a nice break and it allowed many of our Military members to have a go at Abseiling, Pony Trekking and Walking.

Everyone had a go at Pony Trekking which was most enjoyable, the good old British weather didn't disappoint us either, it rained cats and dogs throughout the Pony Trekking, but **Maj Webster's** hat survived even that and lives to see another training weekend. All in all, it was a most enjoyable and successful weekend. Many thanks to **Sgt Dickie Henderson** for his administrating and chauffeuring prowess.

Standing L to R: Cpl Murphy, Maj Webster, Ptes Wright and Elliott, LCpl Cole, Maj Morgan
Front L to R: LCpl Hannaford, Pte Phillips, SSM/WO2 Mountcastle, Sgt Scantlebury

Pte Ann Elliott in her 'Look Mum, no hands' pose

IMPERIAL SERVICE MEDAL

During the last month **Mrs Margaret Wilde** was presented with the Imperial Service Medal. **Mrs Wilde** has served over 42 years with the Donnington Telephone Exchange and had been well known to the staff of the COD as a most reliable and competent operator. The presentation took place at the home of the exchange supervisor, **Miss Betty Roden**, with friends present—Congratulations!

ARRIVALS/FAREWELLS

We welcome back **Maj Tony Morgan** after his six months with the MFO Sinai. **Maj Des Heyes** and **Di**, from Latina, and **Ptes Rachel Backhouse, Jennie Wright, Karen Foulkes** and **Sara Fursman**, from Germany and Training Brigade.

We say farewell to **Maj Bob Baker** and his wife **Alison** off to Latina, **Cpl Heather Hyrons** off to York and **LCpl Liz Hannaford** to Cyprus.

254 Sig Sqn (UNFICYP) BFPO 567

SHQ
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd	**Maj F. T. Riley**
2IC	**Capt P. J. Watt**

SSM **WO2 (SSM) W. Henderson**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) D. Forbes**, Chief Clerk **Sgt S. James**, Stores Acct **Sgt R. Clatworthy**, FSO Clerk **Mr C. Wilkinson**, Typist **Mrs S. Hiscock.**

SHQ has undergone a complete changeover in staff. Firstly welcome to **Sgt Steve James** as Chief Clerk from 4 Sig Gp. Farewell to **Sgt Ade Rose, Karen** and **Haley**. We wish them all the best in Soltau. We have said goodbye to **Mrs Sue Hiscock** our typist. She has been with the Sqn two and a half years and kept the UAO on its feet. **Sue** will be much missed but we wish her and **Mal** all the best in London. Also leaving us after a short stay is **Mr Chris Wilkinson**, the FSO Clerk. We wish him the best with his new job in Jerusalem with the UN. Unfortunately we do not have replacements as yet.

VISIT BY COS BFC/DCBFC

On Thursday 13 June 1991 **Brig J. H. Almonds** and **Mrs Almonds** visited the Squadron. While **Mrs Almonds** went on a City Line tour of the Buffer Zone the Brigadier visited all the departments meeting many members of our multinational Squadron. The day finished with a buffet in the Wire Inn to which all the wives were invited.

Brig Almonds and Maj Frank Riley discuss telephone faults with Sgt Taff Bryant and Sig 'Chuggie' Wray

COMMCEN TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**WO2 (YofS) Doughie MacTaggart**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Mick Hodkinson**

Day Cpl **Cpl Paul Miller**, A Shift **Cpl Ginge Morgan**, B Shift **Cpl Pete Smale**, C Shift **Cpl Trev Cotter.**

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate **Doughie MacTaggart** on his recent promotion to WO1 and posting to 4 Armd Div—Best of Luck. Congratulations to **Ginge Morgan** on his forthcoming promotion to Sergeant and posting to 5 AB Bde and to **Paul Miller** and **Ron Atkinson** on passing their YofS stage one examination—we wish you well in the future.

ARRIVALS

The Troop welcome the following new members all from 30 Sig Regt: **Sig Colin Pirrie, Mick Stoneman, Dave McCall** and **Tony Journet**. To **Mick, Dave** and **Tony** we say welcome back and to **Colin** and **Dave** enjoy our tour in Cyprus.

DEPARTURES

Farewells to **LCpls Nige Howard** back to 4 Armd Div and **Anderson**—who has managed a posting to 9 Sig Regt. **Sig 'Woody' Wood** back to 3 Armd Div and last but not least **Sig Nick Lean** back to 7 Sig Regt a special thank you to him for being one of the few not to crash the SDS minibus.

RADIO TP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**Lt Paul Levesque** Canadian Signals
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Mick Halford**

Tp Sgt **Sgt Steve Shepherd** Canadian Signals.

The Troop has had a major turn around over the last few weeks. So first of all we say farewell to: **Sgt Larry Will, Cpl Viv Hayes, Sig Steve Rose, Adam Harvey** and **Fazackerley**.

And say hello to their replacements: **Sgt Steve Shepherd, Cpl Paul Coates, Sig 'Smudge' Smith, Andy Crawford** and **Nav Elliot**. Also to our Canadians **Cpl Gary McCurdy** and **Sig Martin Dominque**. The Troop has been busy with line tours and keeping the vehicles on the road. Although a 'Napa' attack has not been missed by anyone! Comms trials have been continuing off the whole Buffer Zone as has familiarisation visits to Sector JOCs and Ops for the new comers.

Finally we would like to mention the Squadron Summer Ball—or Pool Party as it became. It went with a great splash, of course. Several sets of clothes were needed for the occasion.

TECH AND LINE TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**SSgt (FofS) Carl Shead**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Phil Skene**

Wksp Sgt **Sgt Si Norris**, Line Sgts **Sgt Paul Jennings, Sgt Taff Bryant.**

ARRIVALS

A warm welcome to **Cpl John Martin** and **LCpl Dan Owens** joining the Tech side of the operation for a six month tour and to **Cpl Dan Smith** one of our Canadian brethren joining the overworked (so they tell us) Mech's—enjoy your tour with the UN.

DEPARTURES

Fond farewells to **Cpls Steve Bancroft, Paul Coxford** and **MCpl Alain Durand** who are off to bigger and better things.

DASH 5/91

Tech & Line Troop ably assisted by members of SHQ put up their normal All-Out effort to once again win the Squadron Dash Trophy by winning both the Volleyball and Cricket elements of the competition. The only hiccup being a team of Canadian Softball experts forcing the Troop to accept the runner up position in that event.

WIVES POOL PARTY

On 12 July 1991 a pool party was held on the UNPA in aid of Save the Children Fund. This was the culmination of efforts by **Mrs Kerry Bryant, Anna Norris, Janine Jennings** and **Tracy Hodkinsons** to raise money in support of the Fund.

The party was well attended and everyone enjoyed the barbecue and games and of course the Karaoke Night!

A raffle was also held and thanks to the organisers some good prizes were won. To date some £1200 has been raised for the charity. Well done ladies in all your efforts.

'The Shipwreck crew'
L to R: Tracy Clatworthy, Jannine Jennings, Anna Norris and Linda Forbes

259 Sig Sqn BFPO 53

NEWS FROM HQ
SUN, SURF 'N' KEO

The long hot summer has seen us busy at work and with an increase in social and extra mural activities. Much was made of Princess Royal Day; an extremely successful 'Families Day' was held on Evdhimou Beach on 27 June and we were joined by members of 81 Sig Sqn (V) and our four new members from the Hong Kong Service Corps. What a welcome to Cyprus—straight off the aircraft to laze in the sunshine. The families and children are pleading for a repeat and we hope the organisers, **WO2 (SSM) Tim Wallis** and **SSgt John Phillips**, will deliver the 'goods' again. A special thanks to **Capt Nick Walker** for making his speed boat available for water skiing and also to the resident Infantry Battalion for providing the 'Banana'. **Sgt John Marsden** was of course at it again with his antics on the Sail Board. Perhaps it goes better with wind **John**? Sunday 30 June was Corps Sunday when Squadron members attended the Church Service in the Garrison Church.

FAREWELLS

We have seen the departure of two of our stalwarts namely the Chief Clerk **SSgt Neil March** who leaves for 11 Sig Bde (V) on promotion to WO2 and **Sgt Wally Kerr** to the School of Signals. We wish them and their families all the best in their new postings.

WELCOME

We welcome the new Chief Clerk **SSgt Mark Bonham**, the new SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) Nat Cole** and **the new Foreman of Signals, on the Mountain, SSgt (FofS) Mick Milne**. We wish them and their families a happy and pleasant stay with us.

ATTACHMENTS

Two officers are on summer attachment with us namely, **Lt Owen Bryant** from the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham and, **2Lt Rob King** from Cambridge University. Envious colleagues should only believe the half of what they tell you!

SWIMMING

The Inter-Troop Swimming Gala was held on a sunny afternoon in July at the Berengaria Swimming Pool. Families were enjoying the sight of many Swimmers attempting to save their own lives by reaching the end of the pool before the start of the next race. However there were some good performances by **Sgt Chris Ballin** in the freestyle, **Maj Jim Dryburgh** in the breaststroke and **Sig Galloway** in the backstroke. The relays were shared fairly evenly between Episkopi Troop and HQ/Mtn Troops leaving the competition in the balance at the start of the Chain of Command race. This crazy obstacle course was tackled well by **Capt John Phillips, Sgt Shawn Wilde, Cpl Dave Laverie** and **Sig Molloy** who finished well ahead. A good day was had by all. Result: 3rd Airfield Troop, 2nd HQ/Mtn Troops, 1st Epi Troop. With two events gone and Episkopi Troop 2—0 we all await the next Hodgson Shield event with anticipation.

Sig Jimmy and Wg Cdr Bird (Alias Sig Sowden and Sig Rigby) switching on the new ISDX digital exchange at Akrotiri

NEWS FROM AIRFIELD TROOP

WORK

The final run-in for the cutover of all but one of the new digital telephone exchanges coupled with the commissioning of our self installed Single Mode Fibre Optic System has taken up many of the sunshine hours. The cut over took place on 27 July and was a resounding success. Our thanks to **Wg Cdr Bird** for being present at the switch on.

81 SIG SQN (V)

The Tele Mechs from 81 Sig Sqn (V) began their rounds this month, Party One hosted by Airfield Troop. Party two was hosted by 662 Sig Tp at Dhekelia giving Akrotiri two weeks to recover before **Sgt Jim Skelly** and Parties Three and Four descended upon the poor Blue Jobs at RAF Akrotiri.

'The creatures in the pit'
81 Sig Sqn (V) jointers, Sig Pete Aldous and Sig Mac McCarthy

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

A special welcome goes out to young **Karl Swithenbank** who arrived at The Princess Mary's Hospital RAF Akrotiri to the delight of his mum **Sue** and his frantic dad **LCpl Taff** 'Shadwell' **Swithenbank.**

Other recent arrivals include **LCpl Hart** and **Heather, LCpl Jackson** and **Nicky, Sig Corbin, Tracie** and family, **Sig Shaw** (back again), **Avril** and family.

And, a warm welcome to our intrepid Oriental Engineers from the Hong Kong Military Service Corps **Cpl Cheung, LCpls Ho, Fong** and **Lai.**

Farewell to **Sig Tim Rigby** off to Belize, **LCpl Andy Mattson** and family to Northern Ireland and many thanks to **Cpls Lai, Lin, LCpls Yu** and **Pang** who return to Hong Kong.

GRANBY AWARD

It is with great pleasure and satisfaction that we announce the award of the CBFCs Commendation to **Sgt Alan Piper**. 'Pip' was chosen from many others who worked so hard and tirelessly during Op Granby. Our most warm and sincere congratulations to **Sgt Piper, Wendy** and family.

VISIT OF DACOS CIS 1

Lt Col E. M. Powell visited the Troop this month and saw members of Party One 81 Sig Sqn (V) working alongside the Troop on the Airfield.

The Colonel was accompanied by **Capt Micky Banks** of CIS 1 who managed to get on to the Airfield despite his 'arrest on sight' category with the RAF Police.

NEWS FROM EPISKOPI TROOP

FAREWELLS

We say thank you and farewell to FofS **Dave Gunn** and family, congratulations on your promotion to WO1 and we wish you the very best of luck in 14 Sig Regt. Best wishes also to **SSgt Tam Tulloch** and family.

Farewell and good luck to: **Sgt Tim** and **Linda Comyns** to 21 Sig Regt, **Cpl 'Jonah' Jones** and **Bev** to 11 Sig Regt, **Cpl** Bing **Crosby** to 39 Inf Bde, **Cpl Vincent** and family to CPD, **Cpl Brian Chinn** to 21 Sig Regt, **Cpl Thompson** to 16 Sig Regt, **LCpl Claxton** to 16 Sig Regt and **Sig Cooper** on his return to civilian life in Newcastle.

WELCOMES

Firstly, a big welcome to FofS **Terry Waites** and wife **Katherine** who have come all the way from Akrotiri!

Welcome **SSgt** 'Staff' **Dobson** and family (don't worry we will get to grips with the drill soon!).

Welcome also to **Cpl Taff Thomas** and wife **Julie, LCpl Matt Donoghue** and family, **Sig Gough, Bambridge, Powell** and **Mollon.** Welcome to you all and we hope you have an excellent time in the Troop and in Cyprus.

FAREWELL DINNER

On 26 July Officers and SNCOs from the Squadron and CIS 1 said goodbye to **SSM Tim Wallis** and his wife **Margaret,** at a Ladies Guest Night. For **SSM Wallis** this marked his last formal dinner after 22 years of service with the Corps and the Army. For 14 of those years he has been well supported by **Margaret** who also received a thanks from the Squadron Ladies earlier in the month. The Squadron Officers and Seniors marked the occasion by a presentation of an inscribed canteen of cutlery.

HODGSON SHIELD

The Hodgson Shield Inter-Troop Competition has now been resurrected and is fully underway. Designed primarily to involve the non-gladiators of the Squadron, it has produced not only fun days for the Squadron and their families, but has also fostered the competitive spirit.

CRICKET

Considering that the majority of players were non-cricketers the standard was remarkably high with several very good individual performances.

Airfield and Episkopi Troops both managed to field two teams with Headquarters and Mountain combining to provide the fifth team.

EPISKOPI A VS EPISKOPI B

Despite a brave stance by Episkopi A including a good batting partnership from **Cpl** 'Taff' **Thomas** and **LCpl Burt Reynolds** they succumbed to Episkopi B who was the eventual winner. This had been expected due to selection which placed three Regimental level players in one team; namely **WO2 (FofS) Dave Gunn** and **Sgt Andy Hartley,** who both provided an excellent batting display all day, and **Sig Tony Wringe** who produced some rather intimidating Pace bowling.

AIRFIELD A VS AIRFIELD B

This was an entertaining game producing one of the best individual batting scores of the day by **LCpl Martin Goodhand** (not a great surprise as **Martin** plays for the Army Team!). We also saw a very tight piece of bowling by **Lt Butch Maycock** who got two wickets for only one run. The result was a fairly convincing win for Airfield A.

HQ/MOUNTAIN VS EKISKOPI A

Possibly the most hard fought match of the day, with Episkopi A winning by one wicket in the last over. This was due mainly to an excellent all round performance by **LCpl Burt Reynolds. Sgt Billy Chambers** had an equally impressive game for Headquarters/ Mountain.

The Sqn Comd Maj Dryburgh presents the Hodgson Shield Cricket Trophy to WO2 (FofS) Dave Gunn, Captain of the Episkopi Troop Team

– News from Troops –

662 Sig Tp
BFPO 58

PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd — **Capt Les Rix**
2IC/AO — **Lt Kim Wardner WRAC**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Dale Ikin,** OC Maint Sect **WO1 (FofS) Peter Martin,** OC Comms Sect **WO2 (YofS) Chris Rogan,** SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) John Williams,** Chief Clerk **Sgt Steve Gorman,** Station Comd FSS Cape Greco **SSgt John Smith.**

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Plaintive cries from SSM of 'What have you done to my troop Ma'am? Where have they all gone?', epitomise another period of high turnover for the Troop.

Hello to the new AO **Lt Kim Wardner** (WRAC) managing that rare feat of co-location with husband **Matthew** (1 WFR). Also to **LCpl Jason Foulger** and wife **Diane.**

Goodbye to **Capt Kim Thurlow** (WRAC) now well settled in 15 Ord Bn Donnington. **Sgt Tony Sparks** and **Sue** off to 7 Sig Regt, **Sgt Russ Dodd** to 251 Sig Sqn, and **Sig Steve Simpson** to NI. We wish them all the very best in their new units.

MAINT SECTION

FofS — **WO1 Pete Martin**
IC Telecomms Wksps — **SSgt Simon Tatman**
IC Line Det **SSgt Nigel Grant,** IC Radio Wksps **Sgt Frank Grant.**

EUREKA—At long last, on 27 July at 1000 hrs, Dhekelia's new ISDX telephone exchange was 'cut-over'—everything went well, much to everyone's relief, particularly the telemechs.

CPD's representative on the day was **SSgt Mark Eaton** who took delight in telling everyone that he had helped install our beloved Strouger Exchange in 1970 and something—we now know who to blame for all our past telephone problems—only joking **Mark!**

LINE DET
by Sgt Bob Witherstone

It's been a hectic time for our small callout crew as the exchange change-over was brought forward by two months causing more lines to appear on the governor's face **(SSgt Nigel Grant)** and more hair loss off the top of **Sgt Bob Witherstone**'s crown.

Anyway, after much blood, sweat and tears (of joy?) the big day came and went without any serious hitches (on our side anyway—compliments CPD!).

Pats on the back to the magnificent seven. **Cpl Neil Inman, LCpls Johno Johnson, Lucky Luckhurst, Joe McGuinness, Wilba Wilson, Sig Doug Easby** and **Chernobyl Mesmer.**

A big thanks to the lads of 81 Sqn (V) who helped us considerably with the prep work. Hope we didn't spoil too many Napa attacks lads and hope to see you again next year.

TECH WKSPS
by SSgt Si Tatman

We have said goodbye to some of our longer serving members. **SSgt Des Watson** and **Tiny** leave us for the not so sunny climates of 21 Sig Regt—good luck in the future. Also we bid farewell to **Sgt** 'Olly' **Garhard** on posting to 28 Sig Regt (if it's still there when he arrives) and **Cpl Phil Leach** who is going on the TI in sunny Catterick, good luck to both.

It's a busy time for farewells as we have also said goodbye to our two ex Op Granby lads, **LCpl Mac McDonagh** goes to 30 Sig Regt and **LCpl** 'Scouse' **Keelan** who heads for 4 Div.

We welcome **SSgt Si Tatman** and **Jackie** who has replaced **SSgt Des Watson.** Hope you enjoy your tour.

Finally, we would like to wish **Sgt** 'HTB' **Simpson** and **Ann** every happiness for their wedding in September and for their future together.

WATER SPORTS CYPRUS STYLE

Commencing with windsurfing, the two prominent troop members must surely be **SSgts John Smith** and **John Williams.** They have had a very successful season where they formed one third of the Army (Cyprus) team that took on and defeated the RAF at the Inter Services Championships (the first victory in nine years). When **SSgt John Williams** so impressed the RYA trainer with his knowledge and ability that not only did he pass as an RYA Instructor (level 1) he was immediately upgraded to Advanced Instructor (level 2).

SSgt John Smith has managed to qualify as an RYA level 3 trainer, no mean feat as it has taken a year to achieve this much sought after qualification. This makes him the only Services Trainer between Hastings and Hong Kong and one of only 50 or so active RYA trainers.

Sgts Russ Dodd and **Dave Porteous** both swim and play water polo at Garrison level and organise inter section swimming and water polo competition.

On top of the water, the ESBA sailing club is mourning the recent departure of its secretary and driving force **Capt Nick Naylor.** Dhekelia's loss is Roermond's gain. However YofS **Chris Rogan** has managed to keep the troop representation alive by volunteering to assist in crewing a yacht from Marmaras in Turkey to Larnaca. Unfortunately he was becalmed off Limassol on the final leg and needed a tow to finish the journey.

The annual 'All Island Charity Raft Race', is held off Cessac beach in Dhekelia. It employs teams of four to paddle homemade rafts around a half mile course in full view of the assembled public. This year Cape Greco and 662 Sig Tp again entered teams.

The armada this year, the largest ever, was divided into two fleets of 26 craft each, and the start, at five minute intervals was through a hail of friendly fire of eggs, flour and water filled balloons. The Cape Greco team captained by **SSgt John Smith** and driven by **Sgt Rich Cousins** stormed through the fleet to narrowly miss first place and end up second overall. It must be admitted that the youth and strength of **LCpls Ian Chamberlain** and **Rick Powell** (RPC) was probably the deciding factor.

Tp Comd 662 Sig Tp presents the Water Polo Shield to Comms/Cape Team

633 Sig Tp
BFPO 12

PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd — **Capt Davis**
FofS — **WO2 (FofS) Phil McGiveron**
YofS **WO2 (YofS) Chris Whitehead,** Tp SSgt **SSgt Clive Sear,** TQMS **Sgt Dave Simpson**

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Due to a big turn around lately the arrivals and departures are, unfortunately, too numerous to mention by name. However to all the departures we wish you good luck in your new postings, and to new arrivals, we hope you enjoy your short stay with us and the days don't pass too slowly (nobody's got that long to do).

EXERCISE TOUCAN BLADE

Ex Toucan Blade is the main exercise of the year concerning the defence of the Airport Camp Zone (APCZ) in which 633 are involved. It was split into two phases.

PHASE ONE

Phase one consisted of a training day in which all members of Airport Camp were invited to attend a number of demonstrations and briefings run by the various different units in Belize (except 633 Sig Tp).

These consisted of the usual 'gung-ho' subjects ie duties of a sentry, manning of a bunker, range cards etc.

PHASE TWO

This involved the Troop defending the Commcen, transmitter site and radio room from air and ground attack. The first day consisted of the usual stand-tos and stand downs. The second day was when the air attacks started with attacks by Pumas armed with GPMGs and the Belizian Defence Force (BDF) Stealth Fighters (crop dusters) armed with water-filled balloons. During the bombing run on the Commcen,

Cpls Clive Garratt and **Tim Smith** were heavily engrossed in trying to bring down the BDF Stealth Fighters with a GPMG, when **Cpl Dave Eyes** was seen to rush on to the commcen roof towards the gun team. He then told the gun team that as he had signed for the gun and had to clean it as well, would they mind not firing so many rounds and could he be allowed to fire off a few. He then proceeded to fire off a whole belt of ammo (about 120 rounds).

The exercise ended with the transmitter site (being defended by a mixture of radio techs, cooks, REME, engrs and ord) being overrun by superior forces or so they told us. Small pockets of enemy were found around Airport Camp and were swiftly dealt with by the resident Infantry Battalion and the Armd Recce Tp with their Scorpion light tanks.

Thanks must go to **WO2 (FofS) McGiveron** for his brilliant strategy which led to the Commcen being expertly defended and casualties dealt with swiftly.

Cpl 'Si' Taylor on exercise as duty Tech

BONDU BASH TRIATHLON

This was the third triathlon to be held in Belize and organised by the Joint Services K2 Triathlon Club. The Bondu Bash Triathlon consists of a boom swim (32 lengths), 9km mountain bike ride (cross country/road) and a 9km run (cross country/road).

The event was held at the Airport Camp swimming pool and considering the early start and the expected high temperatures, was rewarded with a good turn out.

The Troop team consisted of **Cpls Clapham, Si Lithgow** and **Shaun Taylor** (all Techs) and is congratulated on being placed fourth overall of 12 teams competing.

A special mention goes to **Cpl Clapham** who came first in the mountain bike section.

SODI-POP SOLDIERS
(THE TELEMECH SECTION)

An uneventful July for the 'real men' of the Telemech Section. Memories of **Sig 'Tosher' Pope** and **LCpl 'Ox' Matthews** are fading, except when one of the present members of the section makes a major 'faux pas' and then we remember them!

This month saw the departure of **Cpl Billy McKeegan** to the School of Signals via the USA for his marriage to **Heather**. We wish them both all the very best for the future and hope he will receive loads of 'Mom's flapjacks with maple syrup'.

Cpl Al Jones has arrived to replace **Billy**. Other arrivals are **LCpl Kev** 'When I . . .' **Maidment** and **Sig Terry Hall**.

Sgt Steve Parnell aided and abetted by **Sig Steve Reeves** put **Sig Taff Lougher** and **LCpl Dave Cascarino** through their paces during a very hectic Ex Toucan Blade.

The Honorary Member of the Mech Section, **Cpl Steve Underhill**, the Troop Receptionist, has left for pastures new. We all wish him well.

The pace is hotting up for the imminent Commcen move, once the drop-back circuits and trunks are finally sorted out, of course.

Special mentions to **Sig Loucher**—hat trick hero of the recent 4—2 drubbing of 78 Ord Coy at footy (had to be a Mech). Also to the SES Warrior Tech, **Sgt Andy Anderson**.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY OTC

SIGNALS WING
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY OTC

The Royal Signals Wing is one of six Wings at the University. It has 22 Officer Cadets in its fold. The Officer Cadets are all students studying subjects from Physics to Languages to Medicine. A good percentage of the Officer Cadets take up regular commissions or TA appointments. appointments.

EXERCISE RIVER BANK

Every year in June Cambridge University holds its inter-College rowing competition known as the 'May' bumps. The Wing was tasked to provide a results service for these races, this was achieved using blackboards and the loudspeakers on the Mould radios. As all the Wing members had crews rowing from their own Colleges in the races, there was quite a lot of jealouly when someone's crews were beaten.

The Royal Signals Wing members found the hands on training most valuable and a good background to different aspects of communications before our Summer Camp with 244 Sig Sqn (AS) in Wales.

SUMMER CAMP

This year's Summer Camp was split into two phases. Phase one being an attachment to 244 Sig Sqn (AS) on exercise in Wales. The aim of the attachment was to introduce Wing members to different aspects of communications.

On arrival in Wales the Wing was split into three groups, each group visiting the following activities during the week: FAC and laser target party, A10 and Tornado live firing at Sennybridge, Rapier and Fly Catcher detachments, RRB stations and the most enjoyable visit, an afternoon flying in Lynx helicopters.

Phase one was rounded off with a most enjoyable social evening in the field hosted by **Maj Alan Hutt** OC 244 Sig Sqn (AS).

Phase two meant a long drive to Folkestone, where the whole of the OTC met in Napier Barracks to commence our annual military and adventurous training.

The first four days were spent working out of patrol bases and completing command tasks such as river crossings, vehicle recovery, radio tasks and the most enjoyable producing a home made video on Basic Battle Skills.

The rest of the week was split between range days (enabling the whole Corps to pass its APWT) and adventurous training.

The end of the Camp was rounded off with a Regimental Dinner, a thoroughly good time was had by all. During the Dinner **SUO Liz Parker** of the Signals Wing was awarded the Springman Sash. The Sash is awarded annually to the female Officer Cadet who is deemed to have made the most contribution to the OTC during her time as an Officer Cadet. **SUO Parker** has now left the OTC to take a commission in the RAF as a Pilot. (You win some, you lose some).

LOOKING AHEAD

Summer camp over we are looking forward to vehicle PRE, expeditions to Zimbabwe, attachments to Cyprus and Berlin, and a touch of leave before back to the grind stone in late September.

Royal Signals Wing in Wales July 1991
L to R: WO2 (SSM) K. A. Jones, Cpl Brown, WOCdt Chaffe, OCdt Scholey, WOCdt Bangert, OCdt Charman, WOCdt Craig, OCdt Jennings, WOCdt Carpenter, OCdt Garrett, JUO Easton, OCdt Dillon, SUO Parker, OCdt Phillips, OCdt Flaherty, OCdt Charles, OCdt Vertigan, WOCdt Crighton, SSgt McKeown

THE ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

Admiral	Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB MBE
Commodore	Col P. J. Pritchard
Vice Commodore	Lt Col C. K. Powell

Rear Commodores: Offshore, Lt Col J. A. Grierson; Dinghies, Lt Col M. J. P. Collins; Windsurfing, Lt Col C. D. McK Kemp

CONTACTS

Yachtmasters: UK; Lt Col A. Davies, Blandford Mil 2344
BAOR; Maj N. J. Cory, Korbecke Mil 257
Cyprus; Maj R. C. T. Cuthbertson, Ayios Nikolaos 7466

Secretaries: General; Maj G. M. Lewis Taylor, Bulford Mil 2308
Dinghy Racing UK; Capt D. C. A. Ellis, Blandford Mil 2489
Dinghy Racing BAOR; Sgt Avey-Hebditch, Korbecke Mil 359
UK Windsurfing; Capt D. J. Gilchrist, Tidworth Mil 2403
BAOR Windsurfing; Capt P. J. Daisey, Korbecke Mil 393

'*CHIEFTAIN*' FOURTH IN THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The J24 Keelboat Class European Championship was held at Cowes this year over the week 20 to 26 July, hosted by the Cowes Corinthian Yacht Club and attended by 73 entries from nine countries.

'Chieftain', the ASA owned and RSYC sponsored J24 was entered for the event, but with some changes to the regular crew list, brought about by **Capt George Odling** not being available owing to promotion exams, and **Capt John Rowley** being heavily involved in projects on his TEM course. The team that was put together for this event therefore comprised:

Capt David Ellis	Skipper	(School of Signals)
Lt Simon Spiers	Cockpit	(11 Sig Regt)
Cpl Phil Hawkins (RAOC)	Spinnaker	(CVD Ashchurch)
Cpl Phil Lever	Foredeck	(School of Signals)
Miss Jo Dorian	Mast	(Civilian)

with **Cpl Hawkins** in place of **Capt Odling**, and **Jo Dorian** in place of **Capt Rowley**.

Despite all these crew changes, *'Chieftain'* started the week with a bang, leading the fleet of 73 all the way round the 12 mile course to win the first race, and proceeded during the regatta to clock up another win in the fourth race, and second and fifth places in other races. Unfortunately her other positions to count were a 19th from the Long Race, (sailed over a 30 mile course in a force 6 to 7) and a 28th, which left her seven points adrift from the leading European, **David Bedford**.

Where has this new found success come from? In part from hardware, ie we spent a lot of money! We had decided some weeks before the championships that we needed to change our mainsail and genoa, to take account of the improved design technology that has occurred over the last 18 months; the major changes that have come about are that Hood, the sailmaker we use, have

- made the current genoas much more powerful, and
- now offer their mainsails cut to accommodate pre-bend in the mast, which improves the light weather performance, an area where we had been suffering previously.

Thus two weeks before the event, we completely altered the rig on *'Chieftain'* and trialled it in an RYA National Squad training weekend. It felt fast there, and the event proved this right.

The other part is greater consistency, (although still not enough of this, with results of 19 and 28 to count!) brought about by fewer unforced errors, and this comes down to good teamwork within the crew.

The overall result of fourth in the Championships, and second European boat behind an Australian and an American entry, was a very satisfying outcome, especially when taken in context of *'Chieftain'* being a nine year old boat competing against one to three year old boats at the front end of the fleet.

And so to the rest of the season. Our priority now is to capitalise on our success, and ensure that we at least stay right up at the front of the fleet. We are fairly confident about this, as *'Chieftain'* has been showing flashes of form all season, all we need to do is improve our consistency. To this end we have ordered a new spinnaker and jib from Hoods to complete the new sail wardrobe in time for the Nationals which are in September. Prior to that we have the Northern Areas and the Summer Cup where we can try to improve on the teamwork between the various crew members, which for these events will be back to the full Royal Signals contingent.

ASA OFFSHORE REGATTA 1991

The Royal Signals was well represented in the ASA Regatta with four Victoria 34s entered in the 20 strong Division III. There were two yachts representing the School of Signals, *Rapana* and *Placuna* skippered by **Cpl Kendell** and **Maj Rawlings** respectively. **Maj Lewis-Taylor** skippered *Amoria* with a composite crew, and **Cpl Jones** sailed the Corps yacht *Petasus*.

Particular mention should be made of **Cpl Kendell**'s crew which consisted of junior ranks with the exception of **Maj Barry Rowe** who provided the appropriate qualification and a little experience. This was **Cpl Kendell**'s first ASA Regatta as skipper and he showed a great deal of promise ably assisted by his young crew.

Maj Lewis-Taylor's team improved steadily throughout the regatta to finish fourth overall and second Victoria 34. The winning Victoria 34 represented the Army in the Services Offshore Regatta.

Results:-

	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Overall	Passage Race
Amoria	9 (6)	5 (4)	2 (1)	4 (2)	5 (2)
Rapana	11 (8)	10 (7)	12 (9)	12 (9)	8 (5)
Petasus	17 (14)	15 (12)	15 (12)	15 (12)	15= (12=)
Placuna	16 (13)	18 (15)	23 (20)	18 (15)	15= (12=)

Numbers in brackets are positions in the Victoria 34 class.

WINDSURFING

At the time of writing these notes (early August) many of the high level windsurfing championships have already taken place prior to the traditional summer break. The Corps has been generally well represented both at home and in BAOR as the following events notes relate.

ARMY

The weekend of 6/7 July saw the Army Championships being held for the first time in Portland Harbour near Weymouth, Dorset. This is arguably the best venue in the UK and indeed with superb weather conditions a truly memorable event was staged for the 65 windsurfers who competed. Brilliant sunshine with winds of force 3/4 on Saturday for three races followed by a further two races being held on the Sunday in winds of 4-5 but somewhat cooler and very wet blustery conditions. The Corps fielded 13 sailors (20% of the fleet) in what proved to be a very high class event with the general standard of Army windsurfing better than ever before. Special mention of **Sgt Andy Elliot** in becoming the Army Champion 6M class Lightweight and **Sgt Dave Maw** achieving runner-up in the 7.5M class Heavyweight division. **Sgt Maw** is a very much improved windsurfer over the past 12 months and this is largely due to his regular entry into the UKBSA event.

JOINT SERVICES

This, the last event to report on was sailed over the weekend 27/28 July on what is traditionally home waters for Corps windsurfers—Stokes Bay, Browndown. Regrettably a mixture of light winds, strong Solent tides and an indifferent organisation only added up to produce a mediocre event. Nevertheless the sun shone and a reasonable turnout of UK windsurfers provided respectable results.

Sixty one sailors competed in the 7.5M Class. Including the 23 sailors in the 6M Class this represented a record with a total of 83 windsurfers on the start line.

— Sport —

TUG OF WAR

Like every other sport tug of war has been affected by Op Granby especially when fitness, strength, technique and teamwork are all vital to the success of any team. Therefore, prior to this year's Corps squad forming up at Blandford there was a great deal of concern in our ability to maintain dominance.

An added complication was the postponement until September of this year's BAOR Morrison Cup where the majority of the Corps squad are selected. However the UK Morrison Cup did take place at the end of May where the tug of war, now in its second year, saw an improved entry of seven teams pulling in a hotly-contested round-robin competition with 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt coming out winners, 8 Sig Regt runners-up and 210 Sig Sqn taking the Minor Units Trophy.

Thus from two weeks prior to the Inter-Corps Championships the squad started to arrive at Blandford with quite a few individuals from various units and two comparatively large contingents from 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and 7 Sig Regt. Training was a fine blend of hard quality and stamina work coupled with technique tuition for the not-so-experienced. A vital component of the training was the evening sessions with local civilian teams, where the Corps squad soon learned that appearance was not an accurate guide to ability. Most of these evening stints ended at around 2200 hrs in the evening gloom and there is no doubt that the success achieved was largely down to this quality training.

This year's championships were hosted by the Royal Signals at Blandford and it was apparent in the first weight of 600kg that it was going to be a very hard day, when in the final pull, the RAMC beat the Corps team two pulls to one taking the weight by one point, with Royal Signals runners-up. Next came the 680kg, a weight at which Royal Signals have an excellent record, never having lost an end, maintained on the day, to run out easy winners with the RAMC this time runners-up. In the 560kg revenge was exacted over the RAMC for the previous year's defeat in a very hard pull with the Corps team working steadily against the remainding teams to take the weight undefeated.

The last weight category of the day was the blue riband event of 640kg where the Corps was represented by a team selected from five different units. It was expected that the RAOC would provide stiff opposition and so it was to be, the Corps drawing them in the very last pull of the day with both teams unbeaten. A very hard first end went to the RAOC but the Corps team had their second wind now and with the benefits of hard training beginning to show, took the second and third ends to win overall by one point thus providing a fitting finale for a very keenly contested day.

CORPS TUG OF WAR SQUAD AT THE END OF A HARD BUT SUCCESSFUL DAY

Rear Row L to R: WO2 (SSM) Mick Scull (7 Sig Regt), Sig 'Yakker Vaughan (7 Sig Regt), Sig Steve Moss (4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt), LCpl Carl Murr (7 Sig Regt), LCpl 'Eddie' Edwards (7 Sig Regt), Sig Del Goodenough (7 Sig Regt), SSgt 'Bud' Abbott (4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt), Sig 'Hinch' Hinchliffe (4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt), Sig 'Gordy' Cowan (7 Sig Regt), Sig Rob Cruickshank (7 Sig Regt), Cpl Stu Palmer (22 Sig Regt), Sig Pete Howlett (7 Sig Regt), Coach WO2 (SSM) Peter Halstead (School of Signals)

Front Row L to R: LCpl Jim Mason (7 Sig Regt), Cpl Tony Manktelow (16 Sig Regt), LCpl Jock Reid (2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt), LCpl Rob Hamilton (4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt), Cpl 'Chas' Fox (4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt), LCpl 'Bopper' Bromiley (22 Sig Regt), SSgt 'Stevie' Stevenson (16 Sig Regt), LCpl 'Taff' O'Connor (7 Sig Regt)

Missing from photo LCpl Rob Sells (249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)))

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal GCVO

President: The Master of Signals

Chairman and Treasurer: Major General P. D. Alexander CB MBE

General Secretary: Colonel A. N. de Bretton-Gordon — **Assistant Secretary: Major G. Schofield MBE**

Welfare Secretary: Mrs P. J. Haw — **Administrative Officer: Mr R. Whittle**

Association Office, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Tel Military System: London District 8245. STD 071 414 8245 Welfare Secretary (direct line) 071 630 0801.

Your association has 60 Branches and 11 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.

CATTERICK REUNION 1991

The Master of Signals takes the Salute accompanied by Lt Gen Rasbatra late Indian Corps of Signals

ODE TO THE VIMY PACKED SUPPER

(or The Unexpired Portion of the Day's Ration)

by Capt Jane Knight

What tasty morsel starts the feast
Which carries on where Catterick ceased?
A Tudor prime-beef flavoured crisp
Awakens interest and a whisper
of breathtaking treats to come.
Oh, what delight the sausage brings,
The tasty bite, the food of kings,
And then, to follow, Custard Creams,
And Bourbons too, the stuff that dreams
are made of.
While speeding fast through burgh and county
The tropic pleasure of a Bounty!
This unpretentious chocolate bar
Takes on new stature in the car
that speeds you home.
Lulled by the miles, how does one fight
The urge to sleep? What will excite
Sufficiently to stay awake?
The ecstacy of fruity cake—
that taste sublime!
The Corps makes sure one is replete,
Filled with savoury and sweet,
The Vimy Chef is sure to please
With crunchy bix and Cheddar cheese
in tiny parcels of delight!
While with controls one tries to grapple
Wedged in the gear shift there's an apple!
All shining green with luscious juice—
Should one save this for later use
or yield to greed?
Was ever mortal tempted more
By skin and flesh and pip and core,
Succulent and blemish free?
In Eden's garden could the tree
have offered sweeter fruit?
And as the wines of Catterick fade
In Life's bucholic cavalcade
And evening turns from pink to jade
The cool fragrance of orangeade
can reach the soul.
Ever alert to all our needs
The Regiment cradles us and feeds.
Till late that day one reaches Base.
The Vimy Box—a Thing of Grace!

ALDERSHOT BRANCH

A TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Aldershot Branch of the Association extends a cordial invitation to all past and present Members of the Corps and their wives to join them for their annual Christmas luncheon on Friday 13 December 1991 at the Royal Aldershot Officers' Club, noon for 1230 hrs.

If you would like to attend this festive occasion contact **Lt Col D. Crookes OBE**, 110 Field Way, Aldershot, Hants GU11 4UI. The cost for each person attending will be £13.50.

BRIGHTON BRANCH

We've had two very successful functions so far this month; firstly the talk on tea by **Jill Fyers** was very interesting and was enjoyed by everyone who attended, our thanks once again go to the people who donated raffle prizes and to **John** and **Audrey**, also **Brian** and **Carol** for the spread they laid on. The fifty club was won by **Mary Warrington**, well done **Mary**, that will help for the dancing holiday.

On Saturday 13 July, 24 of us went to the matinee performance of the Royal Tournament at Earls Court.

Nine of our members attended the Catterick Reunion. On the Friday evening we attended the Freedom March where the playing of retreat was held in the castle in Richmond. I was proud to parade our Standard along with some 30 other Branches at the march past and later in the castle grounds. This year saw the largest number of standards paraded at the Freedom March.

Three of our serving members have recently received awards and were in the last *Wire* magazine **SSgt Gordon Holloway** of 884 Sig Tp received the Lord Lieutenant's certificate, **SSgt Kathy Tickner** (now retired) of 265 KCLY Sig Sqn received a clasp to her Efficiency Medal for 18 years' service and last but not least **Cpl Amanda Burch** also received a clasp to her Efficiency Medal for 18 years' service. Well done to you all.

It's welcome back to **LCpl Robert Vincent** who signed up for the 'S' type engagement during Op Granby. I'm sure the experience he gained whilst serving with 243 Sig Sqn at Bulford will be invaluable to 884 Sig Tp.

GUERNSEY BRANCH

Members, their wives and friends, were guests of the Island's Southern Branch of the Royal British Legion at a function held on 3 July to commemorate the formation of the RBL 70 years ago.

It commenced with a church parade in which the Branch Standard was carried by **Dave Bichard**, with **John Rudkin** and **Len Barbe** as escorts. The parade was led by the band of the Northern RBL Branch and the **Rev Marc Trickey**, Chaplain of the Southern Branch RBL and Rector of St Martins, conducted a very moving service. Member **Tom Remfrey**, who is Chairman of Guernsey's Northern RBL Branch read the second lesson. The celebration ended with a social gathering at the Southern RBL club, thanks to the hospitality of its members.

On 24 July members and guests of the Association assembled at La Villette hotel for a farewell dinner and social occasion in honour of **Capt Tom Remfrey** and his wife, **Wendy**, who are leaving Guernsey to take up residence in Anstruther, Fife.

Following the Loyal Toast, Branch Chairman, **John Rudkin**, paid tribute to the invaluable service rendered to the Branch and Guernsey as a whole by **Tom** since he joined as a founder member in 1978. During that time, he has served as a committee member and played an important part in the organisation of events directly within the Branch and also in the wider sphere of Island life, such as arranging for the Corps band to visit Guernsey.

In response, **Tom** said that his period of membership had been a happy one and that it had been a heartening experience to see the Branch grow and succeed, not only in the social sphere, but also, in the welfare of its members and in welcoming as associate members those from other Regiments who do not have their own branch. In conclusion, he promised that he and his wife would visit each year.

Capt Remfrey was presented with a painting commissioned from a local artist depicting Town Church and Square, St Peter Port in 1830 and member **Mrs Edna Chester** presented a floral bouquet to **Mrs Remfrey**.

The twinge of sadness at the loss of a stalwart member was dispelled when Branch Social Secretary, **Alf Laine**, awarded **Capt Remfrey** a highly-decorated, chest-covering 'medal', the 'BFB'—Blooming Fantastic Bloke!

CYPRUS

For the first time ever, the Corps is currently providing the Senior Army Commander in Cyprus, in the form of **Brig John Almonds**. **Brig Almonds** recently gathered together some of the retired members of the Corps who now live in Cyprus, at the Army Commander's residence.

The photograph commemorates the occasion. **Lt Col Powell** is still a serving officer and is looking particularly pleased at the news of his selection for promotion.

Back Row L to R: Maj Ernest Prockter, Mr Les Cook, Maj Fergus Elliott, Lt Col John Drew (Army Air Corps, formerly Royal Signals), Lt Col Geoffrey Horner
Front Row L to R: Maj Fred Stork, Maj Jack Harding, Lt Col Peter Johnstone, Lt Col Mike Powell, Brig John Almonds, Mrs Janet Drew (formerly Janet Burgess WRAC/Royal Signals)

A TIME TO REMEMBER KOREA RE-VISITED

by Capt (Retd) Henry Jennings

A group of British Korean Veterans (BKVA) gathered at Gatwick on 18 April and flew back to Korea to take part in the 40th Anniversary commemoration of the Korean War. The majority of them were ex POWs from the 1 Bn The Gloucestershire Regiment with whom I had fought with 40 years ago on Gloster Hill—Solma-Ri at the Imjin Battle.

In April 1951 I was one of four Royal Signals attached (Rear Link) to the 1 Bn The Gloucestershire Regiment.

THE BATTLE

During the spring of 1951 three Divisions of the 63rd Chinese Communist Army chose an historic invasion route along which to mount an attack on Seoul. Astride their route of advance lay the valley, where the 29 Brigade had prepared it's positions, overlooking the Imjin River.

The 1 Bn of The Gloucester Regiment was supported by C Tp 170 Independent Mortar Battery, Royal Artillery, now called the Imjin Battery. The Brigade frontage, of about 12,000m, contained gaping holes through which the enemy were subsequently to infiltrate in their thousands.

On 22 April 1951, the Battle of the Imjin began. During the next two days the Battalion was forced to withdraw from the forward positions onto the hills overlooking Solma-Ri (the site of The Gloucestershire Regiment Memorial).

By the evening of 24 April the exhausted survivors were completely surrounded and all attempts to relieve them had failed. That night, they held the hill against further repeated attacks. Finally on the morning of 25 April, they made their last stand before attempting to break out through the encircling Chinese. Most were captured in the Chinese dominated countryside.

After the battle the 'Glorious Glosters', as they became known, could only muster 67 Officers and men. There were 59 dead and 526, of whom 180 were wounded, had fallen into enemy hands. Of these 34 died in captivity. In this action the Battalion was awarded two Victoria Crosses. The action delayed the advance of the Chinese for three days, providing time for the United Nations Forces to re-group and block the Chinese advance on Seoul.

The itinerary for the BVA re-visit tour brought back many memories! In October 1951, 29 Ind Inf Bde Sig Sqn took six weeks to reach Pusan Korea.

The flight from Gatwick to Seoul, in 1991, took 12 hours 7 minutes by 747-400 (Jumbo).

20 APRIL—VISIT TO PANMUNJOM

My only real memory of this place was coming across the bridge from North Korea to South Korea and being greeted with the words 'You are *free*'. After two and a half years as a prisoner of war, it is a date I shall never forget—13 August 1953. I now know the bridge at Panmunjom—Freedom Bridge.

21 APRIL—VISIT TO THE BATTLE AREA SOLMA-RI

It was at Solma-Ri (Gloster Hill) the Imjin battle began and ended. The battle story tells it all. But when the Bugler of the 1 Royal Regiment of Wales sounded Last Post on 21 April 1991, I was reminded of 24 April 1951 when **Lt Col Carne** CO 1 Bn Gloucestershire Regt had told **Drum Maj Buss** to blow a few calls to drown out the Chinese bugler, but don't blow retreat! The cheering from the Battalion when the Drum Major finished his bugle calls could be heard all around our positions. Even the Chinese bugler was quiet after that!

A day for remembering, especially the wreath laying ceremony, and the blessing pronounced by the **Rev P. J. Howson CF(M)**, and with a lesson read by a BKV.

22 APRIL—VISIT TO THE NATIONAL CEMETERY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (ROK)

The ROK cemetery is part of the Tongjak Hills, and covers 351 acres. In one of the most beautiful parts of Korea.

We visited the Korean War Museum which houses planes, tanks, weapons, uniforms and a good photographic section which include most of the battle areas.

From there we went to the British Commonwealth Memorial, at Kap-Young-Up. A Remembrance Service was held, and wreaths laid to the memory of those who died fighting with 27 Brigade. The wreaths were laid by two Australians who had served with the Royal Engineers and The Middlesex Regiment during the Korean conflict. These later joined the Korean ANZUC veterans on a remembrance tour.

In the evening we were invited to a reception at the British Embassy hosted by **HE Mr David J. Wright LVO** and **Mrs Wright**.

23 APRIL

In the evening we attended a cocktail and dinner party hosted by **Gen Joon Yeol So** President of Korean Veterans Association. It was held in the Crystal Ballroom, part of the Olympic building in Seoul.

During the evening we were presented with Korean Veteran's medals, and a plaque (Imjin Battle). These can now be seen in the Corps Historical Room in Helles Barracks, Catterick.

24 APRIL—VISIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS CEMETERY, PUSAN

It was here that I located the graves of the 11 Corps comrades who had died in Korea.

During the visit a Service of Remembrance was held at the British Memorial Stone conducted by the **Rev P. J. Howson CF(M)** and lesson was read by a veteran.

25 APRIL—RETURN TO UK

I had promised myself I would re-visit Korea one day and bury memories (and I have). Thanks to **Gen Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley** and **Tony Eagles**, President of the British KVA, **George Green**, Chippy **Wood** and many others for making it all possible.

Many thanks also, to the Korean Veterans who looked after all of us so well, funding the hotel and expenses.

From L to R: Bob Riddlington, In-Pensioner George Green (Glos) Harry Spicer (Middlesex) Henry Jennings and Dave Binding

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during July 199¹:-

The late Mrs H. M. Atkinson	£5,000.00
M. Keegan	£ 100.00
8th Infantry Brigade HQ and Sig Squadron	£ 70.00
A. Picknell	£ 50.00
8th and 11th Sig Regt Wives Club	£ 50.00
In memory of Jack Night (1937 Royal Tournament Despatch Riders' Display Team)	£ 45.00
Godfrey Baker	£ 19.50
In memory of Douglas H. Stanton	£ 15.00
Certa Cito Lodge	£ 10.00
Miscellaneous	£ 18.46
	£5,377.96

The following donations were gratefully received during August 1991.

Mr W. H. Davidson	£100.00
In memory of Cpl P. Darlington (8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn	£ 90.00
Mr J. Neville	£ 75.00
In memory of R. C. Domoney (Bournemouth Branch)	£ 5.00
Mr G. M. Birrell	£ 5.00
	£275.00

THE COST OF *THE WIRE* FOR 1992 IS £1.30 per copy; £7.80 per annum.

CORRECTION

Page 295—August 1991 issue. For Salford Branch please read Manchester Branch.

FOR SALE

To mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of Broughton House Home for ex-Servicemen a signed limited edition of a colour print of an oil painting of the Home by Christopher Beard size 14 inches by 19 inches is available at £15, unframed. Only 200 prints are available and orders will be dealt with on a first come, first served basis. Please write to: Broughton House, Park Lane, Kersal, Salford M7 0JD, Tel: 061-740-2737.

REUNIONS
PICKWICK CLUB

The 'Pickwick Club', a group of four, and sometimes five, former Royal Signals members, who all served with 64 TO section throughout most of the last war and who over several past years have had mini-reunions visiting such places as Tunbridge Wells, Luton Hoo, Oxford and other UK places where they were once stationed, broke tradition this year when, for the first time, the fairer sex took part in one of its gatherings.

Hove, the home-town of bachelor **Gordon Villars**, was the venue for the club's August meeting and present were: **Arthur Godfrey** and his wife, and **Reg Simkins** and his wife, both from Twickenham (Middx); **Jim Lock** from Ealing, and **Florrie Naish**, the widow of **Eric**, an Army colleague of the group who died a few years ago.

In brilliant weather, the group enjoyed a countryside pub lunch, three hours sunbathing on the beach, and high tea with **Villars** as host. All members of the party were in their 70's.

PERSONAL

CROWNHILL FORT, PLYMOUTH

Ex-members of 24th Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron (210) in the period 1967-1971 will remember the 19th century Crownhill Fort which the Squadron occupied. The Fort is no longer used by the Ministry of Defence, but is now owned by the Landmark Trust. The Trust is restoring it with a view to opening it to the public and using it for appropriate displays. Anyone who is interested in helping with restoration work may like to contact the Trust on 0752-793754.

G LINE MAINTENANCE SECTION
11th LINE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Mr J. Driver would like to hear from those who went to Algiers in November 1942 in troopship *Christaan Hugene*. Please write to: 64 Garrbottom Road, Bankfoot, Bradford BO5 9AE.

ANNOUNCEMENT

GUNTON—MARTIN. On 31 May 1991 at South Woodham Ferrerss, Essex, the wedding was joyfully celebrated of **Dr Catherine Gunton**, youngest daughter of **Maj (Retd) Norman** and **Mrs Joyce Gunton** of 65 Bolton Ave, Richmond, North Yorks, to **Dr Peter Martin**, son of **Mr Vernon** and **Mrs Helga Martin** of Toronto, Canada. The couple will live in Charleston, West Virginia, USA.

GEORGE CROSS ISLAND ASSOCIATION—MEMORIAL BOOK

This Association is preparing a memorial book 'Defiant and Triumphant' to mark the 50th anniversary next year of the raising of the Great Siege 1940 to 1943.

The George Cross Island Association is hoping to enrol as many new members as possible before the 1992 commemoration. A special medal is being struck and awarded to all GCIA members.

HM The Queen will unveil a memorial bell in Malta next year and most members of the Association will be present for the occasion.

Anyone wishing to join (eligibility, service in Malta between 1940-43) should write to **Stanley Fraser**, Gwyndy, 165 Llanelian Road, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd LL29 SUW.

Mrs Ann Hughes and daughters **Lynn** and **Janet** would like to thank everyone who sent letters, cards and words of comfort to the family and those who attended the funeral of her husband and their father **WO2 R. T. 'Chippy' Hughes**.

56 LINE TROOP—8TH CORPS SIGNALS

An Association member, **George Gear** would like to get in touch with former comrades who served with him from 1940-1946 and especially **Sgt Ken Reader**. Please write to him at: 35 Champion Road, Upminster, Essex RM14 2SY.

21 TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE SECTION

A shield, depicting members of the Section has recently been presented to us by the daughter of the late **Lt Col I. M. A. Jones**. Our historical records of 21 TM Section are scant. Is there any reader who can throw any light on the Section—where and when it was formed, who and where are they now? Any correspondence to RHQ please.

BRITISH TRAINING STAFF—TURKEY 1951

Ex **Sgt Hugh Saunders** would like to hear from **Maj C. B. Pig** (now **Ashmore**)—please write to 49 Cardinal Close, Caversham, Berks RG4 8BZ.

LETTERS

From: Mr Clive Pritchard

Dear Sir,

Mr Brown's letter in the June issue prompted me to look through photographs taken in the Far East. I found one taken of 7 Medium Wireless Troop in 1954. I served with the troop from 1953-56. If I remember rightly the troop's main objective was to plug any breakdown in communications in Singapore and Malaya until re-installed. To enable us to carry out this function we had a number of CV's installed with 53 sets (the good old days). I am pictured top right.

Yours faithfully,
Clive Pritchard

17 Mallard Road
Scotton
Catterick Garrison
North Yorkshire DL9 3NP

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.

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THE wire

The Royal Signals Magazine

December 1991

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.

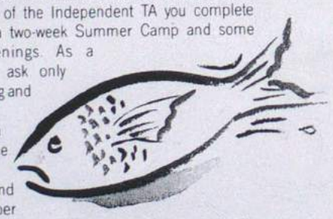
There are three options open to you.

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 *December 1991 Vol. 45 No: 6*

The Wire

All correspondence and matter for publication in **The Wire** should be addressed to **The Editor, The Wire**, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD.
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Editor Lt Col M. Q. M. Greaves
Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs

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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER OF SIGNALS MAJ GEN A. C. BIRTWISTLE CB, CBE, DL

Christmas is a time when families and loved ones long to be together and this is especially so in the Armed Forces where we all accept that the call of duty makes it impossible on a regular basis. Last Christmas was an unusual example when large numbers of families throughout the Army and the Corps were separated by the Gulf Crisis. Quite remarkably not a single solider in the Corps out of the 3,000 or so deployed to the Gulf was lost during the fighting and I am sure that we were all relieved at that remarkable outcome. We have every reason to be proud of the Corps' important contribution to the swift success of that campaign.

During my first year as Master of Signals I have been particularly saddened and surprised by the number of members of the Corps we lose each year through accidents of various kinds, particularly on the roads, quite apart from the older retired members we lose through natural causes. So I ask those of us lucky enough to be enjoying this Christmas together with those we love to remember with a thought and a prayer all those who are separated by the call of duty and all who have lost their loved ones since last Christmas.

My visits to the Corps during the year have confirmed that despite all that is happening by way of change, the morale throughout the Corps could not be higher and I would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard in support of the Signal Officer in Chief to make this so.

As we look ahead I am confident that the Corps will emerge from all the changes with a structure and size that we can all understand and accept, and that life in the Corps will be as interesting and exciting as it has always been, both at work and at play. Inevitably some of you will leave the serving Corps during 1992 and I hope that it will be entirely on a voluntary basis. Thank you for your service to the Corps and I trust that those of you who wish to do so will maintain contact with the Corps through reunions, the Association and *The Wire*.

Wherever you may be this Christmas, on duty or off duty, with your family or separated by duty, serving or retired, my wife and I send you our warmest good wishes for Christmas and a successful New Year.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE SIGNAL OFFICER IN CHIEF MAJ GEN R. F. L. COOK

In my last Christmas message to you I said that 1990 had been an interesting year. In the event 1991 made last year look almost staid, conventional and dull! We have fought and won a war in the Gulf, geopolitical change has become the order of the day, in NATO old certainties are fast disappearing, and in terms of security and defence the old threat has gone but we have yet to define a new. These are undoubtedly exciting times to be around as an old world order changes and the framework of a new one struggles to emerge.

For the Army these are testing times too with Options for Change and restructuring uppermost in all of our minds. However I am pleased to report that, throughout the Options work, there was a clear realisation that whatever the final size and shape of the Army, it could not carry out its tasks without a comprehensive nervous system, the integrated Communications and Information Systems provided by the Corps which are so necessary for command and control on the modern battlefield. The point was driven home by the experience of Op Granby and, as a result, Royal Signals has emerged from Options only a little leaner and I believe even better fitted to meet the demands that will be placed upon it in the future.

For the Army this future includes the ACE Rapid Reaction Corps which will operate throughout the NATO area and in which both the regular and volunteer Corps will play a very prominent part. We will also continue to meet a wide variety of other demanding tasks as we provide Communications, Information Systems and Electronic Warfare support to the Army wherever it is deployed, at home or abroad. In Royal Signals we can look forward to meeting these commitments with well manned units and modern equipment, and I am optimistic that soldiering will again in the future provide the job satisfaction, interest and enjoyment for which we all joined.

During this quite remarkable year Royal Signals have certainly been tested to the full, and the maxim 'First In Last Out' has become for us the norm. In spite of the many challenges we faced we have come through with our reputation enhanced, and we can all be pleased and proud of everything that our Corps has achieved, often in the face of much difficulty, discomfort and stress. For my part I would like to congratulate you all individually and to thank you for the contribution you personally made this year towards this success.

Everywhere I go in the Corps morale seems gratifyingly high in spite of the challenge of change. I therefore feel very confident that we will be able to manage our way through what will undeniably be a further difficult period of implementing Options with realism and commonsense, and that we will make of it yet another success for Royal Signals.

At this very special time my wife and I wish all in the Corps, serving and retired, and your families, a well earned very Happy Christmas and a most successful and enjoyable New Year. It has been a privilege to serve with you all.

NORTHERN IRELAND AWARDS

We warmly congratulate **LCpl N. Swithenbank** of 259 Sig Sqn who was Mentioned in Despatches in November 1991, for service in Northern Ireland.

FROM THE EDITOR

In the October 1991 issue the Chairman of the Association informed you of an increase in the price of *The Wire*. *Gen Alexander* also explained that by limiting its size to eighty pages we had achieved worthwhile savings in production costs. In February of this year, my predecessor suggested some guidelines for units and Association Branches contributing articles and notes for publication. As we have had several months experience in producing an eighty page magazine it might be appropriate to restate their guidelines.

It would help if contributors ensured there is a minimum of repetition, this is particularly important where Regiments submit notes from their Squadrons, each reporting on the same event.

If contributors could also indicate an order of priority for publication of articles this would ensure that the most important items do not get deleted.

The length of contributions will vary between issues, and between units or branches. Whilst we have no wish to restrict or ration space, it might help to indicate how much copy we can accept. Five or six A4 sheets, typed in double spacing, will fill one printed page of *The Wire*. We suggest that units should limit their contributions along the following lines:

Regiments—a maximum of ten or eleven A4 sheets, double spacing.

Independent Squadrons—a maximum of five A4 sheets, double spacing.

Independent Troops—a maximum of four A4 sheets, double spacing.

We are always keen to publish articles written by individuals about special events or projects and, where appropriate, these are incorporated in the In Tray Section of *The Wire*.

All articles are enhanced by good clear photographs. We are happy to accept colour photographs as well as black and white.

This advice is not intended to prevent really interesting articles being included, it is a matter of common sense and adopting a measure of compromise. The continuing success of *The Wire*, as your magazine, depends on all of us, but principally on our unit and branch correspondents. Please, continue to send in your contributions and remember that the Editor and Assistant Editor are here to help you.

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COVER PICTURES

Our Front Cover: The Colonel in Chief receives a posy from Miss Alice Clarke watched by her mother and the Sqn Comd, Maj Ian Foxley at the commencement of the visit to 5 Airborne Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron (216 Parachute) to mark the Golden Anniversary of the formation of Airborne Signals.

Our Back Cover: The Parachute Drop: A display at the Golden Anniversary celebrations.

THE COLONEL IN CHIEF VISITS AIRBORNE SIGNALS IN ALDERSHOT TO MARK THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FORMATION AS 1ST PARACHUTE BRIGADE SIGNAL SECTION (J)

SQUADRON RETITLED 216 PARACHUTE SIGNAL SQUADRON

In 1941 the first British Airborne Signals unit, 1 Para Bde Sig Section (J) was formed. Fifty years on, past and present members of the Airborne Signal brotherhood joined in celebrating their Golden Anniversary. The occasion was marked by two very special events:

In the afternoon of 11 October the Squadron assembled on Hankley Common to be presented to **Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal GCVO** and, in turn, to present a display of the Squadron's capabilities. The Squadron was also honoured by the presence of the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE DL**, the SOinC, **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook**, the Comd 2 Sig Bde, **Brig C. A. Brown ADC** and the Regimental Secretary, **Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon**.

The Colonel-in-Chief arrived by helicopter at 1230 hrs and was received by the Master of Signals before proceeding to the reception area overlooking Hankley Common. The Sqn Comd , **Maj Ian Foxley**, was presented to HRH by the Master of Signals after which he presented **WO1 (RSM) Billy Haslam**, and then escorted the Colonel in Chief throughout the afternoon. Her Royal Highess was delighted by the presentation of a posy by **Alice Clarke**, the four year old daughter of **WO2 (RQMS) Steve Clarke**. After signing the Squadron Visitors' Book, Her Royal Highness presented LS & GC Medals to three SNCO's who have long been part of the unit's establishment. **SSgts Eddie Grattidge BEM, John Richards, Sgt Chris Hamill REME**, and their wives were congratulated before Her Royal Highness entered the reception marquee.

HRH presents LS & GC Medals to *(L to R)* Sgt Chris Hamill REME, SSgt John Richards and SSgt Eddie Grattidge

Photo courtesy Solider magazine

Cpl Wood explaining a Pathfinder Signaller's equipment worn by LCpl Brown

The reception gave Her Royal Highness an opportunity to meet many of the Squadron's past and present members. Those presented included members of all the unit's configurations since 1941 to the present day.

Next on the agenda was a display of Airborne insertion techniques commencing with a HALO (High Altitude Low Opening) free-fall descent, from a Scout helicopter, by the Squadron's representatives in the Pathfinder Platoon, **Cpl Colin Wood** and **LCpl Steve Brown**. They marked the DZ prior to the timely arrival of two C130 Hercules aircraft which dropped 24 members of the Squadron in four simultaneous sticks of six men—(sim 6's). First out of the door was **Capt John Aspinall**, the unit Admin Officer and the Project Officer for the whole visit; the success of the day culminated from many months of his hard work. The jump, from 800ft was not without incident owing to the high 12 knot winds. **Sig Steve Baigent** and **Paul Springett** became very attached to their containers (all the way to the ground) while **Sig Mick Brown** gave an unexpected display of how to operate a reserve parachute.

More excitement was to come with a helicopter abseil from a Scout to demonstrate typical airborne insertion through a jungle or forestry canopy. One of the party trapped his fingers momentarily (no names no pack drill—**LCpl Fogg**) and held the audience in suspense before being freed by **SSgt Nick Nielsen**. With the abseil party safely on the ground, a follow up Defence Section of eight men disgorged from a Puma and the action-packed display ended with the deployment of a landrover and trailer brought in 'underslung' by a CH47 Chinook.

The various elements of the air insertion display then rapidly erected the static displays as the Colonel in Chief descended into Hankley's bowl from the viewing tent to talk to the troops.

The static demonstrations included Para Tac and Para 2 headquarters, an MSP platform with derigging team, and further demonstrations of parachuting equipment and techniques. While this allowed the unit's members to illustrate their professionalism, it also allowed the Colonel in Chief to demonstrate her considerable knowledge of military and communications topics, and her genuine interest in the Corps.

Finally there was time for the assembled Squadron to pose for a photograph with their Colonel in Chief. An exceptionally enjoyable and memorable afternoon for everyone concerned ended with three cheers for **Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal** and a well earned beer for the Squadron!

HRH, accompanied by the Master of Signals, Comd 2 Bde and the Sqn Comd, meets members of the Squadron

HRH talking to Capt John Aspinall, the leader of the parachute assault team

RETURN OF THE 216 PARACHUTE SIGNAL SQUADRON TITLE AND PENNANT

The Squadron celebrated the afternoon's success with evening functions in the Squadron Bar, the Sergeants' Mess and the Officers' Mess. The Officers' Mess function was attended by many past members of the unit and its antecedents, including veterans of Arnhem. The function was of particular importance to all Airborne Signallers. The Squadron was honoured in the 50th Anniversary year, by the return of the title 216 Para Sig Sqn after a 15 year gap. The 216 designation is of great historic significance to the unit. 1 Para Sig Section (J) founded in late 1941, developed rapidly into 1 and 6 AB Div Sig Regts. In the post war force reductions the remaining Airborne Signal Squadron was titled 216: 2 denoted independent Squadron status, while the 1 and 6 represented the historical link to 1 and 6 AB Div Sig. In 1976 restructuring ended the full parachute role of the unit and a number of redesignations led to the most recent title (since the Falklands War) of 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn.

The Master of Signals marked this momentous occasion by presenting **Maj Ian Foxley**, the present Sqn Comd, with a new Squadron pennant. As one would expect this long awaited moment was greeted with great jubilation, especially by the distinguished veterans of 1 and 6 AB Div, and the original 216 Par Sig Sqn.

With the return of its name and its pennant, and thanks to such an enthusiastic visit by its Colonel in Chief, the Squadron is heartened to continue the high standards and traditions of Airborne Signals forward for the next 50 years.

HRH with the Sqn Comd and The Master of Signals and some of the members of the Squadon

Photo courtesy of Soldier magazine

– From our "In" Tray –

WRECK DIVING IN THE ORKNEYS

by AT Punyer—AA College Harrogate

On 7 June the vehicle was loaded with all the kit that would be needed by the 12 of us for a week's diving.

By 1930 hrs we were ready to set off in the Bedford and head for Thurso.

After a 12 hour journey we arrived at 0730 hrs and decided to have breakfast. With the inner man satisfied, we set off to catch the ferry.

The Scottish P & O ferry set off at 1200 hrs for Stromness. Despite the calm two hour boat journey **Neil Walsh** felt somewhat queasy. We all wondered how he would react on a much smaller boat! On reaching Stromness we manhandled the kit down the quayside until we reached the MV Mara, the boat on which we were going to stay for the week.

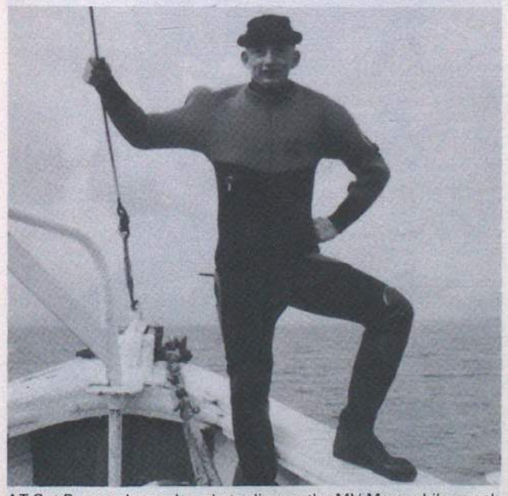
It was a 75ft charter boat with 16 bunks below deck. She also possessed two canoes and windsurfers which we used between dives.

Chug chug chug. That was the reveille signal, the start of the engine. Everyone got up for a quick cup of tea before the first dive of the day. We received the dive brief on the previous evening but we were not told that it would be raining and that the waves would be rolling. Nobody wanted to be seasick so we waited until the weather calmed down and took time out for a good breakfast. By 1400 hrs the weather had improved so we set off for the wreck of the *Inverlane* which had been used as a block ship and was situated in the Burra Sound. The bow still stood proud of the surface with the remainder submerged in about 9m of water.

It was quite eerie as our boat was so small compared with the wreck. Entry was through one of the numerous holes that riddled the deck. The holds were partially open and it was a very exciting experience swimming through in the clear visibility. The dive was very interesting and quite exhilarating. Eventually, we made our way back to the surface and time for the cameras to come out!

The following day we were again up early. Breakfast, and then off to the *Karlsruhe*, an hour's cruising time away. By the time we arrived we were raring to go. The first six divers jumped off the platform and headed for the shotline. The Skipper's dog started barking and running along the deck fearful that the divers were not going to return. The wreck itself was in about 25m of water, lying on its starboard side and partially blasted open by salvage workers in the 1920's. Two guns were still in place and jutted out from the twisted hull which had been scuttled in 1919.

The day usually started with **George**, our skipper, giving us our early morning call by starting up the engine to turn on the lights. After a quick cup of tea we headed for the *Dresden*, another of the light cruisers. This wreck was in about 30m of water. All divers went down the shotline and straight on to the port side of the wreck. Most dive pairs headed for the bow to find the bow gun. After no joy we turned round to look for the stern gun which was in about 20m of water and pointing to the surface.



AT Sgt Punyer dressed ready to dive on the MV Mara while wreck diving in the Orkneys

Once everyone had dived we headed into Lyness to eat breakfast and lunch. Lyness used to be the main Naval HQ when the German fleet came. After breakfast we visited the Scapa Flow museum. It was very interesting, telling how Scapa Flow originated. We watched a video showing pictures of most of the wrecks, some of which we had already dived, and one we were due to dive that afternoon, the 'FZ'.

After lunch we were briefed for the afternoon dive, the FZ escort vessel. This WW2 German naval wreck sank in the Gutter Sound on 30 December 1946, weighs approximately 756 tonnes and lies in about 18m of water. The hull and main part of the wreck was badly broken up, but the bow was fully intact. After the dive we headed for Longhope, a small village where we were going to harbour for the night. After venturing around the village we renamed it 'Nohope'. **AT Walsh** and **Wilkins** tried to windsurf the entire length of Scapa Flow! Once they were about 500m out they decided to come back against the current. Competent at diving they may have been, at windsurfing, not so good. They ended up paddling back to the boat!

The engines signalled the start of another day and the day's dive brief given, we headed for the *Koln*. She had been launched on 5 October 1916 and displaced 5,331 tonnes. Heavily armed with eight 5.9in guns she had a crew of 559 officers. When the order was given by Rear Admiral Ludvig von Reuter, the crew opened all the valves and she sank to the bottom on 21 June 1919 after only three year's service. Most of the divers saw at least one of the guns and then had a look into the portholes. When it was time for **AT Wilkins** and **Sgt Davis** to dive, **Wilkins** jumped in and a loud bang was heard. **Wilkins** immediately opened his emergency cylinder, which inflated his lifejacket. **Sgt Davis** turned **Wilkins'** cylinder off and they snorkelled back to the boat. We found that a high pressure hose had ruptured. Due to his quick reactions and training a serious accident had been avoided. The demand valve was replaced and the dive completed.

The next day brought much excitement as we were going to dive one of the main battleships lying on the bottom of the Flow. The *Kron Prinz Wilhelm*, or in English, *Crown Prince Willy*, had a crew of 1,136 men, weighed 25,390 tonnes and was 575ft long. The wreck had turned turtle due to the tremendous weight of the guns and control tower. It was at a depth of 34m. Huge holes had been blasted in the hull around the engine area by salvage workers trying to get at the ferrous metals.

We descended into the cold but clear water, making our way down the shotline. The wreck was so large that the actual size could not be imagined. We peered through the portholes with our torches and sensed the eerie feeling as though somebody was going to pop up inside. There was not a great deal to see as the ship was upsidedown, but it was a great sensation diving on one the largest battleships of WW1. Eventually our time was up so we made our way to the surface being careful to decompress properly.

We went on to the afternoon dive, the U83 torpedo destroyer. Another good dive, and a few items were brought up. During the dive we saw the resident grey seal, which was quite friendly but a little wary. **Sgt Davis** was somewhat disappointed as he missed seeing it.

The final day of our eventful week's diving. We got up to the usual sound of the engine starting. This morning we were going to dive on the last of the light cruisers which was the *Brummer*.

As the first six divers entered the water the cameras clicked to catch the last of the photos of the week. As the divers jumped in the skipper's dog came out barking once again. Most people saw another of the massive guns, which once fired from the deck of the ship. You could even feel the thickness of the armour plating which was on the deck, almost 10in thick. The dive completed we headed for Lyness and lunch and a quick nap!

Time for the last dive of the expedition, the bottle dive in the Gutter Sound. The Gutter Sound was so named because it was the area in which the Germans and British had dumped their rubbish including lots of what were now old bottles.

Everyone was excited and wondering what they might find. Everyone had their 'Goodybags' handy and hoped they would be full on returning to the surface. After looking through the rubbish a few bottles emerged and a brass thermometer holder which would sparkle when polished. Everyone was glad that they had something to show when they got back. We then headed for Stromness for the final night in the Orkneys before the boat journey back next morning.

(Readers will like to know that these young soldiers were congratulated on their enthusiasm and good behaviour during the expedition.)

ECUADORIAN ESCAPE

by Lt R. F. W. Chapman—RMCS

Our VIASA plane dropped out of the night sky avoiding the surrounding volcanoes to land at Quito International airport. Four jet lagged members of RMCS stepped from the plane they were; **Lt R. F. W. Chapman, Lt J. J. Cole, Lt N. J. Fessey** RCT and **APO L. Tregaskis** RAF.

The aim of the expedition was to initially just climb two of Ecuador's smallest peaks Tungaruha and Illinzia in the end once acclimatised we managed to climb five mountains, the highest of which was 20,565ft.

Quito, the capital of Ecuador, is 9,000ft above sea-level so even walking around, we found ourselves becoming quite dizzy. We settled into Quito, happily finding the temperature akin to a spring day, but the atmosphere quite acrid because of car exhaust fumes. We spent the first few days sight-seeing in Quito and walking up some of the smaller surrounding hills.

Once we thought that we were relatively acclimatised to heat and altitude we attempted our first proper climb on the extinct volcanoes Gauga and Rucu Pichincha that dominate the Eastern skyline of Quito. We set out on the two day trip, mindful of the fact that many previous expeditions had failed to climb them. Even though the highest was just 15,500ft, failure was due to inadequate acclimatisation.

An early start saw us on the mountain at sunrise this is a perfect time to climb before the heat of the day, we stopped mid-afternoon, due to the effects of altitude. The following morning within ¾ hr we reached the peak of Rucu Pichincha, passing the memorial where an Ecuadorian airforce aircraft crashed into the mountain. Progressing along the flanks of an extinct volcano we crossed a col at 15,000ft, giving us our first view of the massive peak of Gauga Pichincha. We finally reached the peak early in the afternoon smelling the sulphur spewing from the crater mouth far below us.

Our next climb was to take us four hours South along the Pan-American highway to Banos, a small spar town dominated by Mt. Tungaruha (Little Hell). It proved to be much harder than it looked as we were there in the rainy season. We hired a van from Banos to the entrance of the Sangay National Park, five hours after leaving the park entrance we arrived at the refuge hut. It was to be the scruffiest and most unhygienic hut that we were to stay in, but at least it kept a large colony of mice warm!

Unfortunately **Louise** was finding that her boots were not as good a fit as they were when we left Britain, so only three of us tried for the summit. The weather was deteriorating dramatically because of the driving wind and rain, once we had crossed the snowline the weather just got worse! It was time to decide whether we could carry on, we decided to dig a snow hole to get out of the wind and see if the weather was going to improve. Half an hour later it became obvious that the weather was worsening, by this time the wind was gusting up to 80mph and we reluctantly decided to turn back. Only to find an hour behind us a guide bringing up a French couple equipped only with cycling capes, they were obviously not enjoying their experience but their guide was willing to carry on regardless. This indicated how un-professional some of the Ecuadorian guides can be, and if you have enough experience it is much better to save your money than risk your life with an irresponsible guide. The following morning, we returned to Banos disappointed that we had been beaten, but we vowed to return and climb it.

Lt Jon Cole *(left)* and Lt Rupert Chapman on the summit of Cotopaxi

We left that day to tackle the next mountain, Cotopaxi (19,500ft), the highest active volcano in the world. One of the most surprising aspects of Ecuador was how efficient and reliable the bus system was, the longest we had to wait was just 15 minutes for a bus. Cotopaxi is a beautiful mountain that can be seen from miles around, it is a classic cone shape with snow on its top slopes. The Cotopaxi National Park entrance is on the edge of the Pan-American highway, once in you pass through lush forest, barren scrub and desert before the mountain refuge is reached. The refuge is situated at the bottom of the snow fields, this gave us an ideal opportunity to practice our snow and ice skills in relative safety, some of which were tested out later on.

Weather conditions were causing a lot of problems, because during the night when summit attempts have to be made the wind became too strong for people to climb properly. Summit attempts have to be made at night to ensure that the summit is reached early in the morning and the climbers are off the mountain before the sun weakens the snow conditions too much.

The conditions in the mountain refuge were not much better than those of the Tungaruha hut and this caused both **Louise** and **Noel** to fall ill with kidney complaints. This left **Jon** and myself to begin the climb at 0300 hrs. We began with three other climbing parties but it soon became apparent that some of the groups had not acclimatised properly and had to turn back.

Progress was sure but steady despite the bitterly cold weather, once the sun rose progress became far easier. By 0900 hrs we were at the bottom of the last steep snow slope everybody was tired but surprisingly **Jon** and I were not feeling the effects of altitude too much. An hour later we had reached the summit and literally felt on top of the world. Unfortunately cloud obscured our view of the crater totally, the only thing we could see was Chimborazo. Ecuador's highest mountain. Elated but tired we took another 2½ hours to reach the refuge, but at long last we had successfully scaled a really high mountain.

The next goal was to the the hardest climb of the trip, it was Chimborazo (20,565ft, 6270m), a huge series of peaks and outcrops on just one mountain, in fact it has six different and definite peaks, but our objective was the Vientimilla summit. Unfortunately it was my turn to be ill so I stayed behind in the nearby town of Riobamba.

Lt Jon Cole climbing Trielmann Glacier, Chimborazo

Jon, Noel and **Louise** hired a truck to take them to the mountain refuge which is at 15,500ft. Once up in the hut it was decided to attempt the summit that night before anybody went down with any 'Hut' related illnesses. The mountain provided by far the most spectacular views of any mountain we had so far visited. It was decided to climb the Direct route, crossing to the far left of the Theilman Glacier and after a short ascent up some unstable scree, joining a prominant snow ramp that led North to the main ridge and finally to the summit.

Progress up the climb was steady but constant until the crest of the final ridge was crossed, there they were exposed to the constantly blowing Northwest tradewinds. They ripped into them with spin drift flying into exposed faces, forcing everybody to withdraw into their own protective Gortex environment with temperatures rapidly falling. Moisture settled on the outer clothing and exposed hair, froze to form a mantle of sheet ice, exactly as it did on the climb of Cotopaxi. By 0900 hrs the Veintimilla summit was reached, unfortunately the only reward of 9 hours hard climbing was another view of the clouds!

By now we had satisfied our ambitions for large peaks; in truth we could not achieve much more once we had climbed Chimborazo. Instead we wanted something of a more technical nature and we found it on Illinzia Sur (17,262ft, 5263m).

The mountain is accessible from all sides and has numerous recognised routes of varying length and difficulty, the weather was once again not particularly good so the standard route was chosen which would take about 3-4 hours. On our way to the refuge we passed a German party who were unable to complete the climb; they spoke of extremely long and steep pitches in the main couloir that led us to wonder on our own chances of success. Again illness had hit us and **Louise** remained in the hut due to an injury sustained in a seemingly insignificant slip during the descent from Chimborazo.

As the cloud slipped across the lower boulder field at first light, we made our way from the refuge to La Ensillada, the saddle that joins Illinzia Sur to Illinzia Notre, and turned left through the terminal moraine to the snout of the glacier. It was difficult at first to determine the start of the route; to do so we had to move South over a snow plateau until we found the two rock pillars that mark the bottom of the main couloir. We opted for a direct ascent rather than taking the easier Southern route and began to climb in good snow conditions, ice tools biting well on the neve as the slope quickly exceeded 65 degrees. We were enjoying ourselves immensely, this was much better than the snow plods we had experienced on the other mountains.

Keeping to the centre of the couloir, we encountered a pitch of white ice that slowed our progress slightly as we paused to place or remove runners. To the left of the couloir blue ice dominated and the slope increased to nearly vertical.

The top of the couloir opened on to a small crevassed valley leading to the right before a final hook left over a yellow rock band to the summit. The rock band can be either negotiated directly, in which case care must be taken as it is more than the simple scramble it appears, or it can be climbed at the sides through a narrow snow gully or a simple snow plod to the right. We followed the gully, climbing for about 100m before negotiating a cornice to reach the final plateau, only 10 metres below the summit. This plateau was quite exposed and covered in wind sculpted ice. Once reaching the summit we descended quickly. As our time in Ecuador was drawing to a close and we wished to spend more time on the slopes of the Theilmann glacier, on Chimborazo. As a venue for ice climbing it has much to commend it, not least its accessibility and the close proximity of one of the best mountain refuges in Ecuador. In particular there is a stunning ice wall on the left of the glacier just below the snow ramp, but be careful the snow at the bottom of the wall is prone to avalanche as I found out! Visit it and you will not be disappointed.

From perhaps every point of view Ecuador was a success for us. The weather was more inclement than we had anticipated, but we had succeeded in climbing four major peaks and had reluctantly withdrawn from a fifth; all this with two out of four of the expedition novices, myself and **Louise**. There are opportunities for all types of mountain activity throughout Ecuador and political permission is quick and easy. Come with an open mind and a flexible itinerary; Ecuador is a challenging and welcoming country. Simply pack your kit, bring some travellers cheques and climb where your fancy (or the weather) takes you.

If anyone would like more information about mounting an expedition to Ecuador do not hesitate to contact me at RMCS Shrivenham.

THE FINAL FRONTIER

by 2Lt Anne Mercer—31 Sig Regt (V)

Whilst packing my thermal underwear, five season sleeping bag and fleece jacket I was seriously wondering why I had chosen to go to Alaska with Operation Raleigh in preference to the rather more exotic and certainly warmer climes of Guyana, Zimbabwe or Botswana, which were on offer.

At our field HQ at Lake Kenai, Moose Pass, we spent the first few days learning the art of tent erection, cooking compo so it didn't become repetitive, even after nine weeks, crevasse rescue techniques and capsize drills for Kayaking. More importantly, we learnt, somewhat rapidly, how to sleep in broad daylight as the Alaskan summer brings a maximum of two hours darkness. We were all wondering why torches had been included in the kit list!

Armed with our newly required, or refreshed skills, we set forth into the Alaskan Wilderness for our first project in torrential rain, proving that Alaska's annual rainfall of 300 inches was not a myth.

Mountain climbing and glacier crossing is supposed to teach you all about team work and leadership. Roped together, I would argue that team work is rather thrust upon you. As for the latter, five days in a north face tent during a whiteout, either sends you mad or develops your leadership qualities very rapidly! Led by a Royal Engineer Captain, an Aussie and a Kiwi, we soon learned the art of appreciating and surviving in the Chugach Mountains.

It was then on to trekking, or should I say Alder-Bashing, en route to some of the remotest streams that the US Forest Service could find for us to classify for their salmon spawning potential project. Appropriately, led by a 'Bush-Wacker' from Australia, our average progress was two miles in eight hours, due to the density of the forest. During the 10 week expedition, Operation Raleigh classified nearly 100 streams, work which takes the Forest Service six years to complete.

2Lt Anne Mercer

Now well in to June, with the first days bringing temperatures of 80 degrees farenheit, we kayaked from Valdez (of Exxon-Valdez infamy), to Whittier, a journey of some 100 miles across Prince William Sound. We had three marine parks to visit en route, where we would undertake marine biology surveys and mapping projects for Alaska state parks.

We soon left the oil tankers behind and quickly became aware of the massive life force beneath us, as we were accompanied by otters, seals, seal lions and killer whales. The salmon started running and we were able to abandon the compo for a while as the fishermen amongst us set to work. The highlight of the trip was kayaking through icebergs over one million years old, to the face of Columbia Glacier, a massive silent blue beast, measuring 160 square miles.

After 4 July celebrations which, in our local town of Seward, included a run up a 3,000ft mountain, we set off for the arctic rainforest of Cordova. Operation Raleigh was to extend a trail and build a cabin in the picturesque Power Creek area.

Working closely with forest service rangers the chain gang commenced, whilst the rainforest lived up to its name. Once the foundations had been laid, the cabin took shape and was completed, together with furniture and an outhouse, in two weeks. Entertainment included a close encounter with a 12ft Grizzly and the sighting of four Golden Eagles.

It was then back to HQ and a visit from Operational Raleigh's director-general, **Col Blashford-Snell**, before returning to a somewhat chilly August in England.

CANADA 1991—EXERCISE MAPLE FINN

by WO1 C. D. Pugh—15 Sig Regt

Twelve military attended the 1991 15 Sig Regt adventure training expedition to Canada. There were eight male and four female as follows: IC Expedition—**WO1 Chris Pugh**, JSMEL—**Capt Sandy Jones**, UEL/Canoe Instr—**Cpl Colin Greer**, Stores—**Sgt Jimmy Millar**, Driver—**WCpl Anthea Jeffries**, Rations—**WCpl Sharon Llewellyn, Cpl Paul Crawley, LCpls Dave Scragg, Nige Wardle, Sig Matt Rose, Woody Wood** and **Pte Mandi McHugh**.

The aim was to introduce young soldiers to living and surviving in a wilderness and to enhance leadership qualities under arduous conditions and it was an unqualified success.

The area was the Wells Gray National Park in the Cariboo Mountains 69km North of Clearwater Town, British Columbia. The leader had lead an expedition last year so knew the area and had made several good contacts. After much correspondence both military and civilian, 12 months hard work culminated in taking off from RAF Aldergrove on 22 July bound for RAF Gutersloh on the first leg of our long two day journey.

The team went from Aldergrove to Gutersloh, Hanover to Calgary, Calgary to Wells Gray by bus to the expedition area, hired canoes, trekked/hired horses/white water rafting/water skiing. R & R was by hired bus.

During correspondence with the park rangers it had been agreed that the first five days of the expedition would be spent blazing trails and making camp sites along the remote lakes. Apart from putting something back into the area this give us the opportunity to form an exceptionally good relationship with the local authorities and, consequently, their support and help during our time in the park made for a more successful expedition.

Fight Meadows
Sig 'Woody' Wood, Sgt Jimmy Millar and Sig Matt Rose

The varying jobs meant us breaking the team up into three working groups. One group to repair trails around the Rainbow Falls area on Azure Lake, one group to build a new camp site in the bush on the edge of Clearwater Lake and the last group to blaze a trail through the bush from File Creek near Murtle Lake to an extinct and remote lava flow (very hard work).

These first few days gave an introduction to living rough and relying on everyone in each group to work as a team—we were beginning to gel!

There were many new experiences for the team such as catching their first rainbow trout, carrying a canoe on their heads for 2km, chopping down a tree to form a bridge over a creek, not to mention trying to keep pace with Randy the park ranger (ex Canadian Parachute Regiment) on a day's hike to the top of Central Mountain and many many more.

The next phase was trekking through 50km of remote bush and meadow climbing the three peaks of Battle Mountain, Table Mountain and Trophy Mountain in four days. The team split into two groups. They started from a drop off point in the valley 17km from the summit of Battle Mountain and the girls team started from the base of Trophy Mountain. The girls encountered some difficulties on Trophy Mountain as this was the most severe terrain we encountered. If the wrong ridge line was taken it became almost impossible to make the summit without descending to the bottom of the corrie and starting again. Because of time lost they did day trips from a base camp and an invaluable recce of the surrounding ridges for future expeditions.

The men reached the summit of Battle Mountain (7,773ft) on the second day. Our first goal achieved we could now see our route unfold before us, the Fight Lake meadows leading into deep bush, the rocky peak of Table Mountain and in the distance some 18km south the snow covered ridges and summit of Trophy Mountain. From our vantage point on Battle Mountain the difficult terrain between Table and Trophy was masked from us but we were soon to find out just how dense the bush was.

At the end of day two we found ourselves exhausted and camping on a severe slope in the bush. Due to a wet early summer the mosquitos were abundant and a continuous annoyance which encouraged us to push on early each day.

By lunch time on day three we were at the summit of Table Mountain and the views were of white snow fields and alpine meadows where thousands of flowers were just blooming, these would only last the week. Way down below a rich green forest covered the numerous valley floors.

The northern approaches to the summit of Trophy were clearly too severe and we decided to traverse around the eastern slopes to approach from the south.

That night we had reached a high lake in a southern corrie and were well placed to attack the summit (8,455ft) on the following day. This we managed by 1230 hrs having left one of the party on a high saddle with our bergens. He had been struggling with a bad ankle since the previous day and had done well to get this far. A quote from his diary: 'Remainder have now set off for the summit of Trophy—damn things beaten me. All this way and not to get to the top—that's one less jug of beer **Chris** has to buy. Tired, aching, every muscle now burning.'

By 1730 hrs that day we had traversed the southern slopes and made the pick up point 30 minutes late—a difficult but, rewarding four days, with some 47km achieved.

QUOTES OF THE FOUR DAYS

'Gaining good ground here.'
'Don't lose height once we've gained it.'
'All good character building stuff.'
'Just traverse this "slight" slope.'

The next phase was to Canadian canoe down 50km of Azure and Clearwater Lakes in four days. This was done at a fairly leisurely pace taking in the beautiful scenery and doing some fishing to subsidise the somewhat boring dehydrated rations. Each night we camped on the edges of the lakes sitting around camp fires telling 'When I' stories and jokes.

By now the weather had deteriorated and the lakes had become choppy. One particular canoe had significantly less water clearance than the rest and may well have become an admin problem for me save for some very vigorous bailing on behalf of the crew involved.

During our time in the wilderness everyone came back with different memories and stories to tell. Whether it be of views of Garnett peak to the north, Raft Mountain to the south, the Wavy Ridge in a sea of snow, ice and cloud or the vast valleys and meadows all around. Whether it be of osprey and golden eagles soaring above or hoary marmots whistling and mountain cariboo wandering by they will have returned that much more enriched. It's what we came for.

After seven hours in the saddle everyone agreed that the one day horse riding, cowboy style was an enjoyable if somewhat painful day. The horses crossed terrain that I wouldn't have expected any human to, one wrong step and there was nothing to stop you but the rock far below.

Capt Sandy Jones shows Sig Matt Rose the way

White water rafting was the icing on the cake, brilliant, breathtaking, frightening were all terms used by the team to describe it. The water was cold, clear and fast flowing as we found out whilst holding on to a safety rope and riding some grade two rapids. The serious rapids were however negotiated whilst hanging on for dear life in the raft. Halfway down the Clearwater river we stopped for a short hike and visit to the very spectacular Spahats falls. Dressed in our wetsuits and waterproofs we managed to get behind the falls where we could really experience the power and spray.

Back on the raft our guide gave us a history lesson during the calmer moments, this coupled with an excellent lunch and liberal amounts of the fastest water I have ever seen made for a day even the video film cannot fully recapture.

The next day was our last in the area before driving to Vancouver for R & R, so six of the party set off for East Barriere Lake and an afternoon of water skiing, for some a wetter experience than for others.

Our R & R in Vancouver was memorable, taking in such activities as bungee jumping, mountain biking, baseball matches, visits to the USA, water parks, lazing on the beach, eating in good restaurants and most importantly spending some very enjoyable time with our hosts **Ian** and **Carol Wightman**.

The Bungie Jumpers
WCpl Anthea Jeffries, LCpls Nige Wardle, Dave Scragg, WCpl Sharon Llewellyn, Cpl Paul Crawley and Sig Matt Rose

Ian is a Canadian Policeman and old friend. After checking for any police record and getting the necessary clearance he took me out on a night shift on the streets of Vancouver. Certainly an eye opener and a very interesting night.

We were very sad to leave Vancouver and our gracious hosts and friends. The trip to Calgary was 13 hours and an overnight stop in the Highlander Hotel and our first comfortable bed was pure luxury. Last minute presents for the folks back home and we were flying home—sorry to be leaving but anxious to see our families again.

What remains after such a trip?

Well the diaries of four young members of the expedition, a three hour video, the 300 photographs and of course the 'When I' stories.

It was an excellent trip, and one which would need a cleverer man than I to do justice with words alone. Everyone did well without exception, with no fuss or bother, it was a pleasurable and arduous experience but that's what it's all about.

THE BRAEMAR GATHERING

A report by Capt L. Wood—21 Sig Regt

Following a most successful athletics season the regiment received an invitation to attend the 1991 Gathering of the Braemar Royal Highland Society to compete in the Inter-Services Medley Relay Race. The Gathering takes place in the picturesque setting of the Princess Royal and Duke of Fife Memorial Park amid a backdrop of heather-clad hills on the first Saturday in September, and is the most renowned of all the Highland Games. Approximately 18,000 people from all parts of the world travel to Braemar each year to witness the proceedings, with perhaps the greatest attraction being the visit of the Royal Party from nearby Balmoral Castle.

Ask anyone what happens at Braemar and the answer will almost certainly be, 'Tossing the caber', and although this spectacle is a popular feature it is only a minor part of a packed programme of events which begins at 0900 hrs and continues for eight hours. All events take place to the incessant skirl of the pipes since one pipe band or another is playing in the arena throughout the day, while solo pipers accompany highland dancers and others play for judges outside the main arena. The athletic events are divided into heavy and light categories. The heavy events attract strong men from around the world all of whom, regardless of origin, must wear Highland dress to comply with the Society's rules. Once suitably clad these giants compete in such fascinating disciplines as 'Throwing 56lb. Weight over Bar, One Hand, Open', or 'Putting Heavy Stone, 28lbs. Open (Braemar Style)'. Statisticians will be interested to note that the record for the latter stands at 40ft 10ins and was set in 1981 by **Geoff Capes**.

The light category encompasses all the running and jumping events and these perhaps resemble more closely the kind of competition we are used to seeing on our TV sets being broadcast from Koblenz, Zurich or Bislett. There are of course certain fundamental differences—and for the runners the most striking of these is the track. Described as 'lush and undulating with several tight bends', it is about 300yds around; and although set in a circular arena it would appear that the only technical aid used to ensure symmetry is the groundsman's eye! Its somewhat random nature is perhaps attributable to that gentleman's predilection for the Highland brew, but whatever the cause a radical review of tactics is required before attempting to race on such a circuit. Besides the running events there are such challenges as 'The Hop, Step and Jump', 'The Running High Leap', and (as if you haven't guessed!) 'The Running Long Leap'. Having run from some distance away contestants in this latter event are required to jump into a rather small pit. There is no take-off board however, (thus every jump is valid) but instead kilted and weatherbeaten officials mark with their shepherd's crooks the point in the grass where take-off occurs and where in the sand the athlete lands.

Into this unique and unfamiliar setting this year came a somewhat bemused team from Wildenrath to contest the Inter-Services Medley Relay Race. A four man team is required for this event; the first and last runners complete half a lap while the second and third legs consist of a full lap. A team from HMS *Neptune* has held the coveted Challenge Shield for four of the last five years, and with strong entries from Neptune, the RAF and United States military unit teams, the competition was certain to be fierce. The 21 Sig Regt squad consisted of team captain and experienced sprinter **Cpl Viv Henry**, talented all-round athlete **Cpl Trev McSween, Sig J. T. M. Smith**—a decathlete who has recently found his forte at middle distance events; **Sig Rob White** who is a young sprinter with a promising future, and **Sig Paul Renwick**, a 400m flat and hurdles specialist.

Running order was determined by **White**'s amazing naivety. Announcing shortly before the event that he had left his spikes behind because he didn't think he'd need them on a grass track! He was immediately assigned to run the lead-off leg, leaving the only runner with the same size feet to take the anchor leg! This unlikely arrangement gave an unexpected but vital role to team manager, **Capt Les Wood**, and **Sig Paul Renwick** who gallantly volunteered for the post of safety pin man on this occasion. Transferring a pair of spikes from the feet of a gasping runner to those of another in less than 70 seconds in front of 18,000 spectators takes a cool nerve, and the crew were glad to be able to practise their technique in the heats! All went well however, and **McSween** jogged nonchalantly into second place, ensuring a place in the final. With an hour between heats and the final, runners had the opportunity to air their views on the unusual circuit, whilst the cosmopolitan crowd began to buzz with anticipation of the arrival of the Royal Party. The royal visitors this year were **HM The Queen, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh**, and **HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother** and once they were settled and the traditional presentations of lucky white heather bouquets had been made, the athletes gathered for the relay final, which is considered to be one of the highlights of the programme. **Sig Rob White** ran a storming first leg to give 21 Sig Regt a lead, and from there on slick baton changing and the experience of **Henry** and **Smith** meant that **McSween** was certain to start the final leg with yards to spare. Never one to pass up a chance to show off, **McSween** cheekily eased off the pace to ensure that a final spurt in front of the Royal Pavilion drew maximum acclaim from the vociferous and appreciative crowd.

Once the congratulations and commiserations had been exchanged the team were whisked away to enable details to be checked for the engraving of the shield, and to allow **Cpl Viv Henry** time to contemplate receiving the trophy from **HM The Queen**!

This account would not be complete without a word of thanks to **2Lt Tim Wood** and **SSgt Taff Thomas** for their hospitality in York and Aberdeen respectively; and finally it is hoped that those members of 51 Sig Sqn (V) who were puzzled by the presence in their TA Centre one Sunday morning of six strangers now have their explanation!

19 INF BDE HQ & SIG SQN SNCO's AT LARGE IN CORNWALL

The Team: **WO1 (RSM) Walker, WO1 (MTWO) Roger Cass, Lt Dan Taylor, SSgt Dave Meakin, Sgts Geordie Raine**—Author, **Adie Swann, Chris Warnes** and **Chris Young**.

A week of adventurous training for a small group of hand picked SNCOs was a scheme thought up by the Sqn Comd, **Maj James**. It certainly turned out to be adventurous but not in the manner that we had expected! The aim was to ascertain how his SNCOs would perform in unfamiliar circumstances. This, he certainly managed to do!

The Friday morning coach journey from Colchester to Tregantle Fort was long and tedious. What we thought was to be an easy evening settling into the tented accommodation turned out to be a briefing and a Bedford journey to a secret location for what was chillingly described as a 'Run the Gauntlet Competition'. This comprised an abseil down a rockface, a canoe across a lake, a scramble up rope ladders leading to a high wire course in the trees, a leap over a 30ft cliff into the lake, a swim of 100m to a tight but long drainage tunnel and another swim to the finish point aboard a raft in the middle of the lake. We began to wonder what the week had in store for us.

As far as the hand picked team of SNCOs was concerned the Sqn Comd kept his briefing secret until, literally, the 11th hour. Perhaps he thought after a few purchases from the beer tent his mission would sound less demanding? When it took place it revealed what was in store for the week.

Saturday was termed 'the gentle stroll day'! After a rude awakening at 0645 hrs, followed by a spot of RSM's PT, the 'hand picked team' set off on a coastal ramble. It seemed that no one had informed the Sqn Comd of the cliff top pathway that stretched the length of our journey as we scrambled across beach and rocks to our halfway point for lunch.

This turned out to be a disused chapel on a rock pinnacle with a commanding view out to sea. However, the history and view were soon forgotten as **Sgt Steve Morris** was sighted below with tables laden with food and **Pte Rod Maughan** was spotted next to what looked enticingly like beverages. After the refuelling stop we plodded on to our destination in Torpoint. The walk ended with light refreshments before we took a bus ride home. It should be mentioned that whilst on the way round we all had to complete a questionnaire devised for selecting MBA students—not at all easy!

On Monday the team was taken to HMS *Raleigh* where it tried its hand at preventing HMS *Havoc* from sinking. (HMS *Havoc* is a mock-up ship, complete with missile and shrapnel holes which let in water.) Supported by the Sqn Comd, 2IC **Capt Patrick Evans, Sgt Steve Morris, LCpl Barry Kerr, Pte Rod Maugham** . . . and **Lt Dan Taylor** (arrived, at last!) we donned white overalls, miners helmets and lanterns. After a short video 'nasty' on how to stop HMS *Havoc* sinking, the team split into sections and climbed aboard. The idea was to plug up the holes in *Havoc* using wooden wedges, metal plates, jacks and hoists. Then pumps and hoses would be utilised to empty the flooded compartments. All this in darkness, while fractured pipes hurled out water at 120lbs per square inch and *Havoc* listed from port to starboard on massive hydraulic rams. As water rushed in and *Havoc* swayed at an alarming angle chocks, hoses and bodies became completely submerged in water that only a moment ago had been barely chest deep. Everyone mucked in (no choice unless you wished to drown) and after two sessions we gained praise from the RN instructors who said that we had drowned and panicked in a thoroughly professional manner! Praise indeed, as many of us thought that it was our final hour.

On Tuesday 12 clients and several staff of the Radford Centre for The Mentally Handicapped were entertained by the team. We split into four Landrover teams and embarked on a treasure hunt that would take us to lunchtime. It must be said that some of us had viewed the day with apprehension having never looked after handicapped people before. However, as soon as the treasure hunt began this was quickly forgotten as the clients (and staff!) enjoyed being driven around the countryside in 'army trucks'. All questions answered (even the telephone number from the builders board that someone had hidden); we all returned to camp for lunch and the afternoon's activities.

Seaton Beach was the destination for the afternoon with activities that included being towed behind the Squadron speedboat on a rubber ring (a form of water skiing), boat fishing, beach football, volleyball and beach golf. The beach golf was ingeniously turned into beach billiards by **Sgt Chris Young**.

The clients thoroughly enjoyed themselves as did we. The day can best be summed up by the letter received from **Mr David Bunes** of the Centre saying it had been a new experience for the staff and clients and that we had communicated and related to the clients in a positive way. Furthermore, a letter from one of the clients, **Tracey**, thanked us for having taken her on a speedboat, swimming about in a wet suit, fishing and getting dressed in a special Army Tent (9×9!). Without doubt a very rewarding day for us and one to be remembered.

On Sunday the product of previous late evening's research would now to be harvested. The object this day was to choose a location of interest in or around Plymouth and then give a 20 minute lecture on it. The day began with **SSgt Dave Meakin** taking us on a coastal walk at Jennicliffe overlooking Plymouth Sound. A closer look at Plymouth Sound followed when **WO1 (RSM) Walker** and **WO1 (MTWO) Cass** took us on a boat trip across Plymouth Sound. This was much to the delight of **Sgt Adie Swann** whose sea legs had been rubberised by a visit to Torpoint the previous evening. Then came my religious interlude, 20 minutes on the history of St Andrew's—the 'Mother Church' of Plymouth.

Before lunch the team moved to a set of crags where a Tyrolean Traverse 150ft above the ground had been set up. On reaching this spot **Sgt Adie Swann** was heard to shout 'I'm not doing that—I'm not doing that—Arghh—I've done it'! After the scramble back down the hill lunch was served on trestle tables in the middle of a clearing. There were many curious looks from passers by.

The team set off again for yet more cultural visits. This began with a visit to Buckfast Abbey conducted by **Sgt Adie Swann**. However, the video presentation must have been seen previously by the Sqn Comd as his snoring resonated around the Abbey. We then proceeded to Plymouth Hoe's famous lighthouse under the direction of **Lt Dan Taylor** but, not before driving skills were practised at the Hoe's fairground on the dodgems (couldn't resist it). Last, but not least, was a history of Plymouth Inn given by **Sgt Chris Warnes**. This was, of course, in the distillery which just happens to have a pub attached to it; obviously the merchandise had to be sampled!

The day ended with a visit to a pub near to Tregantle to sample some clog dancing. At this point **Sgt Adie Swann** and myself decided to go for a cultural evening in Torpoint as clog dancing seemed a bit too hectic. This must have been a good idea as the Sqn Comd and the RSM were seen dancing into the wee hours.

Thursday was paintball day, where the majority of the 'campers' took part in paint war games. **Sgt Swann** and myself thought it would be a good idea to clean the speedboat and practise golf skills (try reading between the lines—Sqn Editor)!

Finally, tear-down and pack-up day. On the way back **Sgt Swann** commanded the Landrover packet and myself the HGV packet back to Colchester (perhaps due to Thursdays late start). Mention must be made of **LCpl John Morley's** driving skills at HMS *Raleigh's* Main Gate. After blocking the road just inside the main entrance with a DAF and 16/24 towed generator five minutes before *Raleigh* was due to receive a VIP visitor, he learned that the Navy also had RSM types!

All in all an enjoyable week and one which proved to be quite an experience for all who took part.

KOHIMA REUNION 1991

Lt Col S. G. Hughes

Over the weekend 27-28 July the 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt marked the 47th Anniversary of the Battle of Kohima. Past members of the 2 Inf Div, including many who fought at the Battle of Kohima, returned for this traditional Reunion in York. On Saturday 27 July nearly 400 veterans attended the York Garrison Open Day. Then on Sunday they took part in the Service of Commemoration at the Kohima Memorial in the grounds of York Minster. The service was followed by a March Past (around the Minster), led by **Gen Sir Martin Farndale KCB**. The salute was taken by Comd 2 Inf Div, **Maj Gen Rose CBE QGM**.

A glance at the 'Rogues Gallery' in RHQ shows that **Lt Col Hughes** is the forty-second CO of the Regiment, the first recorded CO having taken up his appointment in 1907. The roots of the Regiment can be traced back some 180 years when the 2nd Division was created during the Peninsular War. The Signal Regiment has a distinguished record. Alongside, and in support of the 2nd division, the Regiment fought in France at the outbreak of World War 2. It was evacuated from Dunkirk and then, in 1942, the Division was sent off for India to counter the Japanese threat.

In 1944 the Division was rushed to Kohima where it fought its most famous battle from 4-16 May, a battle which marked a turning point in the war in the Far East. The Division then continued to fight with distinction throughout the remainder of the Burma Campaign.

The Regimental painting, is set on the Kohima—Imphal Road on the 28 June 1944. **Lt Col Charles Nettleship**, CO 2 Div Sig Regt (1943-46), was tasked with clearing the road and repairing landlines along the route. At the same time **Lt Col Lee**, CO 4 Corps Signals, was tasked with moving out from Imphal to establish line communications with the 2nd Division. The CO's met about halfway . . . as did the line parties, the line was reconnected and communications re-established.

More recently, over the past year, the Regiment has been involved in trials with Multinational NORTHAG Airmobile Division (MNAD). Airmobile Command Posts were provided for the Division comprising British, German, Belgian and Dutch troops. The Regiment has also been involved for the first time in the trialling of Ptarmigan communications over satellite links. The year culminated in the validation of the MNAD concept on Ex Certain Shield in Germany in September.

The Kohima weekend also provided an excellent opportunity for the climax of two major fund raising efforts undertaken by the Regiment. 'Race the Sun' is a demanding 120 mile relay race around North Yorkshire, testing competing teams in a number of different disciplines. Its primary aim is however, to raise money for charity and cheques totalling £6,000 were presented to local children's charities.

Some Veterans

This photograph was taken after the 2nd Div R Signals Reunion lunch on Saturday 27 July. Seated to the left of Lt Col Hughes are two former COs: Maj Gen Horsfield OBE (1956-59) and Brig Fairweather CB CBE (1941-43)

ARMY SIX-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

2 Div HQ and Sig Regt won the Army Football Association Six-a-Side Championships at Aldershot on 2 October. In doing so they made a clean sweep of the major prizes—winning all seven of their group matches before their semi-final and final ties.

In scoring 27 goals in their Group A matches, they won the Thorpe Trophy awarded for the team scoring the highest number of goals in the group matches.

They beat 2 Div Tpt Regt RCT in the semi-final by two goals to Nil thereby avenging their loss in the final tie of the North East District Championships where the RCT side won, surprisingly by three goals to one.

In the final, they took an early lead against those doughty cup-fighters SEME Bordon. They were rocked back, however, when the Bordon side took a two goals to one interval lead. Three second half goals gave the York side a cushion, before, in the dying minutes, their goalkeeper was called upon to save a penalty kick to snuff out the last SEME resistance.

SAILING

Interested in sailing? See Yacht Club notes on page 445.

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— Movements —

OFFICERS
OCTOBER 1991

Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col F. Laverick	School of Signals
Lt Col P. A. R. Rouse	13 Sig Regt
Lt Col F. E. Worrall	HQ BAOR/BRSC
Maj A. M. Boyle	8 Sig Regt
Maj J. B. Connolly	DEF ADP Trg Centre
Maj R. B. Davis	Royal Brunei Armed Forces
Maj E. C. Jones	HQ DCN
Maj D. McConnell	RACISG
Maj J. P. Moreland	MOD CGS
Maj D. F. Palmer	MOD ACDS (OR) Land Systems
Maj A. J. Whydell	2 Sig Bde
Maj P. G. F. Wilkin	22 Sig Regt
Capt A. S. Addison	11 Sig Regt
Capt P. C. Bawden	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Capt J. A. Compston	School of Signals
Capt P. J. Doherty	30 Sig Regt
Capt G. R. Grant	Queen's Gurkha Signals
Capt C. T. Honor	MOD D1 24 (A)
Capt D. E. A. McAllister	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt P. V. Pople	2 Inf Div HQ Fwd Elm
Capt G. M. Smith	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt J. C. Williams	School of Signals
Lt S. J. P. Spiers	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt S. J. Allan	School of Signals Course
2Lt A. D. M. Angus	School of Signals Course
2Lt K. J. Arnold	School of Signals Course
2Lt N. A. Beecher	School of Signals Course
2Lt N. C. Bruce	School of Signals Course
2Lt A. J. Chessum	School of Signals Course
2Lt S. L. Copley	School of Signals Course
2Lt M. C. Cornell	School of Signals Course
2Lt R. Deans	School of Signals Course
2Lt S. A. Rees	School of Signals Course
2Lt N. J. Tomkins	School of Signals Course

NOVEMBER 1991

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt Col W. K. Butler	Bowman Military Team
Lt Col H. Grenville-Jones	ACDS (CONCEPTS)
Lt Col R. J. Holmes	DGGWLS
Lt Col N. K. P. Hope	Depot 11 Sig Regt
Lt Col A. M. Wallace	RSRE
Maj K. G. Danby	HQ NORTHAG STAFF (BAE)
Capt G. W. S. Elliott	Depot 11 Sig Regt
Capt L. R. Harvey	HQ Trg Gp R Signals
Capt A. M. Johnson	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt R. W. McLaren	238 Sig Sqn
Capt M. A. Walker	School of Signals
Capt W. N. White	14 Sig Regt
Lt A. D. Cathro	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt D. C. Gaul	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt D. J. Hampton-Chubb	1 QLR
Lt K. Mannings	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt J. H. Merritt	7 Sig Regt
Lt C. Morcom	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt J. Palmer	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt A. R. Urwin	8 Sig Regt
Lt R. F. P. Whelan	14 Sig Regt
Lt C. J. Whitehead	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt D. T Wilson	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt M. D. Wood	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
2Lt A. S. McCole	16 Sig Regt
2Lt R. K. Orr	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
2Lt M. J. Smith	30 Sig Regt

OCTOBER 1991

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 W. Drain	30 Sig Regt
WO2 K. J. Harris	JCUFI
WO2 R. J. W. McMahon	7 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) J. Naylor	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO2 R. Pickup	14 Sig Regt
WO2 S. E. Piddock	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO2 M. A. Smithurst	13 Sig Regt
WO2 D. M. Stachini	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO2(YofS) J. E. Storey	633 Sig Tp
WO2 D. S. Toon	14 Sig Regt
AWO2 (FofS) J. L. Andrews	34 Sig Regt (V)
AWO2 (FofS) R. M. Minton	SHAPE
AWO2 (FofS) I. C. Rowe	Belize Defence Force
AWO2 D. W. Smy	9 Sig Regt
SSgt P. A. Alexander	COD Donnington
SSgt P. R. Atkinson	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt F. Beardwell	225 Sig Sqn
SSgt S. Carr	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt P. J. Charles	14 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) P. J. Day	15 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) J. J. Newsome	608 Sig Tp
SSgt A. M. Reid	3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
SSgt A. M. Snaith	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt C. C. Soutar	2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt
SSgt D. J. Williams	16 Sig Regt
ASSgt R. F. H. Brent	7 Sig Regt
ASSgt K. Donk	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
ASSgt M. R. Gillard	15 Sig Regt
ASSgt N. C. James	15 Sig Regt
Sgt P. M. Arnold	ASMT
Sgt A. C. Bentley	633 Sig Tp
Sgt M. J. Best	71 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt M. A. Blakely	30 Sig Regt
Sgt G. J. Carpanini	13 Sig Regt
Sgt J. N. Chapman	11 Ord Bn
Sgt S. Clark	1 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt K. J. Collins	8 Sig Regt
Sgt S. Couszins	3 Para
Sgt L. S. Crossing	HQ AFCENT
Sgt J. Davidson	7 Sig Regt
Sgt D. A. Devine	13 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Dickson	13 Sig Regt
Sgt D. M. A. Doody	28 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Fradley	2 Fd Regt
Sgt B. M. D. Glossop	16 Sig Regt
Sgt E. Hall	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. C. Hoban	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. R. Hobday	229 Sig Sqn
Sgt N. Holcolme	4 Regt AAC
Sgt G. P. Hughes	38 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt D. A. H. Hunt	8 Sig Regt
Sgt P. B. Jobling	HQ BAOR
Sgt M. Jolly	8 Sig Regt
Sgt C. Kavanagh	1 Regt AAC
Sgt A. S. Laver	WRAC Centre
Sgt J. W. Letford	11 Sig Regt Depot Tp
Sgt S. Littlewood	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt D. H. Marshall	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt A. M. Meek	7 Sig Regt
Sgt S. D. Metcalfe	JCUFI
Sgt S. R. Morgan	5 AB Bde HQ & Sig Sqn (216 Para)
Sgt S. L. Payne	39 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt T. Phillips	9 Sig Regt
Sgt M. R. Potterton	SHAPE Ace Comsec
Sgt A. J. Roberts	Comms & Sy Gp
Sgt M. I. Scott	15 Sig Regt
Sgt S. Shaw	2 RGJ
Sgt S. L. Smith	HQ AFNORTH
Sgt G. Westall	3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt A. A. Williams	7 Sig Regt
Sgt D. J. Williams	241 Sig Sqn
Sgt T. J. Wright	14 Sig Regt
ASgt M. Forbes	39 Hy Regt
ASgt C. A. Gray	21 Sig Regt
ASgt C. J. Loughlin	221 EOD Coy
ASgt G. Pickford	7 Sig Regt
ASgt P. R. Watts	AA Coll Harrogate

NOVEMBER 1991

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (FofS) J. M. P. Leggate	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
WO1 I. Thornecycroft	33 Sig Regt (V)
WO1 (FofS) R. Wilson	11 Sig Regt
AWO1 (FofS) W. Dott	9 Sig Regt
AWO1 (FofS) D. I. Smith	School of Signals
WO2 W. J. Ironside	602 Sig Tp
WO2 (FofS) S. W. Jennings	22 Sig Regt
WO2 B. Martin Pitt	28 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) W. P. Ruthven	HQ DSF
WO2 T. R. Whateley	33 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 (YofS) C. J. Whitehead	11 Sig Regt
WO2 P. A. Woodward	259 Sig Sqn
WO2 J. C. Wooley	14 Sig Regt
AWO2 (FofS) G. Blondel	JCUFI
AWO2 J. M. Jamieson	3 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
AWO2 T. Malley	9 Sig Regt
AWO2 D. A. Rutter	225 Sig Sqn
SSgt R. Farmer	11 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) N. Fordyce	16 Sig Regt
SSgt M. J. Kelly	21 Sig Regt
SSgt M. F. Laybourn	15 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) R. Q. Lifton	21 Sig Regt
SSgt W. E. Smith	238 Sig Sqn
SSgt N. S. Varley	Cape Greco
SSgt (YofS) J. W. Walesby	8 Sig Regt
SSgt W. D. Weathritt	21 Sig Regt
ASSgt T. P. Crane	249 Sig Sqn
ASSgt P. Street	1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt S. W. Boyd	QG Sig Regt
Sgt J. Bragg	ACIO Hull
Sgt D. J. Bright	QG Sig Regt
Sgt D. L. Bunt	249 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. J. Cook	30 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Dunne	ACIO Birmingham
Sgt S. A. J. Elliot	1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt K. Fudge	8 Sig Regt
Sgt D. K. Gosnell	7 Sig Regt
Sgt G. Gouldson	HQ Int Corps Depot & Centre
Sgt P. Griffiths	ACIO Plymouth
Sgt R. H. Hayhurst	8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Sgt P. Kerr	30 Sig Regt
Sgt P. T. Laycock	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt A. B. Marchant	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. Marshall	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt M. McGinn	47 Fd Regt
Sgt R. Nelson	11 Sig Regt
Sgt S. D. Owen	662 Sig Tp
Sgt E. Patterson	21 Sig Regt
Sgt N. J. Preston	2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Richards	2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt
Sgt M. D. Roe	13 Sig Regt
Sgt M. C. Sibley	13 Sig Regt
Sgt S. A. Strawn	321 EOD Coy
Sgt S. Webb	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
ASgt S. M. Lockwood	11 Sig Regt

NOTICES

DEATHS

Atkin—Maj G. E. Atkin—died 8 April 1991.
Bury—Lt Col F. H. Bury—died 15 February 1991.
Chambers—Lt Col T. G. Chambers MC—died 6 January 1991.
Ellis—Maj F. F. Ellis MBE TD—served 1936-1970—died 8 November 1991.
Golding—Sgt W. N. Golding—served 1927-30-39-43—died 1991.
Gould—Lt Col G. Gould—served 1920-1949—died 7 November 1991.
Gray—Maj (Hon Col) R. B. Gray—died 18 May 1991.
Harries—Brig W. D. J. Harries CBE—served 1927-1967—died 14 October 1991.
Hawkins—Maj W. C. Hawkins MBE—died 1 April 1991.
Heap—Mrs E. J. F. Heap wife of **Lt Col (Rev) E. J. F. Heap OBE**—died 8 October 1991.
Lowes—Capt R. A. Lowes—died 11 May 1991.
Marks—Capt S. T. G. Marks—served 1931—died 4 September 1991.
Mires—Lt H. W. Mires—died 2 July 1991.
Rowbory—Maj W. A. Rowbory—died 3 March 1991.
Shaw—Maj D. Shaw—died 2 February 1991.
White—Lt Col J. F. V. White MBE—died 26 October 1991.
Wright—Maj W. G. B. Wright MBE—died 27 December 1990.
Wright—Sig W. Wright—served 1961-1965—died 6 November 1991.

OBITUARIES

Carroll—Lt Col J. E. Carroll MBE. Eddie, who died suddenly on 22 August, joined the Corps in 1942 aged 18 years and went to Bangalore and Mhow. Commissioned in 1943 he served in Burma and Pai Force. After the war he served in Accra, BAOR and Cyprus and in the UK. He commanded 40 Sig Reg (V) for three years before returning to England and the Ministry of Defence. He retired from the army in 1971 when he continued to work in Life Assurance before finally retiring to Yorkshire where he enjoyed 13 happy years with his family. We send our condolences to his widow, **Wynn,** son **Michael** and daughter **Barbara**.

Darlington—Cpl P. Darlington. It is with regret that we have to report the tragic and sudden death of **Cpl Phil Darlington** on 10 August. He joined the Corps in October 1985, and after training as a Radio Technician, he served in 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt and 200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn, prior to joining 8 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn in Londonderry in October 1989. **Cpl Darlington** was about to join 633 Sig Tp in Belize when he was killed in a road traffic accident whilst on leave.

Phil Darlington was a very popular member of 8 Inf Bde and Sig Sqn, he was one of the most experienced soldiers, and his abilities were respected by everyone. He was a keen basketball and hockey player, who took on the organisation of the unit teams, and always displayed an enthusiastic approach to everything he did. We all offer our deepest sympathy to his family.

Dryden—Sig Will Dryden. It is with deep regret that we announce the death of **Sig Will Dryden**, who died on 7 August 1991. **Sig Dryden** was buried at the Thorpe Road Cemetery Peterlee after a funeral service at St Cuthbert's Church Peterlee on 14 August 1991. Our deepest sympathies go out to his parents **Philip** and **Margaret**, his brother **David**, his sister **Anne** and to **Sarah** and their daughter **Rebecca**. He is sorely missed by his many friends and colleagues.

Farnell—Sig Frederick J. Farnell died on 9 May, aged 68 years. A former member of 6 Armd Div Sigs he served with the First Army in Tunisia and took part in the battle of Kasserine Pass. He was with the Long Range Desert Group and also at Monte Cassino. After he left the army in 1946 he maintained links with the Corps as a member of Newcastle Branch and will be missed by his friends there. **Mr Farnell** leaves a brother who lives in Northamptonshire.

Grove—WO2 Gary Grove—Born in Leicester, **WO2 Gary Grove** joined the Corps in 1974 as an apprentice at the Army Apprentice College Harrogate. After qualifying as a Data Telegraphist he joined 28 Sig Regt. His next tour of duty was with 3 Cdo Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. He then served with 201 Sig Sqn (22 Armd Bde). After qualifying as a Yeoman of Signals he joined 55 Sig Sqn (V) in July 1986 as SSgt (YofS). In 1989 he joined Regional Signal Group SHAPE as a Warrant Officer and commanded a team of controllers from four nations. Officers of a number of different nations who came to know him, trusted his judgement and accepted his recommendations: not least appreciated his impish sense of humour. He was awarded the LS & GC Medal on 10 September 1991.

Gary Grove was dedicated to his Corps and his fellows whom he led, cajoled, encouraged and protected. Sportsman, runner, friend, his influence spread beyond the confines of his unit to the international community, his church work and to his social life. Most particularly he was dedicated to his son **Simon**.

He left his family and friends tragically as a result of a road accident on 14 September. We send our condolences to his family.

Higgins—WO2 R. C. Higgins died in Dundee on 30 June 1991 after a short illness. He served from 1950 to 1972 and some of his units were GHQ Farelf, Singapore, 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt, 10 Sig Regt, Hounslow and lastly with 33 Sig Regt (V). He is survived by his wife **Jane** and sons **Bobby** and **Peter**.

Raffell—Mr Alec Raffell. It is with very sincere regret that Coventry Branch inform you that our member and Standard Bearer, **Mr Alec Raffell** died recently, aged 61 years.

He was posted to Royal Signals on being called for National Service and trained as Lineman Mechanic, spending most of his time in BAOR.

On becoming a member of the re-formed Coventry branch, he was active in Branch activities, undertaking the duties of Social Secretary as well as Standard Bearer. He particularly enjoyed carrying the Branch Standard and was justly proud to perform this duty with credit on many occasions. He will be sadly missed by us all here in Coventry.

CORPS DATES

1992	
28/30 January	RSI Blandford Lecture (to be confirmed)
12 February	RSI Blandford Lecture
14 April	RSI Catterick Lecture
12 May	Corps Dinner in London*
17 May	Association Reunion in Blandford (details from RHQ)
20 June	Corps Luncheon in Blandford*
27/28 June	Association Reunion in Catterick (details from RHQ)
28 June	Corps Luncheon in Catterick*
9 October	Corps Dinner in Glasgow*
26 November	RSI London Lecture*
15 December	Corps Carol Service in London

*(*Details of these events will be published in the Winter Journal)*

RUGBY REUNION—7 SIG REGT

It is intended to hold a reunion weekend over the dates 14, 15 and 16 February next year for those who were involved in Rugby in 7 Sig Regt over the years gone by. The Reunion will take place in the Regiment in Herford. I would ask anyone interested to give wide publicity to this event, especially to ex-members of the Regiment who have left the Corps. For further details contact **Capt A. Hickling**, 7 Sig Regt, BFPO 15.

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS—30TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION 1992
(see page 450)

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Capts Julian Bunce** and **Alison Mann** on entering the rapids of life in their canoe. Very best wishes for the future.

SITUATION VACANT

NON-REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (TA)

A vacancy for a Permanent Staff Administrative Officer (PSAO) will occur in 67 (Queen's Own Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V), 37 (Wessex and Welsh) Sig Regt (V) based at Stratford in July 1992.

Terms and Conditions of Service are given in TA Regulations 1978, Chapter 6, Part 3. The upper age limit for appointment is 56 and a retiring age of 60.

The post carries the rank of Captain (TA) with an annual salary of £17,771 rising by six annual increments to £20,648.

Applicants should have served in the Regular Army and have experience of G1 and G4 duties. A sound knowledge of Service Fund Accounting is desirable.

Short listed applicants will be required to appear before a Selection Board, date to be notified later.

Applications including a curriculum vitae and details of two referees should be sent to: Adjutant, 37 (Wessex and Welsh) Sig Regt (V), Horfield Common, Bristol, Avon BS7 0XL.

The closing date for applications is 28 February 1992.

REPORT FROM ULSTER

XV

15 Sig Regt
BFPO 801

RHQ
CO — **Lt Col G. M. S. Shipley**
2IC — **Maj J. P. Hudson**
Adjt **Capt F. P. Roberts**, RSM **WO1 (RSM) B. C. Howe.**

The highlight of our activities was an excellent adventurous training exercise to Canada organised by **WO1 Pugh,** reported elsewhere. As can be seen from the assorted Squadron and Troop reports, the faithful few who braved the summer in the Province made the most of it in a number of 'interesting' ways!

SUPPORT SQUADRON
Sqn Comd — **Maj M. S. W. Olive MBE**
2IC — **Capt A. D. Turner**
SSM **SSgt (SSM) A. J. Bottomley.**

The Squadron works hard and plays just as hard—which explains why Commcen Tp were seen to be deploying to the sports field one very wet Saturday morning to take part in what was billed as a fun day. Due to the weather the day got off to a slow start but brightened up somewhat when **Sgt Dave Marshall** took great delight in showing **Pte Kerrie Semple** what the six large tins of beans and sacks of flour were there for (the Marshall face pack). Luckily the weather brightened up and the fun and games began culminating in all and sundry ending up in a large black swimming pool. We then had a very tasty barbecue washed down with the light refreshments and continued to have what was after all a Fun Day.

In the MT it is business as usual **Sgt Mick Walker** and **Cpl Bob Heppleston** playing rugby, **SSgt Tam Anderson** and **Cpl Mac McMillan** trying to play golf and **Sig Mick King** playing Bumper Cars. A few members of the troop fitted in a week's adventure training on the mainland where a great time was had by all, especially **Sig Dave Watson** who led the field in one of the most dangerous pursuits of the exercise, playing with the Rhino. Thanks go to 233 Sig Sqn Comd and his team for such a well organised and fun filled week. Congratulations to **Sig Tom Poole** and **Ken Broadwell** on their recent well deserved promotion.

In the QM's department congratulations go to **Sgt Mark Newns** and **Alison** on the birth of their daughter **Cherish** and **Cpl Chris Collin** and **Ziggy** on the birth of their son **Alec**; hope not too many sleepless nights are ahead. Also congratulations go to **Cpl Spike Haynes** on being selected for promotion to Sgt.

225 SIGNAL SQUADRON
GOLF TROOP

Recent departures include **WO2 (FofS) Dave Long,** who has gone for a rest in Blandford, **Sgts Billy McReath** and **Rob Young** also to Blandford on their Foremans course and last, but not least, **Sgt Ian Elborn,** who has left for Middle Wallop to try his hand at flying helicopters. We wish them every success in the future. Just arrived in the Troop are **WO2 (FofS) Steve Elsworthy** and **Sgts Craig Collins** and **Gary Hewings.**

There is a certain jealousy of the new FofS, as he seems to have a knack of getting in and out of locations on the same day, whereas what looks like a five minute job for the techs turns out to be a three day stay.

On the sporting scene, there have been a couple of momentous occasions. Firstly the inaugural Golf Troop Perpetual Golf Competition was won by **Sgt Mick Swift** and **Cpl Billy** (I am a T1 really!) **Redman.** The FofS, himself a keen golfer and self appointed President of the Society, has declared that handicaps will be cut drastically in order that he gets a look in at the prize giving. The Troop also had notable success in the recent Corps (NI) meet with **Sgt Kev Simmons** together with **Sgt Swift** and **Cpl Redman** all giving an excellent account of themselves. Secondly the Troop won, in magnificent style, the Zimmer Frame Category in the recent Inter-Sqn Cross Country Competitions.

Finally, congratulations to **Cpl Gary Wilson** on his recent marriage and to **Cpl** 'Dickie' **Dickinson** on his engagement.

THE BERLIN JOB—
HOW WE PULLED IT OFF

After laughing all the way from the bosses office, **Sgt Eddie Thomson** was greeted by fellow conspirators **Cpl Si Bartlett** and **LCpl Clint Eastwood** . . .

'Well, did he fall for it?' asked **Si** anxiously.

'Hook, Line and Sinker!' came the reply, greeted by howls of laughter.

30km into the 1991 Berlin Marathon all concerned were having second thoughts as to whether this week in Berlin was actually worth the physical, not to mention, mental anguish involved.

The pain was one thing but to be overtaken by members of the Norwegian elderly community was quite another! If it wasn't for dogged determination at the 20km point, it is doubtful that we would have made it much further.

By the time we reached the final 5km the distance was beginning to take its toll and we began to slow down to a sprint. Searching for hidden resources we made it to the final stretch, turning into the Ku'Damm. A final burst of energy was not quite enough and **Steve Brace** of the British team managed to dip at the line just an hour in front of us.

Disappointed as we were not to finish One-Two-Three, we had to give **Steve** his due as we hobbled off to the bar having thoroughly enjoyed the event.

Special thanks to 3 Sqn, 13 Sig Regt for putting us up and putting up with us. Prost!

233 SIGNAL SQUADRON

The Squadron is flourishing with the arrival and departure of some of the 137 personalities currently listed on the ever changing nominal roll. In particular we say welcome to **WO2 (SSM) Mick Parsons** and his wife and a fond farewell to **WO2 (SSM)** 'Truckle' **Williams** and his family—enjoy the rest and we hope you don't move about too much.

To all new arrivals, too numerous to mention, welcome enjoy your tour and to all recent departures we bid a fond farewell. A special mention to **SSgt Ralf Maddison**—send some plaques!

INDIA TROOP

Recent social events included its summer sports day rounded off with an evening barbecue party with a live group. Thanks to **Cpl Currie** and his volunteer committee for all their hard work during that day.

Sports congratulations to **WO2** 'not one for golfing' **Byrne** for coming third in the Corps NI Golf Meet and to **LCpl** 'safe driver' **Colbeck** for being first in the juniors cross-country competition. A warm welcome to **Cpl Thomas** and **Sig Joyce,** both new arrivals. Congratulations to **Sig Matt Rose** and **Robbo Robertson** on their promotions to LCpl.

TECH TROOP
Tp Comd — **Capt Phil Leach**
FofS — **WO2 (FofS) Nigel Griffiths**
Tp SSgt **SSgt Nev Flintham.**

The farewell to **WO2 (SSM)** 'Watersports' **Williams** was historically recorded with the Sqn Comd's PT Wet T-Shirt Contest (only one entrant). The Squadron was paraded in front of its new, elongated, soon to have a new roof accommodation, it was Tech Troops' planned monthly task to organise the event—would it be a run? Battle PT? Aerobics (normally an India Tp speciality—we're a bit worried about the Leotards) ? No, it was to be a wet T-Shirt competition (**SSgt Nev Flintham** decided it had to have something to do with water due to the SSMs prowess at upside down windsurfing, the half Eskimo canoe roll and ability to arrange wet day barbecues). **SSgt Nev Flintham** volunteered the use of his children's swimming pool, but they wouldn't get out. The Tp SSgt put in for a well deserved long weekend so **Sgt Dave Doody** had to pick up the pieces. After the inevitable run had taken place, finishing at the gymnasium, the main man was ceremonially cuffed to one of the many volunteers (cheers **Cpl Roy Ward**) and then led to a specially prepared place of internment. **Sgt Dave Doody** had decided that a good hosing should be the method used to soak the SSM and dashed at an amazing speed to fetch the gym hose—unfortunately it didn't exist! and the nearest hose wasn't long enough—oh dear . . . What to do? The Gym staff, obviously not wishing to dampen anyones spirits, dutifully handed over their rather large emptied waste bins and **WO2 (SSM)** 'I can hold my breath' **Jeff Williams** got his just reward.

Welcomes go out to **SSgt Mick Scott** and his wife **Marie.**

Members of the friends of Williams Society

MERCURY CUP ALTERNATIVE SPORTS

On a typically 'wet' day in mid summer, squadron teams from around the Province assembled at 'Slipper City', Lisburn, to compete in the annual Alternative Games Competition.

The first event, the Gymkhana, involved two members of the team parading as a Pantomime horse under the control of our lightest member as Jockey. The horse 'Seraph', **(Cpl Taff Griffiths** and **Sgt Bob Low,)** entered the arena at a canter as **Sig Paddy Clarke** guided us to the first fence, which was soon demolished. After this small set back speed was of the essence and 'Seraph' raced to a respectable second. Following the event 'Taff' **Griffiths** was put to stud, **Bob Low** was put down and **Paddy Clarke** banished himself to the beer tent.

After such a good start the pressure was on our competitors in the Northern Ireland Golf Open, but the team performed admirably, winning the event comfortably with **Cpl Norm Ritchie** showing enough form to win a Ryder Cup place.

The Manx (three legged) Tug of War Competition involved the whole team, with pairs being joined together using zip ties. Whilst the draw for the pulling order was made we planned our tactics, drawing from the wealth of experience within the squad, to devise a plan so tactically devious that we were bound to win—'*Just Pull*'! At the end of our series of exhausting pulls we were unbeaten, adding more valuable points to our increasing lead.

With hardly time to rest, **Capt Mark Billingham, LCpl Billy Bingham, WLCpl Donna Reeve, WLCpl Jane Heselden** and **Sig Jonah Jones** had to prepare themselves for the mysterious 'Camping Trail' event. However, the mystery was soon unveiled in the form of a 12×12 and an obstacle course. The object, to move the tent from one end of the arena to the other whilst tackling the obstacles in their way. Having completed the course they then had to attempt to erect the tent, *properly*, and then dismantle and repack it. It soon became apparent that our team were the offspring of caravan owners . . .

Time past and the rain fell as the unbiased judges collated the times and penalty points to reveal that we had come second, remaining in front overall.

The team morale and confidence was sky high at this stage as we prepared to do battle in the Viking Long Boat race. Our boat, incidentally, had been constructed behind the closed doors of the Car Fit Bay in TM Tp under guidance of our Chief Engineer and designer, **Sgt Martin Bain**. He had planned to run in the race but had luckily injured himself in time for the big day. The competition itself was to consist of two semi-finals with the fastest boats qualifying for the final, however, after round one it was evident that there would not be enough of the boats left to continue that far—so it all boiled down to who was the quickest. We 'sailed' a great race and kept up with all the Viking traditions of raping and pillaging as we scraped a gallant second.

The points from this event meant that we only had to finish the last event in order to win, which was just as well as we slithered and slipped around the quagmire of an arena attached to a large piece of rope, attacking all obstacles in our way.

With the competition won, the arena wrecked and our boat sunk, the team retired to celebrate and recuperate after another normal day in the Province.

3 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 809

SHQ
PERSONALITIES
Sqn Comd — **Maj Andrew Johnstone**
2IC — **Capt Stuart Hodges**
QM **Maj George Clark,** AO **Capt Brian Tock** RAOC, RSM **WO1 Bob Stonier,** YofS **WO1 Kev Tonsend,** FofS **WO2 Kev Truby** and ORSQMS **SSgt Hoppy Hopkins.**

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

Numerous changes and postings have taken place recently.

WO1 (RSM) Bill Heelan moved to Glasgow to take over as RSM 32 Sig Regt (V) and no doubt their hockey team will be strengthened. **WO1 (RSM) Bob Stonier** arrived from 22 Sig Regt.

WO1 (YofS) Kev Townsend is firmly entrenched within the Ops empire and the 2IC, **Capt Hodges,** does assure the author that the YofS possesses some green kit. **SSgt** (now WO2) **Neil Bartlett** handed over the mantle of Chief Clerk to **SSgt Mick Hopkins,** thankfully it was a comprehensive handover and bar profits have remained constant. The Chief Clerk is ably assisted by his team **Cpl Keith Townsin, LCpls Pete Chapman, Tom Hill** and **Pte Sam Dawson** who, when they are not playing sport, man the Orderly Room.

The AO **Capt Brian Tock** RAOC continues to get through two pairs of training shoes per month and assures us there is no truth in the rumour that he is sponsored by a sports firm as their shoe tester.

The Projects **SSgt Clive** (the briefcase) **Soutar** leaves shortly . . . look out 2 Div, and is replaced by **SSgt Angus Reid,** who is looking forward to working after his extended holiday in Cyprus.

On the Tels side **WO2 (FofS) Kev Truby** and **SSgt Andy Fullwood** ensure that we get through our quota of solder.

Sgt Mark Bryson RAPC continues to run the Pay office and is seen wandering the corridors in search of his promised extra pay staff for the soon to be formed APDO.

Lastly, **Maj Johnstone** is still at the helm and has been giving considerable thought to how he will fill in all the extra hours of spare time when he gets to RSRE Malvern.

COMMS TP
Tp Comd — **Lt Tim Carmichael**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt Nige Sloane**

As a scorching Ulster summer gives way to a soggy autumn, the workers of Comms Tp (both of them) can reflect on a period of hard work, during which much has been achieved to better the Brigade's comms.

LINE AND RIGGING SECTION

The section has been as busy as ever sorting out phone and intercom problems, as well as making morale-boosting contributions to recent Ops. Without the likes of **Cpl** 'Bing' **Crosby** and **LCpl Andy Mattson** the boys on the ground would never be able to phone home.

The Riggers have been kept busy with brand spanking new masts to play on. As well as installing antennae and coaxes (wot no zip ties?), there has never been a spare moment for **LCpls Jase Werner,** 'Taff' **Skinner, Maddie Maddison** and **Gascoigne.** Helping in the sunbathing were **Cpls Nobby Noble** and **Mick Curtis. Gascoyne,** complete with 'Most Ridiculous Hat' Award, also joined in on his last rigs before moving to York. Good luck with the spoons, **Bamber.**

Hello, to **Sig Mel Melhuish** from 259 Sig Sqn. Sorry about the weather **Mel**! Congratulations to **LCpl Gascoigne** on his first tape, and commiserations on ending up on crutches. Special congratulations go to **LCpl** 'Taff' **Skinner** and **Jacqueline** for becoming proud parents of two bouncing baby twin girls. Best wishes to you both.

SYSCON AND COMMCEN

People from both departments ventured forth to all four corners of the world (well South Armagh) for most of September. **Sig** 'Taff' **Rees** and **Steed** went to that well known Butlins Camp, Crossmaglen. **Cpls Neil Duncan, Andy Arbuckle** and **LCpl** 'Scouse' **Dixon** went to Fort Apache (Bessbrook) under the watchful eye of **Lt Tim Carmichael** on what will be remembered as Op Secret Squirrel.

Meanwhile, **LCpl Jon Collins** was still trying to break the 'Most Courses Attended In One Unit' record, a title defended by fellow shift Op **Cpl Mick Luckes,** and **LCpl Frank Cullen** decided the weather was getting too cool for him, so went to Corfu.

We extend a warm welcome to **LCpl Mark Reeves** and **Sig Adam Hughes** from 16 Sig Regt and 11 Bde respectively and bade farewell to **LCpl Dani Thwaite**. Finally, congratulations to **Sgt Nick Hawkins** and **Jackie** on their marriage, and good luck to **LCpl** 'Scouse' **Dixon** and **Louise** on their forthcoming wedding.

TRIALS SECTION

Another busy period has passed with **LCpl** 'Mod' **Moylett** and **Jase Smithurst** acting as Infantrymen whilst roaming the wilderness checking the so called communications, though Mod never once got Radio One.

Cpl Mick Curtis has preferred the art of windsurf-borne trials, Ulster is not that wet! **LCpl Jase Smithurst** has been putting his waffling abilities to good use on Cougar Briefs 'somewhere in England'. He impressed the boss so much, he's being sent to Sandhurst to try his hand at recruiting officer cadets.

AND FINALLY

Hello and welcome to **Lt Tim Carmichael, Sgt George Pendrich, LCpls Neil Moss** and **Paul Grocott**. Hope you can cope with all the generators, **Paul**. Farewell to **Capt Simon Gregory** and **Sgt Chris Hobday**, and hello and goodbye to **Sgt Bob Platt**.

QM DEPARTMENT

QM	**Maj George Clark**
RQMS	**WO2 John Jamieson**

The department has been extremely busy, especially **Cpls Mac McCulloch** and **Frank Lewer**. A mention for **Cpl Al Robson** for keeping up everyone's spirits with his renditions. If anyone has any doubts as to how busy we were, just ask **Cpl Mark Willis**, he observed the whole thing from start to finish.

We would like to welcome **Cpl Frank Nicholl** RPC and say farewell to **LCpl Dave Kerr** (GSM, SAM, HGV 2, MHE) on his departure to civvy street. Hello to the new RQMS, **WO2 John Jamieson**, who replaces **WO2 Gus Hales**, leaving on promotion to RSM (Tele Op Discipline) at the School of Signals.

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 807

NEWS FROM SHQ

It's now time for the hard slog again. It all started when the Sqn Comd **Maj D. McDowall**, and the Chief Clerk, **SSgt (ORSQMS) Mick Cole**, came back from leave. This was followed by preparations for the annual Inspections including, the pay inspection which, of course, we sailed through, guided by our pay experts **Sgt Paul Dickson** and **Iris**, not forgetting the AO, **Maj J. L. Godfrey** 15/19 Hussars.

On the Squadron training day, the AO, **Maj J. L. Godfrey**, and the Chief actually left camp. Mind you they needed a trained killer, **SSgt Chic McCue**, to escort them.

Welcome to Jimmy! Our new typist.

CLERICAL NEWS
by LCpl Steve Upsall

It's been a busy period for the cleries of this most operational unit. **Cpl Martin Briody** was the pride of the Squadron when he recently won the Corps NI Cross Country Championships held in Lisburn—the Squadron won overall as well—it just goes to show that an environment like this can produce the best—consistently.

Sig Rob Townsend continues to make coffee, answer the phone and do the filing etc.

Just a footnote to say that SHQ Tp held an extremely successful Dinner night recently—I know; I organised it.

The Clerks *from L—R:* Cpl Marty 'Rab C' Briody, LCpl Steve Upsall, SSgt Mick (ORSQMS) 'The Chief' Cole, Sig Robert 'Bobby Brew' Townsend, Mrs Jamilah 'Jimmy' Samuel and Sgt Paul 'Tricky' Dickson

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We bade farewell to the Yeoman of Signals, **WO2 Paul Forryan** who move to the School of Signals where the stationery pack the Chief gave him will be put to best use! We welcome **WO2 (YofS) Tom Hall** and hope that he has a trouble free tour.

SYSCON
by Cpls Booth and Kelly

HELLOS AND FAREWELLS

Farewell to: **LCpl Dave Wilson** now a 'Mr'. Rumour has it Manning and Records rushed his discharge through quickly on request from Leeds Utd FC as they are short of supporters this season. On **LCpl Rutherford**'s return from his A1 he introduced his new wife **Michelle** and 'Mouse' the dog. He was then promptly transferred to the Comms trials team—nothing personal! We say goodbye to **YofS Forran** who is posted to Blandford, hopefully, our pens and our milk will not now go missing.

HELLO TO NEW ARRIVALS

LCpls Billcliff and **Wilsea** and **Sig Cowley** and **Johnson**, who have volunteered for Battle Camp.

Rumours still persist that **Cpl Bob Booth** actually works in Syscon.

Cpl Stan Kelly is still confident we are going to make our fortunes—we are still waiting. **Stan** says, in his defence, that we would have to wait even longer before **LCpl Paul** 'Tiggie' **Tighe** gets round to making a brew.

COMMCEN
PERSONALITIES

SNCO I/C Commcen	**Sgt Garnett**
NCO I/C Commcen	**Cpl Thompson**

It's time to say farewell to a couple of long serving Commcen members, **LCpl Andy Horkins**, who, having recently received his first tape, and married **Candice**, is leaving us to join 238 Sig Sqn, and alas, cheerio to **Sig** 'Crabbers' **Crabtree** who has decided to return to Leeds as a Class 1 civvy. We welcome **Sig Dyer** who joins us from 28 Sig Regt. Congratulations to **WPte Sue Wilson**, who will have received her first promotion by the time this goes to print . . . Well done.

A special note for **WPte Carol Smith** who has recently announced her engagement to **LCpl Terry Brice** of Line Rigging fame.

TM TROOP

Yet another inspection loomed upon us. This year we carried out an intricate and detailed maintenance/dusting programme formulated by our glorious leader **SSgt Mick Gaylard**.

The Troop would like to welcome **Sgt Forbes** and Mensa Tech 'FOB' **Welsh** endeavours to improve our skills.

MT TROOP
WELCOMES AND GOODBYES

We would like to give a warm welcome to the following people: **Geordie Tidyman** and Brummie **Evans** both RCT.

A farewell to **LCpl** 'Scouse' **Myers** and family who have gone to sunny Cyprus. And, to **LCpl Jamie Hart** who was on a six month tour from Germany now off to 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn Tidworth.

COURSES

Hurray—**Sgt Mick Kemp** is away for a full two weeks at Leaconsfield on a Driver Instructors course.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **LCpl Sharky Williams** and **Melanie** on their marriage. Congratulations to **Baz Burton** and wife on the birth of their son.

RIGGING SECTION

Cpl Dave McCulloch is still getting too much time off for his golf but has improved his handicap by using the clubs with the lumpy bit at the bottom. Three members of the section, **Cpl Neil Roome, LCpls Jake Jacobs** and **Bolton** took part in a 25 mile canoe race for charity with **Bolton** ably or disably as the case may be assisted by **Cpl Nige Eccles**. **Cpl Roome** and **LCpl Jacobs** came 3rd in 4 hrs 41 mins and **LCpl Bolton** and **Cpl Eccles** 9th with a time of 5 hrs 46 mins. All in all over £250 was raised for charity.

Goodbye to **LCpl Jake Jacobs** who returns to 3 Div after his detachment here. **Cpl Dave McCulloch** is off to 'Jubbly' 4 Div, **Sig** 'Delbert' **Wilkens** is off to 259 Sig Sqn.

QM DEPARTMENT

While Ryder Cup players have nothing to fear, **Cpl Pete Baker**'s aquatic antics in large ditches and **Sgt Richie Blackmore**'s judicious use of leather may be of note to selectors.

CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to congratulate **LCpl Pete Salt** on his marriage to **Sharony** and we wish them all the best for the future. We would like to welcome **LCpl Boczko** and **Sig Dale** to the department.

Finally, there is a rumour going round that **Pte** 'Rocky' **Rokotuni** has finished playing Rugby, AIPT course and leave to return and do some work!

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Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

OPERATOR WING DONKEY DERBY

The permanent staff of the Wing ran a very successful Donkey Derby at Hildebrand Barracks on a none too bright day during 'flaming June'. Apprentices of light and not so light build volunteered to be the riders. All went well during the first race until half way round the donkeys realised that they were not running in the Clock direction they normally did, each donkey then ignored the rider and set off in the general direction of Blackpool beach!

The OC had a very busy time as he was Judge, Starter and Official Pooper Scooper.

The Commandant entered the spirit of the day, and being an accomplished horseman volunteered to ride in the last race, which he felt sure he could win. The Wing staff also thought he could win, so unbeknown to the Commandant it was fixed so that he would have to ride the dreaded 'Ginger George'—the scourge of Blackpool beach. Needless to say, 'Ginger George' and the Commandant parted company after a few yards and 'Ginger George' was rewarded with a big bag of carrots.

Thanks to the wives' club who ran a café—a welcome bit of shelter and a place to consider the form of the fillies . . .

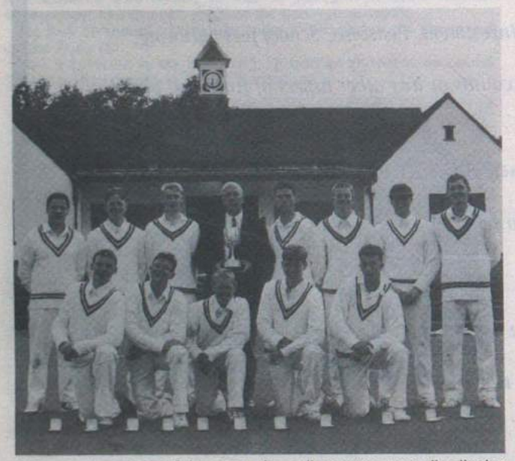
Everyone who attended had a good time and the very useful sum of £3,000 was raised for the College and local charities.

ARMY JUNIOR CRICKET CHAMPIONS 1991

The College Cricket team achieved notable successes winning the triangular games at Chepstow by the narrowest of margins and going on to meet Army Apprentices' College Aborfield in the final of the Junior Army Cricket Cup on Wednesday 17 July.

The long journey from Harrogate was not in vain, on a most glorious day on the magnificent Royal Officers Club ground, the team produced a very fine team display scoring 154 for 3 in response to Aborfield's 150 all out in 35 overs.

Some excellent bowling from **Chapman** and **Thubron** and a controlled batting performance from **Todd** and **Crowder** saw Harrogate worthy winners.



After a very successful season the college team proudly display the Army Junior Cricket Cup.
Back Row: AT Byne, AT LCpl Chapman, AT LCpl Crowder, Maj Smith, AT Annetts, JL LCpl Watson, AT Sgt Todd, JL Thubron
Front Row: JL SSgt Rowcroft, AT LCpl Porter, JL LCpl McCulloch, AT LCpl Clayton, AT Lcpl Patrick

SCOTT SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj Gus Boag**
2IC — **Capt Rick Mather**

SSM **WO2 (SSM) Peter Jackson**, SQMS **Sgt 'Chippy' Wood**, Tp Sgts **SSgt P. C. Collins, Sgts Danny O'Brien, Mick Harris, Mez Merrill** and **Chalky Atkins.**

COMINGS AND GOINGS

To prove we are not immune from the turbulence enjoyed by the rest of you, the College and Squadron in particular, are currently undergoing one of those exciting periods of change we hear so much about.

In September, as part of intake 91B we will welcome the Army's first female Apprentices into the College. This intake will complete their training as part of Scott Sqn and preparations for their arrival are well underway. We extend a big welcome to **Lt Debbie Wadsworth** and **Sgt Caroline Lightfoot** whose task it will be to guide them through. Welcome and good luck.

Additionally we welcome **Lt Stu McConnell** and **Karen. Stu** will oversee the training of the male apprentices of 91B for the first few weeks before disappearing for a well earned break on JCSC. To continue the work (in some form or other) we say hello to **2Lt Colin Pettifer** from the now defunct Penney Sqn.

CHARITY WORK

Sgt 'Good works' **O'Brien** and a team of Apprentices consisting of **AT LCpl Thompson, AT Burnham, Elson, Hughes, Irwin, Lord, McGuiness, Nisbet, Quinn** and **Russell** helped in the annual Wetherby Lions Fete by running a fun obstacle course. In gratitude for bruising the shins of the general public The Lions donated a sum of money to the College charity fund.

4 JULY CELEBRATIONS

As part of the celebrations of American Independence Day at the nearby Menwith Hill station, the Squadron provided a squad of ATs (once more led by **Sgt O'Brien!**) to ensure safe passage of the Union Flag. A good time was had by all, and the team drew many compliments from the assembled American hosts. Well done to: **AT Sgt Hendricks, AT Cpl Huxtable, AT Sgts Punyer, Wessledine, Grey, AT SSgt Nowolsielski, AT (SSM) Avery** and **AT Cpl Goodbody.**

FINALLY . . .

Goodbye to **SSgt Collins**, again, this time for good, on his posting to 7 Sig Regt and the Corps Rugby team.

GRADUATION PARADE

The Summer Term Graduation Parade for Apprentices of intake 89B and Junior Leaders of intake 90B took place on 2 August. The reviewing Officer was the Adjutant General **Lt Gen Sir David Ramsbotham KCB CBE ADC Gen.** The day was gloriously sunny and some 1,000 parents, families and friends watched an excellent parade which was commended by **AT (RSM) Gareth Seeds.**

The Adjt Gen Sir David Ramsbotham inspecting Penney Sqn Graduating Troop conducted by AT SSM Dvr Williams and the College Cmdt Col Backhouse

After the parade the Adjutant General met the four members of the Graduating intake who had achieved their Gold standard in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and presented them with their awards.

Next, on the College square, the Adjutant General presented prizes to the following watched by the VIP guests and other spectators.

The Adjt Gen Sir David Ramsbotham with the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award Winners, AT Avery, AT SSM Driver-Williams, The Adjt Gen, AT RSM Seeds, and AT LCpl Steedman

PRIZE WINNERS

The first group of prizes is concerned with the academic part of the course in the College.

EDUCATION PRIZES

'For the best academic achievement whilst at the College.'
Technican Wing Prize won by **AT Sgt L. N. Hendricks** (S Sqn).
Operator Wing Prize won by **AT S. Hodgson** (P Sqn).
Junior Leader Prize won by **JL LCpl D. Davies** (B Sqn).

THE BUSINESS AND TECHNICIAN EDUCATION COUNCIL PRIZE

'For the Technician who has made most progress in his BTEC Studies.'
Won by **AT Cpl B. R. Steadman** (S Sqn).

DIRECTOR OF ARMY EDUCATION PRIZE

'For outstanding academic progress whilst at the College.'
Won by **AT Cpl J. A. Stewart** (S Sqn).

The following prizes are for Trade and Military Training.

ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS COMMITTEE PRIZES

'For the best Apprentice in each Trade.'
Technician Prize won by **AT Cpl J. A. Stewart** (S Sqn).
Telecommunications Operator (Telegraph) Prize won by **AT Cpl M. Boustouller** (R Sqn).
Telecommunications Operator (Special) Prize won by **AT D. J. Unsworth** (P Sqn).
Telecommunications Operator (Linguist) Prize won by **AT A. Campbell** (P Sqn).
Telecommunications Operator (Systems) Prize won by **AT Cpl D. J. Tulk** (P Sqn).

RACAL PRIZE

'For the Technician with the best performance in Advanced Technology.'
Won by **AT SSM R. M. Avery** (S Sqn).

OLD CROWS ASSOCIATION PRIZES

'For the best all round Telecommunications Operator (Special) and Telecommunications Operator (Linguist).'
Telecommunications Operator (Special) won by **AT LCpl S. M. Lowe** (P Sqn).
Telecommunications Operator (Linguist) won by **AT LCpl S. G. J. Marshall** (P Sqn).

SIGNAL OFFICER IN CHIEF PRIZE

'For the most outstanding tradesman.'
Won by **AT Cpl D. J. Tulk** (P Sqn).

COMMANDANT'S PRIZES

BAND TROPHY

'For the best contribution to the College Band.'
Won by **AT Cpl** (Pipe Major) **MacMillan** (S Sqn).

SPORTS PRIZES

'For the best all-round performance in sports and physical activities.'
Apprentice Tradesman Prize won by **AT Sgt S. J. Doherty** (P Sqn).
Junior Leader Prize won by **JL L. F. Denham** (B Sqn).

CONDUCT PRIZES

'For conduct, discipline and example.'
Apprentice Tradesman Prize won by **AT RSM G. J. Seeds** (S Sqn).
Junior Leader Prize won by **JL Sgt M. D. Preece** (B Sqn).

DIRECTOR OF ARMY TRAINING'S AWARD

'For the best individual military performances.'
Apprentice Tradesman Prize won by **AT Sgt N. D. Grey** (Scott Sqn).
Junior Leader Prize won by **JL SSgt D. Rowcroft** (B Sqn).

MASTER OF SIGNALS PRIZES

'For the best all round Apprentice and Junior Leader.'
Apprentice Tradesman Prize won by **AT SSgt P. S. Goddard** (R Sqn).
Junior Leader Prize won by **JL SSgt D. Rowcroft** (B Sqn).

BOROUGH OF HARROGATE PRIZE

'For Service to the Community.'
Won by **AT SSM C. T. G. Driver-Williams** (P Sqn).

The Adjt Gen Sir David Ramsbotham presents the prize for Best Apprentice Technician AT Stewart

ATHLETICS

The College Athletics season started with the Inter Squadron Athletics meeting held on Saturday 4 May. Despite the wintery conditions the College enjoyed some excellent athletics. Scott Sqn eventually emerging the winners. It was decided to arrange a few local competitions to give the team some competition experience before the main event of the season, the Triangular Games.

The first meeting was a competition against Ampleforth College and Barnard Castle. This took place at Ampleforth College and once again the weather was against the Athletes, nevertheless the College achieved some notable successes namely **AT LCpl Matlock** in the Triple/Long Jump and **AT Cpl Briggs** in the 400m. Unfortunately Ampleforth proved to be too strong on the day and emerged the winners.

The next venue was Catterick for the UK Morrison Cup, it was decided that we enter the Minor Units with a Permanent Staff team and take some Apprentice Tradesmen as guests. To everyone's surprise the College won the Minor Units quite convincingly. Notable achievements again for **Matlock** who out jumped everyone Major and Minor with **Briggs** getting the second fastest 400m time of the day.

Saturday 22 June saw a return meeting (at Harrogate) against Ampleforth with Wellbeck College providing the third team. Again the College Athletes produced a very gutsy performance. The time patience and hard work was rewarded by reversing the previous result against Ampleforth. Results being first AA College, second Wellbeck College, third Ampleforth College.

Friday 5 July 1991 saw the College team travel to Chepstow for the Annual Triangular Games meeting. Once again the team were prepared for a hard competition. The results were nip and tuck all the way through, with the final relay deciding the winner. Unfortunately the College team were pipped at the post and took second place to the winners, AA College, Chepstow.

The final competition of the season was the Army Junior Athletics held at Aldershot. After another close fought competition we emerged joint winners with Princess Marina College, Aborfield. However, the Rules stated that a draw would result in a count back of first places and Aborfield took overall first place.

Unfortunately the majority of the team will graduate before the next Athletics season but we do have a small nucleus of talent who will still be with us next year.

PENNEY SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd	**Maj Pat MacCulloch**
2IC	**Capt Pete Aitken**

CSM **WO2 (CSM) Lawrenson**, SQMS **Sgt Carmichael**, Tp Sgts **Sgts John Fradley, Dicky Tredwell, Stan Matthews** and **Norman Finnegan.**

GOING GOING GONE!

As part of restructuring and budget reorganisation Penney Sqn is about to disappear from the orbat. This term's graduation will be the last time Penney Sqn will appear on parade. Apart from the Senior Term all the Apprentices have moved to their new Squadrons. Penney Sqn has been in existence since the College was founded in 1947. Originally designated 'D' Company it changed its name to honour **Maj Gen Penney** who commanded 1 Div at the Battle of Anzio in September 1943.

The Squadron 2IC is moving to Rawson Sqn while the CSM is returning to 2 Bn Grenadier Guards only two months after leaving them. **Sgt Fradley** has got his wish and is posted to 2 Fd Regt RA in Munster. 'Rugby' **Matthews** is off to Scott Sqn. **Sgt Finnegan** 'follow the wind and wave' is joining External Leadership Troop, while our other Rugby star, **Sgt Tredwell**, is moving to Bradley Sqn to train Junior Leaders when he returns from his RSSC at Catterick.

That leaves the SQMS, **Sgt** 'Diver' **Carmichael** who has been working hard closing accounts and handing the Squadron equipment into the QMs. To add to his problems he has been having to get the top floor of Penney Sqn's accommodation ready for the first of the female apprentices. He never wants to see another painter and decorator again. When he finally closes the Squadron lines he is off to become the SQMS of Rawson Sqn. That only leaves the Sqn Comd. He has been banished to College HQ for four months before being allowed out in the new year to become Scott Sqn Comd.

The Squadron has continued to be active even in its final term. While the rest were enjoying the day at the College Donkey Derby on 1 June, 10 apprentices led by **Sgt Fradley** assisted the Harrogate Hospital League of Friends at their garden party.

On Sunday 23 June, members of the Squadron acted as marshals for the Harrogate National Children's Home Support Group at the Annual Cross Country run, organised by Roundhay Rotary Club at Harewood. The NCH were offered the proceeds of this sponsored run if they provided the marshalls. Thanks go to Apprentices **Steve Barron, Rob Bryan, Tony Greenwood, Dave Hall, Carl Hickenbotham, Brian Hillson, Lee Lawson, Andreas Peat, Simon Stewart** and **Ken Young** with **Sgt John Fradley** and his daughter **Sarah** for their efforts on a wet and windy day. On the same day four members of the Squadron from Rawson gave practical support to the able-bodied members of St Georges PHAB Club who were taking part in a sponsored BFT run organised by **WO2 (QMSI) Thompson** of the College PT staff.

Members of Penney Sqn assisting at the Harrogate Hospital Garden Party. AT Sweeney, AT LCpl Gunn, Sgt Fradley and AT Foote

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NEW JUNIOR RANKS ACCOMMODATION

The new living accommodation was opened by the Comd School of Signals, **Brig A. E. G. Truluck** on Monday 2 September.

Planning for this project started some 10 years ago to replace the existing overcrowded buildings. The blocks are of a ultra modern design and are constructed in an eye catching red brick with the interiors tastefully furnished and decorated in pastel colours. The female soldiers block is named after **HRH The Duchess of Kent** and the male blocks are named after the Masters of Signals and former Masters **Badcock, Birtwistle, Scott** and **Bradley**.

Modernisation work on the original buildings is to start in 1992.

1 SQUADRON
RADIO EXERCISE TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**WO1 (YofS) Tony Reynolds**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Paul Marshall**

Radio Exercise Tp is referred to as Radex Tp throughout the School of Signals and its main role is to provide radio detachments for management courses attending the School of Signals. In addition, Radex will 'rent a det' to other agencies and units.

During the past year, the Troop's manning structure has changed considerably. We have gone from a Troop of Tele Op (TG) NCOs to one of Tele Op (TG)/(R) NCOs and Signalmen.

HELLO AND FAREWELL

Hello to **WO1 (YofS) Tony Reynolds, Sgt Terry Gigg, Cpls Kirk Kirkpatrick, Shaggy Williams, LCpls Kev Bird, Ian Devonport** (from Sysex), **Desmond Lynam, Bri Millarvie, Dave Thomas, Rody Wilcock, Sig Jas Allen, Taff Francis, Paul Howe, Brad King, Lee Van Cleef Lawton, Andy Newton, Russ Ryan, Colin Stewart** and **Ceri Wrenn**.

Goodbye to **WO1 (YofS) Harry Elkan, Sgt Dick Rutherford, Cpls Hodge Arthurs, Ian Jenkinson, LCpls Pete Forrest, Si Quinlan, Paul Lancaster** and **Sig Chris Cowley**.

SUMMER TERM

The only respite during a very busy term was a week on summer camp at Capel Curig in North Wales where we all enjoyed our hillwalking. A good time was had by all, even if the weather wasn't its usual sunny Welsh self.

A Troop party was held in the Langton Arms in the beginning of August, following the success of our previous wild west night. It was decided that the theme would be a Caribbean night, everyone dutifully turned up in grass skirts and loud shirts. A good time was had by all.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Si Oldman** to his marriage to **Sarah, Kev Bird, John Quinn** and **Tony Caulfield** on passing their RSDCC and to **Phil Lever** on coming second at the J24 European Sailing Championships. Good luck to **Nick Searle** on his attempt at P Coy.

EXERCISE CUMBRIAN HIKE
(OR THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO UMMM!)
by Sgt P. H. Newman

Ex Cumbrian Hike was an adventurous training exercise carried out by members of RSSST (Main) from 1-8 September. It was based at Whernside Manor and led by RSSSTs own FUEL (Female Unit Expedition Leader) **Capt Ennis Vingoe WRAC** and, ably assisted by **SSgt (YofS) Jimmy Bertram**. It was supervised by the staff of Whernside Manor led by **Lt Andy Cameron**. Our Instructor for the exercise was **Cpl Andy Staff**.

The Hikers: **Lt Cols Tim Smith, Terry Everett, Capts Alec Campbell, Ennis Vingoe (FUEL), Mr Martin Goble, SSgts Chris Arnold, Timmy, SSgt (YofS) Steve Bertram, SSgt Pete Knight, Sgts Nigel Kirkby** and **Phil Newman**.

WHERNSIDE MANOR

The Hikers arrived at Whernside on Monday and promptly adjourned to a low level walk. The advance baggage party which had left on Sunday via Donnington and Base workshop arrived later after repair work!

EXERCISE CUMBRIAN HIKE PROPER

The first morning was spent hanging from ropes on railway bridges and was referred to by the experts as abseiling. UMM! **Hippo** tried to get lost on his way back to the top perhaps there was another bridge? The step over the edge of the bridge was named 'one big step for mankind.'

The afternoon was spent top-roping, which meant climbing half way up rock faces, falling off and shouting at the person on the rope to let you down a little quicker.

Ex Cumbrian Hike
RSSST School of Signals
'Looking pensive prior to abseiling off the bridge!'
Back Row L—R Capt 'Glen' Campbell, Martin 'Hippo' Goble, Sgt Phil Newman, Lt Col 'Smuj' Smith, SSgt Chris Arnold, SSgt Pete Knight
Front Row L—R Lt Col 'Elmer' Everett, Capt Ennis Vingoe (FUEL), SSgt 'Jimmy' Bertram, Sgt Nigel Kirkby

THE 'ADVENTUROUS BIT' OR A 'VISIT TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS'

After another wild night in Dent we set out for the great outdoors (the Lakes) for a spot of top-roping without the ropes. After giving someone a map we wandered off up the mountains and some bridges and hills later we arrived at the overnight stop beside a tarn (a quaint word for a cold pool of water BRRRR!). The next day some of us ascended Scafell Pike, with the rest returning via Great Gable to collect the minibus.

CAVING

After the issue of Woolly Bear Suits, coveralls and helmets we set out to go caving. The morning involved groping around in the dark, squeezing through gaps designed for smaller people and trying to stay dry. Ha! The afternoon involved descending into another cave to practise our skills learnt in the morning and a lot more groping in the dark and trying to stay dry. After being told that the cave temperature is always constant we all went for a swim underground; the water temperature was slightly lower than the air temperature. Brrr!

CANOEING AND MOUNTAIN BIKING

The hikers now split up into two parties. The bikers set out on the highways and byways of North Yorkshire for some fun off the beaten track and the rest went for a canoeing expedition and got wet again.

The afternoon was spent in Kendall collecting the obligatory presents and postcards prior to our return the next day.

THE RETURN

The bus returned to Blandford without mishap but to finish off a good exercise, the rover got another flat tyre. Umm!

The hikers thoroughly enjoyed themselves throughout the few days that they spent dangling, dripping and dawdling in the Lake district and look forward to the opportunity to attend Whernside Manor again. Bags I'm not on tin bash again.

BLANDFORD CAMP SUMMER FETE

On Saturday 14 September, Blandford Camp held its annual summer fete and Tower Half Marathon. Although the weather was not too kind on the day, it did not however dampen the spirits of those who attended. The combined fete and Tower Half Marathon raised over £2,000 for Service and local charities. The Tower Half Marathon, which attracted some 130 entries, was won by **Sgt Jeff Martin**, who can be seen below collecting the Peter Griffin Memorial Cup which was presented by the late Peter Griffin's children, **Wayne** and **Tracy**.

Sgt Jeff Martin being presented with the Peter Griffin Memorial Cup by Wayne and Tracy Griffin

2 SQUADRON (TRIALS) PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd	**Maj J. D. Heck**
TOT	**Capt A. C. Sarginson**

SSM **SSgt (SSM) Ingham**, SQMS **Sgt (SQMS) Martin**, S Tp Comd **Maj Mason**, Dev Tp Comd **WO1 (FofS) Fielding**, Trials **Sgt Rose**, Author **LCpl Spence**.

A change of command has taken place recently with **Maj Heck** assuming command from **Maj Holmes** who has moved to pastures new. Another change at the top is the arrival of **Capt Sarginson** as the new TOT.

EXERCISE WARCOP WARRIOR/TRIAL CHOICE II

On a cold wet day in June after hours of gruelling training the Squadron deployed to Warcop for the annual battle camp. This was the brainchild of **SSgt Dave Carr**. The week was packed with all the usual military activities such as 'let's find a hill and run up and down it' and 'underwater range days'. The week proved to bring out the best in some individuals such as **LCpl Phil Oldfield**. Also in line for an award was **Sig Taff Wynn** who attempted to break the river crossing record but failed unfortunately, and broke his arm instead. As the battle camp was the last deed in **SSgt Carr**'s reign he was arrested and put on trial by some dubious individuals for his continual abuse of the English language, among the offences were 'Did anyone see that bang' and 'Where is the flacsimine'. Needless to say he was found guilty and sentence was carried out. After the military phase was over the rain soaked combat kit was swapped for the rain soaked sports kit. Yes, you've guessed it, adventure training in Snowdonia. The brave few who took part in this part of the exercise were housed in a 'Cottage' sublet by Snow White and the Seven Dwards. This was the relaxing part of the exercise with hill walking (mostly uphill) where **Sig Herbie Hancock** reached the final of the whingeing for Britain contest. Another relaxing part was the rock climbing under the watchful eye of **Sgt Chris Rose** who prayed for rain to test out his new waterproof jacket. Quote of the week went to **WO1 (FofS) Chris** 'Pugwash' **Fielding**—'This boat will not overturn'.

LIFE ON THE OCEAN WAVE

Two members of the Squadron managed another break, this time sailing the seven seas, well the Solent anyway. **Sgt Chris Rose**, under the guidance of **Cpl Crystal Kendall**, weighed anchor with a crew from around the Garrison.

DEPARTURES

The Squadron said 'cheerio' to a number of personalities who have left. **SSgt Carr** to 2 Inf Div, **Sig Hancock** to Gibraltar, **Sig Lee** to civvy street, **LCpl Spence** to 2 Inf Div and **LCpl Enderby** to 3 Armd Div. The Squadron wishes them well in their future careers.

RAFT RACE

This year's team consisting of **Sgt Garry Gillings, WO2 (FofS) Colin Peck, Mr Tom Davies** (BTLO) and **Mrs Jean Peck** set out on the 10th Annual Shillingstone Raft Race. The team entered the fun section of

L—R: Jean Peck, WO2 (FofS) Colin Peck, Sgt Garry Gillings, Mr Tom Davies (BTLO)

the race, which was in aid of Blandford local charities. Because the team was able to negotiate 10 miles of the River Stour, and two of its weirs, they completed the course in around five and a half hours. Due to the generosity of the following companies—British Telecom, Ray Proof Limited, Standard Telephones and Cables Limited, General Data Communications Limited and Pioneer Designs Technical Services a sum of £460 was raised in sponsorship monies.

THE UKLF INTER-UNIT DINGHY TEAM RACING FINALS

The School Dinghy Sailing team won its way through to the UKLF finals by virtue of finishing first in the SW District Inter-Unit League, no mean feat as the HQ UKLF team consisted of two thirds of the RE's Corps team. The semi-finals and finals were held at the ASA Sailing Club at Netley on Southampton Water in Bosun dinghies on the 26 September.

When the draw was made, our opponents in the semi-finals were CAD Kineton. All three of our helmsmen made a good start in the first leg of the semi-final and we had a comfortable lead at the first mark, however, with a now fickle wind and a gradually increasing current to contend with the opposition were not out of it and continuted to make their presence felt. On the final leg of the course the result was in our favour, **Capt David Ellis** and **Sgt Chas Cowell** decided to help **Capt Fred Calvert** to get third place and gain maximum points for the team. After some very good sailing by one member of the opposition, **Fred Calvert** crossed the line first followed by **Chas Cowell, David Ellis** was just beaten into fourth place. We gained almost maximum points and it was going to be very difficult for CAD Kineton to gain enough points to keep us out of the final.

The second leg of the semi-final started in very light winds and even more current.

The Race Officer was forced by the lack of wind to abandon the sailing of the second legs of the semi-finals and decided that as soon as some wind appeared we would go straight on with the final between ourselves and the winners of the other semi-final 8 Sig Regt.

By the time the race started the heavy rain had arrived and effectively killed what little wind remained, the race was abandoned with our team in by far the most favourable positions.

We finally got a race underway in a reasonable wind, but with the current running at maximum speed down Southampton Water, making it very difficult to round the racing marks. **Fred Calvert** saw an opening that wasn't really there and hit a buoy trying to avoid contact with **David Ellis**'s boat, completing the penalty turns put **Fred** to the back of the fleet. However, all was not lost as a mistake on the finishing line by **Trevor Bradley** allowed **Fred** and **John** to snatch fifth place with **David** and **Chas** having finished first and second respectively.

All now hinged on the second leg, all we had to do was for one of us to win the race and for the other two to finish but at all costs to avoid picking up penalties. At the start of the second leg **David Ellis** and his crew **Capt Tim Pender-Johns** made good progress against the current while the other five boats in the race progressed only slowly towards the windward mark as they approach it the wind once more died away making it difficult to round the buoy. This was perhaps the best bit of team racing of the day with **Chas Cowell** and **Fred Calvert** in very close proximity with all three opposition boats for something like 20 minutes, all trying to be the first to round the mark. During this encounter the 8 Sig Regt boats picked up a penalty which made our position almost unassailable; however, we had still to complete the course. Most people had forgotten about **David Ellis**, who had finished the race and was making his way to the slipway before too much of the infamous Netley mud was exposed. Positions changed rapidly between four of the remaining five boats racing, however, as a team we were now in an overwhelmingly strong position and it was inevitable that we would win.

It had been an enjoyable day made especially so by taking part in an all Corps final. The prizes were presented by **Col John Cooper** the Rear Commodore (Dinghies) of the ASA. **Sgt Nigel Kirkby** who had sailed with **Chas Cowell** was particularly pleased to pick up his medal as he had only returned to the sport the day before after a number of years absence.

VISIT OF DWRAC—BRIG G. K. RAMSEY MBE ADC

The DWRAC, **Brig G. K. Ramsey MBE ADC**, visited the School of Signals and 30 Sig Regt on 19 September. Her aim was to speak to all WRAC on Camp to ensure that the way forward for women in the Army is clear. It was undoubtedly her last visit as DWRAC; the Corps will disband in March/April 1992 upon the formation of the AG Corps and DWRAC's post will be replaced by DW(A)—Director Women (Army). After the day the Brigadier wrote saying that she had found all the girls in fine form and that she had thoroughly enjoyed her visit.

Back Row: Pte Jones, LCpl Haberetch, Pte Gascoigne, LCpl Whittingham, Pte Khan, Pte Sinclair, Pte Williams, Pte Hazelhurst, Pte Bell
2nd Row: Pte Anderson, Pte Elliot, LCpl Stackwood, LCpl Russel, Pte Jones, Pte Poole, Pte Brown, Pte Stanyer
3rd Row: Cpl Arthurs, Sgt Dodd, SSgt Foreman, Capt Harvey, Brig Gil Ramsey, DWRAC, 2Lt Welch, SSgt Watkins, Sgt Richmond, Cpl Lappin

RMCS Shrivenham

EXERCISE ALPINE ACTION
by Lt Neil Fraser

Lts Graham Inglis and **Neil Fraser** took part in this adventure training expedition to the Swiss/French Alps during June. It involved trekking and the use of 'mountain bikes' for travel between trekking areas. Neither had much biking experience so they invested in padded cycling shorts! The group included two REME officers and three RAF officers from RMCS Shrivenham.

Lt Neil Fraser arranged the flights to the area with a firm, which seemed very inexpensive . . . two weeks later the firm collapsed! Thankfully, a last minute search secured the group flights from London at £130.00 each. We had to fly on different days, with two travelling by ferry. We left Heathrow for Geneva on 10 June, the bikes were in the hold . . . hopefully to arrive intact at the other end. We arrived in Geneva at 1520 hrs local time and after sorting ourselves out, we left the airport to head for Versoix. Geneva airport is close to the French border and, being confused by the cycle paths along motorways, we were in France in 20 minutes! Some 30 minutes later we left France, heading towards Lake Geneva. We travelled along the shore of the lake till we found our campsite, situated between Versoix and Mies. The afternoon was extremely hot and the roads were bustling with other cyclists. We shopped for food and endured a night of heavy rain. Thankfully the Bivibags were up to the job.

After two days of trekking and cycling and with the whole group assembled and the support vehicle repaired, we set off. Heading around Lake Geneva to Montreux then south to Chamonix before returning to Geneva, trekking along the way. The group consisted of five cyclists and two in the support vehicle, who were responsible for finding the campsite and purchasing food. Cycling around the lake was fairly easy, but once into the villages the hillside ascents were extremely tiring.

To arrive at Chamonix involved ascending the 'Col De La Forclaz', a winding road which entails four hours continuous cycling or, more often than not, pushing the bikes uphill. The weather was hot with no wind until near the top of the climb. Having climbed up, we descended to the French border. We found an excellent campsite in the village of Les Bois, with hot showers, a drying room and a friendly welcome.

As we awoke, next morning, we found curious campers wondering why we had no tents or caravans. The sight of bodies emerging from Bivibags was a little strange in the middle of a smart campsite.

From Chamonix we ascended on to the Mt Blanc ridge and, once out of the trees, we were rewarded with excellent views of the glacier (la Mer De Glace). We pushed on from the Mer De Glace to the summit of Mt Montenver (2,200m) and crossed on to the snowline. After some time in the snow it was decided that we could go no higher without proper equipment, so we contoured along the edge of the ridge until the track down to the valley was reached. We arrived at the campsite with stiffening legs and sore knees from all the cycling and walking.

It was found that mountain bikes were not ideal for long distance touring. However, as a means of travel, off road, they proved excellent. Stamina was tested on the ascents, and brakes and bravado on the descents. The low snow line prevented much high level trekking, as the group was not equipped to venture on to glaciers.

On 19 June **Neil Fraser** handed over to the new leader and together with **Graham Inglis**, left the expedition early, returning to Geneva on 20 June having cycled through Southern France in order to compete at Henley.

Lt Graham Inglis on Mt Montenve on the Mt Blanc range *(far right)*

HQ AFCENT (AWCS) BFPO 18

First of all the location, Maastricht, a city to fall in love with. After Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg, Maastricht can be looked upon as the fourth capital of the EEC. It has its own airport, a University, two Art schools, a Drama school, a Catering College and Schools of Medicine, Law, Economics and Health Science. Recently opened is the Institute for New Technology of the United Nations University. The Maastricht Exhibition and Congress Centre (MECC) is an ultra modern convention centre. This year alone it has hosted such personalities as Rod Stewart, David Bowie, Tom Jones, Tina Turner, Level 42, Simply Red and the Dubliners, to name but a few. Maastricht has a history dating back to the 13th century. It is ideally located in the South Limburg region of Holland between Aachen Germany, 30 minutes to the east and Liege Belgium, 30 minutes to the west providing a wealth of shopping, leisure and entertainment opportunities, not forgetting the tranquil pleasant countryside and the more than helpful local population. All in all a peaceful setting with wordly facilities at your fingertips.

AWCS is the mobile communications unit for HQ AFCENT based at Maastricht, Holland and has been since 1966 after being stationed in Fountainebleau, France from 1947. The unit is a multi-national Army/Air Force—male/female Squadron of six nations, UK; USA; GE; BEL; NL and Canadian totalling some 200 personnel. Annual commitments include some 20 weeks on exercises in Holland, Belgium and Germany. This year in June an International Battle Camp was organised where everyone took part in military and water sporting activities. This included each nationality being given the opportunity to fire the following weapons: UK SLR/SMG/Pistol; USA M16; GE G3 Rifle/P1 Pistol; BEL FN folding butt; NL Uzi sub machine gun. The location was a Dutch training area, Hardewijk, about 60kms north of Amsterdam.

The future looks bright for the Squadron with the arrival of staff vehicles for the HQ in March next year. This will involve the total refit of the terminal equipments into purpose built shelters.

All in all some 120 Corps members support HQ AFCENT of which some 60 are employed within AWCS. For all those who would like a posting that is a little different, the AWCS can offer a challenge and a rewarding tour and almost all posts require C1 and E class driving licences (the old HGV 2). The AWCS is an active Squadron that provides communications in the field for a major NATO headquarters and will continue to do so with a significant contribution from the Corps.

News from Regiments

2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt York

2 SQUADRON
Sqn Comd **Maj Tony Rock**
2IC **Capt 'Twig' Duffy**
Eagle Tp Comd **Capt Matt Hanson**, Falcon Tp Comd **Lt Grant Hume**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) Derek Payne**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) Dave Carr**, SSgt Falcon Tp **SSgt John Duckworth**, SSgt Eagle Tp **SSgt Geoff Watts**, FofS **SSgt (FofS) Russ Baldwin**, YofS **SSgt (YofS) Kev Fowler.**

WELCOMES
Welcomes to **SSgt (YofS) Kev** and **Sue Fowler, SSgt Dave** and **Eileen Carr, Cpls Gary** and **Tracy Williams, Varney, Hall, WPte Jacqueline Simpson, LCpl 'Dean' Whitehouse, Sig 'Dean' Whitworth** and **'Biceps' Llewellyn**—all the new Regimental Footballers.

FAREWELLS
Farewells to **Capt Andy** and **Kieren Walker** to Blandford, **Capt Gavin** and **Pia Grant** to Hong Kong! **SQMS Bob Clair** to 22 Sig Regt. Hope that you all have excellent futures.

FOCUS ON CERTAIN SHIELD
EAGLE AND FALCON TROOPS
The Squadron deployed Eagle and Falcon Tps, probably for the last time, to BAOR, to participate in Ex Certain Shield. This was to be the culmination of a year's work, converting 2 Div to the Airmobile role.

In 1988 the Commander Northern Army Group identified the possible need of deploying an Airmobile reserve for NORTHAG. He initiated a trial, which culminated in Ex Certain Shield, part of Ex Reforger 91. Only existing formations were to be used, the British 24 Airmobile Bde, the German Luftlander Bde and 15 Belgian Para Cdo Regt were chosen.

The multinational division was to be capable of rapid reaction and deployment over distances of 120km; any terrain, regardless of obstacles and ground damage, and with the ability to sustain itself, in battle, for 48 hours.

The division is ideally suited for the containment, disruption or delay of an enemy penetration. It must also be capable of securing a line of departure and providing flank protection.

In addition to the three brigades, the division was to be provided with two HQs, consisting of a Main Body and a 'Fly Forward' Airmobile HQ (landrover borne), supplied by the Regiment. The Armed Aviation element was to be provided by Dutch, German and British Anti Tank and Troop Lift Helicopter Support.

The HQs were integrated multi national elements, consisting 40% British, 30% German and 15% Dutch and Belgian. The Division was commanded by **Maj Gen H. M. Rose CBE QGM** with a German Deputy Commander.

Eagle Tp 'Fly Forward' on the HLS—no choppers?

The first week was taken up by flying practice and demonstrations which produced some lively entertainment. **Cpl Phil Winter** was blown off a landrover while hooking up—he was saved by his helmet GS. **Cpl Paul Holmes** grounded his rover after a mid air collision with his trailer.

During the second week there was an FTX, with enemy provided by the Dutch. A much quieter period with visits by the press and VIPs.

Sig Southern guards the HLS

Cpl 'Nobby' Hall folding up his sleeping bag

The third week suffered from the lack of helicopter support and the 'Fly Forward' HQ was re-christened 'Drive Forward'. In spite of this the exercise was deemed to be a success, which augers well for the future. It will, not doubt, give rise to MNAD formations within NATO.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES
First, hello to **Capt Hanson**, our new Troop Comd, **Cpl Trivett** from 7 Sig Regt, **Sig Wright** from 1 AD Sig Regt. **Sig Vickers** and **Kelly, WPtes Simmons, Hollow** and **Turner**—all from the big glass mountain, 8 Sig Regt TTS.

Then goodbye to **LCpl Whitty**, who is off to NI and **LCpl Mick Tennant** who is posted to 210 Sig Sqn, Catterick.

EAGLE TROOP

After a much deserved summer leave, Eagle Tp returned to prepare for Ex Certain Shield.

The Troop provided rear links to all non British brigades, the Division's Airmobile HQ and CNR rebro support.

On 1 September the Troop deployed to Germany on a luxury cruiser? With no bars and next to nothing in the Duty Free Shop, sleep was in abundance.

On arrival in Germany, refreshed and raring to go, we continued our gruelling journey to Munster where we were split up to go to our respective HQs, Brigades etc.

FALCON TROOP

At Main HQ apart from administrative and communications support we provided an undercover newspaper, designed and produced by **Capt Ray Duffy**. Under no censorship whatsoever, but guided by the intrepid Regimental 2IC, **Maj Barton-Ancliffe**, the paper flourished. The 'Daily Twig', as it was known, was read by one and all and helped to raise the flagging spirits of those frustrated by briefings, visits, press photocalls, TV news and yet more coffee and biscuits.

The shining stars were: The late CO's driver, **LCpl 'Woody' Mansell Woods** (for writing off the Montego!); Tuck Shop bouncer, **Sig Llewellyn**; the DEL boys **LCpls Beswick** and **Hodgson**. The hero of us all—the TCO, **Capt Neil Dempsey**, for getting us all home on a wonderful cruise ship!

To all those who took part, Falcon Tp would like the opportunity to thank you for your support in making our life just that little bit easier. No, we do not have any MNAD stickers left! See you all next year in the Rapid Reaction Corps.

SPORT—A FIRST FOR 2 DIV

On 2 October the Regiment competed in the Army six-a-side soccer finals at Aldershot. We had qualified the previous month by coming runners-up in the NE/NW District competition (beaten by 2 Div RCT in the final).

We could not have had a better start to the day, beating 1 KOSB in the first game 5—0. This was a real confidence builder from which we never looked back; winning the remaining 6 pool games and scoring 21 goals in the process (as a result we won the Thorpe Cup for the most goals scored in the group games—26).

In the semi-final we were paired against 2 Div RCT (a score to be settled here from the previous month). An early goal by **Sig Brown** (one of the 14 he scored—all offside) helped to settle the nerves and from then on the result was never in doubt. A second goal from **Cpl 'Bobby Charlton' Storey** (the only vague resemblance is the haircut) late on in the game secured victory.

The final against SEME was very much an 'up and down' affair. After leading 1—0 we went 2—1 behind, mainly due to some sloppy defending. A second half equalizer from **Cpl Scouse Williams** lifted the side and we eventually ran out deserved winners 4—0.

This is the first time that the Regiment has won the cup and it was therefore appropriate that a former chairman of Royal Signals soccer, **Brig Tom Wheawell**, presented the trophies.

(Players—**Sgt Alan Higgins, Cpls Andy McWilliam, Gary Williams, Bobby Storey, Dave Coleman, LCpls Scouse Dunleavy, Chippy Wood, Sig Dennis Brown** and QMSI **Hoppy Smith** (coach).

York Children's Charities benefit from 'Race the Sun'
The Regiment has also raised money for the Daniel Scott Appeal Fund. Daniel, the son of a JNCO in the Regiment, had a serious hearing condition. Earlier this year a fund raising target was set of £6,000, the sum required to pay for Daniel's operation. In the event, with help from Regimental funds, over £15,000 was raised, the residue being presented to Killingbeck Children's' Hospital Heart Surgery Fund

Daniel Scott Appeal Fund—The Regiment raised over £15,000

The six-a-side team

ROYAL SIGNALS STABLE BELTS

New 3in Regulation Pattern with Straps
Any Amount Made Up as Required

Export 3in Web with Strengthening..... £7.71 plus post
Export 3in Web without Strengthening..... £6.50 plus post

UK inc VAT 3in Web with Strengthening..... £8.87 plus post
UK inc VAT 3in Web without Strengthening £7.48 plus post

T. FROST (Saddlers)
SOUTH PARADE, BAWTRY
DONCASTER, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

REGIMENTAL SPORTS
ATHLETICS

The Regimental Athletics Team enjoyed a successful summer, finishing third in the combined 1st and 4th Divisional Championships before achieving 5th place in the BAOR Major Unit Athletics Championships. Additionally 10 of the Regiment's athletes were selected to represent the 4th Division in the Inter Zone Athletics Final. Unfortunately as a number of key athletes were missing for the Morrison Cup the team finished 5th overall.

The combined Army Marathon Championships and Moenchengladbach REME City Marathon was held in early September. The Regiment entered five competitors. The first team member home, and 24th Army Individual, was **Cpl Dave Clark**, in a time of 3 hrs 18 mins and 51 secs, followed by **Sig John Dunwoody**, the first under 19 to finish and so became the Army Junior Champion and 27th Army individual. Sometime later **WO1 Terry Hall** won the ACC Jubilee Marathon Veteran Trophy. The team finished 11th in the Army team event. Congratulations go to **Sgt Steve Nurse RAOC** and **Sig Paul Bunyan** who completed their first marathon. **WO1 Hall ACC, Cpl Clark** and **Capt Vaughan** (HQ 4 Div) went on to run the Berlin Marathon three weeks later.

TUG OF WAR

The Regimental Tug of War team has had a remarkably successful outdoor season under the keen eye of trainer and sometimes participant, **SSgt Budd Abbott**. The Team was invited to compete at the Royal Tournament, a tremendous honour for the Regiment, where they managed to finish as runners up in nearly all events against extremely fierce opposition. The team provided a staunch contingent for the Inter Corps Championship enabling the Corps to win in all but one weight. The Braemar Games provided an excellent training ground for the outstanding performance in the Morrison Cup. After a tense and aggressive final against 7 Sig Regt, 4 ADSR managed to regain the trophy amidst much cheering and shouting.

Rear Left to Right—Sig Dunwoody and Sgt Nurse. *Front Left to Right*—Sig Bunyan, Cpl Clarke and WO1 Hall

RHQ TROOP
DEPARTURES

LCpl Chris Wilson to 200 Sig Sqn. **WLCpl Karen Manzie** to Rheindahlen, **WPte Debbie Graham** to the rufty tufty world of 7 CDO Bty RA Arbroath, on promotion to WLCpl.

Sgt Ray Pritchard has done his RSSC in Catterick.

We extend our warmest congratulations to **Capt G. R. Norton** on his recent engagement.

HQ SQN
EXERCISE VALHALLA VENTURE

In July three members of HQ Sqn and an Officer from 2 Sqn drove to Denmark to participate in the 18th Annual Sjaelsomarch International Shooting Competition. The team struck up friendships with other team members who came from 11 different countries including Sweden, Norway, Germany, Belgium, France, America, UK, Holland, Canada, Switzerland and Denmark. With these new found friends the team went sightseeing in Copenhagen. On the Saturday morning the team arrived at the range to do what they had come to do—the shoot.

The competition consisted of an Individual Shoot of 8 rounds using Hecklar and Koch M55 Semi Automatic Rifles, and then straight on to the team shoot.

The team took part in the Individual Pistol Competition, for **Cpl Haddington RAPC** and **Sig Wilson** this was a new experience, never having used a pistol. The Saturday evening our Danish hosts laid on a Grand Ball for all competitors and the various winners were presented with their prizes. The team left on Sunday morning having thoroughly enjoyed the trip. Albeit the team did not win anything but as the old saying goes 'It's not the winning that counts, it's the taking part'.

REGIMENTAL CATERING SCENE

Besides supporting unit adventure training and Battle Camps, the chefs of the Regiment turned their catering talents to producing an outstanding array of culinary delights for a succession of summer social events. Highlights were a dinner for an 'Empire Night' theme at the Officers' Mess summer party, and a cocktail party hosted by the Garrison Commander **Maj Gen** and **Mrs J. J. Mackenzie OBE**, which was attended by 300 guests including local dignitories. The Master Chef, **SSgt Henry Griffiths**, took a small team of chefs to support Ex Fource Majeure, a Battlefield tour of France, a good time was had by all.

It's not quite all work and no play for the chefs. Despite the busy schedule, **WLCpl Donna Davies** and **WPte Michelle Coultham** attended the Squadron Summer Camp. The Catering Tp performed well in the 4 Armd Div ACC Superstars event where **Sgt Paul Sewell, LCpls Chris Ashworth** and **Pete Dillon** represented Herford Garrison ACC. In the unit ration store, **Bdr Alan Milne** has taken time out from counting stock to weigh a good catch as he qualified for the BAOR Angling Championships.

A special mention must go to those chefs who laboured on in the kitchens while the extra curricular events were taking place; well done to all of them and the civilian staff who supported them.

ARRIVALS

Sig Tom Craig and **Sven Heaps** straight from the factory, hope you enjoy your tour here.

FAREWELLS AND CONGRATULATIONS

To **Sig Chris Allgood** posted to 200 Sig Sqn, and **Sig John Dunwoody** posted to 210 Sig Sqn, good luck.

Congratulations to **Sig Carl Chester** and his wife **Kate** on the birth of their baby girl **Annah** and **Sig Paul Postance** and his wife **Dianne** on the birth of their baby boy **Steven Paul**.

MT TROOP
PERSONALITIES

MTO	**Capt D. C. Cleeton BEM**
TCWO	**WO2 J. Proctor**

Tp SSgt **SSgt J. Roskelly**, Tp Sgts **Sgt I. Fenton, Sgt A. McAlpine, Sgt C. Perryman, Sgt G. South.**

We have taken full advantage of some of the sporting activities and adventure training exercises on offer. One of our early successes came as we beat the combined Herford based ACC Football Team 7—1, followed by a more impressive victory over 2 Sqn 6—2.

We notched up pleasing results in the Harz Mountain Marathon, with a third of the team being provided by the MT. **Cpl Rooney** in the Berlin Marathon, **SSgt Roskelly** in the Regimental Football Squad, and **Sgt McAlpine** in the Rugby team.

Dvr Ross has been the cornerstone of the Squadron Boxing Team putting the remainder of the MT boxing squad through their paces in preparation for the Inter-Squadron Boxing Competition. We wish them every success.

Welcome to **SSgt John Roskelly** and his wife **Sandy** and **Cpl Andy Watt**.

LAD GENERATOR BAY
EXERCISE ALLGAUER QUADRANT

This year's first Summer Camp phase was located at Nesselwang in the Allgau district of Bavaria. The weather was perfect for participation in outdoor pursuits such as rock climbing, canoeing, trekking and mountain bike riding.

TRAINING WING
VISIT OF RUTLISH SCHOOL CCF
by Cpl W. Morrissey RPC

The Training Wing were host to a Combined Cadet Force from Rutlish School CCF, Wimbledon, who arrived at Hammersmith Barracks early on a Monday morning in July. After a late breakfast the Cadets changed into Barrack Dress for their first event on the visit programme—what better way to start than some 'Good Old Fashioned Drill'. To our surprise the Cadets were eager to get started. Although they were already well drilled, **SSgt McEleavey**, thought he had some fine tuning to do.

The highlight of the Cadets visit was, undoubtedly, the two day field exercise. The first day consisted of getting up early to load the trucks with all the stores to be used over the next few days. They deployed to Minden Training Area and at given points on the route the Cadets were dropped off in teams with a member of the D/S, with instructions to navigate to the base location. On their arrival the cadets were advised what to expect from the 24 hour Ration Pack, and shown how to erect their Basha ready for their night under the stars.

The second day of the exercise would not have been the same without an early morning run, in this case an orienteering competition. The remainder of the day consisted of a series of stands covering, close quarter battle, survival, first aid and an assault course. The cadets, back at the base, enjoyed a barbecue followed by a presentation to the winning section.

Pte Tina Williams of 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, the Army's first female 'Wavell' operator with her course instructor SSgt Thomas

FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

Farewell to **Cpl Mick Walker** on his posting to 187 (Tancred) Coy RPC on promotion to Sgt. Good luck to him and his family. Welcome to **LCpl 'Taff' Griffiths** and family. Welcome to **Martina** who joins us from 16 Sig Regt. Welcome to **Cpl Derek Spencer** who was one of the last to return from the Gulf.

HERFORD COMMCEN

From the seldom seen, but oh so vital inhabitants of the Commcen.

Congratulations to **LCpls Ginny Ware** and **Helen Richardson** on passing their 602 Sig Tp Selection Test and also to **Cpl Tina Brudenall** on her selection for promotion to Sgt. She will be sorely missed in the Commcen (but not the Rottweiler).

Farewell to **LCpls Ginny Ward** and **Helen Richardson** who are off to 602 Sig Tp, **Cpl** (Sgt to be) **Tina Brudenall** off to sort out UK commcens in Bulford.

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd	**Maj Elaine A. Newnham**
2IC	**Capt Ken A. Jones**

SSM **WO2 (SSM) Graham Reith**, FofS **WO2 (FofS) Smiley Edmonds**, YofS **SSgt (YofS) Phil Jones**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) Jim Pickles.**

The last few months were enlivened by Ex Nebelhorn Quadrant, 1 Sqn's Summer Jaunt in Bavaria and Ex Certain Shield.

Ex Nebelhorn Quadrant took advantage of the Regimental 'hut', and coaxed unwilling climbers to dare the heights of the Hindelang, under the gaze of the two mountain goats—**Lt Tarquin Shipley** and **Lt Louise Tomkins**. Many a budding climber was tempted to drag himself up a sheer cliff by **SSgt** 'Woodie' **Power**'s persuasive powers. Mountain Biking tested the agility and tumbling skills of **Sig Tim Collison** and a few others. Two groups opted for the action packed canoeing package run by **Cpl Bill Donovan** and **LCpl 'Scouse' Williams**. White Water Rafting was voted the best.

The Squadron is now trying to repair the damages wrought during Ex Certain Shield. The Americans provided a never ending source of humour, ridicule, MRE rations and camp cots. **Sig Banks** is now running his own Army Surplus Stores.

HELLOS, GOODBYES AND CONGRATULATIONS
PANTHER TROOP

Welcome to **Sig Grant Smith** and **Paul Castle** on their arrival from the factory. Goodbye to **Lt Andy Williams** who deserts 1 Sqn for 2 Sqn as 2IC and to **Sgt Ozzy Lindon**, his wife **Kairen** and son **Matthew** who are off to 3 Div. **Ozzy Lindon**, the legend, will live on . . . Finally, and most importantly (or so it says here!) congratulations to **LCpl Toz Hodgskins** on his promotion.

CHEETAH TROOP

Tp Comd/Tp SSgt	**SSgt Jim MacLachlan**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Dougie Piper**

Hello to our new Staffie **Jim MacLachlan** and goodbye to **Lt Mark Adams** and to **SSgt Nige Varley**, his wife **Helen** and sons **Daniel** and **Barry**. One moves to JDSC and UK where the sun never shines, and one moves to sunny Cyprus. **Helen**'s hockey skills will be missed by the Herford Ladies Hockey Team.

KIWI TROOP

Tp Comd	**Lt Mark Hanby**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Doug MacDonald**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Kev Faulkner**

Hello to **Sig Chris Middleton** and his wife **Vicky** and to **Sig Rob Maskell**. A fond farewell to 4 Div's most popular Cpl—**Trev Cartledge** and his wife **Hilda**. Congratulations to **Cpl Nobby Clarke** on his marriage to **Samantha** and his timely promotion to Corporal.

JAGUAR TROOP

Tp Comd	**Lt Louise V. Tomkins**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Bud Abbott**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Neil Fisher**

Hello to **Cpl Hearn** (good luck with the stores) and to **Sig Kevin Mounsey**. Goodbye to **Sgt Stu Thomson**, until the next exercise. Goodbye also to **LCpl Rock** who moves to SHQ Tp and to **LCpl Keith** who moves to the dizzy heights of OSC. Get well soon to **Sig Tim Collison**. Congratulations to **Sig Dicky Bird** on his forthcoming marriage to **Laura**. Congratulations to the Boss on her promotion to Lieutenant.

SHQ TROOP

Tp Comd	**SSgt Pete Warhurst**
Power NCO	**Cpl Pete Stidwell**
MT NCO	**Cpl Steve Wardle RCT**

Hello to **SSgt Pete Warhurst**, who has been gently broken in whilst on exercise. A warm welcome to all the Junior Technicians who now come under the thumb of **SSgt Warhurst, Sgts Purnell** and **Thomson**. Finally, hello to **LCpl Skip Stevens**—yes another Aussie! Goodbye to **SSgt Jim MacLachlan** who moves across to tame the rowdy 054 lot.

2 SQUADRON
ARRIVALS AND FAREWELLS

The Sqn 2IC, **Capt Jon Williams**, has left for JDSC, and then to the School of Signals. Our thanks for his contribution to the Squadron, and we wish him, **Tracey** and new daughter **Sophie**, well in their new home. We welcome **Lt Andy Williams** as 2IC, before he moves into A1 Tp, and of course the new SSM, **WO2 Ray Bray** from 200 Sig Sqn.

EXERCISE QUADRANT COMMAND

The annual battle camp took place at ATA Haltern during the week 13-21 July. The final week's activity involved a 36 hour infiltration exercise, with the DS showing off their very best Russian accents under the command of **SSgt Bob Sleeman**, with assistance from **Sgt Sven Townsend, Cpl Andy Harriot** and **Cfn Boris Dunmore**. The Squadron is looking forward to returning next year.

EXERCISE REBRO QUADRANT

This was an A3 Tp radio exercise involving cam and concealment, as well as other routine RRB tasks. This was **2Lt Stewart Moffat**'s first chance to flex his muscles in the wet and extremely muddy conditions of Minden North training area. **Sig Willy Williams** and **Brassy Brass** successfully hid themselves from the Troop, by giving a grid location somewhere in Northern Turkey!

EXERCISE HARZ QUADRANT

SSgt Dave Catchpole took the chance, during a lull, to take A1 Tp away on a week's Adventure Training on JSMTC Silberhutte in the Harz mountains. A reunion with one of our long lost members, **Cpl Woody Wood**, temporarily attached to JSMTC was an added bonus.

EXERCISE HIDE QUADRANT

Living in the woods, compared with the luxury of Farm yards, is quite something. Spirits were revived by **Cpl Dave Seeley** and his Haybox breakfast—you'll have to catch us next time **Sgt Martin**.

3 SQUADRON

Sqn Comd	**Maj Justin Johnson**
2IC	**Capt Bob O'Hara**

OC N Tp **2Lt David Craft**, OC TM Tp **WO1 (FofS) Mick Poland**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) Taff Carr**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) Ron Woodger**, YofS **SSgt (YofS) Paul Rose**, FofS **SSgt (FofS) Ged Keegan.**

SHQ TROOP

With the 2IC back from the UN tour in the Gulf and a new team in the shape of a new SSM **WO2 Taff Carr** from 14 Sig Regt we are up to strength. We wish **WO2 John Sommerville** all the best in his new role as RQMS at 34 (V) Sig Regt. We thank **John** and **Shirley** for all the hard work they put in here and **Shirley** into the wives club. She will be sorely missed. We also said farewell, and a big thank you, to **SSgt (FofS) Mick Minton** as he heads to SHAPE on promotion; we wish **Mick** and **Jackie** all the best. Our Ops Sgt, **Dave Mason** has also left the fold and now resides in the Training Wing. We thank **Dave** for all the hard work he did. Welcome to **SSgt (FofS) Ged Keegan** and **SSgt (YofS) Paul Rose** and wish them a successful tour in a changing 3 Sqn. With the leave period now behind us we look forward to the exercise period and taking out Rear HQ. If **Cpl Wes Weston** can find any locations.

NOVEMBER TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC N Tp	**2Lt David Craft**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Kevin Nicholls**

The Troop says farewell to **LCpl Wills** who moves over to SHQ Tp within 3 Sqn and hello to **2Lt Sarah Allan** who joins the Troop for two months before going to Blandford for her Troop Commanders Course.

The Squadron summer camp arrived at just the right time to provide a welcome break from a busy schedule. The sun came out as we drove into Nesselwang and stayed out for the whole two weeks, which proved to be fantastic for the trekkers, climbers and mountain bikers but not so good for the canoeists, who had difficulty finding a river that actually had water in it.

The trekking phase of the camp was run more adventurously this year under the control of **Lt Shipley**, who introduced the group to the 'Klettersteig' experience.

The mountain biking proved to be very enjoyable as well as taxing, although we had a few problems keeping them on the road, we did manage to get about seven bikes per day into some sort of working order. It was a successful activity with only one minor casualty, **LCpl 'Chippy' Wood**, who decided that he could get down the Falkenstein Mountain quicker without his bike, much to the detriment of his legs.

The TR & A was again a very popular activity and under the supervision of **SSgt Ron Woodger** the groups managed to progress on to some tough climbs and even 'forward' abseiling.

The canoeists managed some skills training on the Foggensee Lake and improved their paddling and capsize drills and handling skills.

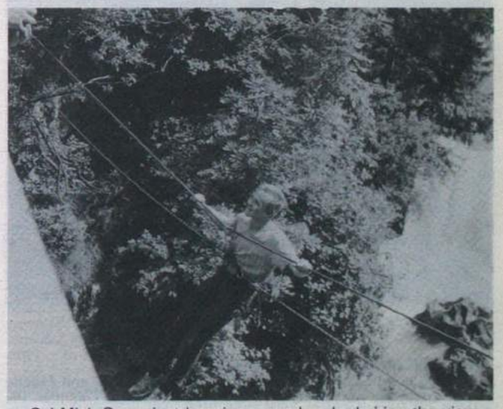
Overall it was a very successful, enjoyable and rewarding summer camp, for those that took part.

TM TROOP

The troop has a few changes with **Sgt 'Geordie' Merrie** taking on the challenge of TQMS and Troop Sgt, as well as computer graphic designer. Congratulations to **Sgt Bob Forshaw** on successfully completing his Sgts course and returning to head of Ptarmigan section. Well done to **Cpl Sandy Sanderson** and **LCpl Dave Killgallon** on finishing second in the Regimental orienteering competition. Congratulations to **Sgt 'Geordie' Merrie** and **Cpl Bho Pradhan** for competing in Ex Parashot.

The table tennis competition is well under way with **Cpl Mick** 'Mr Tabletennis' **Green** at the top. **Sgt Ako Atkinson** has been planning to get **FofS Mick Poland** to the bottom of the ladder but he'll have to try harder. Welcome back to **Cpl Paul Coxford**. A warm welcome to **Cpl Mac McLaren**, a new arrival from Cyprus. Congratulations to **Sig Stu Kelly** and his wife on the birth of their baby daughter. We bade a fond farewell to him and we wish him all the best back in 2 Sqn. Farewell to **Cpl Bho Pradhan** who leaves for Tidworth; we wish **Bho** and **Jane** all the best.

Finally a fond farewell to **WO1 (FofS) Mick Poland** who will be missed on his six month tour of the Falklands. We hope his replacement **WO1 (FofS) Jim Leggate** enjoys his tour.



Cpl Mick Green just hanging around and admiring the view

200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 41

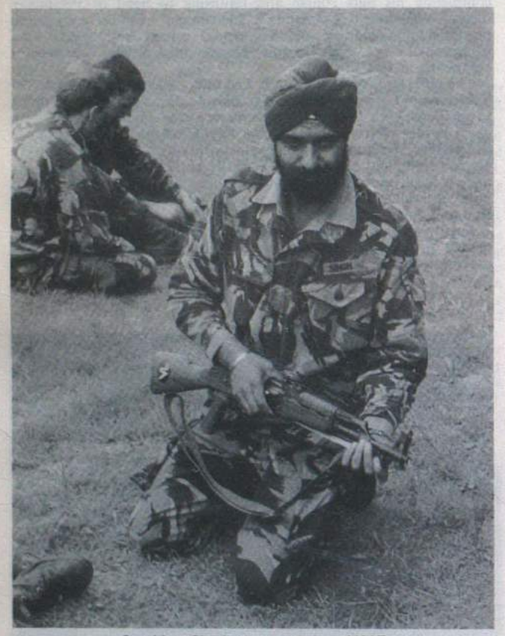
SHOOTING CAMP

The Troops certainly enjoyed a variety of military training activities during this year's Shooting Camp on Haltern training area. Sufficient ammo was 'scrounged' to enable us to take advantage of many ranges obtained by **Sgt Lou Russell**.

Practices included section/pairs fire and manoeuvre, CQB and that old favourite the AWPT. We generally scored well despite some problems zeroing. **Cpl Paul Rutter** was Top Shot with a score of 176.

Practices were punctuated by various background activities including akido, assault course training, first aid and an impressive display of bayonet drill. **Sgt Mark Richmond** put his experience in the Gulf to good use during an effective presentation of weapons.

Each section was scored on their performance in every activity which included an eight mile March and Shoot. Despite winning this section **Sgt Stu Hamilton**'s challenge for the best section was ably defeated by **LCpl Paddy Calderwood**s Section who won the trophy. Despite blisters, lack of sleep, some heavy rain it was an enjoyable week.



Sgt Mac Singh inspecting an AK47

EXERCISE MAIDEN GAUNTLET 1991

At 0630 hrs on Tuesday 27 August, ten of our wives, and **Janette Binnie** assembled outside the Squadron for Ex Maiden Gauntlet, the Squadron wives battle camp. After a short brief by the Sqn Comd they were split into two sections commanded by **LCpls Toby Fernbank** and **Daz Cowley**.

After donning cam cream, combats and bergens the girls hauled themselves into a Bedford and set off in good voice to Stapel-by-the-Sea.

Here they had to complete a miriad of tasks including minor tactics, first aid, driving, shooting and basha building. There were several cries of 'so this is what bungees are really for'.

End of exercise comments included **Paula Warren** talking about her blistered feet, **Jeanette Harrison** of her ambition to join the RCT and drive full time and **Kathy Cook** was still looking for a convoy to follow. Well done girls.

EXERCISE GOAT QUADRANT

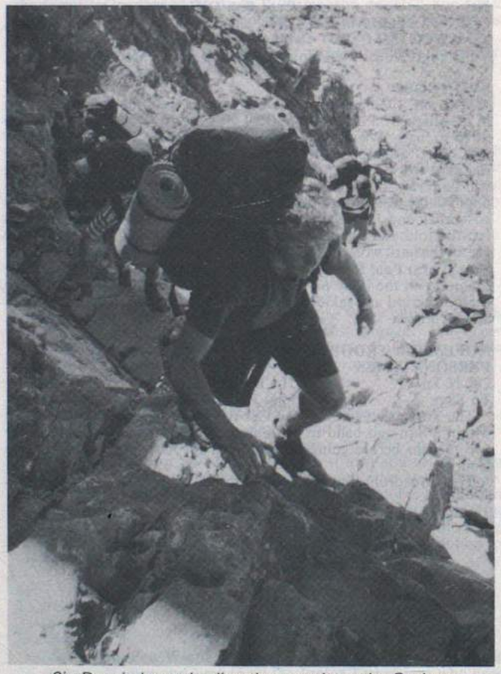
Ex Goat Quadrant was a Squadron adventure training exercise held in the Pyrenees during August. Nine members took part, led by **Lt Clive Cook**. The aim was to trek along a large section of the Pyrenees range. The route included legs in France, Spain and the Principality of Andorra.

The group set off on 8 August, travelling by minibus. After a 25 hour journey the expedition arrived in the centre of the Pyrenees in torrential rain. At one stage during the first trek, we thought that we had ended up in the Amazon rainforest. Fortunately, this spell of bad weather was short lived and we soon got the hot sunshine that we were expecting.

Early on in the expedition, we climbed the highest mountain of our trip; Pic du Carlit, in spite of its 2,921m, it was not the most spectacular mountain we conquered. We visited the Principality of Andorra, in the centre of the mountain range, between France and Spain. Again, the trekking was excellent, with outstanding panoramic scenes greeting us at the top of every major peak.

From Andorra, we travelled into Spain for the start of our longest trek, a three day expedition across the range, back into France. The second day was mainly a ridge walk, which ended just short of our objective. During the final few hours **Sig 'Jules' Wright** was nominated for the 'Navigators Hall of Fame' for his brilliant invention: the adjustable kilometre.

Early in the morning of the third day **Sig Dougie Lacey** led the group to the summit of Pi du Canigou (2,784m). The final few metres were quite a scramble but when we made it to the top our reward was a fantastic panoramic view in brilliant sunshine. The Pic du Canigou is the last significant peak at the eastern end of the Pyrenees. Due to its position, it offers views back towards the centre of the range, as well as out across towards the Mediterranean Sea. From the summit the rest of our last day trekking was spent going downhill(ish) until we met up with the admin party and the minibus. The final few days were spent enjoying life on the beach, before heading back to Germany.



Sig Dougie Lacey leading the assault on the Canigou

211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 29

CCF ANNUAL CAMP

Anyone in the vicinity of the Wittloge training area would have seen a combined forces operation with Bundeswehr CH 53 helicopters bringing in what appeared to be British soldiers taking up defensive positions. However, closer examination would have revealed that these soldiers were not quite as tall as the average man.

They were in fact, all from the CCF Contingent from Prince Rupert School in Rinteiln with which 211 Sig Sqn maintain close links. A training team of **Capt Alex Sinski** (RAMC), **SSgt 'Barney' Barnard, Sgt Dave Thomas** and **Cpl Chris Willetts** had organised this day as the climax of the CCF's annual battle camp. This comprised a 24 hour self-reliance exercise in the field, incorporating battlecraft skills learned during the Wednesday parade nights. Training was aimed at obtaining the Army Proficiency Certificate and involved lessons in first aid, weapon training, battlecraft and map reading. Teaching these lessons provided useful instructional experience for **LCpls Regan, O'Hara, Sig Haines, Stranks** and **Pte Tunley**.

The highlight of the day was the visit of **Brig W. D. Cantley MBE** Comd 11 Armd Bde who found time in his busy schedule to speak to each one of the cadets.

Trophies were presented to **Debbie Loch** (pictured), as 'Best Cadet' and to **Lee Doak** as 'Best Cadet Shot'.

Cdt Debbie Loch 'enjoying' compo rations in the field

Brig D. Cantley talking to Cadet Lee Doak during the 24 hour exercise

REGIMENTAL ORIENTEERING

Once again an ardent band of orienteers led by the 'Vet' **SSgt 'Barney' Barnard** formed up. Three courses were set by **Capt Andy Stokoe** for this Inter Squadron event, it was noticed that most of the officers appeared to be entered on the short C course! Is there some truth about officers and compasses after all! All the competitors found the event a challenge and the degree of difficulty with which an individual struggled up hills in a state of geographic bewilderment seemed proportional to their protests at the finish that number 5 was in the wrong place. Even **Lt Col Cedric Burton** confessed that he was not as good as he used to be at this kind of thing!

Victory for the Squadron was a fitting end to the day's activity—though the author is, of course, biased. Perhaps next time I will progress to the B course.

CYCLONE EXPRESS

This was a large and time consuming sponsored charity cycle ride organised by **Lt Chris Ford**. Taking part were **Sgts Mick Openshaw, 'Ginge' Coburn, Kev Bullen, Cpls Pete Farmer, Hamish Milne, Al Sparling, LCpls Kev Mc Tiernan, Shaun McKay** and **Paul Wray** with **Cpl Wilf Sneddon** in the support vehicle and **Pte Wallace RAMC** as the accompanying medic. The aim was to indulge in nostalgia by cycling between each of the seven Armoured Brigade Signal Squadrons in BAOR before the inevitable changes take place. At the same time the cyclists would collect money for two charities namely Mencap in UK and Aktion Sorgen Kind in Germany.

The team had to cycle a total distance of 779km during which they stayed overnight in Soltau, Hohne, Detmold, Paderborn, Soest, Munster and Osnabruck. The CO, **Lt Col C. J. Burton**, set the team off early in the morning with the German and British press in attendance. The cycling went very well with BFPS giving **Wilf Sneddon** his long awaited opportunity of fame as a broadcaster, and us a blow by blow account of who was the latest crash victim. The oft repeated **'here's Wilf'** brought the Squadron to a standstill as we all crowded around to hear just how painful **Sgt 'Ginge' Coburn**'s seven stitches in his head really were.

All the riders were welcomed safely back to Minden by **Brig W. D. Cantley MBE**, a large Press and a Squadron eager to throw money into the collection bin. Both aims were achieved with the charity organisations sharing the DM 9000 that was raised. Our thanks go to all those who sponsored the event and in particular to **Tony Hartwright** for all the hard work and constant assistance he gives to the Squadron.

7 Sig Regt
BFPO 15

30 YEARS OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Frau Paula Block was recently presented with a farewell gift from all ranks in 7 Sig Regt after completing 30 years of outstanding and loyal service.

Paula has worked in the Quartermaster Technical Department during all of this time and has seen the wheel re-invented on more than one occasion.

Here's to the future

ARMY TENNIS CHAMPIONS

Before you think that there is a mistake in the title and that it should read Army Rugby Champions, fear not, it is correct.

We were fortunate in that, a newly arrived Signalman, straight from training happened to mention that he played tennis. It was only later discovered that this soldier had been in the Under-18 National Squad and had won a scholarship to an American University. Those in tennis circles will know that this describes **Sig Tague**. Fortune shined upon us twice more with **Cpl Hall**, winner of the Cyprus Championships and **Cpl** 'Bob' **Hope**, Harrogate tennis champion also posted into the Regiment. The final members of the team were **2Lt** 'Blondie **Kay**, who acted as super-sub, pulling us through the early stages, and **2Lt Deacon**, straight from Blandford.

2Lt Duncan, Cpl Hall, Sig Tague and LCpl Hope

Our first major hurdle in the earlier rounds appeared to be 1 AAC who had the illustrious **Capt Watts**, seven times Army Champion. Whether it was lack of preparation, injury or shock which enabled **Sig Tague** to convincingly beat him meant that with all team members playing well, we completed a surprise 4—1 victory over these likely favourites. We were now confident that we could go all the way, but this 'Ego Trip' was almost cut short by a strong team from the 15/19 Hussars. The match was the final of the 4 Armd Div Stage of the Army Cup, and proved to be our toughest game of the tournament, we narrowly won 3—2.

Our sights were now firmly set on the BAOR's, and through some hard training and a good team spirit, it wasn't long before we faced the Life Guards, winners of the 3 Armd Div Stage. The match proved to be both enjoyable and entertaining, especially as we won comfortably 4—1. We now only had one more hurdle before becoming Army Champions, and this came in the form of 42 Survey Engineers who were last years winners and had been in the final many times before. It turned out to be an excellent afternoon at Aldershot. We seemed to be playing our best tennis yet, which meant that we over powered the opponents and won 4—1.

Gen Pascoe, President of the Lawn Tennis Association very kindly presented the cup in front of a disappointingly small number of spectators, but even this could not dampen our celebrations, after all, we were now Army Champions.

BAOR DINGHY SAILING CHAMPIONSHIP 1991

The BAOR Dinghy Sailing Championship 1991 was held at the British Dummersee Yacht Club (BDYC) on the 23/24 September 1991.

7 Sig Regt had qualified by some impressive light wind sailing, the finals however were destined to be completely different.

The first day was very windy, blowing Force 4/5, resulting in some interesting sailing. **Cpl Mac Parker's** boat had a distinct advantage carrying some 392kgs of ballast.

The team **WO1 Jonathan Mold, SSgt Paul Skinner, Cpl Mac Parker, Sig Rob Howe, LCpls Mark Grady** and **Chris Mundie** sailed very well, scoring a 1/2/3 over both 2 Fd Regt and 52 Fd Sqn. The team was, unfortunately squeezed out by the impressive 22 Sig Regt.

The second day was the deciding day. 7 Sig Regt would surely, beat 21 Engr Regt and secure first and second place for the Corps. Unfortunately, this was not to be, as Force 6/7 winds caused the Regatta to be cancelled.

KAPE TOUR—WALES 1991

It is a well known fact that the Regiment's recruiting area is Wales and so every two years, a group of 14 lucky people, chosen from hundreds of eager applicants embark on a KAPE (Keep the Army in the Public Eye) tour to explain the advantage of bleeps, radios and dipoles over leeks, dragons and daffodils.

Sig 'Tetley' Crossley fascinates the children with the telephones

In Wales the team split into two groups visiting schools. Team A worked in and around the Cardiff area, and Team B travelled to Swansea. The aim of the display was to inform the children of what is expected from today's Corps soldier and allow them to try out the equipment for themselves. The children enjoyed the opportunity, showing great interest in the display.

The middle weekend was spent assisting with the Cadet Cambrian Patrol Competition. The KAPE team provided a spectacular and gory first aid stand, which thoroughly tested the skills and organisation of each weary team. The standard of first aid, considering the cadets' age and experience, was good and they enjoyed the challenge and realism. Gwent A team proved worthy winners and were presented with a framed copy of the 'Suez' print.

For the final week, the B team headed north to assist the RWF Youth team at Kinmel Camp in the 'Look at Life' visits for local schoolchildren. Team A returned to Cardiff to visit yet more local schools. The teams, led by **Capt Deborah Jones** and **2Lt Bobby Strawbridge** were: **LCpls Colin Ramsden,** 'Terry' **Waite, Anderson, Mandy Korchel, Pte Sharon Marshall, Sig** 'Tetley' **Crossley,** 'Taff' **Evans, Charlie Grieg, Dawson** and 'Taff' **Harman.**

They are to be congratulated on their hard work, often in adverse conditions which enabled such a successful KAPE tour. They are also to be commended on their environmental concern, choosing each evening to visit 'The Heath'. A special mention has to go to **Sig Charlie Greig** who was adopted by Welsh schoolgirls as the KAPE tour pin-up—no doubt he will keep the Post Office in business for years.

Finally, to all those who disagreed with the authors opinion of Welsh rugby; 7 Sig Regt, famous for its rugby is now considering sending its KAPE tour next time to Western Samoa.

ORIENTEERING—BOHEMIA

Pre-season training for some of the Regimental team took them to the Czechoslovakian five day orienteering championships in Doksy. The team certainly had depth with **Capt Deborah Jones** entering the W21 class, **WO2 (SSM) McCluskey, SSgt (FofS) Phil Cooper** (not pictured) and **Cpl Ian Hodgson** entering the M21 class and **WO2 (RQMS) Dave Fox** and **WO1 John Mold** entering the more senior classes.

The championships were used by many other competitors as a warm up for the world championships the following week. However, for most of the team, this was their first taste of international standard 'cunning running' and their registration on the M21A course was to prove quite ambitious. It was clear from the outset that the standard was well above that which the team was used to in terms of course length, the terrain and the technical difficulty.

However the team was undaunted and faced the challenges with renewed spirit each day and made steady progress up the ladder of success. Having completed each days event, the team took the opportunity to absorb the local culture ably assisted by some imaginative navigation by a certain SSM who considered it fortunate that he did not have to pay such a fine each time he went the wrong way on the orienteering course.

Evenings around the fireside were greatly enhanced by post-mortems of the days running with magnificent contributions by a certain FofS who 'would have had a good run if I hadn't spent 40 minutes getting to the first control'.

The team, *from left to right*, WO1 John Mold, WO2 (RQMS) Dave Fox, Capt Deborah Jones, Cpl Ian Hodgson and WO2 (SSM) Daryl McCluskey

A great deal of experience was gained from this difficult and challenging championship and the team anticipate going on tour to at least two or three new countries in the forthcoming season.

And finally, friends, don't forget that 'Orienteers run the country'.

ONE SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd	**Maj Tim Watts**
2IC	**Capt Garth Pickersgill**

SSM **WO2 (SSM) Mick Scull,** SQMS **SSgt John Cambridge,** YofS **SSgt (YofS) Simon Lock,** FofSSSgt **(FofS) Phil Cooper.**

LADIES COMBAT NIGHT

'Right you orrible lot, get fell in . . .' was the polite introduction from **SSgt John Grandsion** on that hot, sticky, July evening.

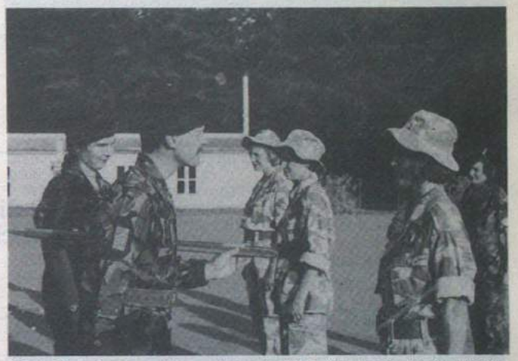
Whose idea was this anyway? Someone with a fetish for wearing Gulf combats and desert boots ten sizes too big perhaps?

The 'inspection' was, shall we say, memorable.

The Gym and the Assault Course were beckoning.

After a quick Fag and cough (for most of us), it was on to the highlight of the evening, the Nouveau Cuisine (or Compo). The singlies enjoyed doing their tasting bit, with the winning team excelling themselves with Bully Beef avec Guinness.

We all enjoyed the evening and look forward to taking on any Baddies out there.



SSgt Grandison proffers advice to Mrs Ann Lock, Claire Watts. Joan Grandison and Kay Sherman 'quake' in the background

5 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd	**Maj S. G. Marshall MBE**
SSM	**WO2 (FofS) J. Riley**

FofS **WO2 (FofS) J. Thompson, YofS WO2 (YofS) M. Dawson.**

MAN TROOP PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**2Lt Rob Gibson**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Bill Johnson**

The Troop has been involved with RSIT and Ex Certain Shield. A few new members deployed on adventure training; a break from the MT park.

It is apparent that some of us are averse to moving vehicles in and out of the garages in one piece. On that note we would like to award **Sig** (ROSPA) **Mawson** the 'Driver of the Year' and **Sig Rich Dray** the 'Hill Start of the Month' awards.

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

The Troop welcomes **LCpl Tony Rosen, Sig Andy Dandy** and **Martin Barringer** who made the long trip from 1 Sqn and **LCpl Dave Duffield** and his wife **Vickey** from 2 Div. We hope you all have an enjoyable tour.

Congratulations to **Sgt Paul McGarry** on his well earned promotion and to **Sig Merv Mather** and **Karman** on their marriage.

A5 TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**Capt Graham Deans**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Frank Evans**

WATERSKIING

With much hard work and a long spell of good weather we decided to spend a Wednesday afternoon relaxing by the lake.

LCpl Mick Hurn was given the task of organising the event. The day arrived (the coldest for a while) but this did not dampen spirits. Sadly water skiing was curtailed due to bad weather. **Cpl Frank Nash** decided to go swimming instead. The rest of us watched as **Frank** spent all of five minutes in the water. With the help of the rest of the Troop, **Sig Al Bradbury** and **Lee Porter** also took a quick dip.

By now the barbecues were going well; many thanks to all the expert cooks, especially **Sig Smith** who obviously enjoyed his own cooking!

We were impressed with **Sig Tam Kinnaird** when, (dressed in jeans and T-Shirt) he joined in a windsurfing lesson. He will learn how to turn during his next lesson. That way he will not need to be towed back to the bank again.

During the crazy golf we witnessed some fine stroke play; especially from **LCpl** 'Dutch' **Holland, Sig** 'hole in one' **Lee Porter, Cpl** 'that was a practice shot' **Dave Boyd** and **WPte** 'I dinna ken this game' **Kaz Duffy**. All in all an enjoyable day for **LCpl Mick Hurn** who organised the afternoon at a different lake. He did say he had a nice barbecue alone. Also **Sgt Tim Edwards** spent the afternoon getting to know his way around the area. He told **Sig Ken Kennedy** that the next time he took a route card he would actually look at it.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following personnel on their recent promotions: **Cpl Gary Steel** to Sgt and also **Sig Mick Vaughan** to LCpl. Well Done.

CLT PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**SSgt Mac McGillivray**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Aussie Gardner**

After a short time with 4 Sqn the Troop is now back in the fold. In May we were asked to go to Berlin to take part in the Queens Birthday Parade. An enjoyable time was had by all.

June saw a much reduced Summer Sales along with one of the highlights of the year, the Rhine Army Summer Show. While the majority of the Troop disappeared to Mercury Lodge, a few of us moved to Voglesang to take on the task of watermanship instructions for the Regimental Battle Camp. This involved improvised rafting and led to one of the troops which, when faced with a lack of time due to failing light, were tasked by **LCpl Andy Hicks** to build a raft capable of getting 37 men (including the CO, 2IC and MO) across the water. They made it but the raft didn't.

Spr Nick McCann continues to be one of the stars in the Regiment Shooting Team. He was recently awarded top shot at a rifle meeting against the Bundeswehr and German Police.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **LCpl Nige Hughes** and **Suzanne** on their recent marriage.

MAN TROOP
REFLECTIONS FROM EXERCISE CERTAIN SHIELD

The majority of MAN Tp's operators deployed on Ex Certain Shield under the watchful eyes of **YofS Mick Dawson**, a veteran of many a Certain Shield campaign. We were accommodated in a German gymnasium. This caused **Sig** Hicky **Hickman** nightmares about fitter days but provided **Sig Monagham** with the chance to distinguish himself. Every night he generously entertained over 100 people with his various stage acts. **Cpls** Burbs **Burbridge** and **Bertie Hoyle** convinced everyone that there is still a need for techs, whilst the small contigent from Corps Lighting Tp remained as steady as a rock throughout. All in all much was learned on what was a good exercise.

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

ARMY SENIOR SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS
INTER UNIT TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP
HELD AT ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY SANDHURST
by LCpl Smart, 1 Sqn

Competing WRAC Team: 8 Sig Regt, 243 Sig Sqn, Womens Services Northern Ireland, 10 Coy WRAC (WRAC Centre Guildford), QEMH Woolwich and Bielefeld Garrison.

8 Sig Regt Team Members: **Cpls McCall, Jervis, LCpls McIntosh, Smart, Ptes Stanyer, Fursman** and **Smith.**

The team travelled to the Sandhurst pool with a great participating spirit and they did not expect to do as well as the final results show.

The first race of the afternoon was the 66 yards individual breastroke, which was swam by **LCpl Smart**. After a very close race between two army swimmers, **LCpl Smart** came out as the winner. In the backstroke **Pte Smith** achieved an unlucky third. The freestyle was another exciting race with **Pte Stanyer** coming second.

Finally, the relay events, the first being the medley relay (**Smart, Stanyer, Fursman**) which we won convincingly, and also broke the record . . . Well done girls!

Next another very exciting race, the freestyle relay (**Smart, Stanyer, Jervis**), again another brilliant victory.

The final event was the breastroke relay, all the girls had to do was finish in fifth position . . . this was what they did, sadly, the team was disqualified as QEMH Woolwich sneaked in to the winner's position of the competition. 8 Sig Regt came away as runners up, the best result achieved in a swimming competition for some considerable time. The girls showed amazing team spirit and were rewarded for their hard work and efforts by achieving a good result.

WOMENS HOCKEY SEVEN-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT
ALDERSHOT
by Cpl Best, 1 Sqn

The team: **Cpls Zdena Best, Dixie James,** 'Kernie' **Kernaghan, Annette Wakelin, LCpls Michelle MacIntosh, Robin Smart, Ptes Emma Trowell, Tracy Stubbs** and **O/Cdt Terry Southern.**

Cpl Kernaghan had a hard task before her, manoeuvering a minibus into the garage forecourt for petrol, somewhere between Catterick and Aldershot. After three attempts at missing the entrance, and failing to get the petrol cap on the right side of the pump, the mission was aborted! The journey continued, with the minibus occupants anxiously watching the petrol gauge needle go further into the red. Saved by another petrol station (this time with easier access), **Cpl Kernaghan** completed a surprise attack on the petrol pumps and our tank was once again, thankfully full!

So began a weekend of hockey at Aldershot. We gathered at the hockey pitches at 0845 hrs Saturday (My mother warned me there would be early weekends like this!) We scoured the programme for the days play and calculated we had enough time for meeting up with old friends for a quick chat of 'Where are you now?' and 'What are you doing?' 'Haven't seen you for ages' and of course 'You're not still seeing him!'

Our first match, a gentle warm up game with no score, took us to our second match, and first win, 3—0 against the Army Welfare Assistants, **OCdt Southern** netting the first goal and **Cpl Kernaghan** the next two.

The 'Golden Oldies' were not quite as easy. **Cpl Kernaghan** again found the net (in a rather unorthodox manner admittedly!) but the 'Golden Oldies' pulled back two goals from us, one of which came from a surprising penalty flick.

Undeterred by our defeat, **Cpl Kernaghan** kept the score sheet going for our next game versus Pegasus with a 3—0 victory. Excellent play by both goal keepers kept the score to a no score draw against the UDR and took us to our final match of the day. Tiredness creeping in, we tried to keep our game together by pushing forward to our opposition's goal. Finally, however, our luck ran out and 20 Sqn RCT stole a goal from us, leaving us looking towards the table for our next days play.

Sunday was hot . . . Real hot! After warnings to take in plenty of fluids, we were off again. Our first match versus Lisburn Station was 0—0, but in our second **Cpl Kernaghan** reliably opened our score sheet again and took us to a 1—0 victory over McCall Hampshires.

Unfortunately, we lost our match against Dusseldorf 1—0, but undaunted we had a blinding game against the AAC centre and beat them 3—0, once again **Cpl Kernaghan** got her name on the score sheet with **OCdt Southern** and **Cpl Best.**

After consulting the score table we knew we couldn't win our league so decided to have a major team shuffle. **Pte Stubbs** came out of goal to be a forward and **OCdt Southern** was padded up, given a crash course in goal keeping and shown the direction of the nets. Within 30 seconds of the game starting, SEME were beating down on our goal, 'unseen' by our brave new goalie who was heard to remark 'Was that a goal then?' Play continued fast and furious, SEME were once again on our goal. A scuffle in the circle—a strike at goal—a save . . .! A whistle blast. The umpire was indicating, our naive goalie looked across, 'What does that mean then?' The team let out a groan, a penalty flick had been awarded. **OCdt Southern** in full protective kit, mask, gloves and stick faced the ball . . . The ball was flicked . . . The goalie leaped away from the ball—'Well, I didn't want to get hurt!' A good and a very well humoured 2—0 defeat!

So ended another year at the 7's tournament. A good time was proverbially had by all and the team would like to thank everyone involved in the organisation of the event for their hard work. No doubt we'll see you all again next year and perhaps the Training Major will let OC 2 Sqn and OC B Tp out to play too!

TEN PIN BOWLING
UKLF HANDICAP DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

The competition was held on the 14-15 September at the Astra Bowl RAF Brize Norton. Two pairs travelled from Catterick Garrison, **Sgt Jerry Johnson** and **Cpl Phil Vinnicombe** from 8 Sig Regt, **Sgt Steve Brennan** 8 Sig Regt and **Cpl Gaz Lee** 210 Sig Sqn 2 Inf Div (soon to be 8 Sig Regt). The format was 48 pairs bowl, 6 games to try and qualify for the top 24, both pairs qualified easily with **Johnson** and **Vinnicombe** placed 19th and **Brennan** and **Lee** 9th.

The first round on Sunday was the qualification for the top 12, unluckily **Johnson** and **Vinnicombe** couldn't quite raise their game and finished in 16th place overall. **Brennan** meanwhile had bowled an excellent 257 game, 600 series and **Lee** 511 series scratch to move them up to 5th place. The next round **Brennan** (12 handicap) and **Lee** (22 handicap) bowled 558 and 590 respectively to qualify for the final in 4th place.

The final was a round-robin affair with each pair bowling one game against each other. A lot of the games were very close, with a 60 pin bonus going to the winner of each game, they were fiercely contested. The results for **Brennan** and **Lee** were:

Game	One	Two	Three	Four	Five
Score	426	404	377	373	406
Result	W	W	W	L	W

The fourth game was only lost by one pin and the fifth was only won by seven. **Sgt Brennan** and **Cpl Lee** won the final overall by 160 pins. It was an excellent competition. We now go to the UKLF Trios on the 2-3 November to try and win that one with a Regimental Team.

COAST TO COAST WALK
D TROOP
by Sgt Ashley D Troop

This was a very physically demanding walk from St Bees in Cumbria to Robin Hoods Bay, Cleveland which was enthusiastically endured and completed by D Troop, 3 Sqn in July 1991.

The walk was organised into stages of varying lengths over a fortnight. A couple of the shorter stages were combined to allow the walkers a weekend off to rest some very tired and blistered feet.

D Troop 'Why use camp site showers when rivers are free?'

Personalities include: **Capt Shelagh MacLeod** (UEL), **SSgts Jimmy Shields** (Admin), **Phil Boon, Sgt Gary Ashley, Sig McGilvary, Woody Woodall, Musson** and **Taylor.**

The OC 3 Sqn **Maj Vigurs** (who also led various stages of the walk) would like to express a very well done to all who took part.

'On top of the world' Sig Walker, McGilvary, Taylor and Woodall

INTER SQUADRON TENNIS
by WO2 (SSM) Young, 3 Sqn

The Inter Squadron Tennis Competition was held in July. Hot favourites were the previous holders 1 Sqn, with HQ Sqn 'talking' a good team.

When the competition reached the quarter final stage, the team to beat was the 3 Sqn 'A' team, comprising the winning captain from the previous two years, **WO2 Clive Young, Sgts Gary Ashley, Alan Morton** and **Sig Richard Saunders-Fox.**

Bad weather held up the finals but the eventual winners were 3 Sqn, easily brushing aside the competition. HQ Sqn were runners-up.

Winners 3 Squadron 'A Team'. *Back Row Left—Right* WO2 (SSM) Clive Young, Sgt Alan Morton. *Front Row Left—Right* Sgt Gary Ashley, Sig Richard Saunders-Fox

9 Sig Regt
BFPO 58

REGIMENTAL FETE

The best things come, but once a year: Christmas, birthdays and the Regiment Fete. The Fete is the best of the three, because it's always warm and you share it with other people. It provides a fun day out for the family, and raises badly needed money for charities. This year's extravaganza was held at Ayios Nikolaos on Saturday 14 September, and was more special than usual (if that is possible), because the Regiment is celebrating 75 years of continuous service in the Near or Middle East, and the Signal Officer in Chief, **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook** and **Mrs Cook** joined us to mark the occasion.

Pictured here the SOinC, Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook speaking to clerks over lunch during his visit to the Regiment

Over 2,000 visitors from all over the ESBA and beyond made the journey up to Ay Nik and were kept entertained, amused and even enthralled by a multitude of arena events, sidestalls, activities and displays.

The aerial events started off with a freefall parachute display into the centre of the arena by members of Cyprus Joint Services and Adventure Training Centre.

The aerial theme continued, courtesy of 34 Sqn, RAF Regt. They arrived by means of Wessex from 84 Sqn RAF and 200ft of rope, giving an excellent display of helicopter abseiling.

Next up was the Clash of the Titans: the tug of war. The teams grunted and groaned their way through the afternoon, with irresistible forces meeting immovable objects, left right and centre.

3 Sqn takes the strain

The most irresistible force turned out to be 1 Sqn, who had been tipped for success after their recent glory in the Minor Units contest.

Speaking of immovable objects, the Famagusta Saddle Club gave us a showjumping demonstration in which the rails seemed to be curiously unwilling to leave their posts. Superglue was suspected at first, but the reality was that the Musical Ride had been so good that the rails were mesmerised.

The final event of the day was the Gun Run: an event in the Regiment Coomber Cup competition. The teams threw all their effort into the event, and claim that they would give the Royal Navy a bit of a contest at Earls Court next year. It was the 2 Sqn, B Team and their 'motivator' **Lt Ian Walton** who triumphed in the end, and they were last seen 'warming down' with a few cunningly disguised soft drinks. Whilst all this was going on the sidestalls were doing a roaring trade.

The afternoon ended with the announcement of the top prizes for the Fete Raffle. **Mr K. Davey** scooped the £1,000 jackpot, and **LCpl Bailey** of D Troop managed to grab the £500 second prize, despite having just arrived in the Regiment. Welcome to Ay Nik!

Everyone agreed that the afternoon had been a great success, and a considerable amount of money was raised, to be distrubuted to civilian charities in Cyprus and to service charities in the UK.

KARTING CRAZY

The Mercury Kart Club recently held its third Grand Prix Race Day, thus making a bid for the title of the ESBA's speediest growing sport.

Our 100 competitors turned up for registration in the morning, queuing for places in the heats. Four categories of race were held, Juniors, Seniors and Ladies, all raced over five laps including the prestigious Team Relay Race. In this teams of four drivers compete over a 20 lap course, with driver changes every five laps.

At 1000 hrs practice began and over the two hours that followed every participant took the opportunity to get used to the Kart's handling and acceleration over the bumps and bends of the 800m long track.

Negotiating a tricky corner

After a short break for lunch, generously cooked by **Cpl Mark Nottingham** and his team of chefs, racing began.

Two heats of Juniors led to a four kart final which was won by race ace **Daniel Harper**, he was hotly pursued by **David Cuthbert** in second place and **Richard Rampton** storming in third.

Next came the Ladies heats and another four kart final. **Samantha Harper** led all the way until a disastrous spin in her third lap allowed her mother **Carol**, to scream past her into first position.

Last of the five lap races was the Senior category and the heats led to a three kart final. The result was victory for **David Harper** (again, surely a fix?), with **Sig Justin Steadman** a close second and **Maj Robin Cuthbert** coming in third.

The prizes which were exceptionally distinctive, were kindly donated by **Alan Ash** of Alan's Motors, Larnaca and were presented to the winners by **Lt Col Keith Barr** from Dhekelia Garrison.

Our congratulations to to all the winners and thanks to the competitors who took part and stayed to watch the final.

OFFICERS' MESS OPENED

The new Officers' Mess accommodation was officially opened on 20 September 1991. Following a short address, Comd Dhekelia Garrison, **Col M. A. G. Watts**, handed over the golden scissors to the youngest female Subaltern, **Lt L. D. Allen**, who completed the opening ceremony by cutting the ribbon and unveiling a commemorative plaque.

The new accommodation was built to the specifications of the PSA architect, **Mr David Turner**, and completed by Atlaspontou Co Ltd. Seventeen Studio type rooms are now occupied by living-in officers, most of whom moved from their former 'swamp' accommodation earlier in the week.

Among those who attended the opening ceremony were: Comd Dhekelia Garrison, **Col M. A. G. Watts**; CO 9 Sig Regt, **Lt Col N. C. Jackson**; **Mr David Turner** PSA; **Mr T. Toumazis**, Managing Director Atlaspantou Co Ltd; the QM, **Maj Stan Hargreaves**; the PMC, Mess Manager and Mess members, PSA and contractor's team.

Lt Lesley Allen cuts the ribbon at the official opening of the new Mess

TM TROOP
ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Troop welcomes **SSgt Bob Wright, Sgt Joe Docherty, Cpls Tracy Docherty** (No relation!), **Philip Graham, Shaun Nicholls** and **Martyn Roberts**. We hope their tour will be a happy one.

It is with a certain degree of sadness that we say farewell to **WO1 (FofS) Royce Wilson** and his wife **Trudy**, who have both put in a tremendous amount of work for the Troop. Thanks! We wish them well and hope their short time with 34 Sig Regt (V) is not too cold! We also say farewell to **SSgt Angus Reid, Sgts Danny Daniels**. 'Smudge' **Smith, Cpl Liz Mangan** and **LCpl Pete Longden**.

SUMMER BALL

This year it was the turn of TG Workshops to organise the Troop Summer Ball. The venue was the Corinthia Beach Hotel on the Larnaca tourist strip. The hotel had all the Troop required for the function.

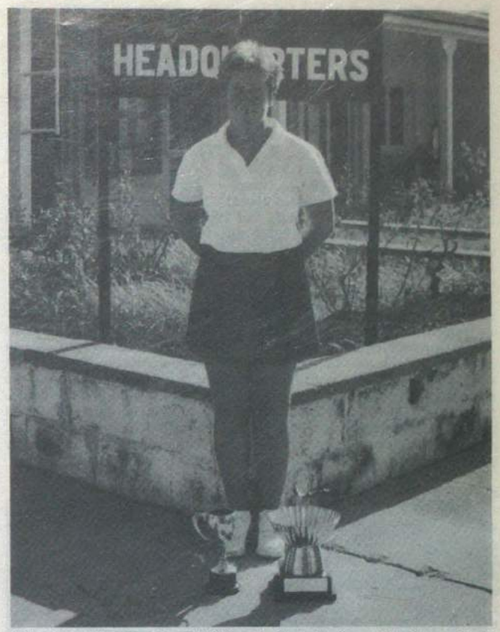
The fancy dress theme for the evening was famous/infamous couples, although on the night it appeared more like a Flintstones convention, thanks to all Troop members who turned up in fancy dress which really made the evening go with a swing.

The entertainment started with the wet clothing competition with people being 'encouraged' to enter the pool, some needed a little more encouragement than others! Thanks to the single members in the Troop everyone soon got into the swing of things. Apologies to **Capt John Oakes** wife **Christine** who found herself in the pool only seconds after arriving . . . After everyone had settled down, the disco set to action under the control our our own resident disc jockey, **Mr Jason Holmes** son of **Capt Don Holmes** the Regimental PRI Officer. Thanks for the special deal on the disco price! The evening really took off when the Regimental 'Karaoke King' **SSgt Kev Gibbard** got his show on the road. It was left to **Sgt Nigel Quaile's** wife, **Dee** to start the evening off with a brave attempt at the Mary Hopkins hit 'Those were the days', thereafter if was one mad rush to get hold of the microphone. A special mention must go to **SSgt (FofS) Ted Edwards** and his wife **Julie** for their renditions.

The evening ended with the Troop dancing the night away under the stars.

INTER-SERVICES DIVING CHAMPSIONSHIPS

The competition was held at HMS Temeraire, Portsmouth. **Amanda** achieved an impressive set of results which were the 'Tina Charles Trophy' for overall individual champion, 1st in the Spring board event and 2nd in the high board event. Well done, **Amanda**.



Cpl Amanda Davies WRAC of the Regimental Gym Staff displaying the trophies she won at the Inter-Services Diving Championships

Government Communication Headquarters
Radio Officer

GCHQ requires experienced Radio Officers. If you are coming to the end of your time in the Services and are scheduled for discharge in the next 12 months and are looking for a career which will build on the training you have received, contact GCHQ. We require skilled and motivated staff, with a high sense of purpose, to study our communications across the whole spectrum, from DC to light. To qualify you require a minimum of 2 years recent and relevant radio operating experience. We would prefer you to be capable of reading morse at 20 wpm, but if not, full training will be given at our Training School.

For candidates without experience, you need to hold one of the following qualifications:

BTEC National Diploma (or HNC/HND) in a Telecommunications, Electronics Engineering or similar discipline City and Guilds 777 (advanced level) or other qualifications incorporating morse skills would be advantageous, but not essential. MRGC or equivalent Radio Operating Certificate.

Age limit for experienced Radio Officers 18-45.
Age limit for candidates who do not possess the full range of skills 18-40.

When your training is completed you can look forward to:

- Good career prospects
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Training period: Between 29 and 52 weeks (depending on background and experience). **Salary** after training (over 5 years) £13,756-£19,998 with prospects for further promotions. Salaries include an allowance for shift and weekend working.

GCHQ is an equal opportunity employer
APPLICANTS MUST BE BRITISH NATIONALS

For further information and application form contact:
Recruitment Office, Room A 1108, GCHQ Priors Road, Cheltenham, Glos. GL52 5AJ or telephone (0242) 232912 or 232913.

GCHQ

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

1 SQUADRON
CHARITIES SUPPORT

The support of local and national charities has been a feature of squadron life for several years and 1991 has been no exception. To date the Troops have presented to various charities of their choice the magnificent sum of £11,511.92. Two of the troop charity appeals are described below.

3 TROOP CHARITY

The Troop recently carried out a sponsored clearance of a heavily overgrown half mile section of railway line in Darlington. Money was raised to support the English Amputee Football Team who travel to Russia later this year to take part in the Amputee World Cup. A target of £2,500 was set but £3,000 was eventually collected. This is the largest figure collected by a Troop in the Regiment for many years.

The section of line cleared is to be upgraded and Darlington Railway Museum plan to run a steam engine on the track. The track clearance was supported by Councillor **Mrs Fishwick**, the Mayor of Darlington, who also made a financial contribution.

3 Troop with the Mayor of Darlington and Lt T. McCappin, Tp Comd

4 TROOP CHARITY

Troops undergoing basic military training with the Corps at 11 Sig Regt use some of their limited free time to support a Charity. The Charity is always chosen by the recruits themselves and they generally select one which is relevant to a particular member of the Troop or the local branch of a national charity. 4 Troop which formed on 2 April 1991 selected Candlelighters.

Candlelighters is based in St James's Hospital, Leeds and they work to raise money in aid of Leukaemia research, with particular emphasis on its effect on children.

The event undertaken by 4 Troop was a sponsored Bed Push which took place in the Garrison area and was very well supported by the parents, relatives and friends of the recruits. This sponsorship, added to the cash which was very generously donated by the passing public on the day, amounted to the magnificent sum of £2,420. The cheque was presented to **Mrs Rosalind Simpson**, a representative of Candlelighters, at the Pass Off on 7 June 1991.

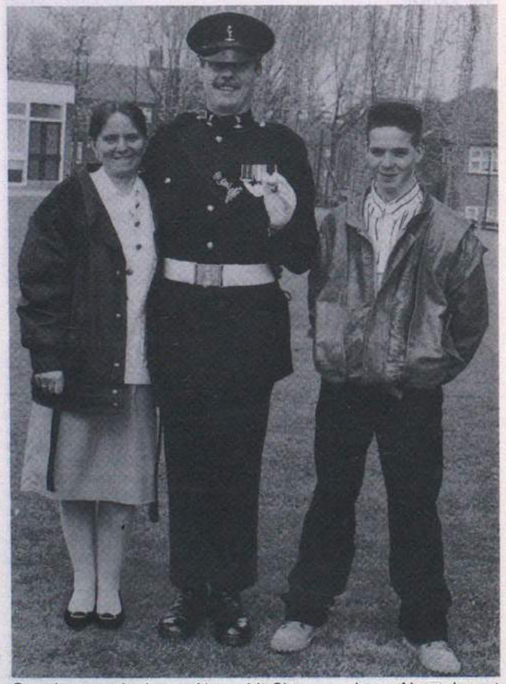
The photograph shows the Troop making their way through the married quarters area on the day, with Sgt Hodgson attempting to maintain a straight line down the centre of the road

CPL A. K. WILSON BEM

The Regiment recently saw the departure of **Cpl Alan Keith Wilson** after 22 years service with the Corps.

Alan enlisted into the Corps in 1969 after two years with Boots the Chemists as a trainee operator in the drugs manufacturing department. After training as a Radio Operator at 24 Sig Regt, he was posted to 30 Sig Regt and then to a six month UNFICYP in 1970. Here he married **Sharon**. There followed postings to 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, 94 Locating Regt in Celle where he was promoted to LCpl and in 1977 to 19 Airportable Bde with promotion to Cpl. Further postings were to Soltau, RAF Wildenrath and Detmold where he became involved in many charitable events. In 1988, **Alan** joined the cadre of 11 Sig Regt and was awarded the BEM in 1989 for his work for charity.

The Regiment would like to thank **Alan** on behalf of the Corps for his support and wish him, **Sharon** and their family all the best in the future.



Our photograph shows Alan with Sharon and son Alan taken at his final parade

CIVILIAN STAFF ADVENTUROUS TRAINING DAY

On Friday 16 August the civilian staff took part in an adventurous training day in the Yorkshire Dales, with abseiling and hillwalking being the main challenges.

The party assembled at Whernside Manor. The civilian staff who opted for the hillwalking obviously had not realised that **WO2 Bob Cook** had set an arduous course which might have tested the fittest of soldiers. During the walk there were several mumblings, ie: my poor little legs, my aching thighs etc. A special 'well done' to **Mrs Joan Coe** and **Mrs Rose Linley** who, although tired at the end of the day, completed the walk in high spirits. The abseiling party led by **Sgt Bob Cook** conquered their fears, nobody abstained, taking the plunge down a 80—100ft drop with slight overhangs. **Mrs Eileen Carr** mustered all her courage to take part in abseiling, the fact that she is now one up on her hubby who refused to abseil on a previous trip has nothing to do with it. Tut! Tut!

Fran Pickard does it with a smile

Another remarkable feat was that of **Mr David Courtney** (son of **Maj Roger Courtney**) who lost his leg due to cancer, completing a 10 mile charity walk on crutches. The monies raised in excess of £500 will be donated to the England Amputee Football Association. Well done **David**.

The day was rounded off by a barbeque at Whernside Manor with everyone bubbling with excitement from their achievements. Thanks to **WO2 Bob Cook** and his staff for providing a memorable day.

NCO TRAINING WING
(carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero)

Two firsts transpired recently; **LCpl Warwick** of 239 Sig Sqn became the first female to complete a Phase III military training course (see her own account) and **Sgt Prem Bahadur Thakali** is the first Gurkha soldier to achieve the same distinction.

LCpl Warwick, a member of RSDC 261, more than met the challenges and demonstrated quite clearly that anything a man can do a woman can do equally well if not better!. **LCpl Warwick** not merely content with completing the course did so with panache—coming 4th.

Sgt Prem Bahadur Thakali displayed all the tenacity and determination associated with the Gurkha soldier and, in doing so, came top with a B.

A WOMAN'S TOUCH RSDCC 261
LCpl Warwick—239 Sig Sqn

How about spending your summer in Catterick instead of Jamaica? The choice was not easy. I was to join 38 men on RSDCC 261 21 July—17 August. I arrived with apprehension on the Sunday, how would they react to a 'woman', could they cope?

The first few days made me feel the odd 'man' out, but after easing us all back into the military way of life I found that I understood all the military jargon, could cope with all the inspections and complete the endless tests. It took no time at all before we were rebounding from one class to the next covering the following subjects: First Aid, Navigation, Skill at Arms, NBC, Drill and Leadership.

Practical skills came next: Tactics, Section Battle Drills, Wood Clearance, Navigation, Digging Shell Scrapes and giving Orders, all were a foreign language to me but after a while I overcame this and found I was really enjoying myself. The early morning starts and late finishes made the days seem so very long I could never fathom how the course got through so many different activities in a single day. The weeks flew by it was the third week already and, after more tests, came Shakedown, this was the link from theory to practical in the real environment. How would it be I thought? Not having the same practical experiences as the men I thought I might be out of my depth. My mind was put at ease by the Instructors; they gave me the encouragement I needed to set me on my way. As the days started to unfold I found the training that I had received in the classroom came together in the field and that I was starting to enjoy myself even though we had to go through some pain and, present ourselves first thing in the morning without having a proper groom, took some doing. But these things were to be overcome thanks to the training.

Week four commenced in the early hours of the morning, 0230 to be exact. We made an approach march with **LCpl Upsall** as Section Commander who led 'The Viking Section' to our RV under the watchful eye of **Sgt 'Andy' Terry**—our Instructor. We arrived at the location to find our first battle was with the rocks and roots whilst trying to dig in, then, just as we finished digging our shell scrapes, the dreaded words 'fill them in we're on the move' came, you can imagine the response, but we had no time to stand about and moan.

The pace increased considerably each day with very little sleep consequently I had to draw on all my resources to give me the strength I needed to carry all my equipment. This was quite a load! considering I am only eight and a half stone soaking wet. One of the tasks that will stick in my mind will be the river crossing. We tied our equipment together to make sure there was no possible leaks to sodden our kit hopefully making our lives a little less uncomfortable. I entered the water with a layer of clothing, on reaching the other side I found to my delight, my bundle had been water tight. The exercise finished with a live section in defence shoot.

The course is not as frightening as some individuals like to project and should be viewed positively. Do not be frightened of the course, even for those less experienced in basic military training, you will be brought up to the level required.

I thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and see no reason at all why women cannot participate in future courses, and do well!

The Log Race

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?
HAVE YOU INFORMED RHQ
TEL 071-414 8242

13 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

RHQ
PERSONALITIES

CO	**Lt Col A. M. Wallace**
2IC	**Maj J. P. McMahon**

Adjt **Capt M. Griffiths**, AAdjt **Lt S. V. Roberts WRAC**, RSM **WO1 (RSM) Orange**, Trg YofS **WO1 (YofS) McMahon**, Chief Clerk **WO2 (ORQMS) Duffy**.

RHQ has seen a couple of changes lately. **WO1 (RSM) Dobson** has left us to complete his last six months in the UK. The menu (his choice) for his dining out was somewhat unusual; Fish & Chips in newspaper with Newcastle Brown Ale to wash it down! We wish him all the best for civvy street and welcome his replacement **WO1 (RSM) Orange**.

The second change has been that of the 2IC's post. **Maj Graham Elliott MBE** has left to take up his post in RSSST (FWD) (paper consumption in RHQ will halve). His replacement, **Maj Tom McMahon**, has come from Royal Signals Manning and Record Office in Glasgow. He commanded the Regiment during his first two weeks here as the CO was away on leave!

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd	**Maj N. J. H. Naylor**
2IC	**Capt P. J. Welch**

Tfc Offr **Maj R. W. Mansfield MBE**, Tp Comd **Lt A. J. Clewlow**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) Wright-Jones**

24 HOUR SPONSORED SWIM

For the third successive year, the sponsored 24 hour swim took place at the Birgelen pool on 24-25 August 1991. At exactly 1600 hrs, **Mrs Ann Doherty** blew the whistle to start off **Lt Adrian Clewlow** to complete the first 15 minute leg of the swim.

Throughout the 24 hours, a record 62 members and dependants of the Squadron, participated and completed a distance of over 33 miles. The weather conditions were near perfect, apart from a very cool period around dawn however, this was soon forgotten as the loyal band of supporters gathered throughout the day.

At midday **Sgts Humphries** and **Stockell** 'sparked' up the barbecue and provided refreshments, whilst **Cpl King** and his wife **Gail** ran another successful raffle.

At 1600 hrs, **Lt Sue Roberts** swam home to rapturous applause as she completed the last leg of the event. At the end of the 24 hour period, **Sgt Andy Marchant** the swim organiser breathed a sigh of relief that it had ended successfully.

The sponsored swim raised DM 4000 for the Corps Benevolent Fund and the Royal Marsden Cancer Appeal.

A big 'Thank You' goes to **Sgt Andy Marchant**, his band of helpers and, of course, all of the swimmers. We are now looking for a volunteer to run next year's event. Names to the 2IC.

Sponsored Swim (Swimmers and helpers)

ALPHA TROOP
TROOP PERSONALITIES

Tp WO	**WO2 Thomson**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Randle**
Tp Scribe	**LCpl Turton**

The summer phase of the Lions Trophy (Inter Troop Sports Competition) drew to a close with the very popular sport of waterpolo, with **LCpl 'Jock' Munro** as coach and trainer. At the end of our four matches we had won one, lost two with the highlight being a very close game against the commcen girls. This final result gave us third place in the competition overall. We now look forward to the kick-off of the winter phase of the competition.

Another very popular summer sporting event has been the Regimental Inter Troop Softball league, under the control of our flamboyant American Officer **Jack Bundy**. The Troop team, under the leadership of **LCpl Campbell** managed to reach the semi-finals after being runners-up in one of the leagues. This match, against C Troop, proved to be a very close affair and was only decided in the final innings. The tension in the diamond rose to fever pitch but in the end we lost and C Troop went through to the final.

The highlight of the social scene was our Summer Ball which was run jointly with Charlie Tp. The theme was American fancy dress so we had our fair share of Indians and potential Al Capones.

We would like to send our congratulations to **LCpl Dave Mundy** and his wife **Janet** on the event of their recent marriage. Hopefully it will be a long and happy one.

BRAVO 'BELTAS' WIN INTER DEPT SOFTBALL TROPHY

Cries of 'strike' and 'yur owta here' were heard almost daily as teams battled it out in their respective soft ball leagues. After the series, the top two teams battled it out for the right to be champions. This year the final was between Bravo and Charlie Tps, both 1 Sqn. Charlie Tp was the winner last year. It had a strong team. It was also on a bit of a high having thrashed Bravo Tp earlier in the week at water-polo. Bravo Tp, led by **LCpl J. R. Pankhurst**, was quietly confident that its team could win.

The final was to be the best of three matches, each of seven innings. After three innings each, Bravo Tp had opened up an early lead of 10 runs to 1. The standard of fielding was high, and the batters had to work hard to get round the bases. Charlie Tp could not come back after the good start made by Bravo, so the first game ended in a win for Bravo Tp by 25 runs to 7.

The second match proved to be a very tight game. Some excellent catching and throwing from both sides. Bravo Tp managed to get its nose in front, and with sterling performances from **LCpls Chapman** and **Runciman** and all the other members of the team, ended winning 10 runs to 7 with an innings in hand.

All players who took part in the competition would like to thank **CW3 Jack Bundy** and his umpires without whom the competition would have not been so enjoyable. As for Charlie Tp . . .

BTp's Winning Team and Supporters

CHARLIE TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp WO	**WO2 Hannon**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Ruddock**

A festive start with the Joint A and C Troop Summer Ball which had an American theme. Our thanks go to **LCpl Andy Ball** and his entertainments Committee for organising a splendid evening.

The 1 Sqn Lions Trophy competition was concluded on 18, 19 and 20. C Troop was leading the competition after the first two events—Hockey and Volleyball—and needed a good result in the Water Polo to seal the victory. All we can say is 'We did it in style' by playing four games and winning all of them. A special mention to **Cpl Craig, Shrives** and **LCpl Aidy Smith** on some fine performances. Thanks also to **LCpl Rob Sturdy** for organising and coaching the team.

Certain members of the Troop were soon back in the pool, taking part in the marathon '24 hour swim'. **LCpl Izard** was responsible for collecting sponsors, and **LCpl Foster** did more than his fair share both in and out of the water.

Sport wasn't the only thing that the Troop excelled in, **LCpl 'Bambi' Hildreth** won second prize in the Regimental Essay Writing Competition with his entry 'The Eternal Triangle'. **SSgt Dave Ruddock** and **Cpl Tom Miller**, are off to Switzerland, as part of the Squadron team entering the Bischofszell Patrol Competition, in a gruelling, if not picturesque, annual Military Skills Competition.

The Troop said farewell to three of its members: **Cpls Tim** and **Karen Stevens** who are off to sunny Ireland, and **LCpl Andrew Burgum**, who is off to sunnier Cyprus.

Congratulations to **LCpls John Chambers** and **Phil Walton** who both got married recently and congrats also to **Sgt Shaun Yost** on his recent promotion—about time too!

TM TROOP
PERSONALITIES

TM Tp Comd	**Capt Brian Gardner**
FofS Maint	**WO1 (FofS) Dougie Brisco**

FofS Projects **SSgt (FofS) Tony Woolaston**, NCO I/C Syscom **SSgt Roger Farmer**, NCO I/C Radio **SSgt John Kennedy**, NCO I/C Workshops **Sgt Phil Mathews**.

INTER TROOP VOLLEYBALL

The Troop team entered the Inter Troop Volleyball Competition under the control of our volleyball mentors **Sgt Phil Mathews** and **Sgt Sam Coster**. The teams were separated into two leagues. The top two teams from each league qualifying for a place in the semi finals. With the passing of the winter and the coming of the summer the competition continued to be keenly contested, with fine individual performances by **Sgts Neil Taylor** and **Ian Burton**. As the competition ended the final positions could only be decided by a further Round Robin competition. With the addition of newly arrived **Cpl Harry Cochrane** the Troop team achieved near perfect balance of experience and youthful exuberance, ensuring its place as overall winner beating C Troop convincingly.

RCZ ORIENTEERING

The Regimental orienteering team competed in the RCZ League. Members of TM Tp included the veteran orienteerers **Sgts Phil Mathews** and **Dave Snowball** and the keen novices **Cpls Paul Dapprich, John Whitty** and **Andy Mace**. At the end of an arduous season the Regimental Team was secure in 2nd place.

The RCZ Inter Unit Championships provided another challenge for us. As the Unit was able to enter two teams, in addition to the normal Inter Unit rivalry, the B Team was out to prove it was incorrectly titled. Despite fine team efforts the A Team was to finish the competition as runners up with the B Team achieving 4th place.

HELLOS, GOODBYES, CONGRATULATIONS AND SO ON

Congratulations to **Tony McMahon** on his recent commissioning. Farewell to **Gill** and hope they enjoy their new life in Blandford.

A warm welcome to **WO1 (FofS) Dougie** and **Sue Brisco** and **Cpl Harry** and **Elizabeth Cochrane**.

Farewell to **Cpl Ian Wheeler** who leaves for his T1 upgrading course in Catterick. Temporary farewells to **Sgt Baz Fowler** for six months in Belize and **Sgt** (newly promoted) **Sam Graveson** for 4 months in the Middle East.

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BFPO 23

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj Steve Turpin**
2IC — **Capt John Stuart**

SSM **WO2 (SSM) Phil Abbott**, W Tp Comd **Lt Claire Holdsworth**, X Tp Comd **Lt Richard Spencer** and Y Tp Comd **2Lt Ben Kite**.

The Squadron has seen a number of changes; **2Lt Ben Kite** has taken over the task of Yankee Tp Comd, **Lt Richard Spencer** has moved across the corridor to X-ray Tp. The biggest change has been the transition from a wheeled to an armoured squadron. Most of the AFV 432s had to be repainted and serviced. No mean feat for a squadron with little experience of tracked vehicles. Whilst some were respraying the vehicles others were learning how to drive them! The efforts paid off and the work culminated in one squadron deploying on Ex Certain Shield in September, the first time the new-look squadron had fully deployed.

Participation in the exercise was not without its problems.

The exercise attracted a number of visitors to the Squadron including Comd Comms, **Gen J. O. C. Alexander CB OBE**.

DON'T SAY GOODBYE
SAY HELLO.

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2 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj John Gale**
2IC — **Capt Dave McCreath**

SSM **WO2 (SSM) Dave Toon**

Farewell to **WO2 Pete Woodward** and his wife **Pat** after his stint as SSM, have a good time in Cyprus.

KILO TROOP

Tp Comd — **Capt Mark Finneran**
2IC Tp — **WO2 Keith Baker**

Tp SSgt **SSgt Steve Barnes**, Tp Sgt **Sgt Mick Wray**.

Upon our return from leave all efforts were directed towards Ex Certain Shield and Action Express, two independent exercises which ran concurrently.

The Troop Comd and **SSgt Steve Barnes** took a handful of our members south to join a multi-national complex on Certain Shield whilst the 2IC and **Sgt Mick Wray**, sped north to Denmark on Action Express.

Action Express, was conducted on the islands of Zealand, Lolland and Falster. We travelled from the NW tip of Zealand, at SJ Odde to the SW area of Lolland, near Nysted, which provided us with a fine opportunity to see a large area of the Zealand group of islands during our stay.

We came directly under the command of **Maj Jensen**, OC Zealand EW Coy, but worked with an element of the Jutland EW Coy headed by **Lt Christian Gotche** and his team. A special word of thanks to the crew for making our stay a most enjoyable and memorable occasion and we look forward to future joint operations. Other crew members were **SSgt Freddy Justesen, LCpls** 'Spoony' **Lossel, Niels Pontdppidan, Claus Hansen, Phillip Sapfieh** and **LCpl Tina Plindstrup**

We have two occasions for nuptial congratulations. To **Cpl Mark** and **Maike Cook** for tying the knot on 28 August and, to **LCpl** 'Paddy' and **Alison Brown** who married on 11 September 1991. Best wishes.

ROMEO TROOP

Tp Comd — **Capt Roy Freeman**
2IC Tp — **WO2 Cas Hayes**

Tp SSgt **SSgt Eric Clee**, Tp Sgt **Sgt Pat Sutton**.

We have a few outstanding hello's and goodbye's. **Capt Lance Mitchell** has left the Army. He has been replaced by **Capt Roy Freeman**; welcome to him and **Sue**. **Sgt Pat Sutton** takes over as Tp Sgt, welcome to him and **Caroline**. Departures include **WO2 Geoff Carter** and **Josie, Sgt Nidge Humphries** and **Debbie** and **Sgt Chris Gibbins**. Many thanks for the collective hard work and good luck for the future.

The Troop has just returned from Ex Achou Express/Botany Bay. This is a joint forces exercise that allows Romeo Tp and the Land Zealand Coy (Denmark) the chance to operate joint operations. The exercise culminated in a football match against the Danes—which they won, despite a Romeo Tp referee! This was topped off with a barbecue of vast size and the swapping of commemorative plaques. All in all a valuable and worthwhile exercise.

VICTOR TROOP

Tp Comd — **Capt Mark Finneran**
2IC Tp — **WO2 Dewar**

Tp SSgt **SSgt Hannan**.

Victor Tp's main commitment has been Ex Certain Shield. For two and a half weeks the Troop, ably supported by 1 Sqn, acted as umpire communicators for MNAD and orange forces operations, moving to a variety of locations.

The Troop took under its wing two TAVR NCO's who were a superb asset throughout the exercise. **Cpls Ian Vatman** and **Peter Highman**. If you are reading this boys there are always two uncomfortable positions waiting for you. Have a good time in UK.

Congratulations to **Cpl** and **Mrs Coussons** on the birth of their daughter. Welcome to three youngsters from Harrogate, **Sig Barker, Marshall** and **Trotter** and farewell to **Alvin Stardust**.

16 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

REGIMENTAL SOCCER

The disappointments of the disrupted last season were quickly forgotten as the Regimental Soccer Squad prepared for the coming season. **Sgt John Wayman** has taken over the coaching side of the house whilst (as we go to press), **Capt Tom Pontin** takes over the administrative role from **Capt Pete Doherty**.

Long time soccer pundit and general manager **SSgt Steve Owen** continues to play a major role in the club and has predicted a successful season—(he's never been right yet).

The pre-season friendlies showed a fair amount of promise and a couple of sound wins against capable opposition including a 3—2 victory against 28 Sig Regt has lifted the heads somewhat.

The Archibald Cup Tournament, hosted by the French this year, gave us problems again mainly due to a depleted team being dispatched to Rastatte. We finished fourth overall with the French retaining the coveted trophy for the second successive year.

The re-arranged Rothmans six-a-side proved a slighty more successful venture for us with the team reaching the Semi-finals only to be beaten by the one goal by our old friends 28 Sig Regt. Reaching the Semi-final allowed our team to be included in the grand finals, coming up soon.

Rothmans G A Side qualifiers *standing left to right* SSgt Steve Owen, LCpl Mac McArthy, Sig Kav Cavanagh, Sgt Tony Lucas, Sgt John Wayman: *Kneeling* Cpl Kev Greenwood, Sig Rob Love, Sig Ricky Lowe and Pete Doherty

TENNIS

The BAOR Corp Tournament was held at 7 Sig Regt, 16 Sig Regt team comprised of **SSgt Tony Talbott, Sgt Tony Lucas** and **LCpl Steve Alton.**

In both the open and Unit Double Competitions **Talbott** and **Lucas** reached the semi-final stages to be beaten by strong 7 Sig Regt opposition. **SSgt Tony Talbott** reached the semi-final of the Mens Open competition, beaten by the eventual winner **Sig Paul Tague** also of 7 Sig Regt. 7 Sig Regt won the overall competition with 16 Sig Regt runners up.

On the domestic scene the Regimental team finished runners up to Rheindahlen Garrison in the RCZ league, **WCpl Anne Carthy** and **Sgt Scouse Whiting** producing some memorable moments as our mixed doubles pair and **Capt Colin Riddell** ACC and **LCpl Steve Alton** playing with mixed fortunes in the mens doubles event.

Our singles event player **SSgt Tony Talbott** lost once throughout the season. A very satisfying season for both the Regiment and for OC 1 Sqn and Tennis Officer **Maj Jim Harris**.

HQ SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj R. Bates**
2IC — **Capt T. J. Friend**

Families Offr **Capt T. Ponton**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) F. G. Tedby**, Sqn Clerk **Pte M. Gorton.**

The Squadron has witnessed nearly a 50% changeover of personnel. One being **Capt T. J. Friend** our new 2IC. We welcome **Capt T. Ponton** as our families Officer.

M TP
HQ SQUADRON
EXERCISE COMB BACKSTOP
by Cpl Walker-Morecroft

Planning began in September 1990—soon 'the whole thing was going along with a swing'. The usual 'not so detailed' recce dutifully done by **Sgt Chris** 'Pathfinder' **Ward** (and his wife!).

The day came, **Cpl Alley Morrow** arrived late but with such an early start of 0430 hrs it was forgivable.

The fleet of vehicles consisted of mini buses, private cars and, as ever, the old faithful dodgy Dodge van, driven by **Cpl Bell** and **SSgt Phil Peet**.

After arriving at Garmisch, some 15 hours later in some cases, morale was still high, with everyone looking forward to the week.

The Troop split into four groups, with an SNCO in charge of each, enabling half a day on each of the water sports and a full day on hill walking. The canoeing started with the usual temperature test of the ice cold water at the Eibsee mountain lake. There was always an audience of Germans watching the Banzai British Squaddie go racing

Left to right: LCpl Joe Naden, SSgt Phil Peet, LCpls Ricky Allen, 'Chez' Walker, Cpl Steve Scarborough, LCpl Andy Freeman, Sgt Reid, Cpls Steve Prendergast, Richy Walker-Morecroft

into the water followed by the hated but compulsory capsize drill. Supposedly an exercise in 'confidence building'.

After the 'getting wet sesh' we set off across the lake to do a bit of sight-seeing and a few rafting exercises. Deep water recoveries were practised and some serious paddling done. Tough but 'wellard'. Under the watchful eyes of **Capt Pete Coleman** (The Boss), the Troop experienced windsurfing, many for the first time.

After the usual disco dancing on the board followed by the constant wipeouts, the more competent ones were taught basic manoeuvres, enabling everyone, or almost everyone, to sail across the wind, turn and sail back. All were taught the self rescue.

At the end of the watersports day the groups found out how arduous water sports can be and how tiring.

The hill walking was led by two members of the Troop, **Sgt Micky Mann** and **Cpl Shawn Parkin**. The two groups set off at different times, therefore keeping out of each others way. After an 8km hike up to the base of Hollertal Klamm, along the Waxenstein to Hollental Hutte then up again to the 'Knappen Howser', appropriately named I might add. The route up was over the Klamm, whilst coming down was through it, getting thoroughly wet (again), but still highly exhilarating. The whole day was a tiring nine hours but well worth it when you reached the high ground for the glorious views.

The final day was spent with all four groups mountain biking. The bikes were specially hired for the occasion—the most expensive activity of all but, one of the most enjoyable.

The instructors latched on to a group a piece and the groups were given the same four check points but in a different order. None of the groups reached a single checkpoint and not one group saw another, yet all faced climbs of 1 in 1!.

For one member this day proved memorable to say the least. On a descent of a mountain **Cpl Steve Prendergast** parted company with his bike which proceeded to drop almost 100m before coming to rest. Luckily **'Birdy'** only received minor cuts and bruises; the bike, however, was a complete wreck.

We held a successful barbecue on the second night.

Unfortunately, **LCpl** 'Deano' **Cartledge** had to be hospitalised on the first day after a cut on his left elbow became infected. Sadly he spent the whole exercise in hospital.

The week was considered a complete success by all participants with many hoping to continue with at least one of the pursuits.

Sgt Lizzie Williams thought the idea of a car boot sale would be a nice little earner. Requests for the donation of items to be sold were sent out around the Rheindahlen Garrison. The Garrison is currently totally involved in the Romania appeal so we were apprehensive about how our appeal would be received. Our fears were unfounded, and the response was excellent. On the day an additional DM1000 was raised. A Squadron barbecue and a number of other direct donations resulted in a total sum in excess of DM5000 being raised. A splendid effort by a number of splendid people.

Fund raisers 'Extraordinaire' *L to R* Sgt Lizzie Williams, Baby Heather, Cpl Clair Spearing, Cpl Jo Green, SSgt Chris Joseph

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj C. M. Eastland**
2IC — **Capt T. Friend MBE**

O Tp Comd **Capt R. Waller**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) L. Twigg**, FofS **WO1 (FofS) Morrison**, YofS **WO2 (YofS) Heeles**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) Talbott.**

SHQ

Within a two week period both the Sqn Comd and 2IC were dispatched to pastures new. **Maj Jim Harris** moved back up to the Regiment in Krefeld, as Projects Officer, for the remainder of his tour, to be replaced by **Maj Colin Eastland** coming from the opposite direction only as Ops Officer. **Capt Pete Doherty**, the erstwhile 2IC, moves further afield and is bound for 30 Sig Regt, replaced by **Capt Tom Friend** who, having spent two years as families officer up at the sharp end (Krefeld), has moved down to improve his golf swing.

We are delighted to report that **Michelle Upson** has at last been catapulted to the rank of LCpl. The MT now vibrates to belicose annunciations of **LCpl Upson** ordering **Pte Karvyon Rochelle** about—when **Pte Rochelle** can be found.

Sgt Lizzie Williams has at last taken some leave. Having stood in for everyone in the SHQ, from the OC to the Typist, she has taken the plunge and was last seen heading off to Dusseldorf airport, destined for a wet two weeks in Glasgow—oh cruel world.

Since her well deserved promotion **Cpl Jo Green** head clerk has developed a slight trip to her gait. Still no news of her posting but **Jo** is taking no chances and has recently successfully attended a basic swimming course, ready for all climates records!

Cpl Tina Edwards dedicates her time to develop the fitness of the Squadron and is gaining quite a reputation around the Rheindahlen Garrison. Her early morning PT sessions are shortly to be bolstered by the inclusion of Comms Branch HQ BAOR. Their fitness co-ordinator **Lt Col Chris Harper**, has ensured the branch have been kitted out with their Lycra shorts and are ready to go.

Just as **WO2 (SSM) Lisa Twigg** thought she had settled down to the job, along came the OPEVAL returns to be completed weekly. When she concluded that it was still not that bad the Squadron computer mysteriously materialised in her office—'Oh I think it's something the RSM calls modernisation'.

SSgt (SQMS) Tony Talbott has continued to struggle on unassisted for over a year now without a replacement for the old storeman. With the passing on of both Sqn Comd and 2IC a complete inventory had to be done and while still reeling, a desperate hunt to locate all the non public property was inaugerated. Of course, with exception of the odd football sock, all was found.

The notes on SHQ would not be complete without a mention of **Mrs Yvonne Radzimierski** our intrepid typist or rather word processing and sometimes beverage operative. Of course, **Yvonne** gets a mention because she is a good egg and she types the notes.

'Service personnel are always the first to put their hands in their pockets when a good cause is put forward' was in evidence when the Squadron decided to adopt the Cerebal Palsy Charity. The Charity was selected primarily with **Heather Rutherford** in mind the daughter of **Sgt Alistair Rutherford** currently serving with the unit. It was decided to do something positive both for the charity in general and, hopefully, raise sufficient funds to establish a trust fund for **Heather.**

Cpl Clair Spearing, keen cyclist and all round good egg decided that she would join the Regimental Summer Camp in Bavaria by the less conventional method of cycling down with a set sum for each kilometre donated by benevolent sponsors. Having recruited the assistance of **LCpls Paula Matheson** and **Michelle Potter** and not forgetting BERTHA (the minibus). The whole journey took five days and turned into an adventure that may one day become a best seller. The important fact is that the grand sum of DM3000 was raised.

Maj Jim Harris presents a cheque for DM 3000 to the Rutherfords

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1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES
SHQ

Sqn Comd — **Maj Barry Keegan**
SSM — **WO2 (SSM) Mullen**

SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) McCutcheon**, FofS **SSgt (FofS) Whitehead**, YofS **SSgt (YofS) Perry**.

We have said farewell recently to **Capt Len** and **Lynne Harvey** and **SSgt** (now WO2) **Nick** and **Lorraine Nicholson**, wishing both families all the best in Catterick and Lisburn respectively. We say welcome to **SSgt Ron** and **Kirsti Perry** and family who have just arrived from Lippstadt. The latest new arrival to SHQ is, however, **Myles**, the first born to **Maj Barry** and **Heather Keegan**, there is no truth in the rumour that his christian name has anything to do with his father's fetish for running. Congratulations and hopefully your sleepless nights will soon be at an end.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN COMPETITION

We have now come to the end of the Battle of Britain Competition with the Squadron achieving a creditable third place. The Squadron won the Rugby, Hockey and Aerobics Trophies and in the Hockey provided both teams for the final match.

2 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj J. W. Clark**
E Tp Comd — **Capt G. Hearn**

F Tp Comd **Capt R. G. Bewsher**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) Whiting**, YofS **SSgt (YofS) McCubbin**, FofS **SSgt (FofS) Sheppard**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) Hamilton**.

CHANGEOVER

Maj Jim Clark arrived in August to assume command from **Maj Adam Ewell**. We wish **Maj Ewell** all the best for the future and will miss his sporting competitiveness. We warmly welcome **Maj Jim Clark** and his action **Eileen** to 2 Sqn.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN TROPHY

History was made by 2 Sqn on 5 September. An Army team has never won the RAF Wildenrath Battle of Britain Trophy. This was the last time the Trophy was to be presented so a special one was made for 2 Sqn to keep. The original will be passed to RAF Bruggen for the Competition to be continued there.

This competition runs for a year and encompasses a wide range of sporting events, including a number to encourage as many personnel as possible to compete. One of these is a one and a half mile run, another a 12 length swim, four lengths of each stroke. The Squadron did particularly well in the swim, which it won. It came second in the aerobics run, reflecting a high standard of fitness. **Sig Rudman** received the Battle of Britain Trophy from the RAF Station Commander **Gp Capt G. Blindle**, **Sig Edwards** the Swimming Trophy and **Sgt Branson** the 2.2 mile relay trophy.

E TROOP

E Troop deployed on Ex Oberland Backstop in August, an adventurous training exercise in the Bernese Oberland. The exercise covered several medium altitude training hikes and an attempt to ascend the high altitude Wildstrubel (3,242m), led by a professional guide. The party consisted of: **SSgt Barrington**, **Cpl Blair**, **LCpls Davies, Lees** and **Wood** and **Sig Rigg** and **Rudman**.

Despite inclement weather it soon brightened up on our arrival at Adleboden, giving us virtually perfect hiking conditions. This was fortunate as the next few days were spent trekking around Adleboden. An introductory hike to Engstligenalp (1,950m), whilst being only moderately strenous, nevertheless caused **LCpl Davies** to ask where the oxygen was. The award for travelling light went to **LCpl Ritchie Lees** who managed to pack his kit in someone else's rucksack!

The following days consisted of several scenic ascents to peaks, including the Albristhorn (2,761m), Schwandfaelspitz (2,025m) and Gsur (2,708m). After several days of continuous climbing, we finally managed to achieve a rest day, which involved swimming, where **LCpl Wood** gave the packed pool an exhibition of his 'alternative' diving style from the 12m board. We also managed windsurfing.

The Wildstrubel is a 3,242m high glacier covered mountain to the south of Adelboden. We set off on the 17th with a professional guide, big boots and little idea of what we were getting into.

The first night was spent at 1,950m on the Engstligenald. We set off early next day as traversing the glacier is dangerous in the heat of the afternoon. We struggled to the summit, and were treated to postcard views of the snowcapped Mount Blanc and the Eiger—an exhilarating climax to the exercise. **Sig 'Ninja' Rudman** had undertaken this walk last year.

We spent the next day in the town of Interlaken, and a chance to buy presents. Our last day consisted of an easy walk down the valley to local beauty spots and waterfalls, particularly at Cholerneschlucht and Pochtechessel. We rounded off our whirlwind tour of that region of Switzerland and returned to overcast Wildenrath.

Thanks go to **SSgt** 'Sherpa' **Barrington** for such a well organised trip, the guide for putting up with us and to all the lads who had to work in our absence—our thanks.

Summit of the Hochplatte (2,119m)
Cpl Blair, LCpl Tatlock, Sig Rudman McNiel, LCpl Wood, Cpl Wallis, LCpl Cadman, Sig Drayton and Everitt

F TROOP
EXERCISE CROSSBOW

Ex Crossbow, military skills competition held annually, is run by HQ (BR) RCZ, and tests a wide range of skills and techniques. The Squadron team came 11th overall, a position that doesn't reflect all the effort that was put in to the event.

There were 27 stands in all, split into three circuits. There were also three separate night activities and concurrent activities which included a Treasure Hunt and General Knowledge Paper. The competition was very well organised and a real challenge, physically and mentally.

The team did very well at the Tactics Stand which was exciting and put a new sense of realism into section attacks and defence, using paint pellet guns, macs and goggles. The area was about one square kilometre; the objective being to rescue a hostage in the quickest time (if you were on the attacking team), but, to delay the attacker for 40 minutes (if you were defending). Our team split into two sections to carry out a two pronged attack. Some exceptionally accurate shooting from, **Capt Guy Bewsher**, and **Sig** 'Burco Dan' **Rudman** who hit the Medic twice. The team scored 94 points and came third overall.

Every member of the team certainly gave his best throughout the competition which will have undoubtedly enhanced their enthusiasm for the future.

3 SQUADRON
NEW MANAGEMENT

On Friday the 13th the Squadron said farewell to **Maj Tony Whydell** and **Anita**. We wish them all the best in their new posting and hope they don't forget us. We would like to welcome **Maj Glen Bartliff** and **Mary** to the Squadron. We hope you enjoy your tour.

FISKEL TROPHY

The Fiskel Trophy is an Inter Troop Competition, competed for every year by troops in 3 Sqn. The previous year's winners organise the event, and 'N' Troop were last year's winners so they dutifully took on the task.

A total of nine teams were entered, the weather was very kind to us, some might disagree, as one of the tasks was to push a Land Rover trailer around an obstacle course in full NBC kit, wearing respirator (who says Telemechs never sweat).

The Stands consisted of: Grenade Handling, Command Task, Fire Stand, LMG Toets, Mast Erection, NBC, Observation Task, Maze (Bottle) and Map Reading.

The competition had its lighter moments and was enjoyed by the participants; only a few suffered minor injuries!

The overall winners this year were 'L' Troop (who are good at navigation and raft racing), many congratulations and I am sure all the rest of the Squadron look forward to next year's competition at Laarbruch.

Fiscal Trophy Victors—L Tp (Laarbruch)

TUG OF WAR

The annual 3 Sqn Inter Troop Tug of War Competition was held immediately after the Fiscal Trophy.

The first pull was L Troop against N Troop, two straight pulls left L Troop victorious.

The next pull was K Troop versus H Troop, the Bruggen team looked the stronger, and took the first end without much effort. However, K Troop urged on by **SSgt Kev Fitzpatrick** took the next two pulls. The final was contested by L and K Troops. L Troop not only won the Fiscal Trophy, but they beat all comers in the Tug of War as well.

A good day was had by all and both competitions were hard fought affairs.

Cpl Viv Henry receives the Trophy from HM The Queen at the Braemar Gathering. See article on page 389
Photo courtesy of Great Scot International Ltd, Glasgow

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28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
BFPO 35

SUPPORT SQUADRON
SHQ HIERARCHY

Sqn Comd	**Maj Peter Cain**
2IC	**Capt Glenn Harwood MBE**

Maj Peter Cain and **Capt Glen Harwood** arrived recently and within days of each other and are coming to terms with the necessary qualities required when working with NATO. I am led to believe, one needs the straightforwardness of the British, the generosity of the Dutch, the flexibility of the Americans, the sobriety of the Canadians, the availability of the Belgians and above all the humour of the Germans. The Sqn Comd and 2IC are getting there!

To convince others of the youthfulness of the Sp Sqn hierarchy all are actively involved in their own sports. **Maj Peter Cain** is in training for a sub 3 hr marathon in the spring, not a bad effort at all. **Capt Glenn Harwood** continues to leap out of serviceable aircraft, and enjoys it, **Capt Ben Britton** remains a competent master of the skis, **Capt Bob Morley** insists that triathalons are fun, and **Maj Bob Lockwood** continues to show us all footballing skills that Roy of the Rovers could only dream about. The only one still not on full drive is **Maj (Retd) Colin Stephens**. We wish him the speediest of recoveries and a quick return to the Regiment.

TM TROOP
PERSONALITIES

TOT	**Capt Bob Morley**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Tom McNeice**
TP SSgt	**SSgt Dave Thompson.**

SUMMER CAMP

The Troop ventured south to the Mosel area for summer camp and after a downpour on the rockface on the first day we roasted for the rest of the week. The activities consisted mainly of rock-climbing and trekking, and we introduced a canoeing element on the last day which **LCpl Orme Leach** clearly did not enjoy as he bent his canoe around a tree. The tree survived. Our two WRAC technicians **LCpls Sharon Prescott** and **Bob Giles** both found swimming more enjoyable than paddling. **LCpl** 'Luigi' **Fagan** discovered that map reading is not interesting but useful in discovering lost compasses. **SSgt (FofS) Tom McNiece** was an essential part of the exercise, acting as a 130mph 'gofor'. Greatly appreciated albeit, mainly to get out of morning PT while he brought the rolls (always the wrong number—who said Foremen can count?).

The Troop has undergone great change over the last six months and we welcome **Cpl Doherty** and family and **LCpls Celerier, Giles, Fagan, Leach, Sanderson, Cator, Lewton, Thomas, Thorpe** and family and **Sig Cleet**. Congratulations to **Sgt Chris Gouldson** and **Tracy** and **LCpl** 'Brad' **Braddock** and **Gill** on the birth of their daughters. Balancing things out as a late entry is a son to **SSgt Thompson** and **Ahchin**.

Farewell to **Sgt Gouldson** and family to UK after four years and **Cpl Jim Hawkins** to Belize, hopefully to return, and **Sig Calvin Bent** to the wilds of York. Good luck to all of you.

QM DEPARTMENT
PERSONALITIES

QM (Tech)	**Maj Bob Lockwood MBE**
QM (Admin)	**Maj (Retd) Colin Stephens**

RQMS (Admin) **WO2 Paul Hayward**, RQMS (Tech) **WO2 Archie Malcolm**, Tp SSgt **SSgt Guy Russell.**

EXERCISE QUEBEC BACKSTOP 1

On 26 September, the QM Dept shut up shop and headed for a long weekend rest in sunny Cochem. We were led, in convoy, by **Capt**, (now Major) **Bob Lockwood MBE.**

A hard day followed, setting up camp in the rain and mud.

Friday was canoeing under the resident Beastmaster, **Sgt Shane** 'Dwarf' **Wright,** a mere 10.7kms against the current, tide and uphill on the Mosel. Friday night saw the families arrive.

Saturday started with a fry-up and then canoeing and shopping/boat trips. Saturday night was a barbecue followed by In-House Entertainment.

Sunday and we collapsed our wet muddy tents and headed back to our warm homes.

Special thanks go to **WPte Jackie Giblin**, our chef and **LCpl Tony Taylor** our barman.

2 SQUADRON
EXERCISE BARGIN BACKSTOP

This year's adventurous training camp was at a civilian camp site overlooking the Mosel, just outside the lovely town of Cochem. The advance party had set the camp up under the watchful eye of the SQMS **SSgt Bashford**. Papa Tp arrived after a slight delay to recover **Sig Diggins** from one of the camp drains.

A great deal of time was spent canoeing, cycling and trekking. The canoeists found the barge racing exciting, but **Cpl Lee Harris** and **Sig Carrington** were the only two to perfect paddling and drinking simultaneously. **Cpl Jackie Cottage** led the cyclists around the countryside and nearly always got back before dark!

The photograph shows some of the lazy cyclists about to board a train!

The week ended with two celebrations, **Sig Walsh's birthday and farewell to 2Lt Jenny Clee** to university.

2 Sqn Adventurous Training, Cochem

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Cpl Ian Pollock** on the recent addition to his family. Also to **LCpls Jim Bean** and Thommo **Thomas** on their promotions.

WELCOME

Welcomes are extended to: **Sgt Dorian, Cpls Barkworth** and **Cpl Campbell**.

We bid farewell to: **Sgt Enfield, Sig McGrane, Higgins, Dyer** and **Mark**.

GROBBENDONK HALF MARATHON

Sunday 22 September 1991 saw a four man team from the Regiment take part in the Grobbendonk half marathon where they took second place in the team event.

L to R: Sgt Croft (MT), LCpl Smith (LAD), SSgt Russell (Q Tp) and WO2 Malcolm (Q Tp)

31 Sig Regt (V)
Hammersmith

GOSSIP FROM 41 (PRINCESS LOUISE'S KENSINGTON) SQN (V)

In between working hard on the Regimental (Earl Grey) and Brigade (Autumn Lad) exercises 41 Sqn has been playing hard as well.

The quiz nights at Coulsdon have become a regular and much enjoyed feature of our social calendar. They have provided an excellent opportunity for venting the competitive high spirits within the Squadron. Two quizzes in the last two months have been admirably hosted (and controlled, and despite the best efforts of some of the competitors!) by **Cpl Chrissie Stanton** who also devised the questions—and the Questionmaster is always right! 41 Sqn challenged the LAD in the last quiz—and won!—and we'll challenge anyone else who thinks they can beat us!

On 13 October **Cpl Nick Tuck** organised a car treasure hunt as a great way to waste petrol on a Sunday afternoon. The route took us around the small towns of Kent and Surrey looking for the answers to 50 questions—and where were the 87 Green Giants? The famished competitors were admirably fed on return by **Pte Wade**'s culinary delights.

Not forgetting that we are soldiers, an interesting evening was provided by **Capt Ive** of 10 Para on 9 October, when he brought his collection of strange and foreign weapons for a demonstration to the Squadron. The only problem was that we all wanted to fire them—we're still waiting for the conversion kits.

K TROOP
EXERCISE EARL GREY
by 2Lt Fiona Ives

Ex Earl Grey was a very different exercise for K Troop—we had to put up with N Troop. Although it did have its compensations—we had 25 people! For once we were able to help out someone else, Trunk Node 32 needed a cook, so **Cpl Baynham** volunteered, we heard that they ate very well.

The DTG's led by **Cpl Stanton** and **LCpl Scarborough** went to AN 42 to participate in a message sending exercise, where they seemed to be the only ones who sent any messages. **Cpl Clarke** and **LCpl Sinclair** were despatched to the PUP where they were kept busy.

The site was cammed up brilliantly—thanks to **Cpl Tuck** and his merry band of workers. The main problem seemed to be kit not working after the UEI, but this was really no problem for all the skilled people we had working on them.

On Sunday morning something different was done, the JNCO's were given a lesson on recce (thanks to **Sgt Crabb**)—they all did very well and enjoyed themselves as well! Although it was supposed to be a trade training exercise, the only trade that benefited were the DTG's—the remaining trades did nothing different from usual.

RECRUITING
by 2Lt Fiona McHugh

After running around the local area delivering leaflets and sticking up pretty posters, together with relentless advertising in schools, colleges, the local press, libraries and job centres, the Open Day was upon us, 21 September.

The weather was perfect, not a cloud in sight. It was a good turnout from the Squadron and the stands were set up in and around the TA Centre. All that was required was the potential new recruits to view the goods.

2Lt Rabenda made a valiant effort to grab the attention of the public on the streets by driving around using a PA system, but full marks go to **Cpl Shanahan** and **Pte McAuliffe**. So eager were they to publicise the unit they lost their sense of time and arrived back in time for final parade at the end of the day!

Capt Southey—Knight Rider of the LAD—gave some of the Squadron a taste of life on the motorcycles he willingly drove around the centre with his eager passengers.

In the rather quieter moments **Sgt Vriens** leapt in to action with his video camera and various victims—oops—participants, interviewed each other for our Squadron video. At the moment **Cpl Traynor** was asked his most unusual experience in the TA, **Capt Southey** whizzed past the front of the camera. **Cpl Traynor** promptly said; 'that one!'.

Pte Wade—our guardian angel—provided endless liquid refreshment and willing victims took turns in providing food for the Squadron. Regrettably, **Col Mac** left just before the food was ready.

An official thank you to everyone who helped, particularly **Sgt Stevens**, who was more than my right arm! No one can say we had hordes of frantic potential soldiers pushing at the gate, but we succeeded in getting some new recruits.

83 (LONDON) SIG SQN (V)

The last few months has seen the arrival of new faces, a hectic exercise season after Wathgill Camp in June and successes by Squadron personnel on courses.

Capt Jonathon Tomlinson joined the Regiment and ourselves as A Tp Comd and promptly had a prior engagement on his first weekend exercise! **Pte Michelle Webb** passed out of the Recruit Cadre and joined A Troop for her first exercise. **2Lt Anne Mercer** returned after three months in Alaska with Operation Raleigh as Line Tp Comd (see article on page 383).

September saw the Squadron deployed on a Regimental communications exercise in the Aldershot area as a warm up and prelude to the Brigade exercise Autumn Lad in early October. This involved the Squadron in locations around the Milton Keynes area: no one had the nerve to ask the RSM if we could borrow the concrete cows to help with the Cam!

September also saw the Squadron involved in a public relations exercise at the annual Fulham Fayre. Radio Relay vehicles and the London TAVRA publicity caravan provided the opportunity for a large display area. Members of the public were offered the opportunity to pump up Clark Masts, although **Cpl Aaron Lawson** had to point out to one nine year old would-be recruit that they weren't mortars! PSAO **George Devine** jumped into the arena with the Royal Signals Blue Helmets which provided a grand finale for the day's events.

WELCOME

A welcome to **WO2 (SSM) Clive Brown** took over from **WO2 Graham Brain** after Annual Camp and who brings a wealth of experience and wisdom to the Squadron.

CONGRATULATIONS

Finally congratulations to **Cpls Cheryl Dunning** and **Alison North** on passing their PTI courses—many of the old and bold listened nervously as OC **John Ruske** looked forward to an energetic training programme in the autumn!

RHQ TELEPHONE NUMBERS

	London Dist	DDI-STD
Regimental Colonel	8333	071-414-8333
SO2 (Recruiting)	8444	071-414-8444
Regimental Secretary	8240	071-414-8240
Asst Regtl Secretary	8241	071-414-8241
Main Office RHQ	8242	071-414-8242
Fax—RHQ	8243	071-414-8243
Welfare Office	8244	071-414-8244
Welfare Office (Direct Line)	—	071-630-0801
Association Office	8245	071-414-8245
Editor's Office	8246	071-414-8246
Accountant	8239	071-414-8239
Accounts Office	8247/8	071-414-8247/8

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V)
Glasgow

ANNUAL CAMP

Annual Camp (14-28 September) saw the Regiment gather at sunny Barrybuddon. It was a very busy if not unusual camp, incorporating events many and various.

RSAAM

A Regimental Skill at Arms Meeting took place over two days. The weather was perfect for shooting—could this have been because the Padre was in one of the teams? A good shoot was had by all, and when the winning teams of the various competitions were announced there was a fair distribution of medals throughout the Squadrons, with the overall competition being won by 61 "(CofE)" Sig Sqn (V). Individual medal winners were: Male Pistol—**Padre John Silcox**, Female Pistol—**Pte Diane McMillan** SLR—**Cpl Frank McGoldrick**.

REGIMENTAL RECRUIT COURSE

RRTT Comd	**Capt Jim Sims**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) John Muirhead**

INSTRUCTORS SSgts Terry McVey, 'DY' Smith, Sgts Lloyd Camack and **Yvonne Hill.**

A very successful Recruit Course was run by the Recruit Training Team at Barrybuddon. Under expert instruction 30 recruits were put through their paces. A lot of hard work was put in by both Instructors and Recruits and the results were highly commended by **Capt Andy McBain** (Quality Control) from 11 Sig Regt. The course ended on a high note with a visit from the GOC, **Lt Gen Sir Peter Graham KCB, CBE.** Best Female Recruit was won by **Pte Carroll** and best Male Recruit was awarded to **Sig Sweeten** both of 52 Sqn (V).

The GOC Scotland chats to a group from the Recruits Course

EXCHANGE OFFICERS

Joining us for Annual Camp were **Maj Ove Henrickson** from the Danish Reserve Forces and **Maj Joachim Peters** from the German Reserve Forces. Between visits to Bde HQs and TAOR HQs they managed to fit in some of the hills, glens and castles of Bonnie Scotland.

EXERCISE HIGHLAND AND LOWLAND BONNET

Ex Highland Bonnet was a 51 Bde Ex for which 51 Sqn (V) provided comms, aided and abetted by 69 (NIH) Sig Sqn. Armed with their radio kit and compo they headed for their Bde and TAOR HQs.

An additional visitor to 51 Sqn (V) was **Lt Jackie Cowie**, a one-time Aberdonian, who defected to the south—in spite of this she was given the privilege of working in TAOR HQ in Shetland.

Similarly Ex Lowland Bonnet was a 52 Bde Ex for which 52 Sqn (V) provided the comms. The Squadron re-named their Ex Ariston—because it went on—and on—and on. However, the length of the exercise was compensated, at Bde HQ, by the culinary delights invariably produced by **Capt Nick Nicholas**, PSAO 52 Sqn (V), and his team of cooks and admin staff.

Under the command of **Lt Patricia Baird** the MIV's toured the length and breadth of the country, adding a little colour and flavour to the exercise—well that is what they called it, there are those who would have used other descriptive words.

No exercise would be complete without the 'troubleshooters', namely the 61 Sqn (V) Mobile Comms Dets, who with great patience, calmly awaited their call to task and when it came responded like only 'troubleshooters' can. Last but by no means least were those static men and women of the echelon. The unsung heroes of all exercises who beaver away in the background making sure that all is well.

EXERCISE CANBERRA AND EXERCISE BLUE IRIS

During camp two civil disaster exercises took place. Ex Canberra was the simulation of an aeroplane crash at Rothesay Dock, Glasgow. Ex Blue Iris was a simulated train crash in Dundee. The Regiment provided casualties for both exercises, some sporting very gruesome injuries. The emergency services sprang into action to rescue and evacuate the passengers. **Lt John Mackie** and **Capt Micky Besant** (QM Regular) hit the press by appearing, as casualties, in the Dundee Courier. **Capt Besant's** moment of glory was somewhat marred by the caption "**Cpl Besant** of the TA'. 'Cpl' he said he could cope with 'of the TA' well that's another matter!

Lt John Mackie plays his part as a simcas with LCpl Pat Thomson in the foreground

VISITORS DAY

A very successful visitor's day was held on the first Tuesday of Camp. Among our many guests were Comds 2 Sig Bde, 51 Highland and 52 Lowland Bdes. Also visiting was our local Wang representative who was most impressed with the TOT, **Capt Dave Andrews'** computer training programme. The day culminated in a host of presentations with **Brig Brown** presenting **Capt John Geddes** with the Territorial Decoration and **Brig Reid** presenting the Efficiency Medal to **WO2 Bill MacNamara** and Efficiency Medal Bars to **WO2 Brian Bolam, WO2 Donald Webster** and **Cpl Ian Grant.** Presentations of Lord Lieutenant Certificates were also made to **WO2 Alistair Grant REME, Sgt Davy Paterson ACC** and **Sgt Hamish Graham.**

THE CORPS DINNER IN SCOTLAND

On the last Friday of Annual Camp the Regimental Officers sat down to a most enjoyable dinner in the Western Club, Glasgow. **Maj Gen A. Yeoman CB** presided and The Master of Signals and Signal Officer in Chief were present together with some 75 officers. This, the second dinner of its kind in Scotland, was such a success that it will now become an annual event.

Capt John Geddes receiving his TD from Brig Brown

WELCOMES

We welcome the new Training Major, **Maj Bob Turnbull** who has come to join us from 2 Sig Bde. **Capt Marsh Thomson** our new Adjutant. Ceide Mille Failte to our new RSM **Billy Heelan** and a warm welcome also to **LCpl Geoff Cohen**, the CO's new driver.

FAREWELLS

The Regiment has several fond farewells to say. Firstly to the Training Major, **Maj Brian Campbell**, who has travelled all of two miles to take up his new appointment in Kentigern House. Farewells also to **Capt Peter Campbell**, as Adjustant—but hello to him as the new PSAO of 61 (City of Edinburgh) Sig Sqn (V). Vice **Maj Paddy Hendry** who retired in June.

RSM Trevor Mortlock who left us to join the ranks of civvy street, **Cpl Paul Buckley** who served dutifully as the CO's driver for four years and earned the coveted title of 'Honorary TA Punter'.

69 (NORTH IRISH HORSE) SIG SQN (V)
ADVENTUROUS TRAINING

Seven Zipper trousers! Mountain walking boots! Fleece jackets! 'What's going on in the Irish Sqn?' thought the CO on his last visit to the Province. **Capt David Roy**, our less than tame PSAO, had achieved his aim of turning 50% of the Squadron into mountain troops!

Our destination was Moosbach in Bavaria, where for the second year in succession, a select group of 'The Horse' were prepared to throw themselves into the lakes and up and down the cliffs and mountains of Southern Germany.

ANNUAL CAMP

'I counted them out . . . and counted them in'. The Squadron **SQMS** 'Markie' **McMichael** breathed a sigh of relief in Londonderry, satisfied that all the Squadron G10 and weapons were safely back. Our PSI, **SSgt Bob Petrie** then scoured all the bars between Barry Buddon and the ferry to ensure that 'Muscles, Zoof and Youngie' had not formed an escape committee!

Our role during camp was to support 51 (H) Sig Sqn in providing communications on Ex Highland Bonnet. This we did with competence and our customary touch of flair. The culmination of the exercise was the simulation of an Inter City rail disaster. 'The Horse' provided casualties with injuries of a gruesome nature. It was rumoured that **Cpl Ian Young** required no simcas . . . his natural good looks make him look as if he has already been in collision with a speeding 125!

Medical, Fire and Police teams from the Tayside region were quickly on the scene, demanding interpreters to deal with the obviously 'foreign' passengers! **Lt Alan Moore**, a casualty himself, had to be called upon to translate 'the crack' into Jockaneese and back again.

THERE'S NO DRAM LIKE DRAMBUIE Liqueur

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

EXERCISE GOLDEN LAD/EXERCISE AUTUMN LAD

It required a special effort to move back into gear and prepare for the Autumn series of exercises after block leave. Ex Golden Lad was the Regimental FTX and a shakedown exercise, designed to iron out the warts and wrinkles prior to the Brigade level exercise planned for October. The exercise was held in early September and caught the last of the Summer time weather. It was a measured success, but left some slight bemused, especially **Maj Saunders** RCT and **Maj St Quinton** RAOC (no relation to Sam), who were given 15 telephones to play with. The YofS, **Jim Large**, was not amused neither was **LCpl 'H' McCloud** the Commander of RRR det 95A who discovered to his horror that the map showing his exercise location was missing. He has now been nicknamed 'Wordsworth'! (he wandered lonely as a McCloud in fields he couldn't find and laid his det and mast to rest at a Grid just North of mine).

As Ex Autumn Lad dawned, everyone was anxious to ensure that lessons learnt were applied to guarantee a successful exercise, and to reassure our Comds that we continue to be a force to be reckoned with.

The Regiment deployed to its locations throughout the East and West Midlands and despite the miserable weather attendance and morale was high; compared to the earlier exercise communication tactical and personal standards were transformed and remained high throughout the exercise. The Bde Comd, **Brig Conrad Garton**, was pleased with the improvement, and this was clearly displayed during his whistle stop tour of various locations throughout the Brigade. Fortunately, no one got lost but one or two members become temporarily misplaced! In particular, the SSM of 89 Sqn **WO2 John Mizen** and the Sqn PSI **Sgt Chris Gleadow** decided to deliver a late arrival in the shape of **Pte Ronnie Derrick** to her field location—unfortunately they chose the Grid of a projected location; sometime later a cold, miserable and hungry **Pte Derrick** arrived at the right location just in time for tea. The SSM was not amused to find the incident board had been amended to read 'Mizen in Action'. The exercise finished on a bright note and a feeling of achievement was present throughout the Regiment, even the weather changed as rays of rewarding sunshine broke through the clouds. At the O Group the CO, **Lt Col Brian Foxon**, smiled, he was satisfied with our performance and progress and described our contribution to the exercise as a roaring success; the Trg Maj joined by Sqn Comds, RSM and YofS nodded in complete agreement—the omens for the future looked good!

Jnr Sig Smudge Smith of 89 Sqn obviously impressed with his first exercise

Sgt Chris Gleadow and LCpl Oz Gilroy either flying a kite or a camnet

OFFICERS' MESS

At a Ladies Dinner Night at Cateswell House on Saturday 28 September the Regiment bade a farewell to some of our number and welcomed back one or two of the old faces. Guest of Honour was the outgoing GOC of Western District **Maj Gen P. R. F. Bonnet CB MBE**, he was joined by **Capt Petra Messon** who is leaving the Regiment to look after her first baby and **Capt Nikki Payter** who is leaving because of business commitments. A special welcome back was extended to **Capt Julian Webb** who has been recaptured from 30 Engr Bde and to **Capt Jane Hubbard** who returns to the Regiment after a long sabbatical with 31 Sig Regt (V). Many congratulations were also extended to **Nikki Hooper** wife of **Lt David Hooper** on the birth of their twin sons **Thomas** and **Robert**.

SERGEANTS' MESS

The Mess welcomed **Sgt Debbie Adam** of 89 Sqn and **Sgt Andy Cook** of 95 Sqn and congratulated them on their promotion. Congratulations on promotion were also extended to **SSgts Mick Clarke** and **Charlie Walker** both serving with 89 Sqn. Also welcomed was **SSgt Bob Griffiths** and wife **Judy**, we wish them both a successful and happy tour. During September the Mess said farewell to **SSgt Dennis Jevons**, who served 48 Sqn with distinction as their PSI and we wish him well in his new career with the Prison Service. A particularly sad farewell was made to **WO2 'H' Sterry** who leaves the Regiment after a long illness from which he is now happily making a recovery.

48 SIG SQN (V) BIRMINGHAM
SQUADRON ROUND-UP

Whilst the summer holidays were in full swing a long weekend of voluntary adventurous training was arranged at Weymouth.

The participants were blessed with the weather and thoroughly enjoyed their rambles around the South Coast followed by Clay Pigeon shooting, a spot of sea fishing and many hours of sun bathing and visiting local places of interest. This was the final fling for our PSI **SSgt Dennis Jevons** who is leaving the army in October and taking up a new appointment with the Prison Service (**Dennis** is no stranger to Bars). Joking apart **Dennis** will be sadly missed not only by the Squadron but also local charities for which he has done so much with his sponsored Nijmegan Marches.

SSgt Jevons handed over the reins to **Sgt Aiden McLeod** who was no stranger to the Squadron, moving the short distance from RHQ at Sutton Coldfield where he was PSI Training Wing. Hot on his heels he was followed by **Capt David Munson** from RRTT who has joined the Squadron as 2IC in an almost straight swap with **Lt Mick O'Hare**.

These comings and goings will be commemorated, or celebrated as the case may be, at a dinner in the very near future where goodbyes will also be expressed to SSM **'H' Sterry** and his wife **Paula**. 'H' is hanging up his TA boots slightly prematurely following a prolonged and painful illness from which he is now recovering. He has given loyal and distinguished service to the Squadron and the Regiment and will be greatly missed.

89 SIG SQN (V) RUGBY

During the August recess 89 Sqn got involved in a number of external activities supporting local fetes and shows. The Squadron mounted an impressive recruiting stand at the annual Royal Agricultural Show, at Stoneleigh, during the bank holiday weekend. It was manned by 10 members of the Squadron, who were led by **Lt Liz Hyde** and **SSgt Derek Sharman**. Our contribution to the show was a huge success, and attracted enquiries from a number of potential recruits who expressed an interest in joining the Territorial Army.

LCpl Russ Sharman of 89 Sqn presenting a cheque for £1,145 to Col M. B. Haycock for BLESMA

Photograph courtesy of Coventry Citizen

An enthusiastic and vigorous fund raising campaign in aid of BLESMA was also held during the weekend, in which members of the Squadron led by **LCpl Russ Sharman** through gentle and humourous endeavours persuaded the general public to make generous donations. A substantial amount of money was raised. **LCpl Sharman**, in recognition of his individual efforts, presented a cheque to the value of £1,145 to **Col M. B. Haycock**, vice president of the Coventry branch of BLESMA, at a ceremony held at the Royal Warwickshire Club on Tuesday 24 September.

95 SIG SQN (V) SHREWSBURY

The Farmer's Boy Squadron lived up to its name when the new Sqn 2IC, **Capt Richard Hemmings** ex 58 Sqn, was posted in. He arrived from Newcastle under Lyne by a specially requisitioned tractor after a tortuous three hour journey. By this time dusk had turned to darkness, as the Squadron lined up to meet him and cheer him through the gloom. Needless to say he refuses to comment on his return journey—at least it didn't rain. The new 2IC was posted in to fill the gap left by the departure of **Capt Chris Cummings** to RHQ as Tech Adjt (Tech what?). Nevertheless, he will be best remembered in the Squadron when he departed the Mess Tent on a Regimental exercise in atrocious weather and asked the guard the way to the bivouac area. 'Follow the white mine tape Sir' he was instructed. Several hundred yards later it dawned on him that he was following the white line in the middle of the road—he never did find his bed that night! We welcomed back **2Lt David Threadgold** who has now served his sentence in Australia and returned to the fold.

There was little activity during July and August but in September, in addition to our involvement in Ex Golden Lad, the Squadron ventured out on an exciting escape and evasion exercise at Leek. What we had all forgotten is that Summer at Leek arrived early this year—2 August, we believe, and in September it lived up to its name cold, miserable, heavy mists and screaming gales. Somewhere out there in the mist was the enemy; the weather was on our side, but could we find our way out and would our compasses bear up to it all—someone was convinced they saw the spirit of **Capt Chris Cummings** following a white line down the middle of a road. Fortunately all who participated, including the enemy, survived the appalling weather conditions thanks to non stop hot tea and food provided by **Sgt Angie Strawson** and **Pte Charlotte Williams**. A more ambitious exercise is planned for next year on the SPTA; any unsuspecting volunteer may submit his or her name to the PSAO!

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 15th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION

36 Sig Regt (V)
Ilford

FREEDOM PARADE AND OPENING OF THE NEW TA CENTRE AT ILFORD

The Regiment, led by the CO **Lt Col Douglas McLay** and accompanied by 34 Sig Regt (V) Band exercised its right to the Freedom of the London Borough of Redbridge on 31 August by marching through Ilford. The weather was exceedingly kind to the marchers who gathered from the outlying units in Cambridge, Bedford, Warley, Colchester, Norwich and Gillingham to join their colleagues in Ilford. The salute was taken at the Town Hall by the Mayor, Councillor **Brian Hill** and the Regiment's Honorary Col, **Col A. E. M. Hall TD DL**. Under the watchful eye of the new RSM, **WO1 Tom Perkins**, the Regiment earned many congratulations on its journey through the city.

The second occasion that day was the official opening of the new TA Centre in Gordon Road, Ilford. This ceremony was performed by **Field Marshal Lord Bramall KG GCB OBE MC JP, HM Lord Lieutenant of Greater London**. It is purpose built. In his speech **Lord Bramall** referred to the fact that when the longest serving SNCO of the Regiment **(Sgt Pat O'Shea)** joined the Regiment 29 years ago, there was talk then of a new TA Centre . . . Well—at last it has happened! **Lord Bramall** also talked about the support that TA members receive from their families, and as it was a family occasion his remarks were warmly received.

The CO leading the Regiment through Ilford en route for the Town Hall

Field Marshal The Lord Bramall inspecting the New Centre at Ilford, accompanied by the Master of Signals, Maj Gen Birtwistle and the CO

The Regiment was pleased to welcome its guests and delighted to have the opportunity to show off its new Centre.

The Regiment was much indebted to the small core of regulars for all the graft they had performed in order to get the event off the ground and make the day such a success. It was a fitting occasion to bid farewell to the out-going Adjt, **Capt Peter Bawden** and to welcome his successor, **Capt Steven Jones. Steve Jones** joins **Maj Steve Jones** (Trg Maj) in the Regiment. Hopefully confusion will be kept to a minimum.

The post-camp training programme is now well under way, Recruit Training and Trade Training are permanently based at Colchester. Any Signallers about to leave the Regular Army would find a very warm welcome in one of our Squadrons—we offer quite a challenge together with second-to-none comradeship. Get in touch with us at RHQ (081-478 1941) and we'll send you more details.

Lord Bramall meets the families of the Regiment on the occasion of the opening of the new Headquarters in Ilford

45 SIG SQN (V)
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj P. F. Penfold (V)**
2IC — **Capt N. S. Thompson (V)**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Dunn.**

Our PSI, **Sgt BJ Fininster** got married to **Lynne** on 27 July at Lisburn Garrison Church—two months later **LCpl Paul Cook**, one of our Linemen married **Annette** on 21 September 1991. The Squadron wishes **BJ, Lynne, Paul** and **Annette** all the best for the future.

Sgt and Mrs Finister with the Rev Wilson, Lisburn Garrison Church

On 1 September 1991 an 'It's A Knockout' competition was held in Castle Park, Colchester organised by the local Lions Club; proceeds of the event went to charity. 45 Sqn was asked if it would like to join in the fun. So, rising to the challenge, we got together the following eager participants—captained by **Sgt Trevor Saint, Sgt BJ Finister (PSI), Cpl Lee Ewing, Sig John Hawkins, LCpl 'Chippy' Joiner, Cpls 'Nobby' Collins, Mickey Hampton, Sig Gary Hooker, Sgt Louise Walker, Ptes Sharon Ranson, Debbie Bently** and **Nikki Eves.**

Twenty teams entered the competition and 45 Sig Sqn gained seventh position.

54 SIG SQN (V)
706 TP

Tp Comd — **Lt Sue Ridler (V)**

Annual Camp was notable for two events: participation in Ex Flying Falcon was a new experience as it was highly mobile with more and longer moves than on previous exercises. This kept the Troop on its toes, particularly when it moved into its final location as dawn was breaking. A nice quiet wood in Germany, with the birds rousing to welcome the day. Full camp was set up and everyone was settling in, then it started. The peace was shattered by gunfire as it turned out the location was on the edge of a live firing range; there was no actual danger but the sound effects certainly made for realistic training!

The second notable event was the arrival of **Lt Sue Ridler** as the new Tp Comd taking over from **Sgt Eddie Kikas**, the acting Troop Commander since the departure of **Capt Dave Watson** to the position of QM (V).

Following a safe return to Cambridge the normal post-camp lull was avoided by a Bounty Test weekend in the blazing sun at Purfleet Ranges. This was followed by the annual visit by the RSIT team led by **Col A. Lynn**.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **SSgt Eddie Kikas** on his promotion. Also to all those members who ran in the Cambridge Half Marathon.

754/818 SIG TP
754 TP

Tp Comd — **2Lt Mark Kendrew (V)**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt Bob Major**

818 TP

Tp Comd — **2Lt Johnathon Moult (V)**
Tp SSgt — **SSgt Glen Baker**

Warmest wishes for the future are sent to **Capt Jane Hubbard** who leaves her post as Centre Commander and **Sgt Pat Millar** who briefly acted as PSI.

The Centre welcomes **Sgt Daniels** as Permanent Staff Instructor.

EXERCISE SCATTER BRAIN—AN OVERVIEW

Ex Scatter Brain was a Troop exercise designed to test deployment drills, establishing of communications and command and control skills. To meet these aims the exercise was divided into two phases; a communications and road movement exercise on the Saturday, followed by orienteering, using landrovers, on the Sunday.

A REPORT
by LCpl Laws, 754 Tp

54 Sqn, Bedford, had an enjoyable Troop exercise on the weekend 28/29 September 1991. Acting Tp Comds, **Cpls Murdock** and **Nikki Newbitt** felt their way through Saturdays movement and comms exercises. Activity was frantic throughout the day with various activities being thrown in by **2Lt Kendrew** and **2Lt Moult**. These included zeroised Muxcos, various NBC threat states and a most convincing electrocution acted by **LCpls Simon Murley** and **Peter Laird, Cpl Murley**'s acting was so realistic **Cpl Newbitt** forgot to take her feet with her when diving to his aid!

Sunday came in a haze and with it a landrover based orienteering course and canoeing. On the orienteering a booby prize must go to **Sig Bunting**'s team for being two hours late in spite of **LCpl John Hawkin's** grand prix driving. **Sig Bailey** provided the entertainment on the canoeing by demonstrating (unplanned) how to escape (eject) from a canoe in white water many times.

37 Sig Regt (V)
Bristol

HQ SQUADRON

For her first annual camp this year as HQ Sqn Comd, **Maj Rosemary Tuhey** was well and truly all at sea! For she took out two groups from her Squadron in the Corps yacht *Petasus*. All the crew's skills and initiative were put to the test when the yacht broached off Weymouth head. But skipper **Cpl Neil Baxter** had it all in hand and soon the sails were once more filled with the breeze instead of seawater . . .

The REME element proved a useful addition with **Cfns Cam Sainsbury** and **Eddie Smith** assuming the role of ships engineer for their respective crews. And when the jib sheet winches needed stripping down it was fortunate that OC LAD, **Maj Mike Sterling** was on board to save the day!

HQ RPs, **Cpl Gordon Jones, LCpl Les Brown** and **Sig Chris Hegarty** kept the camp amused with doctored media cartoons depicting incidents on the camp. Each day a new sketch would appear on the notice board and, as the **SSM John Rogers** found to his cost, no one was safe from their wit.

When **SSgt Phil Packer** found it in a shed he thought it would make the ideal training aid for the MT section. What was this? Why, it was a derelict 1969 Vespa motor scooter! Could it be rebuilt? Such a task would capture the imagination of the trainees and provide a perfect project for the camp training. And to add to the challenge, the ever sceptical **Sgt Billy Kane** said it couldn't be done! **Pte Marion Feather** ordered the pistons from Bristol, **Sig Matt Clark** arranged the welding. Finally, as the end of camp deadline approached came the moment of truth. **Pte Clair Gordon** kicked the starter over and . . .

For Technicians **WO2 (FofS) Dave Fraley, Sgt Greg Marsh** and **Cpl Craig Williams**, camp was project time installing a permanent automatic exchange for the TASS training at 43 Sig Sqn TAC in Bridgewater. It was a delighted and impressed Sqn Comd **Maj Anne Baird** who received the completed equipment. Also, beavering away at Chickerell camp was fellow tech **WO2 (FofS) Mario Chomitz**, assisted by newly promoted **Sgt Phil Smith**. Not to be outdone they

L to R: Maj Mike Sterling, Rosemary Tuhey, Cpl Ian Agg and Sgt Brian Morgan aboard the Corps Yacht—'Petasus'

were installing a temporary switch to aid the camp communications and improve the tech training facilities for **Sgts Bob Barry** and **Gary Clifford.**

COs driver, **Pte Rebekah Rowland** found herself at a bigger wheel than her usual Montego when she took over the controls of a Royal Navy Fast Patrol Boat. She was a member of a party sailing to join a unit in the Channel Isles. **WO2 Gough Silcox**, fellow passenger and, completing nearly 40 years service with the TA, declared every confidence in her driving. Though, initially she gave new meaning to the term 'wavy navy' she soon impressed everyone with how quickly she mastered the art.

Padre Maj David Sutch found himself closer than usual to business HQ on this annual camp! For the medical officer **Maj Celia Grummit**, had invited herself and HQ Sqn 21C **Capt Mary Rogers** to experience the practicalities of casualty evacuation by helicopter. Sitting in the cockpit of one of 667 Sqn's Gazelles they zoomed to simulated incidents around Middle Wallop. Then, at several hundred feet the engine cut out! After what seemed like a heart stopping age it was with no small relief they realised it was merely a drill! The pilot skilfully guided the machine to earth by feathering the rotors.

The cooks welcomed newcomer **Pte Andrew Rock** to their midst; the food was up to the usual high standard achieved by **WO2** 'Robbie' **Robbins** and his staff working in a team. There were a few mishaps. Someone burned the shortbreads, (but as **LCpl Steve Boulton** pointed out—even kings have managed that!), and the situation was saved by **LCpl Rod Hartland's** replacement cakes.

And finally, congratulations to our QM, **Maj Billy Miles**, on his well deserved promotion.

SSgt Phil Packer, his team and the Vespa . . .

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

46 SIG SQN (V)

Annual Camp was certainly busy, causing the Admin Officer, **Capt Cliff Webb**, sleepless nights over his petrol account! The Squadron spent most of the first week at the STC Scarborough. Activities included sports, a range day at Strensall and a military skills exercise in the Langdale forest. Two US National Guardsmen were attached to us, **SSgt** 'Cus' **Smithson** and **Sgt Charles Burton**, who joined in all the activities, and obviously had a lot of fun. Their host, **Sgt Dick Millet** had completed an exchange with the US, helped introduce them to a few British traditions, including 'warm' beer. The Squadron was visited by **Brig MacDonald** from East Midlands TAVRA, and a contingent from the Royal Signals Association, Derby branch.

The Scarborough phase was rounded off with a Squadron party. It was a mixture of nostalgia and sadness that the Squadron marched off the Scarborough drill square, probably for the last time.

Phase two of camp was a communications exercise, Eastern Targe. The Squadron deployed from its locations from Derby, having the luxury of starting a day 'early'. The exercise went well, and a lot of knowledge was acquired. It was then back to Derby, pack kit, then off to join the Regiment at Ripon.

The Squadron split into trade streams, under regimental control. This involved training at Catterick HF exercises, and Trade testing. The week was topped by the squadron parade, when recently commissioned **Lt Roy Szulakowski**, demonstrated to the Squadron, how to wash in a tin bath, and carried out a hygiene inspection, ably assisted by his two partners in crime, **SSgts Phil Mellor** and **Jim Batchelor.**

The first weekend after camp, SHQ went to Halton Camp, 54 Bde Tp went on a narrow boat and 903 Tp went adventurous training in the Derbyshire Peak District. 54 Bde Tp thoroughly enjoyed their weekend, **Sgt Jane Atherley** distinguishing herself by ramming the canal bank. 903 Tp braved the elements to greenfield in the Peak District using a combination of own resources and the White Peak Adventure School, they carried out a number of activities, including abseiling, canoeing and caving. Tp **Sgt Pat Waring** dipped out of the canoeing, on the grounds that when he joined the Army you had to make your own out of a tree trunk! He then revealed that he was made a Sgt in 1963. Surely this must make him the senior Sgt in the Corps (regular or TA), and we would like to hear of any other 'young at heart' who can better this record.

Farewell to **Cpl** 'Merv' **Ovendon**, to whom we wish all the best in his new trade and posting to 4 Div. New arrivals in the Squadron include the birth of baby **Karl Anthony** for **LCpl Chapman** and **Sig Smith**. Get well soon to **SSgt** 'Cus' **Smithson** USNG, who sadly lost fingers in a motor accident, and to SPSI **SSgt George Greaves** who is having multiple hip operations and PSI **Phil Davies** who is recovering after a knee operation. Welcome to Tech PSI **Sgt Ben Mee**, who will discover that the most valued possessions to a 46 Sqn PSI are his own Heart & Lung machine and a year's subscription to BUPA! He goes to RAF Ely for a leg-op in November.

64 SIG SQN (V)

Annual camp was held at Wyke Regis near Weymouth and we welcomed the new PSI **Sgt Eaglesham** to his first camp with 64. Also two reservist German officers **Lts Wolfgang Reichel** and **Marcus Sneider** on exchange from 6th Brigade in Hamburg and also **SSM Lesley Smith** from 'down under' adding an international flavour to camp frivolities. Four day's excitement began with the annual BFT, the Squadron was joined by the Colonel, ran along the picturesque, but flat, causeway between Portland and Weymouth.

The week was highlighted by 64 Sqn's egos being boosted by enacting a scene from some wild war film as they careered up and down a strip of water on rigid raiders kindly supplied by the Royal Engineers along with instruction.

The Squadron back-up team led mainly by **SSgts Mees** and **Burton** was impeccable as ever and the driving force behind the scene created an exhausting but well spent four days.

Sporting activities again compared by the dynamic SSM revealed certain characters innermost sanctum, **Mr Moulds** impeccable sense of direction, **Sig Newton's** untouchable co-ordination and **LCpl Jackson's** undaunting spirit. The Marsdens faired exceptionally well in pass the orange, extending the game into extra time, but with no 'goals', not even any near misses, and **Mr Carr** and **Miss Mansel** won their bet of not being separated except for the obligatory seven hours each night award—nobody asked them to—they just did it—what a team!

87 SIG SQN (V)

This year's annual camp gave the Cambrian Patrol Team the opportunity to prepare for this Autumn's competition. Assisted by the District Training Team, the team went through their paces in the searing heat at Tregantle Fort.

The team, **2Lt Bullock, Sgt Cotton, Sig Shaun Roe, Gary Orme, Dean Moss, Phil Jones, Craig Toft** and **Stuart Nesbitt** undertook

vigorous physical training and were frequently seen running around with their bergens. When the team weren't running, they had classwork and practical tests designed to improve military skills.

Meanwhile, for the rest of the Squadron, Ex Cornish Bowman saw the troops practising their detachment drills in the beauty of the Cornish countryside.

The week was completed in time honoured tradition with the Squadron smoker, where various brave souls made fools of themselves for the benefit of our entertainment. Special mentions go to MST Tp who staged a courtroom 'Viz' drama, and the Cambrian Team who did a fine rendition of 'Always look on the bright side of life!' (Perhaps it is no coincidence that the record has now been released as a single.)

87 SIG SQN (V)

The Squadron bade farewell to the Sqn Comd **Maj Mike Petty** and to the 2IC **Capt Frank Atkins** who have both moved jobs to the North. We welcome back **Maj Ron Toft** for his second stint as commander of 87.

The Squadron management team has been further strengthened by the recent commissioning of **2Lt Kay Budworth** who has taken on the role of OC Recruit Training Troop.

93 SIG SQN (V)
ANNUAL CAMP 91

Unlike camps of previous years when the Squadron deployed as part of the Regiment, Camp 91 saw the troops of the Blackburn and Manchester Sqn moving to Tenby in South Wales. It is said that the sun shines on the righteous, for the next two weeks temperatures hit the high seventies and the sight of a cloud became a talking point. The first two days of camp saw military and sporting activities which included firing the (new) SA80, abseiling and rockclimbing, scuba diving, swimming and parascending.

LCpl Maggie Lavin closely pursued by Sig Mick Clarke

Ex Cold Steel involved working with staff members and our friends from the local infantry and yeomanry units. This lasted almost a week and culminated in a massive civil emergency exercise over 36 hours at Saighton Camp near Chester. All three civil arms—police, fire and ambulance were involved. The plot was somewhat convoluted, but involved hostage taking, SWAT teams and a helicopter crash with lots of casualties. The cas-sim boys and girls from the RAMC were in their element and bodies with bits hanging off roamed the site. Once again, the 'baddies' were vanquished and the Squadron made off into the sunset to spend its official rest day, where else, but Blackpool.

Camp 91 was very different but can lay just claim that the unit, in the best manner of the TA, worked hard and played hard.

Getting one's feet wet

The third day the Squadron moved to a disused airfield about 10 miles from Tenby for a 36 hour operations phase. The trials and tribulations of real soldiering soon became apparent as 'digging in' became a reality. Full size slit trenches do not appear overnight and it was with a lot of aches, pains and blisters that the troops finally settled into their holes in the ground for the night phase.

The night sky suddenly began to light up with bright flashes. No, it was not a patrol sending up flares, it was the special effects team from BBC Wales shooting scenes for a documentary about World War 1. Trying to move a patrol unseen in conditions such as these is not recommended. However the attack went in, the 'baddies' were vanquished and everyone settled down for a few hours sleep. Dawn broke all too soon and was promptly followed by the big attack of the day. No sooner had the dust settled, than it was time to fill in the holes and concentrate on the SHQ area for the NBC Battle run and bayonet practice. All too soon our stay in friendly Welsh Wales was to end, our return to Lancashire was imminent and Ex Cold Steel loomed on the horizon.

39 Sig Regt (V)
Chelsea

In our last contribution we mentioned that we had moved into our new RHQ in Chelsea. On Monday 9 September 1991, the Chairman of TAVRA for Greater London, **Col Sir Greville Spratt,** formerly opened our suite of offices, followed by an office warming party attended by a number of guests.

This months contribution has been compiled by 3 Sqn who are based in a TA Centre at Tunbridge Wells in Kent.

3 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd — **Maj Bob Davis**
2IC — **Capt Julian Gregory**
PSAO **Capt Harry Meekings**, RO **Lt Nicki Read**.

There have been several changes in the Squadron personalities since the last report. **Capt Malcolm Bryan** left the Squadron in April and has now taken a post with 31 Sig Regt (V). He has kept in touch if only to tell us that his current troop has more vehicles than our Squadron!

Lt Mike White transferred from 1 Sqn in March where he was the Recruiting Officer. His stay with the Squadron as Foxtrot Tp Comd was for a short while as he was head hunted in the City and found the Squadron commitment too much. He has however maintained contact with the forces and has transferred to the Home Service Force at the HAC.

With the move of 1 Sqn to Bletchley, **Lt Nicki Read** moved to 3 Sqn and is well under way in her first job as recruiting officer. The most noticeable departure has been **SSM** 'Tich' **Reynolds**. **Tich** joined the Squadron 12 years ago after 22 years with the Regular Army. He is stubborn as ever, refusing to hang up his boots, he has taken a post with 3rd Bn Queen's CCF as well as continuing with the CCF at his school. This has left a noticeable gap which we hope to fill in the not too distant future.

The Squadron would like to congratulate **Sgt Alf Cupper,** (PSI (Ops)), and **Jill** on the birth of their son, **Robert. Alf** has particularly shown his skills of flexibility by delivering **Robert** single handed whilst on holiday in Majorca. We wish them all well.

CHICHESTER INTERNATIONAL MARCHES
by Capt Julian Gregory

There on the notice board: Chichester International Marches August 1991. 40km, 25km, or 10km. What more could I want, and non-tac as well. A stroll on a bright and breezy Sunday morning—compared to traditional TA weekends it sounded idyllic, so I put my name down.

Everyone arrived on time, pressed and polished at 0600 hrs ready for the journey. After the initial confusion—what clots put their names down for the 40km?—we all decided to tackle the 25km.

Reaching Chichester at 0900 hrs there was plenty of time to discuss strategies before a 0930 start, the final decision was to 'walk at the pace of the slowest'. We started walking full of spirit and vigour and were soon confronted by a conveniently placed mountain. **Capt Paul Wilmott** and myself expressed a desire to run up the said mountain and were soon being closely followed by **Sig Piper** (a cross country runner) and **Sig Arnold** (who is equally as mad). **Ptes Dyke, Steer, LCpl Marten** and **Sig Warren** stayed with the Sqn Comd who was giving us an insight into his family life by telling us how his children didn't know him any more and his wife had forgotten his christian name.

The sight of an ice cream van was very welcome, and setting off with renewed vigour we reached the first of five checkpoints. The rest period was brief, as we were eager to keep ahead of a cheerfully singing group of Canadians.

The third checkpoint was a picturesque village, which was very obviously used to hoards of marchers descending on it once a year and was well prepared with suitable refreshments. We entered the village in style with **Pte Steer** at the fore carrying the Regimental flag followed by the Troop as we overtook a band of RAF Cadets whilst humming the 'Dambusters March' (what else?). Half a pint of beer and a bacon butty later we hit the road for the fourth leg of the march while the Sqn Comd asked 'why should he pay for a mortgage when he didn't know what his house looked like in daylight'.

It was about this time that boots, which had yet to be worn in properly, started rubbing. By the 5th and final checkpoint **Sig Warren** and **Pte Steer** were experiencing a mild form of agony, and decided to keep each other company at the back of the Troop, while the rest were being kept amused by the Sqn Comd's story of how, the last time he had tried to get into his house alone, the dog had attacked him.

With 200 yards to go before the end we regrouped, and marched cum hobbled, over the finishing line to receive our certificates. Some hours later we arrived at our TAC. No beer stops, no heros welcome, but the Sqn Comd said he had to get back to his wife and kids.

EXERCISE SCOTTISH LEADER
by Maj Bob Davis

On the evening of Friday August 20 members of 3 Sqn and a lone rep, **Sgt Hilary Higgins**, from 1 Sqn set off in a mixture of military and civilian vehicles for what I hoped was going to be a tough but enjoyable week in the Cairngorms. The journey, although long and tiring, was uneventful and we even managed to rendezvous with **2Lt Toby Lankester**, our superb canoe instructor, without mishap on the way up. On arrival at the Norwegian lodge we were met by our advance party of **Sgt Dave Evans**, (PSI (Tech)), and **LCpl Tony Marten** who had taken the lodge over. To get the cobwebs out of the tired bodies I suggested a walk over a nearby hill to get some fresh air in to the lungs, on arriving back three hours later the definition of hill was being called for.

As the days passed and everyone got involved in the various activities it was interesting to see how individuals took to the demands put on them. **Cpl** 'Gadget' **Baker** enjoyed taking his team up the wrong mountain. **2Lt Lankester** after doing a recce of the river said it was so shallow that nobody could Eskimo Roll, how wrong could a person be. **Sig** 'my car will never breakdown' **Dumbreck** and his team liked finishing the day with a dip in the nearby loch, if it was the enjoyment of the mountain water or having certain parts of the anatomy shrink beyond recognition made them do this we will never know. It was good to see that age did not become a barrier, **LCpl Marten** spent the whole week attempting to climb a certain rock face under the guidance of **Sgt Evans.**

Despite the blisters received during the day's activities everyone always managed to meet up in the Red McGregors to discuss the finer points of the local beverage.

The week passed too quickly and soon we were heading south again wishing that the delights of Scotland were not so far away. Many thanks to all those who helped organise the week, there were a lot of good memories.

REGIMENTAL WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

The Regiment would like to welcome the following and wish them a long and enjoyable tour:-

Our new 2IC, **Maj Bill Morris**, the new Chief Clerk, **SSgt Harry Monk**, PSI 1 Sqn, **Sgt Ann McNally**. We would also like to welcome the new members of our civilian staff at RHQ, **David, Graham, Julie** and **Janet**.

Sadly we have had to say goodbye to our old Chief Clerk, **SSgt Alan Gillard** and his wife **Marie**, who have gone over to switch the lights off in Berlin. We wish them an enjoyable tour and would thank them for putting up with us.

40 Sig Regt (V)
Belfast

XL ON THE CREST OF A WAVE
EXERCISE FIRST SAIL

Skipper — **Capt B.Peel**
Mate — **Capt C. Twinem** (now Maj)
Crew **SSgt Stewart, Sgt James, Cpl Herridge** and **Sig Dalzell**.

Six members from the Regiment set off from Belfast early on Saturday 17 August for adventure training. The destination was Kiel Germany.

We had a rather long journey overland and sea before arriving at British Kiel Yacht Club at 1500 hrs on Monday 19.

The Skipper took over *Pelican* a 29ft Westerly and as there were only two experienced sailors we went through basic instruction in sailing, learning nautical terms, parts of the boat, names of the different sails, which ropes were ropes and which were sheets and most importantly for the nervous newcomers, the safety procedures.

We left Kiel under engine on Tuesday morning. This turned out to be one of the roughest days as we were beating into the wind and had to change sail several times. As our resident comic stated 'We were thrown in at the deep end'.

We very quickly learned that everyone took their turn at the various chores on board and that teamwork was essential for a smooth journey.

One 'unamed' crew member was so excited at being at sea he made himself sick, initiating an instant diet for the rest of the crew who lost their appetites immediately. Anyway, fishes fed, we sailed on and arrived at our first port, Faaborg that evening, pulled alongside *Quicksilver* one of the other yachts from BKYC.

The next morning, after buying fresh rations in the local supermarket we left port, making sure we cleared the harbour before the large ferry, that is reputed to notch up yacht hits on its bow.

The second day was much calmer and we were able to appreciate the scenery along the Danish Coast. We arrived at Middlefart our next port and used a different method of mooring. We actually learnt a different technique at practically every port.

By now the whole crew was beginning to feel more confident, even about the variety of cooking skills that emerged.

The weather improved daily along with our sailing. We practised knots, learned the meaning of words like a reach, goosewing etc.

We stayed the night at Arhus, one of the larger ports and we were able to stock up on fresh rations the next morning before leaving for Copenhagen.

As we had a 24 hour sail ahead of us, we started a shift watch system. This did not immediately appeal to all of us but 'we were all in the same boat'.

It turned out to be a beautiful night and perfect for sailing. It is difficult to express the feeling of peace experienced that night although we did not forget that the Skipper had warned us to always have respect for the sea.

We spent Saturday in Copenhagen, sightseeing, shopping and enjoying the local cuisine. We took the hoverfoil to Malmo in Sweden on Sunday, where we did a little shopping.

When we left Copenhagen the next morning we intended to sail for three days but because there was no wind we were forced to put in to Stubbenkobing, a small fishing village for the night. This was the most risky harbour approach as the markers were not clear and the water depth changed from 40′ to 2.5′ in about two seconds. Thank goodness the Skipper knew what he was doing.

We slipped mooring early the next morning beating into the wind for most of the day but eventually managed to sail by a long reach arriving at Bagenkopft at 2100 hrs.

The next morning was the start of our last day sailing. Although the weather was perfect, there was an atmosphere on board. It was one of sadness mixed with exhilaration at having completed the journey safely.

After sailing into Kiel we had to clean the boat until everything was gleaming. Trust us to have a QM for a Skipper.

Once we had showered and had a meal we had a small celebration in the clubhouse, reminiscing over the trip and anticipating the possibilities of another one next year.

The trip uncovered new talents in many of us, the Skipper learned a new pastime (against his wishes), **Dave James** learned the disadvantages of making phone calls using an Access Card £30 later, **Davy Dalzell** has learnt that he doesn't love sailing, **Billy Herridge** is now an expert on feeding fish—he's thinking of opening up an Aquarium, **Carol** and **Adrian** have acquired a fetish for leather—they cleared out a leather shop in Copenhagen, and can be seen parading around Belfast smelling like chamois.

We left as six individuals and came home as a team that had shared ups and downs. Thanks for organising it **Brian**.

PS When are we going again?

VISIT BY GOC NORTHERN IRELAND

The GOC Northern Ireland **Lt Gen Sir John Wilsey KCB CBE** paid his first visit to the Regiment on Tuesday 17 September during a normal training night. His visit started with a brief on the Regiment given by the CO **Lt Col Ian Henderson** after which he toured the TAC visiting the various training activities being held that evening. His visit ended with an informal chat and drink in the Sgts Mess with the mess members.

Capt Joe Long makes sure that Cpl Mark Fettus and LCpl Michael Cheung don't give the game away to the GOC

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Farewells and best wishes to our 2IC, **Maj Jenny Wilson** who decided to hang the boots up after an undisclosed length of time in the TA. Also to the RSM. **WO1 (RSM) Ian Urquhart**, PSIs **SSgt Ian Emerson** and **Sgt Stevie Hartland** on posting.

A warm welcome to the newcomers **WO1 (RSM) George Cook, SSgt** 'Taff' **Rideout** and **Sgt Lennie Parker.**

A civilian farewell is also extended to our Senior Storekeeper **Mr Billy Carey** who retired recently after nearly 20 years service with the MOD.

CONGRATULATIONS

Warm congratulations are extended to our ex typist **Mrs Kate Magee** who retired in January this year and was awarded the Imperial Service Medal after 44 years service with the MOD. **Kate** was presented with the medal by the CO **Lt Col Ian Henderson** at an informal function in the WOs and Sgts Mess on 22 August.

CO Lt Col Ian Henderson presents the Imperial Service Medal to Mrs Kate Magee

71 Sig Regt (V)
Bexleyheath

PERSONALITIES
CO — **Lt Col D. B. Jones**
QM — **Lt Col R. C. Brodie**
Trg Major **Maj D. J. Lawson**, Adjt **Capt C. R. Owen**, RSM **WO1 (RSM) A. R. Parry**.

68 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
Sqn Comd — **Maj James Cartwright**
2IC — **Capt Jeremy Fern**
PSAO **Capt Doug Mully**, Trg Offr LI **Capt Ben Lawson**, Trg Offr WX **Capt Peter Walker**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) Peter Thornton**, SQMS (NRPS) **SSgt (SQMS) Brian O'Hare**, PSI **Sgt Michael Sheehan**, PSI (Tech) **Sgt Mark Hammond**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) Dave Lavender**, RRTT **Sgt Dave Simmons**.

The Squadron will now recruit ladies into its ranks for the very first time in its history. The hard pressed Recruiting Officer, **Capt Neil Cawley**, had his work cut out amending large batches of literature! Interest from ladies has been slow, nevertheless we should field about six potential recruits in November for selection.

Annual Camp was spent in the Salisbury Plain area. A few days were spent training in the FIBUA which we found testing and certainly put pressure on our young troop leaders.

During the middle weekend, the Squadron joined a coach trip to the RAC Museum at Bovington, then on to the delights of Bournemouth; a great relaxing time was had by all. Regimental Exercises followed, but all too soon it was over once again and we returned to London.

A former PSI **Bob Hooper**, has enlisted with us as a volunteer soon to regain his former SNCO status. Recent promotions are our Pay Clerk, **Sgt Patrick Heneghan**, Mess Steward, **LCpl Steven English**; and the SSM's son, **LCpl John Thornton**. **John** is one of two younger volunteers whose fathers are also serving in the Squadron; the other being **Christopher Simmons**, son of **Sgt Dave Simmons** our RRTT.

We are again involved in Riding Practice Rehearsals for the Annual Lord Mayor's Show and looking forward to the various duties and activities in which we are involved at this time of year, including the Annual Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service in the Chapel at Lincoln's Inn.

68 (IC & CY) Sig Sqn
Sgt Dave Simmons, WO2 (SSM) Pete Thornton, Sig Chris Simmons and LCpl John Thornton (old style yeomanry dress)

70 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
PERSONALITIES
Sqn Comd — **Maj K. W. J. Lloyd**
2IC — **Capt J. M. Crowther**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) R. C. Lodge**, PSI **SSgt P. Duddell**.

ANNUAL CAMP

Camp began with a communications exercise in East Anglia where the Squadron fulfilled their war-time role. This involved the Squadron for two days in eight communication centres throughout the district.

After this the Squadron moved to Salisbury Plain, living for three days as an infantry Company. They established a patrol base from where they sent out recce patrols, standing patrols, and fighting patrols. This phase of Camp culminated in a full platoon attack on the enemy, who were duly defeated!

The CinC **Gen Sir John Walters** visited the Squadron on exercise, and we put on a tremendous display of a vehicle ambush and counter-attack, with bags of fire-power.

Two days of relative relaxation followed—the first day firing live ammunition on a local range and the second day visiting the Queens Dragoon Guards, which included the opportunity to drive around in their tracked armoured vehicles.

The Regimental week followed, and started with the traditional inter-squadron 'patrol' competition. We fielded three teams, all of who fought hard for the top scores, in a competition run on the lines of the TV 'It's a Knockout'—jokers and silly dress included—but no Stewart Hall . . . only the RSM! **Lt Simon Palmer** led his team to victory, coming first in the Regiment, with **2Lt Andrew Austin** bringing his team in third.

The bulk of the second week was spent on two Regimental exercises—first an infantry exercise taking on the Berkshire Yeomanry, each with hidden patrol bases, seeking to destroy each other's bases. True to form, the Berkshire Yeomen were no match for our intelligent tactics. **Capt David Swann** headed a superb Intelligence Cell in Company HQ to track the enemy using recce and standing patrols. **Maj Ken Lloyd** made the most of this 'intelligence', moving the patrol base when the Berkshire Yeomanry least expected, and then attacking their patrol base in a superb manoeuvre. Being Salisbury Plain, however, the worst aspect of the exercise was the 18 hours of continual rain—par for the course, but no less unpleasant.

Having successfully annihilated the enemy's patrol base, the exercise changed into a communications exercise, and we were given our vehicles back, and allowed to dry off! The traffic flowed furiously for the first 24 hours until the Regiment couldn't keep up with us. The Squadron established four Headquarters, each of which moved at least once every 18 hours.

Despite the lack of equipment all members of the Squadron enjoyed their Camp and returned home in high spirits.

70 (EY) Sig Sqn
Knockout Winners
Sig Keown, Young, Cpls Greenwood, Perry, Carter, Taylor, LCpl Broadbent, Lt Palmer, Sig Farn and LCpl Wood

265 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

This contribution has been put together under great pressure with a phone call from the Adjutant raging 'I want 250 words plus 4×photos by 9 o'clock tomorrow morning, for *The Wire*''.

First reaction was—impossible—we haven't done anything since the last issue but—then I thought:

SPORTS
FOOTBALL
VETERANS v YOUNG BLOODS

Following many an old Footballing story from the more senior members of the Squadron the Younger members challenged them to a game of football to put them to the test. The Veterans, led by the dashing Sqn Comd **Maj David Hannam**, started the game defending their own territory against some daring football from the Young Bloods, led by the SSM **WO2 Mark Penny**. The game soon turned in favour of the accomplished players on the Veteran's side, going ahead by one goal scored by the OC from the Penalty spot. The Younger Members of the Squadron were now scrambling around in defence, trying to save face, holding the score to 2—0 at half time. The second half of the match went the same way, with RQMS **WO2 Bob Andrews** scoring two excellent goals and **SSgt Mick O'Brien** (a ringer) also scoring. If it hadn't been for some great goal keeping from **LCpl Warren Day** the score might easily have been 10—0 to the Vet's instead of the final score of 5—0.

CRICKET
VETERANS v YOUNG BLOODS

After losing the football match the Young Bloods were out to even the score with a Cricket Match. Despite good batting and bowling by **Lt Adrian Rabot** for the Young Bloods the east wicket stand by **Maj David Hannam** and our PSI **SSgt Bobby Wilson** saw the Veterans win once again by one run on the final ball of the last over. Once again we had the usual party after the match.

SQUADRON v PLUMSTEAD POLICE

On Sunday 7 October the Squadron football team had a 'warm-up' game against the Plumstead Police. Despite the absence of two key players we still managed to win by three goals to two. Goals scored by the PSI **SSgt Bobby Wilson, Sig Les Dudley** (welcome to the team) and **O/Cdt Keith Duffy-Penny** (our new father!)

TROPHY TIME
THE APPLEBY CUP

This year we presented a new Trophy for the first time. It was awarded to the Sharpshooter who made the most significant progress in a trade during the last winter training period (below A2 level).

This will be an annual event and is dedicated to the memory of **Capt Judith Appleby** who was Troop Leader 890, Squadron Training Officer and a former member of 884 Tp whose life was tragically cut short by cancer.

Capt Appleby was an enthusiastic member of the Squadron who played an important part in improving our trade skills and in encouraging people to achieve as much as they could from their time in the Squadron. She was great fun to be around and this is a fitting tribute to her.

This year's winner was **Sig Fryer**—well done.

LUCY AND MOORE TROPHIES

The Lucy and Moore trophies are awarded annually, by the Kent Yeomanry Old Comrades Association, to the male and female soldier who have made significant contributions to the Sharpshooter Squadrons in the last year. They are formally presented at the OCA's annual dinner.

The years winners; Lucy Trophy—**Cpl Peter McHenerey** from our Brighton Troop. **Cpl Mickie Watson** from our Recruit Training team.

The Squadron was also proud that two of our members won the Regimental Trophy, for Top Student on Trade Course **Cpl Marty Feather** and Top Student on the Det Comd Course **Cpl Steve Sefer**. Congratulations to both.

CAMP

Camp this year was on Salisbury Plain Training Area.

SHQ (WE WERE THERE TOO)
TROOP MAIN

Operation Dusty Bowl (got the T shirt, seen the movie, now read the newspaper) was a combined Troop deployment involving the Long Range Desert Patrol Groups, Forward Ops and fast moving Rover Reaction forces of 884, 890, 905 and SHQ Tps. A combination of physical capture and outstanding defensive patrolling ensured that few of the 'enemy' made it back to base.

The effort and enthusiasm of our gallant forces will long be remembered in the annals of the Sharpshooters.

A job well done.

Recommendations for gallantry awards and meritorious conduct so far received:

Capt Malik for getting his helmet on and leaping out of the SCP just in time to see the SHQ snatch squad rovers leaving without him.

Sgt Shelley for trying to poison the enemy Commander with a circa 1958 compo pilchard sandwich.

WO2 Penny has been awarded the Peanuts Cartoon Pigpen award by the Dry Earth Society for rescuing millions of endangered molecules of dusk.

Sgt Wren, wounded in action, only quick thinking in applying an entire toilet roll to a cut on his chin saved his life.

SSgt Mustoe having offered the use of the back of the 4 tonner to the female members of the Troop to enable them to wash with a modicum of dignity.

VISIT BY CinC UKLF

Gen Sir John Walters was due to visit the Squadron at 17.30 hrs on Wednesday the 11 September. With this in mind, the Sqn Comd **Maj Hannam** arranged a very special and exciting production of the stage play 'Oh What Have I Just Stepped On''.

The original cast being unavailable, the Sqn Comd held secret auditions during the first part of camp; watching people through special 'Fly on the Wall' cameras mounted in every vehicle. Drawing a short list to star in this, never to be repeated, one night show.

The Gala Evening was to be held at the Westdown Plantation Open Air Theatre. Our team of set builders worked to create the illusion of an SHQ location.

Scripts were learnt, rehearsals conducted and the stunt co-ordinator TA Ted created the land mine scene. He used many of our own people for this as extras including **Cpl** (Why me?) **Burch, LCpl Walls, Cpl Watson, LCpl Hene/Read, Pte** (Kit can't spare me) **Watson** and **Sig Costa**.

As the curtain went up **Gen Walters** made his way through the set accompanied by many varied celebrities from past shows including Inspector Morse himself (cleverly disguised as a man in a blue suit). The General was first met by **Maj Hannam** who then introduced him to **Capt Malik** and **WO2 Penny**. The next port of call was **Lt** (I've dyed my eyelashes for the occasion) **Malik, Lt Clare** and **SSgt Mustoe**.

Act 2 was signalled by two loud explosions and was the cue for **Lt Rabot** to lead his men to the Cert 18 disaster area. The General and entourage followed up to get front row seats for the next scene. This was probably the highlight of the tour with 905 Sig Tp performing everything from open heart surgery to kidney replacement whilst under fire from the pigeons above. **Gen Walters** was then introduced to **Cpl Keir** and **Cpl Nicholson**. This was unfortunately the end of the most exciting production ever put on by 625 Sig Sqn. The director **Maj** (Only seconds away from off shift) **Hannam** congratulated the whole company for their efforts and then made his way to the celebration dinner and bath night at the Officers Mess.

CAST:-

CO—Sean Connery, Adjutant—Roger Rabbit, Training Major—Marty Feldman, RSM—Sancho Panza, **Maj Hannam**—John Belushi, **Capt Malik**—Imran Khan, **Lt Rabot**—Omar Sharif, **Lt Malik**—Zsa Zsa Gabor, **Lt Clare**—Calamity Jane, **WO2 Penny**—A Badger, **SSgt Mustoe**—Pte Godfrey, **Cpl Keir**—Toyah Wilcox, **Cpl Nicholson**—Grace Jones

348 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
Sqn Comd — **Maj Richard Duxbury**
2IC — **Capt Nicholas Holder**
A Tp Ldr **Lt Timothy Weale**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) Jim Wolfe**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) Dennis Durkin**.

The Home Service Force Squadron has had yet another successful year. Recruitment, under the watchful eye of **Lt Tim Weale**, has improved and we have taken on strength a number of ex Signal Squadron soldiers — **Tpr Dack, Garcia, McLaren** and **Sheppard**, along with **Tpr Peters** on transfer in from the Royal Yeomanry. The lower training commitment of only 10 days appeals to the man with heavy family and work commitments.

Maj Duxbury took a detachment of some 30 men for a one week voluntary camp under the auspices of the Regiment, based at Tilshead; a camp which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

In October command of the HSF Squadron was taken over by the 2IC, **Capt Nicholas Holder**. **Major Duxbury** was instrumental in getting the Squadron off the ground and having spent the last 20 years actively involved with the IC & CY, his contribution to the TA has been immeasurable. He will be missed by all ranks.

At the time of going to press **SSM Jim Wolfe** and **SSgt Dennis Durkin** are busy organising the winter training programme and various social activities.

1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215 Sig Sqn) Tidworth

LANYARD TROPHY

A team of 18 individuals were selected by the Team Leader **Sgt Chris Middleton** to compete in the Lanyard Trophy. All were without a reason why they should not train, and compete in the competition—(a 40 mile march carrying a Bergan of 40lbs).

During our introduction to hard gym training and road work, our Team Selector/Leader was forced to pull out, being 'Far too busy with planning and inter troop SAAM n' all . . .'. Our Sqn PT staff of QMSI **Joey Roach** and **LCpl Dave Leask** were given the opportunity to produce a heap of wrecked bodies through a variety of circuit training sessions. Exploiting our masochistic tendencies they managed to make some of these sessions quite enjoyable.

We were unlucky enough to have an expert on distance work, who also happened to know lots of routes over the Salisbury Plain Training Area—none under 10 miles.

With all that training completed 'no one' wanted to miss the climax of a 40 mile race along the scenic Dorset Coastal Path. We needed a team of 10 of which 8 had to finish to count towards the team placings, but there were only 10 of us still 'lucky' enough to be fit in both mind and body.

The team that travelled down to Chickerwell Camp for the start were: **Capt Martin Prodger, 2Lt Andrea Sharman, SSgt Chris Skelton, Sgt Keith Balsdon, Cpls Rosy Rosato, Tosh McIntosh, Griffiths, Bru Baker, LCpl Brummie Dimmack** (newly promoted—again), **Sig Si Wroughton** (or is it 'Sigh') and **Nige Hinton** (volunteered having done no training and entered as an individual).

Smiles because it's over!

On arrival, our team seemed to have attracted a lot of attention quite possibly because we had a women in our team—**2Lt Andrea Sharman**. Until this year no woman had competed in the competition. Another first for 215 Sig Sqn. That evening was spent double checking the Bergan weight and wondering if we had done enough training to finish the course.

A vast breakfast and a 25 mile drive saw us arrive at the start point at Lulworth Cove. Our team had a steady start, quite possibly because it required clamp-ons to ascend the first hill just 200m into the course. It was decided to let **2Lt Andrea Sharman** complete the route in her own time as her bergan was almost as big as she was.

At the 20 mile point we almost lost two of our team with serious blister problems. Our Squadron Commander, **Maj J. P. McD. Coulthard** and his wife **Sally** met us at three points on the route to provide cold drinks and encouragement, which proved an incredible boost to morale. The team had overlooked the need to provide back up facilities and we relied on other teams' pitstop areas—thanks guys.

The last 10 miles were sheer hell. We lost **LCpl Brummie Dimmack**, having seen his feet we were amazed that he had managed as far as he had. With only eight of us left we could not afford to lose anybody else. **Sig Si Wroughton** had to use all his determination to stay with the team.

Somehow we stayed together and the team crossed the finish line at 1600 hrs, in a time of just over 12 hours. The result of our hard work was third place, suddenly everything seemed worthwhile. Showers, food and sleep soon followed, but in the middle of our nightmares our Team Officer **Capt Martin Prodger** roused us to cheer in **2Lt Sharman** as she completed the course.

The next morning the teams assembled for the prize-giving: first place—5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205); second place—249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) and third place—1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215).

2Lt Sharman was awarded a special presentation in recognition of her achievement and the cheer that greeted her was the biggest of the morning by far.

BATTLE CAMP

All the activities were devised by the 2IC **Capt Steve Turnbull** and the 'Three Amigos' from the Training Wing—**Sgts** 'Ash' **Ashton**, 'Nobby' **Nevill** and **Chris Middleton**. Early mornings, short lunch breaks and becoming friendly with your webbing again.

Three days of section level tactics and intense revision of a myriad of military skills culminated in the first in a number of section competitions—The March and Shoot. The QMSI got a sweat on by starting the march and simultaneously pressing the stopwatch. After 5 miles of sheer hell we arrived at the range where **Sig Gav McCann** demonstrated his uncanny marksmanship by hitting his polo mint on the target on automatic. Loads of shouting preceded the arrival of Section 10 led by the courageous **Cpl Kev Quinn** who was trying to get his squad to march in quick time. **Kev** soon proved there was no need to run after all as **Cfn** 'Billy the Kid' **Wooler** shot all six polo mints to enable the section to run out eventual winners.

Twenty-four hours later and it was off to Stanford which was to be our home for the next week. The first night we had a map reading exercise (or night follow), setting off at minute intervals. By the first checkpoint all the groups had come together and it became a game of follow the torchlight.

The patrol competition loomed upon us, and as we left our harbour area **Sig Gav McCann** impressed everyone greatly with his impression of a turtle. After tripping over a log and being pinned to the floor by his bergan he cried out for assistance from **Cpl Jonno Johnson** who helped him up. The first of many such falls. The close target recce found **LCpl Andy** 'Rack Bottom' **Powell** shining like a bulb when he grabbed hold of an electric fence. Throughout the night we had several obstacles to tackle but **Sig Moltan** found the river crossing too daunting and decided it was time he saw his compo again. The poor lad was sick with worry. Sections arrived at the Regimental Aid Post 600m from camp only to find they had to walk another 3km to a harbour area to be picked up by a Bedford.

The range phase of the battle camp started with the 'sniper' stalk. The winners were the Tech Section. The CQBR found 7 Section impersonating eight fern bushes—the only ferns in the area. Ten for effort, 0 for intelligence. After two weeks of effort battle camp ended with the following presentations:

Battle Shot 1991—Cpl 'Mickey' Shaw

Battle Camp Overall Winners 1991—7 Section: **Cpl 'Jonno' Johnson, LCpl 'Dave' Leask, Sig 'Taff' Conibeer, 'Paul' Shotton, 'Steve' Calvert, 'Micky' Dawes, 'Gav' McCann** and **'Andy' McLeod**.

BORNHEM 100KM 'DEATH MARCH'

On Wednesday 7 August we set off to Dover en route to Belgium to run/walk/stagger/crawl 100km in under 24 hours. A day of relaxation was followed by registration. The emerging butterflies could only be quietened by consuming large quantities of pasta (otherwise known as Carbo loading).

We started at 2100 hrs, and while the idea of running or walking 100km in under 24 hours sounds easy this is anything but the case. Notable performances came from **SSgt Ray Joughin, Sgt Steve Coombs** and **Cpl Jonno Johnson** who all finished with respectable times. **Sgt Coombs** eventually let everybody get a shower and is to be thanked for organising the event. A final well done to all members of the team whose combined efforts succeeded in raising £200 for Mencap.

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (216 Para) Aldershot

Sqn Comd **Maj I. Foxley**
2IC **Capt R. P. Wilson**
RSM **WO1 (RSM) W. J. Haslam**, QM **Maj Fred Bancroft**, AO **Capt John Aspinall**, Ops Offr **Capt Rob Meinertzhagen**, A Troop Comd **Lt Fred Wichelo**, B Troop Comd **Lt Mike Rogers**, RQMS **WO2 (RQMS) Steve Clarke**, FofS **WO2 (FofS) Lee Wookey**, YofS **WO2 (YofS) Ken Sirr**.

EXERCISE PEGASUS TROT 11
CAYTHORPE REUNION

Ex Pegasus Trot 11 was a 174 mile sponsored march from Aldershot to Caythorpe, Lincolnshire.

The 1 AB Div Sig Regt was stationed around the Caythorpe area prior to Op Market Garden (Battle of Arnhem) in September 1944. Each year, the old comrades from that era return to Caythorpe to reunite in Remembrance of the Battle of Arnhem and to reforge links with the Signal Squadron. Ten members of the Squadron took part in the sponsored march, **Capt John Aspinall, SSgts John Black, Nick Neilsen, Cpls Spence Cave, Clive Smith, Woody Woodward, LCpls Chris Coates, Steve Lynch, Gaz Shuck** and **Phil Smithurst** (the doc!).

The team marched over five days covering a distance of approximately 35 miles daily, the weather was very hot for September and the constant pounding on the roads took its toll on the feet. However, as Caythorpe got closer and the collection boxes fuller, morale remained high with time for some general knowledge games on the march and **Capt John Aspinall**, at the risk of losing the game, trying to convince the team that there was such a thing as a Mongolian Cheese Fly! (Nice try Sir).

A special mention goes to the Admin Team, **Sgt Steve Whittick** and **Sig Craig Ledger**, a great job lads.

The march proved very successful with £2,500 being raised for Airborne Forces Charities.

Saturday 7 September saw perfect conditions for 26 members of the Squadron, together with four members of 55 Sig Sqn (V) to do a parachute descent on to 'Spittlegate' Drop Zone (DZ). They were watched by the Old Comrades and their families with the jump going well (only a few entanglements) and afterwards **Cpl** 'Robbo' **Robson** was presented with his well earned Sergeant's stripes. The Parachute Party then made their way to Caythorpe Village to greet the marchers at the end of a long, hard but, enjoyable tab. **SSgt John Black** and **Cpl Clive Smith** were then hi-jacked by the Chief Clerk, **SSgt John Richards** to play football for the Squadron in the annual match against the village team. The Squadron won 8—1 with **Cpl** 'Iggy' **Gratrick** (who says he is devastating in front of goal) scoring a hatrick. After a village barbecue, it was off to the three village pubs, where the stories and drinks flowed into the early hours, and where **LCpl Chris Coates** (to thunderous applause) sang his unrivalled version of 'Minnie the Moocher'. On Sunday morning, prior to the Church Service, the Squadron and the Old Comrades formed up and led by the Sqn Comd, **Maj Ian Foxley**, marched through Caythorpe Village, with **Maj Gen R. J. Moberly CB OBE KStJ** and **Maj Gen A. J. Deane-Drummond CB DSO MC**, taking the salute.

With the transport home arriving four hours late, the 'few' drinks after lunch turned into quite a session, rounding off a thoroughly worthwhile and enjoyable weekend.

Caythorpe Reunion
L—R Maj Ian Foxley, Capt John Aspinall, Maj Gen R. J. Moberley, Capt Richard Wilson, Maj Gen A. J. Deane Drummond, Capt (now Maj) Fred Bancroft, Capt Jonathan Turner and WO1 (RSM) Billy Haslam

EXERCISE POND JUMP WEST

A total of 24 members of the Squadron volunteered to give up their summer block leave to be part of A Coy, 2 Bn The Queen's Regt to take part in Ex Pond Jump West in Canada.

After a cramped 12 hour journey in a VC10 we arrived in Edmonton and from there were transported to The Princess Patricia's Training Camp in Wainwright where we were given 24 hours to prepare for the start of the exercise. Training started in earnest the following day with section battle drills, range work and Platoon attacks which all served to remind us of the skills we had undoubtedly forgotten, for instance **Cpls Billy Dilkes** and **Cpl Iggy Grattick** now know which way to set up a trip flare.

Ten days in the field was followed by a five day adventure training phase in Jasper where such activities as hill walking, cycling, canoeing, horse riding and white water rafting were covered, the latter being the most exciting and producing the most thrills. However, our Platoon Commander **Capt Scott Workman** may think otherwise, swearing blind that **LCpl Phil Smithson** was trying to drown him; could this have anything to do with his imminent posting and him becoming a 'hat'?

Back at Wainwright we started the final phase of the exercise putting into practice those skills we'd learned in Phase one. This was to be the best phase of the exercise, giving everyone a chance to take part in a live firing exercise and, experiencing mortar and artillery fire as part of Platoon, Company and finally Battalion attacks.

Finally we had two days R & R in Edmonton for a well deserved rest prior to departing back home to our beloved Aldershot.

FAMILIES DAY

This was an ideal opportunity for the families to see their husbands, fathers, boy friends and sons carry out a parachute descent from a balloon on Hankley Common. Weather conditions proved to be ideal with the parachuting going without a hitch and with the wine and food flowing well produced the main ingredients for a successful day.

Other activities included a driving stand where **SSgt Les Skinner**, with a grimace on his face, provided a four ton vehicle and GS landrover for the families to test their driving skills. There was also a foreign weapons display run by members of the defence section, **Ptes Mark Thwaite**, 'Junior' **Howe** and 'Yorkie' **Richardson**, and a bouncy castle for the children although the majority were happiest playing amongst the dust of the common.

Overall a most enjoyable day and our thanks go to the Admin Officer **Capt John Aspinall** and his team for organising the event.

DEPARTURES

We bid a fond farewell to **Capt Scott Workman** on his way to 16 Sig Regt, **Sgt 'Q' Rose** to 63 Sig Sqn (V), **Sgt Jim Hanlon** to the School of Signals on his YofS course and to **Sgt Robbo Robson** posted to JCUFI and wish them all the best and good luck in the future.

ARRIVALS

A warm welcome goes to **Sgt Shaun Morgan, LCpl Andy Walsh, Sig 'Taff' Phillips** and **Martin Earle**, welcome back to **Sgt Morgan** and good luck on 'P' Coy for the other three.

CONGRATULATIONS

Finally congratulations to **Mrs Tracey Miller** and her husband **Sgt Andy Miller** our intrepid Pay Sergeant, on the birth of their daughter **Jade** and to **Mrs Michelle Smithson** and her husband **LCpl Phil Smithson** on the birth of their son **Adam**.

19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209) Colchester

EXERCISE DECCI UTOPIA

Not content with skiing, sailing and windsurfing, **Lt Dan Taylor** felt the need to go trekking somewhere hot as well. Ex Decci Utopia was originally a rock climbing expedition to Sardinia; however, three weeks prior to departure, all adventure training to Italy was cancelled.

At very short notice it was decided to go to Corsica and after a considerable panic the party pulled out of camp with the blue paint on the vehicles still wet.

After a nightmare journey across France we stopped for a brief period of rest in Cavalaire—a resort near St Tropez with all its attractions and none of the expense. Having regained our strength we departed for Corsica and the GR20, an impressive mountain range running the length of the island.

The shock of a 7000ft mountain after the relaxation of a beach proved too much for **Cpl Mills**; he started impressively enough but soon, all that could be heard was a gentle cursing 1,000ft below us.

In contrast **Cpl Mayall** proved to be like a cross between Chris Bonnington and a llama, he was to be found grinning cruelly at the top of every peak while the remainder of the team struggled forth. The climbs were invariably worth it for the scenery in the area was outstanding. It was extraordinary to be wearing shorts and a T-shirt in 105 degrees while scrunching through a snow field.

After eight days we achieved our aim which was to complete the Northern sector of the GR20. While the team was wary and blistered, all agreed that it was a thoroughly worthwhile expedition and, many have pictures in their heads and in their cameras that they will cherish for a long time.

The fortnight was rounded off perfectly by a further stay in Cavalaire except, this time, we were suitably bronzed when we hit the beach!

The Team

240 Sig Sqn York

TWO MEDALS FOR 70 YEARS SERVICE

Two long serving members of the Signal Squadron received medals in recognition of their service, which span a total of 70 years.

SSgt Rodney Meyers was presented with the Meritorious Service Medal by **Brig Martin Roberts**, for 'irreproachable service' in his 28 years service with the Royal Signals.

Mrs Margaret Smith of Barlby, near Selby, has retired after 42 years with the Civil Service, the last 15 as a telephonist at the Military Exchange in York. Her medal approved by **The Queen**, is for meritorious service as a Civil Servant and was presented by **Maj Eileen Tye**, the Sqn Comd.

SSgt and Mrs Meyers with Brig Roberts

Mrs Margaret Smith with the Sqn Comd Maj Eileen Tye

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) Bulford Camp

PERSONALITIES

Sqn Comd **Maj P. J. Oldfield**
2IC **Capt A. G. Hill**

QM **Capt W. N. White MBE**, Main Tp Comd **Lt D. J. Duggan**, Support Tp Comd **Capt R. L. Munro**, SSM **WO2 (SSM) M. B. George**, YofS **WO2 (YofS) S. Brant**, Chief Clerk **SSgt (ORSQMS) Warne**.

In the last couple of months the Squadron has had a large turn around of personnel. We would like to welcome **SSM George** from 7 Sig Regt and **Sgt Paul Bridon**. Farewell to **WO2 (YofS) Barron** who is on his way to 14 Sig Regt and congratulate him on his promotion and **Sgt Mick Walker** who is on his way back to the Emerald Isle.

MAIN TROOP

Welcome to **Cpl Yafai, Sig Ollington** and welcome back from the Gulf to **LCpl Si Bradley**. On the way out from the Troop are **Cpl Harry Kemp** to 244 Sig Sqn, **LCpl Mark Goodman** and **Sig Sandy Duff** who are both off to civvy street.

SUPPORT TROOP

We welcome new boys, **LCpls Madley, Gregory** and **Beckett**, also **Sig Atherton, Morgan, Robinson** and **Swayne**. Farewells to **Sgt Nick Middleton, LCpl Evans** and **Sig Paul**.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following on their promotions, **LCpls Alford, Adie Lowe, John Taylor, Watts** and **Steve Whitford**. There have been a few weddings in the Squadron, **Cpl Stuart** to **Lorraine, Cpl Stu Latham** to **Karen, LCpl Paddy Robinson** to **Lorraine-Anne** and **Cpl John Batts** to **Sonia**. We wish them all the best for the future.

NABC 100 MILE CANOE TEST

Support Tp recently provided communications for the annual 100 mile canoe test, undertaken by the National Association of Boys Clubs. While the communications ran very smoothly the same could not be said for the people on the water. Most notable was when **LCpl Richard** 'Fox' **Carr** canoed down a weir and survived. On the last day the lads were able to canoe with the juniors on the last leg of the test. Some people found it difficult to paddle in a straight line and had to be helped by 12 year olds. The week was rounded off with a cracking barbecue.

THREE PEAKS YACHT RACE

One of our more rewarding RAAT tasks is the Karrimor 3 Peak Yacht Race. The event is a series of yacht races and mountain runs along the west coast from Barmouth to Fort William in Scotland. The runs are from the respective ports to one of the peaks of either Ben Nevis, Scarfell Poke or Snowdon.

Main Tp deployed countrywide to Barmouth, Caernarfon and north to Fort William with soldiers at the control points on the summits of each mountain.

LCpl Andy Cartlidge brought a new meaning to the KAPE tour and **LCpl Brian Hyde** found the only bar in Scotland that serves free beer.

The movement of the yachts northwards into the ports corresponded with an increase in traffic to the sites and once this had passed the major concern over the net involved 'the purchasing of that culinary delight, haggis'.

A lot of new friends were made and the Troop is looking forward to the deployment next year. However, the 'successful ones' have been told that they are fated to do the peaks for an even better time.

KIWI TROPHY

14 June and the annual Squadron Kiwi Trophy competition was upon us. The event is fairly simple, a 13 mile tab carring a 35lb bergan and rifle, it climaxes in a plod up Heartbreak Hill (aptly named) and finishes at the top of Kiwi Hill.

At 0700 hrs the first runners set out, the Sqn Comd **Maj Paul Oldfield**, 2IC **Capt Andy Hill**, and **WO2 (YofS) Pete Barron** leading the way. Unfortunately the Yeoman's plan of hiding a horse around the first corner fell through and his own legs had to do all the work instead. For the remainder of the morning the Squadron was let loose over SPTA.

Cpl Read receiving the Barry Trophy, awarded for the best aggregate performance in Kiwis 10km and 20km skiing competitions from Commodore Leonard

Notable performances were achieved by **Cpl Mick North** (a dark horse), **Sig McClaren** (4th place), and to **Sgt Bob Goode** and **Cpl** 'Scouse' **Connelly** on the barbecue and the bar.

The overall winner of the competition was **Capt Andy Hill**, second was the QM **Capt Bill White** and third **Maj Paul Oldfield**.

SSgt Steve Rook being presented the LS & GC by Comd J. Leonard head of the New Zealand High Commissions Defence Liaison Staff

THREE COUNTIES CHARITY MARCH

For the past two years Support Tp have been involved in a Three Counties Charity Walk through 249km of Somerset, Devon and Cornwall. The money collected mainly goes to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

The team started in Minehead when the Mayor cut the ribbon and off strode the team, legs full of energy and buckets empty of cash. The highlight of the first day was being welcomed into Ilfracombe by the band of the Royal British Legion.

Over the next few days progress was slow but the collecting was good (traffic jams also common), and in return the lads gratefully gave their support to the local communities, particularly in the night clubs.

The Bude to Polzeath stretch, provided the most eventful day and night, **Cpl Stuart** failed dismally to erect the tents, **Sig Taylor** and **Owen** 'found' transportation (with flashing lights attached) in order to get back to camp and **Sig Morgan** and **Holland** sampled some of the local delicacies.

On completion of the march, spirits somewhat damp, due mainly to the weather, they were soon rekindled when Miss Newquay 1991 turned out for us. In all £5,000 was raised—well done.

Marchers: SSgt Stringer, Sgt Hood, LCpls Culleton, Robinson, Birkett, Owens, Alford, Sig Crossley, Owen and **Robson.**

Admin Staff: Sgt Middleton, Cpls P. Storey, S. Storey, Stuart, Latham, LCpl Crabb, Sig Holland, Morgan, Jones, Edmunds, and **Taylor.**

1992 Three Counties Charity March. On the start line ready to go *from left to right:* LCpl Culleton—complete with pace stick, LCpl Robinson—complete with built in everyday rations, LCpl Alford, Sig Owen, Sig Crossley, SSgt Stringer—crossing left right, LCpl Birkett—asleep as usual, LCpl Owens, Sig Robson—hiding, Sgt Hood

LANYARD TROPHY COMPETITION 1991

With the minimum of training and the maximum amount of bluff the Squadron team travelled down to the South Coast to take part in this year's Lanyard Trophy. Although the competition is run (and frequently won) by 5 AB Bde Sig Sqn there was a marked degree of confidence by the lads.

Early next morning it was down to the start line and, en masse, we charged up the first of many hills. The team worked well together, with **Lt David Duggan** as team leader, **Maj Paul Oldfield** as team map reading checker/spotter and 2IC **Capt Andy Hill** as the pace setter throughout (even though it was slightly too fast)! The rest of the team was **Sgt Pete Stowell, Cpls Taff Owens, Jim Rice, Mark Haworth, Jim Barber, Sig Steve Whitford** and finally 'Trig' **Kent,** not forgetting **John Chamberlain** who provided excellent admin facilities.

Cpl Jim Barber had some trouble around the 22 mile point and unfortunately had to withdraw. Other than that the team pushed 5 AB Bde Sig Sqn all the way and finally came in with a time of 10 hrs 59 mins for the 40 miles, which gave us second place.

We all enjoyed the day's walk and are looking forward to next year even more, '5 AB Bde, be warned'.

EXERCISE PINDOS WYVERN

Ex Pindos Wyvern was a 210 mile walking expedition in northern Greece, through the Pindos mountains starting at Amfissa and finishing at Metsovan.

Squadron members who took part were **Cpl Bri Parry** (Expedition Leader), **LCpls Paul Gaddas,** 'Maca' **McKee, Sig Alford, Firth** and **Stu Norton.** Other non Corps members of the expedition were **Lt Rudd, Sgt Greening, LCpls Gribble** and **Simpson** all from 42 Sqn RCT AMF(L).

The team arrived in Athens early on Monday 27 May, and booked into a Youth Hostel. **Cpl Parry** went to liaise with the local Military (to assure them of our good intentions) while everyone else went to look at the local tourist attractions. Later that day **Cpl Parry** broke the news to the team that ten Greek Paratroopers would escort us.

On the first day of the walk we decided to wind up the Greek soldiers by running the first 400m (true 249 style). Needless to say they were unimpressed. Each day's walk ranged from five to 10 hours, with sleeping arrangements being made in Ponchos, schools, Youth Hostels, Church yards and on one occasion a Monastery. The first two days were probably the hardest with everyone having aching feet.

The success of the expedition could probably be put down to our daily diet of Spam, chocolate biscuits and probably the most important part of any walker's diet, Amstel beer.

Familiar phrases used by the expedition leader were, 'definite track, 100m climb, north west, over this ridge and one hour', all of which were usually untrue.

The chosen route took in various peaks over 2,500m including Pyramidia on the Ghiona Massif. The route we took was originally walked by **Lord Hunt** and a group of Greek Special Forces in 1963. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it and with only a few blisters and sunburn it was all smiling faces at the finish. The expedition was rounded off with three happy days in Myconos to complete the suntan.

EXERCISE ACTION EXPRESS

During September the Squadron was shipped and flown to the sunny shores of Denmark to take part in Ex Action Express 91. It is the ACE Mobile Forces temperate climate annual training exercise and took the form of a nationwide deployment throughout the three main islands of Denmark. The first of the RATT detachments left in the early hours of 6 September and began to build the communications network on the island of Zealand, closely followed by the majority of the Squadron's vehicles travelling by sea.

After a long and picturesque journey from the port, the Squadron made its home in a crowded Ringstedt Barracks. The deterrant operations phase of the exercise then began, with lots of flag waving and the building of good relationships with the host nation. The vehicles and their crews left the main base with their Key companies and HQ's, shifting, eventually, into the combat phase of operations.

During these procedures **Capt Bill White** came to the forefront and visits to 'Ech' always resulted in 'yet another' bag of bread. Notable highlights of this phase was the capture by enemy forces of Sp Tp Comd **Capt Bob Munro,** not once but, twice! (The Squadron does not hold it against him for passing information, namely grid locations, to the enemy after interrogation!) **Sgt** 'Tommo' **Thompson** and **2Lt Richard Deans** also managed to get a ride in the back of a vehicle but not of their choice! They are understood to have greatly appreciated the cigarettes and Pepsi!

During the break between phases the Squadron retained the minor units NATO Challenge Cup. **Sig Robson** was the man of the hour and collected the trophy from Commander AMF(L) **Maj Gen Carstens** (GE Army). Well done all those who took part.

After rest and recuperation in Copenhagen it was redeployment back to blighty and sunny Bulford.

Sig Robson receiving the NATO Challenge Cup from Comd AMF(L) Maj Gen Carstens

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

HAVE YOU INFORMED 'THE WIRE'?

FAREWELL TO SSM

13 August signalled **WO2 (SSM) Tim Wallis'** last day in the Squadron. The occasion was marked by the 'Toms' presenting him with a bronze plaque and a figurine of Aphrodite; the 'armless pin up' in the Squadron's emblem. Greek mythology however, is not one of the Squadron's strong points. **WO2 Wallis** was escorted from the Squadron lines in the Squadron 'Cherry Picker' cheered by members of the Squadron who lined the route. We wish **Tim, Margaret** and their two children all the best in their short tour with 56 Sig Sqn before they move on to civvy street.

Sig Mollon presents WO2 Wallis with a bronze plaque and a figurine

EXERCISE BEAUFIGHTER BASH

Airfield Tp's Summer Camp was held over the August Bank Holiday weekend in Polis, a small town on the north coast of the Island. The weekend got off to a great start when, only 10km to the north of Paphos, **Sig** 'Shippy' **Ship's** driving proved too much for the Dodge van, he was attempting to get up a rather steep incline. Just at the top the accelerator cable seized and the van could go no further. The FofS, **SSgt Dave Alexander** decided drastic action was necessary and started pulling the engine to pieces to try to remove the cable. Many skinned knuckles later and amid cries of 'Where did that piece come from?' the offending article was removed. A can of WD40 was bought and gallons of the stuff was sprayed into the sleeve of the cable in an attempt to free it. Eventually, four hours late, the van was very tentatively driven onto the campsite.

After an appetising meal of compo chicken curry a recce of the Paphos night life was thought to be in order.

The next day the group set off early to the beach for a swim. 'Out to the buoy and back' declared duty Triathlete **Sgt** 'Pip' **Piper.** Everyone shuffled into the water with mumblings of 'That must be at least a mile' and 'What does he think I am, a Dolphin?'.

During the next two days the Troop enjoyed some beautiful scenery while trekking in the Avgas gorge and some hair raising climbing and abseiling under the watchful eye of **Pip Piper. Sig Trev Johnfinn** took longer to get up the first 2ft of the rock face than it took the rest of us to climb the whole thing. **Pip** took a sadistic delight in watching the look on everyones faces as he pushed us over the edge of the cliff. His patter which included lines like 'It's easy, just like falling off a log' was not exactly reassuring.

All in all everyone had a great weekend. **SSgt George Myerscough** is thinking about a new career as a stunt man, while **Cpls Dai Treeby** and **Si Hodgson's** Goulash persuaded them (and us), that they had no future as chefs. Yuk!

Thanks to **Sgt Pete Kelly** and **LCpl Taff Silver** for organising an enjoyable weekend camp.

Ex Beaufighter Bash—Sig Trev 'Mountain Goat' Johnfinn

NEWS FROM AIRFIELD TROOP

High on the list of events in the Troop's sporting calendar this month has been the new and rather entertaining game of 'spot the Project's SNCO, **Sgt Ken John'** he being the rarely seen individual.

The last two months have been very busy with the changeover of the new ISDX Telephone Exchange and the never ending Gozome's for the 81 Sqn Gladiators (TA).

In the store lurks a wee figure called **LCpl Mark Campbell** who attended a school of accountancy and now produces the goods thanks to **Sig Rigby's** labelling system.

Systems Controllers **Cpl BJ Forbes-Wilson** and **LCpl Jacko Jackson** can be found studying the latest bike magazines.

The fault's teams **Sig John Finn** and **Shaw** can often be seen fixing the 10 o'clock fault at the local Cafe.

Well done to **Sig Ship** on his Go Karting Knockout and **Sig Tibsy Corbin** on completion of his B2 Project in a record time of 3 months, 1 week, 2 days, 4 hours and 23 minutes.

WELCOME

Welcome to **FofS Dave Alexander,** his wife **Sally** and family, **Sig** Titch **Shaw** and **Avril, Sig Marsden** and **Gail.**

GOODBYES

Goodbyes to **LCpl Martin Goodhand** and wife **Donna** off to civvy street, best of luck for the future and to Trigger **Rigby** off to sunny Belize.

NEWS FROM EPISKOPI TROOP

Project 'Crisp' is now in full swing creating extra responsibilities for all the Troop as we try to keep the existing FDM System running along-side the 'All singing all dancing Crisp System' which at the moment is still in hiccup mode. Hopefully, in the very near future all the hard work should be rewarded with the extra benefits the new system will bring, at least that's what 'Mr and Mrs Crisp' **(Sgts Stewart** and **Bradford)** say after spending all that time in Italy and UK learning all about it.

On the sporting front the Troop did extremely well in the Squadron's 'Hodgson Shield' Competition after winning the opening event, a six-a-side cricket competition, and went on to win the swimming, thanks to **Cpls Laverie, Maxted, Sig Evan Galloway** and, came a close second in the volleyball.

Outside the Squadron sports scene **Cpl Bob Maxted** and his bunch of merry raft rats put up a good show in the All Island Raft Race, coming a close second on only their second venture on the high seas. The Troop would also like to say well done to **Bob** for being voted Squadron Cricket Player of the Year after some good performances with both bat and ball for the Squadron Team.

– News from Troops –

662 Sig Tp
BFPO 58

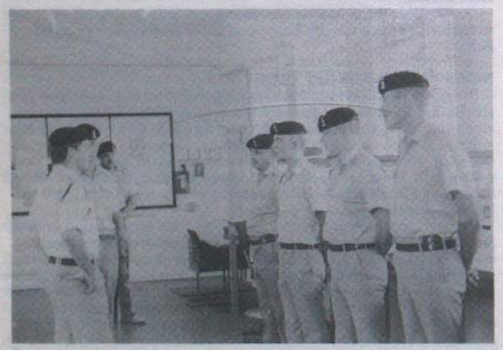
PERSONALITIES
Tp Comd — **Capt Les Rix**
AO — **Lt Kim Wardner WRAC**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Dale Ikin**, OC Maint Sect **WO1 (FofS) Peter Martin**, OC Comms Sect **WO2 (YofS) Chris Rogan**, SQMS **SSgt (SQMS) John Williams**, Chief Clerk **Sgt Steve Gorman**, Station Comd FFS Cape Greco **SSgt John Smith**.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES
A few 'hellos', to **LCpl Neil Mottley** RPC and **Christine** moving from Cyprus to FSS Cape Greco, and **LCpl Jason Foulger** and **Diane**. Also hello to **Sig 'JR' Ewing** arriving the day this article was written!

CONGRATULATIONS
Hello to **LCpl Neil Mottley** RPC and **Christine**. Also hello to **Sig 'JR' Ewing** arriving the day this article was written!

VISIT OF SOinC
On Monday 16 September, the Troop was honoured by a visit from the SOinC **Maj Gen R. F. L. Cook** and **Mrs Cook**. Despite the limited time available, the SOinC met nearly everyone in the Troop either at their place of work or in the BITSA bar at the end of the visit.

From L to R: SSgt (SQMS) John Williams, Tp Comd Capt Les Rix and SOinC



Tele Techs
From L to R: SOinC, Sgt Chris Bough, WO2 (SSM) Dale Ikin, Sgts Chris Gardner, Bob Wymer, 'Brad' Bradley and Cpl Jim Newell

Troop HQ
From L to R: (AO) Lt Kim Wardner, LCpl Brian Peach and SOinC

WATERSPORTS DAY
Prior to the unit attending an adventure training exercise the SQMS **SSgt John Williams** organised a day at the Dhekelia Watersports Club. This was to enable those who hadn't windsurfed or waterski'id before to get some pr-exercise training. The wives and families were invited to attend.

The day started at 0630 hrs preparing the equipment and dry training for those who hadn't windsurfed before. Then the Troop took to the water with the windsurfers under the watchful eye of **SSgt Simon Tatman**, whilst the others attempted the waterskiing. Each skier had four attempts at standing up and completing a circuit, there were many failures until **Cpl Jill Mackay** showed everyone how it was done. This appeared to give the remainder of the Troop a little more incentive and many more circuits were completed.

The parascending involved being strapped to a parachute and being towed behind a speedboat giving an excellent birdseye view of the surrounding coastline. The hard part was getting back onto the boat without getting your feet wet!

The whole day was rounded off with a barbecue for those who still had any energy left and time to reflect on the day's activities.

The day was a great success and thanks go to all those who assisted in the various activities.

EXERCISE BEACH REAR
During September/October the unit held a two week summer camp at Milanda training area. The emphasis was on adventure training activities in the morning with sporting competitions each afternoon. Members of the Troop attended the camp for a week and were able to take part in all activities, which included rock climbing under the eagle eye of **Cpl Kev** 'Tex' **Murphy**, sailing with **Sig Dougie Easby**, windsurfing with **SSgt John Smith**, canoeing, cycling and snorkelling.

Everyone enjoyed all the activities especially **Sgt** 'Brad' **Bradley** who managed to invent a new activity: pubcrawling down the Troodos hillside on a mountainbike!

Some exciting canoeing took place **SSM Dale Ikin**, the intrepid explorer, risking the violent turbulance of six inch breakers. That's his excuse for capsizing.

Apart from being targeted by the local dodgem hit squad (two vehicles smashed) everything went well and it is hoped to repeat the whole exercise next year.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

Admiral	Maj Gen P. D. Alexander CB MBE
Commodore	Col P. J. Pritchard
Vice Commodore	Lt Col C. K. Powell

Rear Commodores: Offshore, Lt Col J. A. Grierson; Dinghies, Lt Col M. J. P. Collins; Windsurfing, Lt Col C. D. McK Kemp

CONTACTS

Yachtmasters: **UK: Lt Col A. Davies, Blandford Mil 2344**
BAOR: Capt A. P. Bristow, Verden Mil 302
Cyprus: Maj R. C. T. Cutherbertson, Ayios Nikolaos 7466
Secretaries: **General: Maj J. P. McD Coulthard, Tidworth Mil 2320**
Dinghy Racing UK: Capt D. C. A. Ellis, Blandford Mil 2489
Dinghy Racing BAOR: Capt G. R. Norton, Herford Mil 2349
UK Windsurfing: Capt D. J. Gilchrist, Tidworth Mil 2403
BAOR Windsurfing: WO1 J. P. Mold, Herford Mil 5285

INTER CORPS DINGHY LEAGUE 1991
The RSYC Dinghy Team was once again represented in the UK Inter Corps League, which is sailed over the course of the year at various venues.

The League started off with nine Corps competing, but by half way through the year the WRAC had officially dropped out, and the RAPC were unable to meet many of their matches, ours included.

The Corps team scored three wins, against the Infantry, RAOC and Army Medical Services. As ever we had a hard match against the Sappers, which they won, similarly with REME who turned out an extremely strong team of **Burnett, Ross** and **Watson**. The real shock loss was against the Gunners on their new home water at Thorney Island, in Chichester Harbour.

Thus at the end of the season the League ended up with Sappers first, and three teams tied on twelve points, Signals, REME and AMS, which on tie break went to the Signals, making us Runners Up yet again.

UKLF INTER UNIT DINGHY TEAM RACING FINALS
We are delighted to be able to report that the UKLF Inter Unit Dinghy Team Racing Finals held at the ASA Sailing Club, Netley on Southampton Water on 26 September was an all Royal Signals affair. The two teams that took to the water, on what proved to be a wet, windless afternoon with the trickiest of conditions, were drawn from 8 Sig Regt and the School of Signals. Both teams had reached the finals via their respective District League Championships, involving sustained success against, at times, formidable opposition. As league champions they had then each won their respective semi-finals, held on the morning of the same day as the finals. The statistics of the final result, as ever, do not tell the whole truth. Whilst the School of Signals eventually obtained a convincing result, it was only at the expense of considerable patience against opposition that chased them to the end. Both teams are to be greatly congratulated.

Who says that dinghy racing in the Corps is in the doldrums?
(For a full report see the School of Signals notes.)

FORTHCOMING OFFSHORE EVENTS
The next major RSYC sponsored winter adventure training expedition is to take place in 1992/93. For this winter and spring, steps have been taken to assist units in mounting expeditions in the Eastern Mediterranean. Our Cyprus-based Bowman 38, Parang had been rerigged as a masthead sloop with a view to making trips to Rhodes and the Dodecanese Islands a more practical proposition. It is proposed to use regular air trooping, but concessionary commercial flights are also available for non-entitled personnel. Assistance in finding qualified skippers where necessary is available and local on-island support will be provided by 9 Sig Regt. Unit sailing officers and others who would like more details should apply either directly to the Cyprus Yachtmaster or to the Rear Commodores (Offshore).

Next summer we are considering whether to base one of the UK yachts on the west coast of Scotland for part of the season. The Rear Commodore (Offshore) would like to hear from any members who would be seriously interested in chartering from there.

OFFSHORE SAILING COURSE
The highly successful Royal Signals Offshore Sailing Course will take place again this year from Monday 11 May to Sunday 17 May 1992 on the Army's new Victoria 34s. Application forms can be obtained from your Unit Sailing Officer or by contacting the course officer **Maj B. H. Rowe** at RHQ Royal Signals, Lond Dist 8333.

ROYAL SIGNALS WINDSURFING CHAMPIONSHIPS
The Royal Signals Windsurfing Championships were held at Browndown Camp, Lee-on-the-Solent on 3-5 October 1991. Unfortunately the turnout was lower than anticipated with 28 sailors competing in the individual event and 7 teams in the Inter Unit Competition. However this did not inhibit the Championships which saw conditions changing over the period from force 5/6 winds on day one through moderate winds and sunshine on day two followed by light winds and rain on the final day. In total 11 races were sailed, 7 individual and 4 team. There were a few new faces amongst the competitors especially within the 7 Sig Regt Team from BAOR and some of the old guard who support every event. **Cpl 'Geordie' English** came out of retirement to compete and ex Cpl now **Mr 'Sammy' Anderson** has joined the TA to enable him to race at Signals Competitions, and of course renew friendships. Perhaps next year we will have more TA entrants now the ice has been cracked and who knows maybe a TA Unit Team? The detailed results were:

INDIVIDUAL
Overall and Heavyweight Champion—**Sgt Maw** 8 Sig Regt.
Heavyweight Runner Up—**Cpl Anderson** 49 (WR) Sig Sqn (V).
Lightweight Champion—**Sgt Finnigan** AA Coll Harrogate.
Lightweight Runner Up and Best Veteran—**WO2 Gillett** 8 Sig Regt.
Novice Lightweight—**Cpl Patrick** 8 Sig Regt.
Heavyweight Novice—**SSgt Snaith** 2 Div Sig Regt.
Best Junior—**AT Young** AA Coll Harrogate.
Best Guest—**LCpl O'Connell** (REME) 249 Sig Sqn.

UNIT TEAM
First (Major Unit Champions)—8 Sig Regt: **WO2 Gillett, Sgt Maw** and **Cpl English**. Second—AA Coll Harrogate: **Sgts Finnigan, Fradley** and **AT Young**. Third—7 Sig Regt: **WO1 Mold, SSgt Skinner** and **Sig Adams**. Fourth (Minor Unit Champions) 249 Sig Sqn **Capt White, LCpls Christie** and **O'Connel**.

The Major and Minor Unit Team Champions holding the new Royal Signals Team Trophies
The sailors *(L to R)* LCpls Christie, O'Connel, Capt White, WO2 Gillet, Cpl English and Sgt Maw

TEN PIN BOWLING

TO ALL TEN PIN BOWLERS

Due to unforeseen circumstances and the lack of response from major units, the planned Royal Signals Ten Pin Bowling Championships have been put on hold. This is unfortunate, but could not be helped. However there are still plenty of competitions to enter. Anybody requiring entry forms for any of the competitions below, please contact **Sgt Brennan** at the address below and I will have you placed on the mailing list.

UKLF TRIOS	02-03 November
UKLF's	17-19 January 1992
ARMY's	06-08 March 1992

As a last word, having been nominated Corps representative for Ten Pin Bowling, **Sgt Brennan** picks the Corps team for the Inter Corps Championships every year. To do this, the team is picked from army averages (competitions) and not league averages. So if you want to represent the Royal Signals, you must have a verified competition average and it must be passed on to **Sgt Brennan**. If you require any more information please contact: **Sgt S. Brennan**, Eqpt Eng Sect, TTS, 8 Sig Regt, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire, DL9 3PS, Catterick Military 2603.

TUG OF WAR

The delayed BAOR Morrison Cup meeting was held at the end of September where it was pleasing to see that the tug of war entries stayed at a reasonable level with eight major and five minor units participating.

The minor units used the 'round-robin' format and after a very keenly contested competition 201 Sig Sqn came out the clear winners. The major units split into two leagues of four with a cross-over semi-final. Again a very good competition with the gap in standards between units narrowing as the more experienced pullers move around and the sport increases in popularity.

The final saw 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt defeating a very much lighter 7 Sig Regt team but only after three ends, the third being a real cliffhanger where greater weight told in the end. The pull-off for 3rd/4th place also produced a three-end pull with 16 Sig Regt and 22 Sig Regt putting on a real battle but at the end of the day 16 Sig Regt just had that bit more experience.

The Indoor Season is now upon us and although it is difficult, teams should endeavour to keep going, thus keeping in trim for the 1992 Outdoor Season. Next year's Inter-Corps Championships will be on Monday 13 July 1992 at PMC Arborfield. Anyone wishing to be considered for the Corps Squad should contact the Corps Coach, **WO2 (SSM) P. Halstead**, ORLO, School of Signals.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS 1992 CALENDAR

To promote the good name of Royal Signals in the Army, within our own family circles and also outside in the commercial world, the Corps has decided to publish its own high quality full colour calendar for 1992 again but this year it will be cheaper!

BUY THE CALENDAR AND SUPPORT YOUR CORPS

This calendar which has been printed to a high standard will illustrate many of the finest traditions and achievements of the Corps in operational, training, sporting and social situations. With one page per month it will feature many of the capabilities which have made our Corps famous, and which we would therefore proudly wish to share with our colleagues and friends. For example, electronic warfare, Ptarmigan, the White Helmets and winning Army Sporting Championships.

The Royal Signals 1992 Calendar, which will be available from October 1991 has a space daily for jotting appointments and is intended to grace any wall in the office, the crew room, or at home. It will make an excellent Christmas Gift or Christmas Draw Prize and at £3.50 (10.00DM) is a modest price to pay for a present which will be appreciated for 365 days of the year. This is, in Army terms, still a unique undertaking and an excellent way of expressing to your colleagues, family and friends your pride in Royal Signals.

Who would have a wall without one—at Home and Away?

CALENDAR ORDER FORM

Regimental Headquarters Royal Signals
56 Regency Street
London SW1P 4AD

Please send me ..... copies of the 1992 Royal Signals Calendar.

I enclose a cheque (£3.50 or 10.00DM each) for .....

Name .....

Address .....

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Cheques payable to R Signals Corps Fund.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Patron: HRH The Princess Royal GCVO

President: The Master of Signals

Chairman and Treasurer: Major General P. D. Alexander CB MBE

General Secretary: Colonel A. N. de Bretton-Gordon — Assistant Secretary: Major G. Schofield MBE

Welfare Secretary: Mrs P. J. Haw — Administrative Officer: Mr R. Whittle

Association Office, RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD. Tel Military System: London District 8245. STD 071 414 8245 Welfare Secretary (direct line) 071 630 0801.

OPENING OF THE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY AND REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY AT THE CENOTAPH IN WHITEHALL

The Association was well represented at the opening of the Field of Remembrance by Her Majesty The Queen Mother on 7 November, and there was also a strong serving Corps contingent led by the Signal Officer in Chief. This year our plot was smaller than usual, and space for members of the corps behind our plot was unreasonably cramped. The Royal British Legion, who are responsible for the layout, are being approached to allocate us more space in future years. Twenty-six Branches of the Association sent poppy crosses, as did three Affiliated Branches. Three units of the serving Corps also sent crosses.

The Association bid for places in the parade organised also by the Royal British Legion at the Cenotaph. A small number of members paraded, but it is clear that most prefer to attend their local functions on Remembrance Sunday. More places are available for future years in the Cenotaph parade if required.

The Corps Plot

Members of the Association who represented the Corps at the Cenotaph Parade on Remembrance Sunday. Five are members of Bradford Branch (Sec: Mrs Nora Holdsworth), four are from West London Branch (Sec: Maj J. T. Fowler TD, *first left*) and Dave Greenbrook

WAR WIDOWS ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN

The Baroness Strange, President of the War Widows Association, and some 130 members gathered at the Cenotaph on 9 November for the Wreath-Laying Ceremony and Service of Remembrance, conducted by **The Rev John B. Knight**. The Dave Cornish Pipe Band was in attendance. A Reunion lunch followed.

COLONEL IN CHIEF VISITS WAR GRAVES IN POLAND

The Princess Royal visited Rakowski Cemetery outside Krakow on her recent visit to Poland.

Among the Commonwealth War Graves, **HRH** saw those of **LCpl Alderman**—died 15 February 1941 aged 33, **Sig Fyfe**—died 13 February 1941 aged 30, **Dvr Zasler**—died 25 February 1943 aged 23.

HRH also visited graves at Fajara during a visit to The Gambia in 1990 (details on page 142 April 1990 *Wire*).

We are very appreciative of these visits and thank **Her Royal Highness** for Her devotion to Her Corps.

GRAVES IN CRETE

We are grateful to readers who visit graves in various places in the world whilst on holiday: **Alan E. J. Mee** (LCpl, 78 Div Sig, attached 2RHA) has kindly sent a photograph taken at the cemetery at Souda Bay, Crete. Buried here are **Sig R. H. Martin** and **C. J. Bennett**, both attached Royal Artillery who lost their lives on 22 May 1941, both aged 24 years.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of any of the relatives of these soldiers please write to the Regimental Secretary at RHQ. We would like to assure the families that the Corps 'Remembers Them'.

The Plaque at the Crete port of evacuation

ALDERSHOT BRANCH

Our Christmas Luncheon is the main occasion on which we look forward to seeing many of our own Members who no longer live locally. We hope this will serve as a reminder that this is a festive occasion on which all past and serving members of our Corps family are welcome to join us, and we hope they will do so.

The venue is the Royal Aldershot Officers Club at Noon for 1230 hrs. Friday 13 December 1991. The cost for each person will be £13.50. Please contact **Lt Col D. Crookes OBE**, 110 Field Way, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 4UL. Telephone (0252) 22418.

BRIGHTON BRANCH

It is with deep regret that we report the death of one of our ex Branch members, **Alan Turner**, ex Grenadier Guards and Corps. Older members will remember that **Alan** made a substantial donation towards the purchase of our Standard. Our sympathy goes to his widow and family.

Just to remind! A social evening has been arranged for 6 December, Carols followed by light refreshments. All members very welcome.

DERBY BRANCH

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of our President, **Maj John Rose TD**, on 24 September, aged 67 years. **John Rose** joined the Corps in 1944 and served in Cairo and Damascus during the war. He was in Beirut on VE Day and helped to organise camps for homeless Lebanese boys at Namr El Safa. He then went to Egypt and Salonika. He was demobilised in 1947. **John** then joined 46 Sqn, 49 Div Sigs TA at Kingsway, Derby and subsequently became Squadron Commander of 46 Sqn, 38 Sig Regt. He finally retired in the rank of Major (TOT). He became President of Hinkley Branch, Royal British Legion, and Chairman of Sapcote Parish Council in addition to being our Chairman. **John** also founded 15th Long Eaton Sea Scouts Group which today boasts a membership of 300; a testimony to his concern for the young.

He will be very much missed by Branch members and his many friends. We send condolences to his widow **Jean** and their three children.

VISIT TO 46 (DERBYSHIRE) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) AT ANNUAL CAMP

Report by ex WO2 D. Williamson WRAC, Branch Chairman

This year's traditional visit to our host Squadron's Annual Camp took place during early September. The visiting party of **Capt (Retd) Ernest Williams** accompanied by retired SNCOs **Dot Williamson, Geoff Allman** and **Tommy Dowd** returned to their old haunt of STC Scarborough at Burniston Barracks to visit the Squadron during Phase One of Camp 1991.

We arrived at Burniston Barracks shortly after noon to be greeted by the 'REMF's,—the ever smiling **Capt** (PSAO) **Cliff Webb** and **SSgt (SQMS) Alan Landsborough**. The Squadron was deployed on the extended military skills phase at Strensall Ranges and Langdale Forest. After settling into Coronation Street, we enjoyed a light lunch in the Sergeants' Mess before re-acquainting ourselves with Scarborough and its environs. The afternoon and evening were taken up exploring old watering holes and sharing fond memories of years past.

We arose refreshed early next morning (old habits die hard) and ate a hearty breakfast before venturing out to visit the Squadron in Langdale Forest. Having successfully navigated ourselves to the start point in Langdale Forest, we met up with the Squadron in the form of **WO2 (SSM) Bob Ward** and observed the signallers in their lesser known, but effective, offensive and defensive roles as they completed various (and arduous) tasks including their mandatory annual tests. At Langdale we were introduced to the visiting members of the US National Guard—**SSgt 'Cuz' Smithson** and **Sgt Charles Burton** of 230 Sig Bn, North Carolina National Guard—who were visiting the Squadron as part of the UK/US exchange programme. Signallers themselves, they were both thoroughly enjoying their time with the Squadron and praised the professional approach of their trans-atlantic cousins. They were particularly impressed by the spirit and team-work shown by the Squadron and were obviously enjoying themselves to the full. Our best wishes go to them back in the States. The Military Training Phase completed, the Squadron returned to Burniston Barracks for the traditional ". . ., shave, and shower" (and pay parade!), before embarking the coach to the Downe Arms at Wykeham for a most enjoyable dinner and disco to mark both the end of camp phase one and also the Squadron's last visit to STC Scarborough before its closure in October.

The following day was a well-deserved Squadron stand-down and everyone—including ourselves—took the opportunity to recover from the excesses of the party and reflect on the implications of the impending closure of the STC.

Before deploying from Burniston Barracks for the last time, the Squadron 'Marched Out' in style with the Commandant STC Scarborough, **Lt Col W. G. Wallace**, taking the salute. Many a tearful eye was observed amongst 'The Old and Bold' of the Squadron as they marked the end of an era.

We would like to thank 46 (Derbyshire) Sig Sqn (V) for their warm hospitality during our visit. We consider ourselves most fortunate in having a close relationship with such an active Squadron. Our particular thanks go to the Squadron Commander, **Maj Rod Lingard**, for his kind invitation this year and to **Capt** (PSAO) **Cliff Webb, WO2 (SSM) Bob Ward, SSgt (SQMS) Alan Landsborough** and their staff for the administrative arrangements.

Ex WO2 Dot Williamson at annual camp with 46 Sqn TA members of Derby Branch

EAST KENT BRANCH

The embryo of the Branch formed earlier in the year but now we have over 120 paid up members, a Standard which was on parade at Canterbury Cathedral for Remembrance Day, and regular meetings, so we can claim to be established. As with other Branches, the membership is varied in age and experience ranging in age up to 95 and from Signalman to Major General, some National Service, some TA and some regular.

The Branch meets in the morning on the second Sunday each alternate month for a talk followed by buffet lunch and on the last Thursday evening of every month for a drink at various hostelries around the county. We have already had excellent talks on the Gulf War and 'Options for Change' and will now capitalise on the wider interests and professions of our members. If anyone residing in Kent is interested in joining, please write to the Secretary—**John Badcock**, Antrum Lodge, Stodmarsh Road, Canterbury CT3 4AH.

WEST LONDON BRANCH

The Branch has been deeply saddened by the death of **John Billet** who has been a very active member and a good friend to us all. We will not forget the happy evenings at the BBC, impeccably arranged by **John**, the accompanying buffet suppers and the technical mysteries to which we were introduced. Who of us will watch the News in the evening without imagining we are standing in the News Room as we have done on so many occasions in the past? Our sympathy goes to **Mrs Billet** and to their son **John** who knows us and who we hope will keep in touch.

Many of us were able to pay our last respects to **John**, and this we did with a very dignified representation and the presence of the Standard of his Branch which he so generously supported.

In September the Reading Branch entertained us to a Curry Supper in Windsor. Many attended and enjoyed an excellent evening. Who could resist, including **Cliff Wood** who had to drive to Scarborough the next morning to the ex-Boys Reunion? We hope the curry didn't sit too heavily on the journey, Chippie! Thank you, Reading. We hope to reciprocate soon.

SCARBOROUGH BRANCH

ROYAL SIGNALS SPECIAL EVENT STATION GB200SIG

During April 91 amateur radio stations world wide celebrated the 200th Anniversary of the birth of **Samuel Morse** in April 1791.

Royal Signals Amateur Radio Headquarters Catterick, asked Scarborough Branch if we could mount an operation in support of this unique occasion. **Lt Col Gordon Wallace**,OC Burniston Barracks was approached and permission readily given.

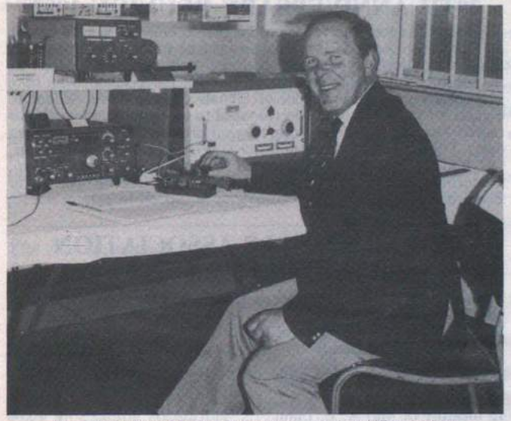
With the help of Scarborough Special Events Group, 2 HF positions and a VHF position were mounted in the radio hut on the cliff edge overlooking the North Sea. Operation commenced at 0500 hrs on 20 April during a snow storm and very high winds. We were soon in contact with Royal Signals Amateur Radio Stations in Australia, New Zealand and USA. Operation continued until 3 May closing down at 2359 hrs after making 2,510 contacts world wide.

Interesting calls contacted were Morse, the first M0 series call sign to be issued to UK amateurs, W1DLU in Charlestown, birth place of **Samuel Morse** and SI0SM a special Swedish Station.

The highlight of the event was a visit on 27 April by President RSARS **Brig Martin Roberts** G0OBV and **Maj (Retd) Ray Webb** G3EKL General Secretary. The President showed a special interest in the display of Straight, Bug, Iambic and Electronic Morse Keys, including a home made Morse Keyboard. Prior to a dinner party in the barracks, the President together with **Col Peter Chaddock**, paid a quick visit and introduced him to all the operators.

Our thanks are given to **Lt Col Gordon Wallace** and staff, RSARS Headquarters Officers and all operators for a highly successful operation.

As a result of GB70SIG last year and this operation Scarborough members of RSARS have formed a radio club and are awaiting issue of the call sign G0RCS.



President Brig Martin Roberts operating HF position

THE COST OF *THE WIRE* FOR 1992 IS £1.30 per copy; £7.80 per annum.

THE 1950-51 ROYAL SIGNALS SPEEDWAY TEAM

The speedway team was formed from the 1949 Display Team, Dispatch Riders from 5TR (Barnard Castle) and DRs from 1 Inf Div, tripolitain mainly to compete against very strong Italian and Arabic teams.

Four ex-members of the team have made contact recently and are arranging a get together sometime late in 1992. It is hoped that *The Wire* may be able to find a few more team members. The four in contact are: **Rob Kelly, 'Snip' Peacock, Fern Parker** and **'Dusty' Miller**.

We had many supporters in 1 Inf Div: the Commanding Officer was **Lt Col Good**, the RSM was **WO1 'Busty' Gay**, the SSM was **WO2 'Bullet' Jones** and our road manager was **SSgt 'Coster' Brierly**.

Not many people know that the 'Corps' once had a speedway team. At the time the photo was taken, the team had swept the board clean of all available trophies.

Front Row: Left to Right: Cpl Fern Parker, LCpls Ron Maddicks, 'Tilley' Tilson and 'Dusty' Miller
Middle Row: Left to Right: Sig Tommy McLaren, Sgt Ken Allen (Capt), Sgt 'Taffy' Burgess, Sig Wheeler, 'Snip' Peacock, SSgt 'Coster' Brierly and Sig Rob Kelly
Back Row: Left to Right: Sig 'Ginger' Hardy, 'Jack' Spratt, Morris, Williams and Lawrence
Missing from photograph: Cpl Ken Bonner, LCpls Dave Moxon, Alan Weston, Sig 'Chopper' Knight, 'Guy' Faulkes and Duffey

CORPS GOODS

Goods which were sold at RHQ are now 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

AIRBORNE SIGNALS REUNION 1991

Early in September the villagers of Caythorpe Lincolnshire again welcomed Ex and Serving members of Airborne Signals supported by wives and friends from all corners of the earth.

The week-end began with a 'Drop' at Spitlegate, Grantham which was a great success and for which the Association is indebted to **Capt John Aspinall** and the Sqn Comd and members of 5AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn.

After this, the convoy moved off to the village to greet the Marching Team who had, yet again, completed the 174 miles from Aldershot to Caythorpe. On the way they collected £1,419 for the Airborne Fund.

Around 1530 hrs saw the start of the football match between Caythorpe village and the Airborne Signals. Played in a good spirit and the score of 8—1 to Signals did not do credit to the gallant efforts of the local team. **Doug Alder** (67) refereed the match, occasionally venturing out of the centre circle! Well done **Doug**.

At 1800 hrs everyone gathered at the Court for dinner. Celebrating 50 years of Airborne Signals and 48 years on since we first arrived in Caythorpe.

Maj Gen R. Moberly CB OBE, Maj Gen A. Deane-Drummond CB DSO MC, Col Wooton, Majs L. Golden, Holbrook from Nova Scotia, **Maj Russell, Maj Liske** from California, **Capts Constatine** and **Brown** and **Lt Ridley-Jones** headed the list of the hierarchy.

Jack Sherlock, ex K section, had also made the trip from New Zealand to join in the celebrations. **Gerry Perry** had done a great 'Liaison job' with the Court and the Hall looked magnificent.

Everyone had been billeted by our reliable team of **Bill Creswick** and **Dickie Appleton**, and their wives and **Janet Marples**, with no complaints except for **Jack Sherlock** who retired at 0100 hrs to find 'Squatters' in his room!

Lewis Golden gave a stirring speech on the history of Airborne Signals and proposed the Toast to Airborne Signals **Maj Gen Moberly** replied and thanked **Lewis** on behalf of us all for putting the Record straight about communications during the Battle of Arnhem in his book 'Echoes from Arnhem'.

'Hocker' **Spivey** toasted 'Absent Friends' in his own inimitable way. **Gerry Perry**, then gave his resumé of the past year and welcomed the widows of our late members—emphasising that they were part of our 'family'.

Unexpected presentations were then made to **Elsie** and **Johnny Ferkins, Gladys** and **Horace Spivey** and **Iris** and **Frank Young** for their efforts over the years. **Lilly** and **Bill Sheffield** also had a gift but were absent on other duties. To mark the occasion the two Major Generals received an Airborne Signals plaque, suitably engraved.

Rene Howlett and **Iris Young** raised £153 in a raffle.

Sunday morning the village church was packed for the Service. Two Standards, Lincoln RSA and Grimsby PRA, were paraded. Before the Service the **Rev Hugh Middleton** dedicated a kneeler which **Frank Young**, aided by **Frouwke Brongers**, had made in memory of all Airborne Signals.

A solemn congregation stood in silence as **Frank Young** laid a wreath and read out the names of the 'Fallen'.

Hugh Middleton during his sermon reminded us of our good fortune in possessing the greatest wealth of all—friendship. After service the Standard Bearers and serving members of Airborne Signals formed a Guard of Honour from the church to the War Memorial where **Maj Foxley** laid a wreath.

The 'family' foregathered in the village while refreshments were served in the village hall. Here a further raffle raised £50 in half an hour. Together with the £40 'shoe' money and an anonymous donation of £10 we had enough money for the Airborne Signals tree! Thank you all for your support in this project. **John Aspinall** set up shop for all things 'Airborne'—including a lovely Commemoration Plate for the 50 years of Airborne Signals. Sadly all good things come to an end and the 'family' dispersed around 1430 hrs. So it was goodbye until 5/6 September 1992. Sincere thanks to **Gerry, Bill, Dickie, Hugh Middleton, Iris, Rene, Janet** not forgetting **Garry** and the staff at the Court, without whom none of the re-unions could take place, and 'Top Table' caterers.

97 BTY 4 FD REGT RA

The next reunion of 97 Bty 4 Fd Regt TA will take place over the weekend 2/3 October 1992 at Walsall. They would be particularly pleased to see anyone who was attached to them during the period 1961-1970 who would like to attend. Please contact **Mr F. P. Hopkins**, 2 Broadlands Drive, Lawrence Weston, Bristol BS11 0PB. Tel: (0272) 827821.

CEYLON H/S W/T 1944-1948 KANDY, HORA HENA, EKALA

Forty-seven old friends together with their wives and families gathered together at the Belmont House Hotel in Leicester for our third reunion. A total of 85 people attended with **Maj Gen John Badcock** and his wife **Gillian** our chief guests. We had a wonderful evening, the family atmosphere referred to by **Gen Badcock** was very evident and much enjoyed.

Gen Badcock proposed the loyal toasts, 'The Princess Royal and Her Corps' and Absent Friends. We remained standing to remember those who have died during the past 12 months. **Maj Fred Ashford, Tom Ward, Alan** 'Ack Ack Charlie' **Taylor** and **Tony Arnold**. Prayers were said by **Mr Basil Walker**. The buffet dinner was followed by dancing to a trio and went on until 0100 hrs.

The wish was expressed to make this reunion an annual affair and continue the search for 'lost' survivors from the Company/Squadron. I shall continue to make searches whilst my health allows and hope to make contact with some of them through *The Wire*.

Details of our next gathering will be published as soon as possible.

LANGELEBEN

The Royal Signals detachment at Langeleben, near Königslutter, Germany, will be closing in 1992. To mark the end of 39 years existence, it is intended to hold a reunion on 27-28 June 1992. All former military personnel who were on the posted strength of Langeleben units are requested to contact: 'Reunion', Field Station Langeleben, 14 Sig Regt, BFPO 101. Tel: (01049-5353) 5378.

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS— 30TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION 1992

To mark the 30th anniversary of the first Yeoman of Signals Course (15 January-6 April 1962), it is planned to hold a reunion in the Blandford Garrison Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess on Saturday 25 July 1992. Open to all Yeoman Ex/Yeoman, who have successfully passed a Yeoman of Signals Course at the School of Signals since 1962. Please pass the word to all Yeoman, in particular retired Yeoman and come along to what promises to be an excellent party. For further information contact: **WO1 (YofS) Tony Reynolds**, OC Radex Tp, 1 Sqn (TS), School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 8RH. Tel: (0258) 482316 or Blandford Mil 2316.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during September 1991:-

Catterick Garrison Church Collection	£345.55
Maj R. H. Blizard (Retd)	£ 50.00
Rawson Sqn A. A. Coll	£ 28.00
Col and Mrs G. M. I. Claridge	£ 20.00
Air Vice Marshal J. Porter	£ 17.00
In memory of Maj A. E. Lunn	£ 10.00
Certa Cito Lodge	£ 10.00
Abingdon School	£ 3.00
	£483.55

The following donations were gratefully received during October 1991.

Bequeathed by H. J. Green	£500.00
'Anonymous'	£ 50.00
4 Coy, 2 Air Formation	£ 30.00
Glossop and District Old Comrades Association	£ 25.00
'A Market Gardener'	£ 10.00
In memory of SQMS (FofS) F. Linington OBE	£ 5.00
J. Cumming	£ 5.00
H. A. Simons	£ 3.70
	£628.70

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

Mr S. J. Benson (ex Corps) would like to get in touch with former friends, **Sig Peter Dimack** (1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn) **Sig Mark Watson** (Berlin) and **Pte Elizabeth Mason** (ex Berlin). Please write to him at 49 Withington Drive, Astley, Manchester M29 7NW.

2547-8-9 CLUB—WARTIME EX BOYS— REUNION

The photograph shows all ex Boys (1942/47) who attended the second annual reunion in the Commodore Hotel, Scarborough over the weekend 4-6 October 1991.

Possibly some of those serving may be able to recognise one or two of the more recently retired members of the Corps.

The event was ably organised by **George Severs** aided and abetted by **Willie Watson** (Hotel Booking), **Bill Gibson** (Name Tags), **Dave Ross** (Raffle) and **Jeff** 'Deadly' **Baker** (Presentation).

Guest of Honour was 84 years old **Jack** 'Sheriff' **Hargreaves** who as the Cadre Company Sergeant Major was responsible for our discipline, drill and general well being. It was our pleasure to see him so hale and hearty. He even managed to win a prize in the raffle—*only* because he had the 254 ticket.

Many old friends were reunited and it was very interesting to discover the jobs done by those of us who had left the service at the eight year point, such as, Estate Agent, Builders Merchant, Tattooist/Jeweller, Chief Inspector of Met Police, to name a few.

The ladies also enjoyed their reunions, memorable was that of **Nan Stear** and **Joan McNaughton** meeting up with **Betty Bowden** whom they had last seen in Hong Kong thirty-three years ago—much talk and showing of photographs and grand children!

George Severs the Organiser/Records Keeper now has 120 names and addresses of members of the 2547-8-9 Club and these include 'Ex Rats' now as far afield as Australia, New Zealand, The Phillipines, Spain, France, Germany and Belgium.

A third reunion is planned for October 1992, the fiftieth Anniversary of the 1942 Intakes, Squads 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Details of venue and dates will be advised in due course. Anyone reading this who is not in contact with **George Severs**—he can be found at 22 Dallinton Close, Hersham, Walton on Thames KT12 4JG. Tel: (0932) 221635.

J. N. Clark, P. Dixon, D. Holmes, M. Johnson, N. Neame, D. Daniels, A. Stringer, D. Abercrombie, A. Watling, W. Brown, B. McDonnell, J. Crow, A. McGann, G. Baker, I. Norbury, D. Ross, D. Rees, P. McNaughton, J. Cairns, G. Pickering, D. Curtis, E. Izod, C. Timson, F. Slade, H. Saunders, D. Nichols, D. Hazel, S. Hewitt, G. Sharp, K. Brown, C. Steer, J. Radford, D. Bower, S. Dunlop, W. Watson, F. Pedley, V. Purkiss, J. Cotton, A. J. Bailey, R. Smithard, A. Alfred, E. Webb, C. Wood, A. Searle, G. Severs, W. Gibson, D. Bowden, P. Clarke, R. Jarratt, J. Hargreaves (Sheriff)

PLEASE NOTE INCREASE IN SUBSCRIPTION RATES AND ADVISE YOUR BANK ACCORDINGLY. (Your co-operation is needed. Last year over 500 reminders were sent, some twice, which cost over £150 in postage.)

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION RATE

Many of you renew your subscription by making a payment each year by cheque or postal order. If you are one of these, will you please return the counterfoil below, with your payment by 1 December 1991. We have to define our printing commitment for the February 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

I wish to receive *'The Wire'* in 1992 and enclose my subscription of **£7.80**.

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Please notify any change of address immediately.

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: (071) 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.

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, 19 Queen Elizabeth Street, London SE1 2LP Tel: 071-403 8783 or 071-962 9696

SSAFA

SOLDIERS', SAILORS' AND AIRMEN'S FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

Corps Goods Available from the Museum Shop, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH

Telephone enquiries to Blandford Military 2248 STD (0258 482248).

Price list with effect from 1 September 1991.

	UK £	
Blazer Badge	9.55	
Blazer Button—Large	1.90	
Small	1.80	
Belt, Italian leather, reversible Black/Brown engraved with Corps Badge	12.50	
Bookmark	0.50	
Brooch, white with gold Corps Badge	3.05	
Cap Badge	2.55	
Car Badge, 2" × 2", silver badge on enamelled Corps Colours	4.85	
Clip board with Corps Crest	3.10	
Cocktail Mat Set, six, blue acrylic with Corps Badge	11.15	
Coasters, leather, set of 4, with Corps Crest	2.00	
Corps Badge, on foil, framed and glazed, 11" × 9"	6.25	
Corps Records and Cassettes—Information Sheet Available	6.20	
Credit card holder, leather, with Corps Crest	2.80	
Crystal Engraved with Corps Badge		
Brandy Glass	9.00 ea	
Brandy Glass, Cut Crystal	14.50 ea	
Sherry Glass	6.50 ea	
Whisky Glass	8.45 ea	
Whisky Glass, Cut Crystal	14.50 ea	
Wine Goblets	7.90 ea	
Decanters, Plain	35.00	
Decanters, Cut Crystal	52.00	
Bud Vase with engraved Corps Crest	19.90	
Rose bowl 5½" diameter with engraved Corps Crest	20.50	
Gilt Oval Cufflinks, engraved with Corps Badge	13.90	
Hipflasks	14.50	
11½" Jimmy, cast bronze, height including plinth	59.25	
Keyrings—Bullet	1.30	
Leather	0.50	
Corps (enamelled Corps Badge, with leather tag)	1.65	
Corps Badge	1.50	
Ladies Marcasite Brooch	25.95	
New Ladies Scarf, Dark Blue with White Jimmy in one corner	9.25	
Lapel Badge (Association Members only)	2.25	
New Medal Holder	2.00	
Mug, white china with Corps Badge in blue	2.45	
Pendants, white with gold Corps Badge	4.95	
Pennant, embroidered Corps Badge with gold trimming	27.40	
Presentation Pennant on metal stand	15.35	
Postcards	.20	
Prints:	Unsigned	Signed
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Statuette, Royal Signals Officer in Full Dress (9" tall)		59.25
Statuette, Royal Signals Soldier with SA80 Rifle (9" tall)		59.25
Silver Plated Teaspoons with Corps Crest		2.20
Sticker, Corps Badge on Corps Colours, good quality—Large		0.50
Medium		0.50
Small		0.45
Stickpin, 9 carat gold, Corps Badge, can be used as brooch/tie pin		68.30
Stickpin, sterling silver Corps Badge, can be used as brooch/tie pin		17.60
New Sports/Leisure Wear, Excellent Quality, various sizes/colours		
Sweat Shirts with embroidered Corps Badge		13.50
Sport Shirts with embroidered Corps Badge		11.35
V/Neck Sweater with embroidered Corps Badge		14.50
Rugby Style Shirt Corps Colours and embroidered Badge		18.00
Tablemat Set, six, blue acrylic with Corps Badge		30.55
Tablemat, large 15" × 11½", blue acrylic with Corps Badge		9.85
Tankard, 1pt, polished pewter, lightweight with Corps Badge		14.60
Tankard, ½pt, polished pewter, lightweight with Corps Badge		12.55
New Tea towel Blue Signals Design on White Background		2.00
Thimble, Bone China with Corps Badge, Gift Boxed		1.75
Tie, Corps Colours in polyester, 3" width		5.20
Tie, Corps Colours in Pure Silk, 3" width		10.95
Umbrella, golf size, Corps Colours		14.50
Wall plaque, 'Royal Corps of Signals', shield, 6" × 7"		12.40
Watch strap, Corps Colours, Nylon		1.45

Prices inclusive of VAT. Overseas orders will be less VAT. Bulk orders from PRI's will attract a discount.

Please Note: **Postage and Packing not included.**

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